

# In Memoriam Of Bro. Valentin Montes

*Mount Huraw  
Lodge No. 98  
F. & A.M.*

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Secretary

Mount Huraw Lodge No. 98

**F**REEMASONRY has had the distinction, from time immemorial, of being blessed with outstanding members, men who lead the life of usefulness to their fellowmen. One such contribution of Mount Huraw Lodge No. 98, F&AM, to the Craft, modest as it might have been and perhaps inappreciable to many, was Bro. Valentin G. Montes, whose unexpected death had left a void difficult to fill in our Lodge and in the hearts of his friends.

The violent and untimely demise of Bro. Valentin G. Montes caused by a jetliner crash somewhere near Bombay, India (in which all 94 passengers and crew died) on the night of July 6, 1962 was indeed a painful shock to the members of Mount Huraw Lodge No. 98, a sad blow to his many friends and an irreparable loss to his congenial family.

We have known Bro. Montes as a sincere and amiable friend with kindly disposition; we have known Bro. Montes as an attorney, worthy and well qualified and respected by his fellow barristers who had the chance to assess his capability; we have known Bro. Montes as a champion of the common masses when his legal services were sought by a mine labor union and a group of small farmers to help elevate the living standard and welfare of the backbone of the country; we have known Bro. Montes as a duly and truly prepared educator esteemed by the youth; we have known Bro. Montes as a consistent Christian lay leader who had travelled far and wide in the interest of his church; we have known Bro. Montes as a devoted husband and as an affectionate father of four bright boys

who are all Sillimanites; and we have known Bro. Montes to be obsessed with a feeling of brotherly love towards his fellowmen with a great desire to commune in fraternal fellowship with brother Masons.

Bro. Montes was on his way to Europe when he met his tragic death. He was scheduled to attend a meeting of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches in Paris; he was to attend a conference on "The Role of the Churches in Social Service" in Germany; and he would end his European tour after attending the Graduate School for Ecumenical Studies in Bossey, Switzerland. From Europe Bro. Montes would continue his world travel in 1963 to the United States where he was billed for observation and speaking tour before American Evangelical Churches. He had previously attended conferences of the Evangelical Church in Japan, Hongkong, India and other Far Eastern and Southeast Asian countries.

He studied in the public schools of Samar and when he finished the secondary education from the Samar High School, he went to Silliman University to take up theology and was conferred the degree of Bachelor of Theology, *cum laude*, in 1937. He continued his studies in liberal arts while at the same time working under Silliman University President Arthur Carson. He further pursued studies at the Union College in Manila and later took up law at the Jose Abad Santos Law School and in due time he became a full-fledged lawyer in 1949.

Bro. Montes was a member of a number of organizations which are all devoted to the service of God,

country and fellowmen. He was the chairman of the board of trustees of the Philippine Christian Colleges in Manila, and a board of trustee of the Silliman University where he was awarded a plaque of appreciation for services well done and a posthumous award for "outstanding contribution in the Lord's service." He was the Secretary of the Department of Public Welfare of the United Church of Christ of the Philippines, and was elected member of the Committee of the World Council of Church during the third world assembly at New Delhi in 1961.

After passing the bar examination when he went to Borongan to engage in the practice of his law profession, he saw an opportunity to promote the well-being of the children in the hope that they will become better citizens tomorrow and lend themselves exemplary in the discharge of their civil duties in the years to come. He then founded the Eastern Samar Academy which today still there stands in its avowed mission of educating the hope of our fatherland. He was not contented with serving the youth alone; he was also concerned with the public affairs of the town as he was fascinated with the growing ambition of carving for himself public service to the community in which he lived. He saw a challenge of participation in community affairs, and when he was drafted to run as municipal councilor of Borongan, he was catapulted by the electorate to the position that he sought in the 1954 election. That was the last and only stint with politics that he had in his life for even if he was pressed by his friends to continue in his political ascendancy by run-

ning for Congress, he refused to be dragged further into the political game that he believed should not be handled with kid gloves.

A native of Llorente, Samar, where he saw the first of the world on No. 3, 1912, Val Montes, who was then known for his tongue of good report and coming well recommended, some time after liberation, knocked at the portal of Mount Huraw Lodge No. 98 for admission; he was initiated (by courtesy) by High Twelve Lodge No. 82 in Manila, and subsequently passed to the FC degree and finally raised to MM degree by his mother Lodge. (Our Lodge records were all burned in the Catbalogan conflagration of April 1, 1957, hence, no dates are available of his degree conferral.) His zeal for the masonic fraternity was redoubled when he affiliated as a dual member of Keystone Lodge No. 100, F&AM, in Manila on August 12, 1961.

Survived by his wife Amparo Solinap-Montes and his four sons — Roy, 19, Victor, 17, Cesar, 15 and Alexis, 14 — Bro. Valentin G. Montes is now gone — gone to that un-

discovered country from whose bourn no traveller has ever returned. We had high expectations of Bro. Montes but the Lord in His infinite wisdom had willed to take him away from our midst. "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." We of Mount Huraw Lodge No. 98, F&AM, deeply mourn the loss of so good a man as Bro. Montes. With the ashes of his cremated body in a sealed box from India placed atop the catafalque, a Lodge of Sorrow was held, in cooperation with United Church of Christ of Catbalogan, on July 28, 1962 to offer to his memory the sad tribute of our affection.

The present instance of mortality only proves that Bro. Valentin G. Montes is not dead in the full hope of resurrection for "lost Friends are not dead, but gone before, advanced a stage or two upon that road which you must travel in the steps they trod."

Man that is born of woman hath a short time to live and is full of misery; He cometh forth and is cut down like a flower; He fleeth as it were a shadow and continueth not.



It is not enough that in the lodge room or among Freemasons the badge of brotherhood should hold. It is the mission of the craft to spread the gospel of human kinship that all the world will acknowledge the bonds of amity and accord. Freemasonry is no longer an exclusive and withdrawn body, doing good by stealth or concerned only for its own. Its principles are blazoned for all men to behold; if now we fail to match fair professions with worthy deeds the fraternity will be brought into contempt and will deserve the condemnation of mankind. —ANONYMOUS