

# United, We Stand

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Grand Master

(Address given at the session of the Supreme Council of Scottish Rite Freemasonry of the Republic of the Philippines on February 12, 1966.)

Illustrious Sovereign Grand Commander, Illustrious Sirs, Brother Masters of Royal Secret:

First of all, let me thank and congratulate the Supreme Council for giving us the opportunity to be present at the ceremonies of investiture of the rank and decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honor. It was indeed a most impressive presentation. Likewise, I congratulate the members of the team for their splendid work.

We of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines are grateful to you, Illustrious Brethren of the Supreme Council of Scottish Rite Freemasonry of the Republic of the Philippines, for your kind invitation to us to visit your annual session. Being Scottish Rite Masons ourselves, we do not have to be invited; it is our duty, where proper, to be present at most meetings of the Supreme Council at this time of the year. Nonetheless, we reiterate our thanks for the invitation and for the fine motive that prompted it.

Here in our country where we have both the Grand Lodge and the Supreme Council, we should congratulate ourselves for the unity which can be seen and felt by all of us. Let me

stress the word "unity" for that is the proper and correct word. We dare not use the term "friendly relations" because of the possibility of uncertain and dubious connotations. Sufficient is the word *unity* for that is what we have in blue lodge and Scottish Rite Masonry in this country.

If there was no unity between the Grand Lodge of the Philippines and the Supreme Council of the Republic of the Philippines, there would arise the enervating feeling of one group proposing superiority over the other and their members would be in a constant state of jealousy one with the other. Since there is no such cold war, Master Masons and Scottish Rite Masons here feel the *oneness*, the *unity*, and the *togetherness* pervading all of us. We abhor jealousy because it is lousy like jellyfish.

*We are one* in worthy and worthwhile citizenship. As Masons, we are not only expected to be good men and true within ourselves; we are also expected to teach others, by precept and example, the principle and practice of good citizenship by never countenancing smuggling, graft, corruption, rooted as they are in lawlessness. We are united for the proper exercise of our duties and responsibilities as worthy citizens in *doing* that which is good and *not doing* that which is evil. Good citizenship is helping the government and the governed.

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*We are one* in our concern that the poor and less fortunate enjoy a better life. In this case, direct charity is only a temporary, stop-gap solution. So, the Supreme Council has been supporting a couple of PRRM barrio improvement projects in Cavite to the end that the inhabitants thereof, through their own efforts, will earn more from their small farms, acquire a better education, practice health habits that will improve themselves and their surroundings. So, many of our blue lodges are helping poor and deserving young ones through school and college for like reasons. Many of our blue lodges are spending their time and money in assisting the PRRM and the PACD in bringing literacy to the people of the barrios. Indeed, we do our part to make barrio life more efficient and enjoyable for, as the barrios are, so is the nation.

*We are one* in our concern for the moral uplift of our people. "We all realize that there is, more than any period in our history, so much decay in our morality; that there is so much warping of our sense of moral values. In our younger days we were raised to distinguish the right from the wrong; to see the thick black line between good and evil and thereby avoid evil and always do what is right. Nowadays, people no longer see the distinguishing line for in our sense of values, it is all but obliterated.

This indifference to morality is a

very serious matter. It concerns the welfare and future of our nation. So, our blue lodges and our Scottish Rite Bodies sponsor allied Masonic organizations for our young people like the DeMolay, Rainbow and Job's Daughters to teach them love of God, love of country, love and respect for parents and elders, and a continuous treading of the narrow path of the straight for by so doing, they will learn to be morally straight. This, no doubt, is an auspicious beginning for us and our children.

But this is not all. As Blue Lodge and Scottish Rite Masons, we are one in the realization that to teach right, we must ourselves be right. So, we begin with ourselves and our children. Because we love them, no matter how painful it is to teach them the right, we teach them anyway.

So sincerely and so seriously do we want ourselves and our children to do the right that we wish them to love the right as part and parcel of their lives. As an author has said: "There is nothing more loveless than a parent who abdicates his role and is fearful to limit, afraid to forbid, unwilling to train." If I must coin a word to stress this, let us do the teaching and the training "sincerely."

Illustrious Sirs, Brother Inspectors General Honorary, Brother Knights Commander of the Court of Honor, Brother Masters of the Royal Secret, and Brother Master Masons, "United, we stand; divided, we fall." △

#### GRAND LODGE OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC.

1140 San Marcelino, Manila

To All Members:

Notice is hereby given that the annual general meeting of this corporation will be held at the Plaridel Masonic Temple, 1140 San Marcelino, Manila, on April 26-28, 1966, for electing the directors and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before said meeting.

ESTEBAN MUNARRIZ  
Corporate Secretary