

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 charts is our Duty to Man.

Bearing in mind 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
shall 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'.