

# DISCOURSE

Volume I, Issue 17

April 27, 2011

## “Will we do what they couldn’t?”

Dear Brothers:

The world has seen many things in its short civilized life, there have been many conflicts, hostilities and wars that have pitted men against men, and these have been caused by personal, religious, or political differences among the combatants, which have divided men into groups for and against the causes of the conflict.

In the recent past of the last two or three centuries there has been an institution that while it had been sought and slated for destruction, in most conflicts it has managed to stay above the fray and survive although sometimes at great cost to the institution and its members.

Whether you name it totalitarianism, military dictatorship or tyranny, whether you call it Fascism, Nazism, Marxism or Communism all of them have worked hard and steadfast to destroy one benevolent and humanitarian institution and yet none of them put together have been able to accomplish their disdainful goal.

The powers to be, have beaten, ridiculed and imprisoned the men that belong to the Masonic Fraternity, they have driven them underground, they have persecuted them with severe injustices, and they have tried their best to annihilate the Fraternity in its entirety, only to prove our resiliency and perseverance to have good triumph over evil.

So let us try to look at this once again, the authoritarian, totalitarian and the military dictatorships could not kill Freemasonry. The Fascists, Nazis, Marxist, Socialist and Communist could not kill it, the Freemasons have held their ground sure they have had to retreat, go underground, suffer inhumane treatment, insults and ridicules, but we have endured, we have stayed the course, we are still here and time has not been kind to them.

We have endured many assaults from the outside, we encircled our wagons in time of need in order to survive and kept the outsider from breaking in, from destroying this benevolent Institution of men from all walks of life, religions, ethnic origins and races with one cause in mind to promote the Brotherhood of men under the Fatherhood of God.

Today we face a different enemy, and that enemy has infiltrated our ranks unlike any other enemy has done before and that enemy is us, frightening is it not. Well my Brothers this enemy is silent, invisible and growing. It is among us, in our homes, communities, and across the nation, we are wondering through the wilderness with no sense of direction, no course has been charted, wanting for leadership, not focused, and most of all we want others to do it for us.

Hard to believe but true, yet we do not see it. One reason is that we have not stood up and talked to that man in the mirror. We have not self evaluated our performance, suffice it to say that we are doing more than someone else, but is that all we can do or can we do better. Do not compete or do better than someone else, compete with yourself, raise the bar of your performance, you know you can do more; you know you can do better, step up and take the challenge to do better than you have already done.

Yes my Brothers, we need to take our personal responsibilities seriously, after all, we are men of our word, and we stand taller than others do, we pride ourselves in knowing the difference. Our Masonic Teachings tell us that we should teach the ignorant, humble the ambitious and unmask the hypocrite and we should start with ourselves, before we can begin to teach and lead others. Are YOU ready to talk to the man in the mirror?

If you are all you can be, than you have the moral standing to ask others to step-up and look at the man in the mirror. One thing that I have not mentioned, which may not need to be said because Masons are always gentlemen, which is that all of this needs to be achieved with Friendship and Brotherly Love?

When all of us have looked at that man in the mirror, we will have done one of the greatest things we could have done for ourselves and for our Fraternity and that is that we would have stamped out the silent and invisible killers within us. YOU ask who they are. They are Indifference, Laziness and Apathy and they are destroying our Fraternity, our Families, our Communities and our Nation.

Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, Mao, Tito, Castro and the likes could not kill it, will you, that confess your love for it, will you that swore to live by it, will you that promise to help it, will you be the one that take its life or will you be the one that gives it life. It is up to you, no one else YOU and only YOU can make a difference. If enough of us look in the mirror and step up to our commitments and personal responsibilities we will succeed. We will stamp out that which is living within us that seeks to destroy us.

Together we can do it, are you part of the problem or part of the solution. Step up look back at the man in the mirror and tell him I am going to change. I am going to be the man and the Mason I committed my self to being. I will live up to my personal responsibilities. I am a volunteer; I will live a life of dedication, selflessness and commitment for the institution that I love, bettering my self as a man, a father and a citizen.

Respectfully and Fraternaly Submitted, I remain your most humble servant

Jorge L. Aladro  
Senior Grand Warden

*If you would like to receive, these newsletters make request at email below if you would like to forward to your list of friends you have my permission and thank you in advance.*

*“My Brothers, the newsletters are intended to be thought provoking, to get you to think creatively, to get you thinking what if?, to dare you to improve yourself and your Lodge.”*

***Note: If you would, like to have any of these presentations made at your Lodge or District Associations feel free to call.***

***“Masons always rise to the occasion”***