

## The Golden Rule Essay Contest. . .

Bro. Simeon T. Garcia (171)  
5th Honorable Mention

*"All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them; for this is the law and the prophets... Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.*

CHRIST

We are born haters. Do not fly off the handle and say, "YOU ARE CRAZY!" Hate is one of our strongest emotions. Any psychiatrist or psychologist can verify this. It is not surprising therefore if the modern slogan is what it is now — "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth."

Man was born to love and to hate. Cain, the first son of Adam and Eve, hated his brother Abel, so much so that he waylaid him and killed him. Joseph was hated by his brothers so they sold him as a slave to the Egyptians. The different feuds, killings and wars during the generations that followed and those cited in the Bible all tend to prove that human nature is violent, the heart, deceitful and wicked.

You may contend that most of these brutalities happened before Christ. Let us not forget that our dear Lord was persecuted, beaten and crucified by those who hated Him. This is proof enough that man is basically wicked and resents even the ways of God.

Hatred, envy, and greed were the remote causes of the past two global wars, the same could be said of this brewing third. The atomic and hydrogen bombs are weapons designed to obliterate mankind. I shudder to think of the effects of even a tiny atomic or hydrogen bomb that may

find its way to this beautiful land of ours. Heaven forbid!

Man's animalistic nature is shown in the kind of society we live in now — the novels (best sellers?) that we read, the movies (box office hits?) that we see, the news that newspapers carry. Crime, immorality, hatred, greed, violence, are all interwoven in everything around us. The numerous cases of juvenile as well as adult delinquency are proofs that human nature could be rebellious and violent if not properly guided. What could be the cause of all of these? Have we pondered how Masonry could contribute even to a small degree to the improvement of the human nature. Let us not lose heart, for all is not lost. It goes without saying that while there is life there is hope. Man is not all godless and wicked. However bad one is, there is always something good in him, there is always a soft spot in his heart. Like the parable of the sower taught by Jesus Christ to His disciples, there are good and bad seeds as there are good and bad people. Those that are good and righteous walk in the light and those that are not, in the dark. Our generation is not yet hopeless because of the good societies formed for the betterment of the individual. One of these good societies is Masonry, which is as old as time itself.

Masonry is a society of men linked together in one sacred band by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection and brotherly love that regards the

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whole human race as one family. The underlying principle of brotherly love in Masonry, if practiced by all Masons outside the lodge, can well implement and promote the practice of the Golden Rule. Masonry abhors to advertise what it has done, what it is doing and what it aims to do, for that would be self-conceit and self-elation. Likewise, no Mason will give away the ancient mysteries of the fraternity. However, all Masons can practice outside the Lodge and in their homes, brotherly love, not only to their fellow Masons, but to non-masons as well. By practicing the basic principle of Masonry outside the Lodge, a Mason may well demonstrate to others what brotherly love can do. Brotherly love is love of God itself, from it springs forth kindness, from kindness, charity and from charity, faith and hope.

God handed down to Moses His ten commandments. We in Mason-

ry do not profess to have followed strictly the Ten Commandments, neither do we profess to be angels nor even measure up to it, but certainly our hands are clean for Masonry makes a good man a better man. We may not have strictly followed the Ten Commandments, but in Masonry all follow and practice one sacred Commandment — "Love thy neighbor as you love thyself." Masons practice this commandment mostly among themselves only, because the non-masons think that Masonry is one kind of religion that does not believe in God. If the non-masons will only try to understand and feel the brotherly love we have for one another, they will surely reciprocate the love we have been painstakingly trying to make them feel and understand. If this will be realized, I am sure our non-mason brothers will also do a good turn of making their neighbors feel their neighborly affection, thus setting the example of loving one another. Then others will follow their example, for love begets love. Again, if this is realized and practiced by all, nations will love nations and brotherly love will prevail throughout.

Brotherly love, I repeat, is love of God. A great majority of the people on earth profess to love God. Let us then love our brothers and fellowmen in the truest sense of the word. As St. John said, "How can you profess to love God whom you cannot see if you cannot love your own brother whom you can see?" God created man in his likeness so man himself is the image of God. So, we owe it to God to love our brothers and fellowmen.

Masonry not only teaches us to love our brothers but also to be tolerant of their faults. If in one way or the other we find them overbear-

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medicine." Science in the Latin West came mostly from Moorish Spain.

By 1550, the world's scientific heritage had been fully recovered.

But, alas, the descendants of the originators, as well as those of the early inheritors, seem to have lost the genius of their ancestors! The Greeks and the Arabs of today are no better than the present-day Filipinos. Does this prove the truth of the statement that Science may be regarded as a mood -in which we consider our world" and that "no man is always in the same mood, and no man of science remains permanently in the scientific mood?"

Perhaps climate has had something to do with the slow progress of peoples in the tropics but there is ample evidence to show that their mental capacity is not hopelessly inferior to that of peoples in the temperate zones.

Maybe it can be said that, like the present-day Greeks and Arabs, we simply are not at this time in a scientific mood, because of our economic and social underdevelopment but not because of our proximity to the Equator.

It would be an impossibility for us, for the next hundred years perhaps, to set aside billions for scientific and technological research and development and it would be nonsense to beat our breasts and say we could equal the United States and the few other advanced countries in these fields. What we must do quickly is to avail ourselves of their already available scientific and technological knowledge and discoveries under the "time-binding process" and thus push our own economic and social development without very costly experimentation. △

ing, let us admonish them as brothers and not as enemies. Forbearance and humbleness drive away hatred and endears one to another. Masonry also teaches us to be compassionate, share with the misfortunes of others and to extend a helping hand to a fallen brother. Let this kind of love as taught by Masonry and as practiced by Masons be felt by non-masons. Let us be bound by a strong bond that gives the kind of love and affection needed by all, a love that is reciprocated by an equal love, a true love that is unselfish and unifying. Let us learn a lesson from the lowly dog who loves its master and is faithful till death. Let the same hold true to human beings. Love begets love.

Masonry teaches us to be charitable even to our enemies, for charity is the greatest of all virtues and the bond of perfectness. Charity emanates from a pure heart; when given, it relieves the distressed of his burden and a new ray of hope springs forth and shines on his life. Water is sweet when given to the thirsty, bread is life when given to the hungry. Not all Masons are rich, nay, some could hardly make both ends meet, but they can afford to be charitable just the same. All Masons know that to get butter one has to churn. △

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