

Address of M.W. Pedro M. Gimenez at the Meeting of Coral and Okinawa Lodges on June 1, 1963

WORSHIPFUL Masters and Brethren of Coral and Okinawa Lodges, Friends,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

As we left the Philippines a few days ago, we had anticipated that we would greatly enjoy our brief stay with you.

I believe we have been right in our expectation as shown by the loveliness and warmth of the reception you accorded us, enhanced by the surrounding pleasing scenery that greeted us, created by the fine contour and landscape of your beautiful shores. I wish to assure you that the members of my party, especially myself, will always remember your wonderful reception as well as your kind attention and discriminating solicitude for our welfare. No words will aptly convey our deep gratitude.

The purpose of our present visit is manifold. We have come to meet you all personally and to shake hands with each of you. We have come also to look into your problems and difficulties and help you to solve them. But we have come particularly to strengthen the bonds of our brotherhood, so that, forgetting ourselves, — even our pride and personal opinions — we may better work for the peace and understanding, not only of ourselves, but also of mankind, and thus maintain our Fraternity forever alive and shining in the hearts and minds of men.

No fellow-being is free from problems. In fact, problem is one of the distinguishing characters of man. But no matter how difficult or vexing a problem may be, it can surely be solved to the satisfaction of everybody concerned if we will only disinterestedly and dispassionately discuss it at a round-table conference using as guide in our deliberation harmony which is the "strength and support of all societies, especially of ours."

I would, therefore, ask you, brethren, that we come together to a common understanding, so that we may enable ourselves to remove the rough edges that seem to hurt and hinder the cordiality that should exist among brothers who, although not related by blood, are more closely bound together by the ideals of the Institution they hold dear to their hearts.

Thank you.