

ORATION BY WOR.BRO. CANON J.GRANT RICHARDSON. PROV.GRAND CHAPLAIN,  
AT THE CONSECRATION OF THE LODGE OF PEACE & GOODWILL No.6010.  
at the Masonic Temple, Kings Heath, Birmingham. March 16th 1945.

Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master and Brethren,  
We are met together this afternoon on a solemn and historic occasion, solemn from the nature of our intention and historic from the influence it will have on generations of our masonic brethren yet to be, for it is the task of building.

Such a task is congenial to masons whether they be operative or speculative. To the former their works are visible to man, to the latter they are invisible to the eye of nature, yet keenly perceived by that special insight which is the mark of the speculative mason. For these raise no structure of bricks and mortar, they have the nobler task of erecting a spiritual superstructure compounded of the noblest thoughts of masonic hearts and firmly cemented together with the mortar of their highest aspirations.

It is in this mind that we hope to erect a building which shall be perfect in it's parts and honourable to the builder.

At such a time it is our custom to remind ourselves of those masonic foundations on which all our lodges are based and from which they draw their stability. Our Ritual tells us that 'Masonry is founded on the purest principles of piety and virtue' and so indeed it is. But let us not forget that to the ancient brethren who formulated that Ritual, Piety and Virtue had a sacred and hallowed meaning. To us today Piety has an acquired meaning, it is unfortunately associated with that religious humbug of the drooping head and sidelong glance which honest and true men find hard to tolerate. To our ancient brethren it meant nothing other than our whole duty to God and Man. Piety means duty, and bearing that meaning it produced one of the greatest epic poems the world has ever seen - Virgil's Aeneid.

So, Brethren, this Duty, which comes of Piety, being our foundation, we remind ourselves today that at the centre of our institution there will ever remain God. We hail Him as the Great Architect of the Universe, the Author and Centre of our being. We hail Him as the Grand Geometrician of the Universe, whose works are a never ending source of wonder and admiration. To us He the Most High. What we shall do this afternoon will be for His Glory, and for the Honour of His Most Holy Name.

He it is who also inspires us in our Duty to Man. For we profess that in all our relations with our fellow men, and especially with our Brethren, our thoughts and actions shall be shot through with feelings of brotherly love, with truth and with the desire to relieve them in their afflictions and distresses. So well defined in all masonic hearts is our Duty to Man.

Bearing in mind then these common foundations of our brotherhood let us now look at the superstructure. May I first of all congratulate you on the name you have chosen for it. In this small riven world of today, where humanity is reeling from the horrors it has seen and suffered, the name you have chosen brings before us all the one thing that can bring comfort, solace and hope, I mean 'Peace', for that is the name you will give your Lodge.

But Peace may well be a mirage, and an illusion if it means for us but a cessation of the fighting, if it means that we retire into our ivory tower, the ivory tower of our own minds, there to pursue what other men have not. Peace can never be the peculiar possession of a select few. Peace is a desirable state for all men, therefore there must be added, and you have rightly added the dynamic word 'Goodwill'.

Even as the Angels of Bethlehem sang 'Peace on Earth to Men of Goodwill', so to men of goodwill alone will come that most priceless of all God's gifts to man. For it is men of goodwill alone who by their actions promote peace, and by their words ensue it. And so in your title you offer to Masonry in this Province, and to Masonry throughout the world, a glimpse of that better world which is yet to be.

Of you may it ever be said 'Here is the Lodge of Peace, for it is fashioned and preserved by Men of Goodwill'.