

# Human Rights and Masonry

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In 1948 when the General Assembly adopted for the UN the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the member states became committed to promote these rights for all mankind; it marked the advent of an era of liberty, equality and justice regardless of race, color, sex, religion and nationality.

This Declaration precludes arbitrary actions and discriminations; it guarantees due process of law, and is aimed to give everybody his due. It is the Bill of Rights for all peoples.

This instrument fits all Masons' objectives of Faith, Hope and Charity and of the Universal Brotherhood of men; they take the entire human race as one family, whether high or low, rich or poor. On this point Masonry unites men of every country, sect and opinion. Provided they believe in God, of course.

Man's struggle for peace, freedom and equality has culminated in this Declaration, wherein all human values find expression. It embodies all what Tom Paine meant when he said: "The world is my country. All men are my brethren. To do good is my religion. And I adore one God and no more."

A new world is in the making, and Masons and non-Masons may give a hand in the process. It is the concern of all that these Human Rights be observed; it behooves that irritants in world affairs be avoided, and

that all talks of heads of states be friendly and reconciliatory. When goodwill prevails, "They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks."

But wars and rumors of war are with us. Why? Because those who believe in those rights are not doing enough. Yet these rights are already defined in the Constitutions of most people, — Englishmen, Americans, Europeans, Filipinos, Russians, and others.

Accepted by the United Nations and forming a part of the municipal law of civilized states, such rights must find an easy access in every human breast.

Internationalism is a fact; we live it everywhere; world trade, travel, commerce, communication and technology are throwing overboard all vestiges of tribalism and regionalism. The United Nations is spearheading a new world order. Masons and other groups are on a mission for the advancement of the ideals of human relations.

With more and more men in Masonry, and more and more Masonry in men, men's hope for peace, liberty, equality and fairplay will find fruition. As the world matures, the Christian precepts for which Masons work will find more and more life. The Brotherhood of Men is but a synthesis of all the Rights of Men. △