

# THE BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE OF MASONRY

BRO. CAPT. EMORY CLARK SMITH, USN

*Asst. Chief of Staff for Legal Affairs*

*COMNAV-PHIL., Sangley, Cavite*

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First, I want to state, and I think I express the sentiments of all American Masons in the Philippines, particularly those American Masons at the U. S. Naval Station at Sangley Point, our heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to be nurtured in our practice of Masonry at the rich feasting table of Philippine Masonry. To be with you is always an inspiration by which we are able to rededicate ourselves to the eternal tenets of Masonry when visiting this wonderful lodge. I congratulate the officers just installed in this impressive ceremony. After the effective and brilliant charge and admonition given each officer by Brother Donado, you do not need me to remind you of the grave responsibilities now thrust upon you. We all have every confidence that you will rise to the challenge posed by your new duties.

For want of a better one, I have chosen as my topic tonight the Bridge to the Future of Masonry. My remarks will be few, but I hope you will find them pungent enough that you will share my own feelings regarding the challenges and new horizons that face all Masons tomorrow.

First, we should examine what Masons have been doing in the past, what Masons must do tomorrow.

During past years we have devoted much effort to our charities, looking after each other, our widows and orphans, the sick and infirm and numerous other worthwhile activities. Of this work we can all take pride.

How about today? We are doing our best to continue those good works of yesteryear. We have also sought to expand our membership. We have encouraged our companion and subsidiary organizations such as the DeMolay, Job's Daughters, and the Eastern Star, but we know that what we are doing today at this Christmas time of 1960 is not enough.

What then is our challenge for tomorrow — What, also are the new horizons which will face us tomorrow? I am no seer or a clairvoyant, but some of these things I do see: First, our current activities must be intensified and expanded. Yes, we have more destitute widows and orphans than ever before, we must do all we can to further the cause of public education for all, since it is in the hands of our children that the future of the free world lies. We must prepare the way for them. We must do all we can to promote those things that will insure full employment for all. We must drive poverty from the face of

the earth, we must insure equality of opportunity to all, we must be certain that our institutions and our personal lives are so directed to insure social justice for all.

Why have all these things so suddenly confronted us, and to which we must now face-up? I can give a partial answer: Some of these challenges or problems have been the result of our own derelictions. Some of them have resulted from misguided custom stretching over generations and we are now just reaching the point in a complex and sophisticated society where we can perceive some of the errors of our old habits, traditions and customs.

But of all the challenges facing us in our time is the paramount and transcendent challenge of World Peace.

We find this year, as is customary, the distinguished officers of this lodge sworn in at the time of the Birthday of the Prince of Peace. But even at this glorious moment we can hear the voices of free men everywhere calling out for peace. But we find the Mad dogs of Communism in Peiping and Moscow, blustering, bullying, threatening, flatly refusing to sit with the leaders of the free nations to even discuss peace. There would be no need for a NATO or a SEATO or an ANZUS or a single American military base overseas if free men had not felt it necessary to protect themselves against the cannibalistic claws of Communism.

It was not free men who divided Germany;

It was not free men who halved Korea and Indo-China by bloody conflict;

It was not free men who conducted the murder, pillage and enslavement of Tibet;

It was not free men who slammed an Iron Curtain around Eastern Europe and who butchered the Hungarians for wanting freedom;

It was not free men who after enslaving Tibet now seek to encroach on India's borders;

It was not free men who have invaded Laos;

It was not free men who conspired and aspired to spread a tyranny which recognizes neither God nor humanity;

It was not free men who started the arms race — they have better things than arms on which to spend their energy and wealth;

It was not free men who plundered and conquered territories and held millions in misery for years;

But it was free men who produced the Atlantic Charter of human rights;

It was free men who founded the United Nations Organization;

It was free men who have striven to aid the under-developed nations, to succor the sick and hungry people of the World;

And one thing we can all be sure of is that it *WAS* free men who founded FREE MASONRY!

Then how can you and I obtain peace? We know that by keeping ourselves militarily strong this can go a long way toward avoiding bloody conflict. This, we must see that our respective nations do. But what is needed today more than military hardware is an awareness by all of us of just what and where the real arena of battle is located and the *moral strength to enter that battle* and fight it to the victory of everlasting peace. We know that as long as we keep militarily strong no communist jackal will dare attack you



*Capt. E. C. Smith*

and I, but instead will employ its customary weapons of deceit, misrepresentation, fraud, infiltration, distortion, subversion and the BIG LIE! That is what it is doing today. This means that the battle is raging about us night and day in the home, in the factory, and in our social institutions to the end that discord and strife will be fomented within the fortress of democracy which are calculated to weaken all of us to the point where we will be pushovers for Communist enslavement. Of all the free institutions hated most by the Communists, Free Masonry probably heads their list. In short the battle ground is men's minds.

As we all know, democracy contains the seeds of its own destruction. When people look forward to the great promise that democracy possesses and see irresponsible and corrupt

leadership — to them it is the triumph of evil over good and when this happens they look to something else that they feel offers them a better life and their susceptibility to communism's wiles increases.

The friends of Communism are poverty, ignorance, unemployment, social inequality, lack of equal opportunity, graft and corruption in government, lack of adequate education to mention a few. It is in these areas that the great challenge to Masonry lies, for it is we who are Masons who can lead the fight to create an invincible moral and social armament which will be impervious to the onslaught of Communist subversion.

Before we can do this, however, we must have a searching self-examination. You and I must develop in ourselves a dedicated, if not indeed, a fanatical, sense of mission. Having done that then what do we do? I can tell you that we can do what Masons have done for thousands of years — We can go back to the very foundation stones of Masonry embodied in the Sermon on the Mount and the Ten Commandments. A re-dedication to these principles we well know gives us moral strength and courage. Without them our fight would be lost before it started.

Next, we can dwell upon what the brotherhood of Masonry really means. What that companionship or rather brotherly companionship really means. Except for the close relationship of husband and wife, brotherly companionship as known to Masons, is perhaps the closest of all human relationships; it is that treading together along life's pathway to eternity.

We must also thoroughly examine the structure of our own lodges and rid our lodges of those who be-

long only as a matter of personal convenience. Self-sacrifice and humility are the hall-marks of the true Mason.

We must not seek members simply for the sake of numbers, we must seek members of the highest and toughest moral fiber. Better to have 10 members who are true and dedicated practicing Masons than a 100 who only give lip service to this cherished organization and consort with concubines and corruption as a mode of life. Once having cleansed and rededicated ourselves we thus command the *respect* of everyone be he *friend or enemy*. Hand in hand with *respect* would go *leadership* and with *leadership*, Masons, in the application of Masonic principle, can be certain that they have done their part; that you and I as Masons, have fought the good fight to protect the imperishable ideals of a free democracy. We will have *won* the fight for everlasting peace. Yet, also we will have built the Bridge for future generations who will follow us. So it is that we must meet the challenges and New Horizons of tomorrow.

An old man going a lone highway,  
Came in the evening cold and gray,

To a chasm vast and deep and wide,  
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,

The sullen stream had no fear for him;

But he turned when safe, on the other side,

And built a bridge to stem the tide.  
"Old man," said a fellow-pilgrim near,

"You are wasting your strength in building here;

Your journey will end with the ending day,

You never again will pass this way;  
You've crossed the chasm deep and wide,

Why build you this bridge at evening tide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head,

"Good friend, in the way I've come," he said,

"There followeth after me today,  
A youth whose feet must pass this way.

The sullen stream was naught to me,

To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;

Good friend, I am building the bridge for him."

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#### MEMORIAL LODGE NO. 90

Munoz, Nueva Ecija

The newly elected and appointed officers of Memorial Lodge No. 90 for the Masonic year 1961 were installed on January 14, 1961, at the Memorial Lodge Hall. Most Worshipful Bro. Macario M. Ofilada, Past Grand Master (12), was the installing officer. Very Worshipful Bro. Hermogenes P. Oliveros, was the Master of Ceremonies. Worshipful Bro. Patricio A. del Rosario (12), Grand Lodge Inspector was the guest speaker. He was introduced by Worshipful Bro. Marianito Q. Tinio, Grand Lodge Inspector (53). The installing officer gave the citation and presented the Past Masters jewel to Worshipful Bro. Onofre B. Padolina, four times Worshipful Master of this Lodge — 1953, 1957, 1959, 1960). Very Wor. Bro. Doroteo M. Joson (53), District Deputy Grand Master, 6th. Masonic District of the Philippines, gave the closing remarks.