

Retraction of Dr. Jose Rizal

By BRO. DR. F. A. NIEVA

A lot has been said, pro and con, on the controversial document exhibited by the Spanish friars containing the alleged retraction by that foremost Filipino national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, of his belief in the principles of masonry.

For my part, after having conscientiously and thoroughly studied all the possible angles, all the possible motivations of the man, against the known facts of history and the known facts about the man himself, the exposition of what I honestly believe to be true after reading several books, pamphlets, critical examinations by different persons, comments and remarks on the battle between Roman Catholics on one hand and the Masons and non-Roman Catholics on the other, I have come to the definite and unshakable conclusion that the supposed retraction by Dr. Jose Rizal is nothing but bunk, full of misleading impressions. In other words, the alleged retraction is nothing but a concoction of certain religious quarters who realize only too well that without that alleged retraction, their cause stands to suffer the most.

One may ask: Who am I to make such positive observations and unshakable conclusion?

I am nothing but a humble Mason, who considers himself as sufficiently well read, endowed with enough native intelligence to understand much of what is happening around us, and

whose outlook of life has been broadened to a great degree by his travels around the world before and after the war.

Then again one may ask: How did I arrive at such conclusions?

The answer to that is simple enough. I have already stated before hand that I have made a conscientious and thorough study of all the possible angles of the case and all the possible motivations of the man, Dr. Jose Rizal. And as seen against the known facts of history and against the known characteristics of the man himself, the claim of Dr. Rizal's retraction assumes a hollow ground, in contrast to the solidity of the claim of Dr. Jose Rizal, who was willing to give his life for his convictions and beliefs, and would never be capable of an overnight change of heart after being closeted for a brief period with a priest.

Take this brief incursion into the field of logic. Dr. Rizal embraced the Ideals of Masonry because the same ideals, mirrored his own ideals of freedom and democracy. Because Rizal was exceptionally intelligent with a high sense of patriotism and devotion to his people, he took the Ideals of Masonry as his guiding principles for the ultimate freedom of the Filipino nation.

Dr. Rizal saw that the ideals of Masonry closely paralleled the tenets of of Christianity which are to Believe in God, Love Your Country and Love

You: People. The same ideals carried with it the supreme obligation to fulfill one's duty toward God, his Country and his Fellowmen.

If we were to carry our logic further, Dr. Rizal being a Mason, and above all, being what he was *had nothing to retract*; therefore, Dr. Rizal would rather die than be false to his convictions and belief. **THE FOREGOING IS AS AIRTIGHT AS ANY OTHER PIECE OF LOGIC IN THE WHOLE HISTORY OF MANKIND.**

But let us take into consideration the other pertinent facts surrounding the case. Dr. Rizal was shot to death by the Spanish Government, not primarily because *HE WAS A MASON*, but principally because of his ceaseless efforts to emancipate the Filipino people, through his books particularly the *NOLI ME TANGERE* and *EL FILIBUSTERISMO*, which bared the abuses and the corruption of the Spanish Government in the Philippines. These exposés served to inflame the Filipino people to agitate for reform, and failing in this, to revolt against the Spanish Government and the authority of the church.

These are the facts of history. The Roman Catholic Church has been guilty of the most serious crimes against humanity from the *INQUISITORIAL PRACTICES* in Europe to the outright usurpation of temporal governmental powers in the Philippines. But *HAVE MASONS EVER BEEN ACCUSED AND CONVICTED OF ANY CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY? NEVER!* And Dr. Rizal would be among the first to realize this fact. Then how could we, in the light of the foregoing true and incontrovertible facts, ever believe that such a man of *DR. RIZAL'S MORAL*

LIBER AND CHARACTER, be capable of reversing himself in the face of death and with one thoughtless act, destroy all that he had stood for in all his life?

Now I am convinced that only those who are so blindly prejudiced against *MASONRY* could be so stupid as to believe this canard being foisted by the Roman Catholic clergy upon the Filipino people.

For all these efforts to cut down the stature of *MASONRY* by the erection of the false figure of Dr. Jose Rizal, whose real image, because of these, has become dim in the minds of a great many of the Filipino Catholics. But the *MASONS* throughout the country remain unperturbed. For the *MASONS* know the truth and with the fundamental tenet of *MASONRY* which is the *FATHERHOOD OF GOD AND THE BROTHERHOOD OF MEN*. The *MASONIC ORGANIZATION* throughout the world shall continue to prevail and gain the strength as time goes by.

The Universal Declaration of Human rights and fundamental freedoms as approved by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on December 10, 1948 so closely resembles the principles and philosophy of *MASONRY* that one is led to believe that the drafters of such remarkable document could either be *MASONS* themselves or were at least, greatly influenced by the masonic teachings and principles.

Dr. Jose Rizal could not be capable of retracting his Masonic ties as the clergy would want the Filipino people to believe. For to believe in this monstrous *LIE* would be the same as denying the blood, sweat and tears that the Filipino people have shed in their un-

remitting struggle for freedom for nearly 400 years.

In view of the supreme ideals for which MASONRY strives, and taking into consideration the similarity of the principles and philosophy of masonry and Christianity which are belief in God, love your country and love your people. I believe, no person or group of persons of all religious beliefs, can afford to talk and act against the principle and philosophy of masonry, because if they do, they will become automatically pagans or non-Christians.

Any person who insists that Dr. Jose Rizal retracted his belief in the principle and philosophy of Masonry must be ignorant of that philosophy or too stupid to understand it. It is a conclusive evidence that a person who talks on a subject GREEK TO HIM or does not know what he is talking about is suffering from a mental ABERRATION. Δ

NINTH DISTRICT CONVENTION GIVES TO MHCC

The seven lodges comprising the ninth Masonic district, with VWB Amando Ylagan as its District Deputy Grand Master, held its annual convention on December 30, 1959. One of its acts was to donate ₱316.50 to the Masonic Hospital for Crippled Children. The amount consisted of ₱142.25 which the convention of 1958 saved; ₱74.25 which the members gave and ₱100.00 from Masons of Somalia.

The lodges which are members of the convention are: Silanganan No. 19, Pasig, Rizal; Muog Lodge No. 89; Marikina No. 119, Marikina, Rizal; Quezon City No. 122, Quezon City; T. M. Kalaw No. 136, San Juan, Rizal; and Rafael Palma No. 147, Quezon City.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Patawarin po or gomen usai or I beg your pardon. On page 64, July issue, WB, Pablo C. Mariano should have been reported as Deputy Commissioner of Customs, not Deputy Collector. Bro. Isidro Angangco of High Twelve No. 88 is the Collector of Customs.

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While browsing through copies of newsletters in Grand Lodge, we came across many attractive and newsy letters. Some are printed, some mimeographed; always they are valuable to the members of the lodges who may not be present at the meetings either due to illness or distance.

We make special mention of those put out by Yokusuka Naval Lodge No. 120 and Kanto Lodge No. 143. Outside pages are printed in permanent form and inside pages are mimeographed for economy, convenience and timeliness.

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Our congratulations to the newly installed officers of all the lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction. We look forward to their presence at the Annual Communication in Manila on April 26, 27 & 28, 1960. If the Brother Secretaries will be good enough to send their reports early, we shall have a correct and complete record to be printed in the April issue of this magazine.

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For the new year, we dedicate to each one the immortal poem, very Masonic, of Bro. Rudyard Kipling on the back cover. In this business of living, may each one of us be more concerned with making a life; not just making a living. All about us is filth, within us is the light that gives wisdom, strength and beauty.