

Col. Lamberto Javalera, PM

By JOSE D. CALDERON, Master, Nilad Lodge No. 12 during the Masonic Necrological Services held in Imus, Cavite, on April 2, 1967, for the deceased.

To face death is to face the ultimate truth. Death drives home the eternal verity that all men are equal, that prince and pauper are no more than insignificant atoms in the vast scheme of the universe — dust returning to dust, to lie underneath the dust of the centuries.

In the presence of death all men become humble. Therefore, it is good and proper that we should look upon death once in a while, because it is only in humility that we can grasp the true meaning of life, the true purpose for which man is created.

We are now met before the mortal remains of a friend and a brother. To him was not given great wealth, nor great power, nor wide popular acclaim. The rank of Colonel was the highest that he reached in the Army. The position of Chief of Police of metropolitan Manila was the highest that he occupied in the civil service. By the false standards of a materialistic society he was not a great man because he did not belong to the rich and the mighty.

But when true humility descends upon us, in the sober contemplation of the finality of death, we come to realize that wealth, power and fame, ephemeral and evanescent as they are, cannot be taken as the true measures of the worth of man. The true measures must be permanent and fundamental. They are still the basic Christian virtues, love of God and country, devotion to home and family, de-

dications to duty, justice, honor and dignity, humility in success, forbearance in adversity, concern and charity for the underprivileged, identification with the brotherhood of men.

Col. Lamberto T. Javalera had more than a fair share of the virtues of a good Christian, a good citizen, and a good family man, and he practised them constantly during his lifetime. Being deeply religious, he was just, charitable and considerate to all men. As an Army officer he risked his life for his country in its moments of gravest danger. As a superior officer, he was just and kind to his soldiers. As a subordinate, he was courteous and obedient to his superiors. As a Chief of Police, he resisted all kinds of temptations and he performed his task without fear or favor. He never abused whatever power was given to him, but he never knuckled under pressures or unjust impositions. He was courageous and humble. He was a loving husband and father. He was a steadfast and loyal friend. He was a good man.

If measured by the basic standards of Christianity, good citizenry and humane behaviour, our brother Col. Lamberto T. Javalera can take his place beside any outstanding man. Of him I can truly say that he lived up to the highest tenets and principles of universal Masonry. No more can be said of any man.

Lamberto T. Javalera has earned his rest. May the Good Lord take him unto His bosom! Δ