

A MONUMENT TO UNIVERSAL UNITY AND FRATERNITY

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First, We Are Citizens of the World Next of Our Motherland

Patriotism Vs. Universalism

Significance of the Story:

- ✓ *The story is sort of allegory of our world. The monument to be built stands for the entire human mankind. Each stone represents one of the countries of the world.*
- ✓ *Each stone is unique because each country has a unique history, culture and traditions. If the monument has to be representative of the world, each country has to contribute with its "uniqueness".*
- ✓ *The monument has to display unity in plurality. In order for the building to be a reality each stone, each nation, should have in its heart t first of all, the good of the world*
- ✓ *To give firmness to the entire structure of the world monument, each stone, - each nation- should be willing to sacrifice its pride and greed for the common good of all. .*

Intent of the allegory

- ✓ *The world, humanity comes first, country next.*
- ✓ *Citizens of the world should be patriotic – they should love and be loyal to their countries - yet they should remain citizens of the world*
- ✓ *Patriotism should not stand against the welfare of humanity*

The Story

It was decided by the UNESCO to erect a memorial monument as a reminder to all of the "Unity and Fraternity" of mankind. The organizers sent envoys to all the countries of the world to collect specimen stones in order to build that memorial. The stones to be collected had to be unique representations of their countries of origin. All of them had to be fitted into one single monumental structure..

As the work proceeded, the artist mason, with great care took one stone at a time, looked at it, and considered in what way he could use it best in the context of the entire monument.:

He spoke to each specimen with grew respect and affection.

To one he said "Oh, you are strong and sturdy! You will make solid foundations. I know, that once buried in the ground, no one will ever see you anymore, nor praise you. No one will admire your fabric and texture and yet, you will give consistency to the whole monument." And the stone said "Yes, master, I am ready. Bury me in the foundations. I am proud to be part and parcel of this monument."

And to another stone the Mason said "You are so colorful and shining. Forgive me for the pain I'll cause you. I have to chip you and cut you to size." And the stone replied: "Never mind the pain. Yes, cut me, I am willing; chisel me, I only want to be useful to build our memorial and be a part thereof".

Then, the Master Mason holding another stone in his hands exclaimed: "Oh, you are so pleasant to the touch, I like you so much, yet I have to place you upside down."

And to another stone he said: "Vow! How attractive you are! But bear with me, I have to cut you into small bits that your beauty may be scattered all over our monument"

And to yet another: "You are luminous and splendid. I'll polish you even more that you may shine for ever like the crown of the monument."

And all the stones kept replying to the Master: "Yes! Yes! Do as you think best. It's enough pride and joy for to be part of the entire monument!"

At last, the monument was finished. It was, indeed, a glorious sight to see. Beautiful, inspiring beyond words! A fitting Memorial symbolizing

"The Unity and Fraternity of all the Peoples of the World".

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- We are first, born citizens of the world, next, citizens of a country.
- Each citizen should love his country as he loves himself.
- To love one's country does not mean to despise others or hate them.
- All nations of the earth should live like a family, each retaining its identity, yet respecting and admiring others. It should be "A Family of Nations"
- By an attitude of give and take, the countries of the world would be able to build a prosperous and happy world.
- Patriotism is good - is a virtue - yet, when overdone it becomes "fanaticism"
- Any fanaticism for one's country, culture, customs or religion is bad
- Fanatic patriotism is destructive; it breeds strife, dissensions and wars.
- Patriotism is not for personal profits but for service.
- I should love my country most, yet I should not consider it the best of all. It's like loving one's mother.
- I should love my mother most, yet I should not think she is the best of all possible mothers to the point of despising other people's mothers.
- Patriotism is sort of a relative judgment. "**My country is the "best for me"**" as my mother is the best for me too.
- Collective pride and greed under the cover of "patriotism" is one of the most destructive passions the world has ever seen
- Pseudo-patriotism is one of the most blinding passions.

- Demagogies and pseudo patriotisms has been baneful to the world.
- To serve my country for personal gains is greed masquerading as patriotism
- True patriotism means love for the people of our country - our brother and sister citizens - not a glorification of our 'past exploits, of our old history or of an illustrious cultural heritage'.
- Things are dead entities; it is our brothers and sisters - rich and poor – and alive today who make our country.
- If they were not living persons today, our country wouldn't exist. Any country minus its inhabitants would be just a desert, a desolate waste. Nothing lovable!
- If anyone says that he loves his country and exploits his countrymen is a liar.
- People in positions of power – consciously or unconsciously – try to use their influence to favor their own class and their interests not necessarily the greater good of their countrymen
- Patriotism means to love and to serve the people of one's country.
- Politicians and those in power, who take advantage of their country are, both parasites and traitors.
- In today's world, it's well nigh impossible to find persons who are both truly honest and true politicians.