

## Let Brotherly Love Prevail

(Closing Remarks of our Senior Grand Warden, R.W. MANUEL CRUDO, delivered on February 17, 1968 at the public installation of the officers of Rio Chico Lodge No. 182, F. & A.M. held in public at Tabuk Institute Grounds, Tabuk, Kalinga-Apayao)

We would like to extend our sincere congratulations to the outgoing officers of this Lodge for a job well done, and to the officers just installed for the honor conferred upon them. Likewise, we would like to express our deep appreciation to our Guest Speaker, His Honor, Judge Arsenio B. Alcantara, for his message on BROTHERLY LOVE, which is very appropriate. Appropriate because nothing is sweeter and more soothing to the ears of every Master Mason than the term Brotherly Love for that was the first of the three (3) principal tenets that were taught him when he was brought from darkness to light.

"By the exercise of *Brotherly Love* we are taught to regard the whole species as one family — the high and the low, the rich and the poor — who, as created by one Almighty Parent, and inhabitants of the same planet, are to aid, support, and protect each other. On this principle Masonry unites men of every country, sect and opinion; and causes true friendship to exist among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance."

Brotherly Love is the lubricating oil that bridges fellowship, foment human relationship among men and converts potential enemies into faithful friends.

Through brotherly love, the good Pope John XXIII saw his way clear in adopting and proclaiming the basic Masonic precept that man has the perfect right to honor and worship God according to the dictates of his own upright conscience and therefore, the right to practice and enjoy religious

freedom. This opened the gates and the doors of the Vatican to Ecumenism. And we hope it will not be far distant when the unfounded decree of banning or excommunicating Master Masons will be lifted and set aside.

Since time immemorial, people throughout the world have been clamoring for peace, peace and peace! But there has been no peace. How could we achieve peace when the people do not practice Brotherly Love and have not learned to circumscribe their desires and keep their passions within due bounds?" Instead, they have given vent to their greed, their egotism, their unbridled passion for power and "allowed their vices and prejudices to become the masters of their judgment."

Man has conquered the sky and fathomed the deep blue sea. He has made tremendous progress in the fields of science, technology and medicine. He has succeeded in guiding the missile but missed guiding himself accordingly.

The wailing wall in Jerusalem, the solitary remnant of the magnificent Temple of King Solomon which leads to the rough and rugged road traversed by Jesus Christ when he walked to Calvary under a heavy wooden cross is not only Judaism's holy of holies but the sacred spot on earth which Mohammed, the prophet of the Arabs and other Moslems took flight to heaven. Had the Arabs, the Jews and the Christians practiced Brotherly Love, the war in the Middle East would not have erupted, because then they would have considered the wailing wall not a dividing wall that

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separated them but a retaining wall of friendship that bound them together as brothers belonging to one family under the benevolence of a universal Father. All their spiritual dissimilars would have been united in splendid conjunction and their petty political and religious differences would have been submerged under the cement of brotherly love. The dividing wall would have become a singing wall that would chime the Songs of Solomon; discord would have ripened into concord; and in lieu of that bloody turmoil, their would have been harmony and lasting peace.

If only the people in the world

were Master Masons who practiced in their daily lives Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, the 38th parallel which divides North and South Korea, the 17th parallel which divides North and South Vietnam, and the Berlin wall which divides East and West Germany, would have been erased and the Buddhists, the Christians, the Mohammedans and people of other persuasions would learn to love one another; strikes would be eliminated and the interminable wars in Vietnam, the Middle East, and other embattled areas would come to an abrupt end.

The exemplification of the Tenets of Freemasonry leads to Peace.

Let Brotherly Love Prevail!  $\Delta$

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