

## The Golden Rule Essay Contest.

Bro. Pedro F. Julian (104)  
Second Prize Winner

Service or, more, poetically, "All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them," is richly woven into the fabric of Masonic teachings. For, even before a candidate is initiated into the mysteries of Free and Accepted Masons, the Marshal propounds this soul-searching question (No. 2) to the Entered Apprentice degree initiate: "Do you seriously declare upon your honor . . . that you sincerely wish to be serviceable to your fellow creatures?" A pledge to serve others is elicited from the candidate before the portals of Masonry could be opened unto him.

It is worth noting that the initiate is not promised of any reward, but was merely asked if he wished to be of service to his fellowmen. Because this will be his duty as a Mason and it must be done. On the other hand, we can be sure that back of the deed (action) is the reward (re-action) in accordance with the inexorable law of God. Again, when the candidate was brought from darkness to see the light by which Masons work; the Master gently admonishes him to square his actions, circumscribe his desires and keep his passions within due bounds towards all mankind which plainly means to be just, good and true. And, are these not the things we expect from others?

We should also bear in mind that the three principal tenets of Masonry—Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth—are injunctions for all Masons to exercise true friendship, to prac-

## Masons Implementing the Golden Rule

tice charity and to exemplify virtue. Remember that we are duty bound to do these things not in conformity with any religious creed but for the sake of morals for, as we all know, Masonry is a progressive moral science. Furthermore, this wisdom of the ages is beautifully summarized in the Charge of the Entered Apprentice in this wise: . . . "To your neighbor, by acting with him upon the square; by rendering him every kind office which justice and mercy may require; by relieving his distresses and soothing his afflictions; and by doing to him as, in similar cases, you would that he should do unto you."

Since Masons are exposed to the spiritual light of the golden rule right at the start, we would say that it would be just a matter of time before this marvelous law becomes a part of their nature and thinking. Unfortunately, not all those who claim to bask in the light do not linger in the dark and not everyone practices what he professes to be good and true. And Masons are no exception. As human beings, our psychological nature is such that we always resist changes in the usual routine of our lives, especially when these affect our fundamental beliefs and traditions. We are creatures of habits, customs and prejudices; you might say. And herein lies the crux of our problem.

Therefore, the first step we should do to combat this passive resistance to Truth is to excite the emotion—to borrow a trick from psychology—and

Turn to next page

to make every Mason so enthusiastic about our work that he could not help but "spread the cement of brotherly love and affection" among men and Masons alike. It is a law of the mind that action follows emotion. Moreover, a thought without the feeling is dead. Wherefore, Masons should be so inspired with the beauty and holiness of masonry as to attract, by their spiritual light, even the profane to the splendor of our way of life. And the leaders of our Fraternity, especially the Officers and Past Masters of every Lodge, should be the beacon-light for inspiration. Amidst the corrupting influence of evil men and the temptations in the daily exercise of making a living, they should ever remain clean and incorruptible like the glittering stars in the dark of the night. For surely, the followers can be only as good as their leaders. Also, like begets like and to get others to "do as we would be done by," let us take the initiative. So rule Number One to convince other men to practice the golden rule is: *We must all be inspired Masons.*

But what is this thing that should inspire us to action? Is it worth its weight in gold and therefore worthy of our attention? Or, is it only a Will of the Wisp that leads on nowhere but the dark clouds of doubt and much ado about nothing. If we must guide people outside of our Fraternity to a life of morals and virtue, it is important for members to understand what Masonry means and how it can help others find the way to more Light and Love. We must not only be able to recite our obligations and the rituals to perfection but better still, let us discover the spiritual treasure concealed in the practical symbolism of Masonry. As Masons it is our sacred duty to seek, to find, and to know the Truth for the Truth will make us free. So if we are to impress

people with the value of the "maxim of loving-kindness to all men," rule Number Two is: *We must all study and learn.*

Having learned our lessons and therefore properly equipped with the working tools of life, let us start on our way to promoting the practice of the golden rule. The walk of a thousand miles begins with a single step, so the Chinese say. If we want to achieve our goal or arrive at our destination, let us take the first step and also the falls and the tears on the way. The first few attempts at our labors may be frustrating, like the toddler learning his first steps, but we must not falter. Let us grit our teeth and keep our feet moving until we reach our goal or die before we do. So to win people of diverse faiths to "desire for his brother that which he desires for himself," rule Number Three is: *We must all have the do or die spirit of the achiever.*

While hard labor is the key that opens many secret doors to success, our work need not be all "blood, sweat and tears." Sometimes, easy does it when nothing else can. And a smile here or there will warm many hearts and win more friends than the weary and worried look of the worker. Let us spread warm sunshine whenever and wherever we can and human frailties cannot darken our journey to eternal life. So if we "should seek for others the happiness we desire for ourselves," rule Number Four is: *We must be as tolerant and as loving as the Deity.*

Notwithstanding our eagerness to learn and the desire to do what is morally right, we must remember that nothing can surpass practice (repetition of an act) to make us proficient workers in the vineyard of the Lord. For, whether in the comparatively simple game of golf or the more complicated art of the moral life, only practice makes perfect

Turn to page 29

nursery of honest, sincere and dedicated national leaders. Remember no DeMolay shall fail as a son, as a leader and as a man. And this Golden Jubilee shall not have been celebrated in vain if we can save even one young man from falling into the pits of juvenile delinquency and make him a better son, a law-abiding citizen, and a dedicated, courageous national leader. That would be the best act of charity we would ever perform — the most splendid SERVICE IN MASONRY! △



TAMANO DONATES QURAN, Bro. Mamintal Tamano, (III), Commissioner on National Integration, seeing the need of the Grand Lodge for a Holy Quran for ceremonial purposes, donated one on May 20, 1967. In the picture, left to right, VW Amiceto Belisario, DDGM; MW Marianno Q. Tinio, GM; Bro. Tamano and WB Mario Racela, PM (29).



GRAND MASTER AND PARTY. Deputy Grand Master, FW Joseph Schon, bids MW Tinio bon voyage at VIP room, Manila International Airport. Left to right, Bro. Vicente Guino; MW Esteban Munariz, GS; MW Tinio; an unidentified brother; Bro. Ernesto Gonzales and RW Schon. Others in Grand Master's Party for overseas visitation were: VW Rufino S. Roque, VW Hermeogenes Oliveros, WB Mariano Lucero. △

**GOLDEN RULE . . .** From page 14  
Thus we must practice the golden rule at home, in the office and the world at large; if we are to promote peace and happiness among men and Masons everywhere. The law is explicit—we must sow, if we expect to reap—no more, no less. So rule Number Five to spur others to “treat us in a way we would like to be treated,” is: *We must make a daily exercise of virtue to strengthen our moral fibre.*

Finally, our knowledge can only be a power for good if we put it to use. The steam bubbling with heat is not properly harnessed without the engine. The generator is useless when not connected with the power lines. Likewise familiarity with the rituals, lectures, grips and passwords of the different degrees is not power; if these things do not make the Mason think, feel and act upon the square. We should harness the power borne of the wisdom of Truth—not in mere joining of hands in token of friendship and brotherly love but in the more practical way of putting our minds and hearts in the service of men. For SERVICE is the GOLDEN RULE in Lambskin. So rule Number Six to teach others to “love his neighbor as himself,” is: *We must apply daily our Masonic knowledge.*

Consequently, when Masons throughout the world are truly inspired; possess and apply the real knowledge; are tolerant and wise in the ways of men; and are sincerely dedicated to the moral upliftment of mankind (and there is nothing which time, patience and perseverance cannot accomplish), then people will gladly work with us in the service of the one wise, just, merciful and loving God: “Doing unto others as we would have others do unto us.” Verily, as the Master Jesus has said: “This is the law and the prophets.” So mote it be. △