



**PRS AUDITORIUM
DEDICATION CEREMONY
MAY 16, 1959**

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DEDICATION CEREMONY
For the P.R.S. Auditorium
May 16, 1959

MPH:

We have selected a certain time for the placing of the stone, and as we are all gathered here now, I am going to ask our Vice-president, Mr. Henry Drake, to make some announcements and greetings, and to read some of the messages that we have received.

Mr. Drake:

Friends, on behalf of the Center, I do in all sincerity welcome you here on this very special occasion. And I want to take the opportunity to thank all of those here, and those throughout the country and other parts of the world, who have made this building possible. I especially want to mention our thanks and appreciation to those who have helped for many years with the building and budget funds and our Friends Fund; and also to our Friends Committee and their Birthday Club; and I would also like to say a word for our staff and volunteer workers, for we feel that they, too, have worked diligently to make the Auditorium an actual fact.

It seems to me that this building is of tremendous importance, not only because it completes our grounds, but because in bringing more people to our Center, it will make possible for us to expand and perpetuate this work for which we have all given, and in many cases, made rather severe sacrifices. Our building will therefore be important in the further dissemination of the values that we stand for – the values that Mr. Hall has given his life to. And these, my friends, are values which have been recognized, as it seems to me, by those who have felt the most deeply about mankind, and those who have thought most wisely as to what man is and how he might live for best results. Together, we here today represent, and endeavor to live, these values so that they come from theory to practice, and thus motivate us and operate in our daily lives to a greater integration.

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Friends, I thank you, and in a few minutes, we will hear Mr. Hall. I want first to read a few messages that we have received from friends who could not be here. We have here a message which reads as follows:

“This is donated in the name of Islam, and its followers, the true Moslems who practice the brotherhood of man. In the name of the Hashemites, we beg your indulgence and your understanding.”

And then, of the many telegrams and messages of appreciation we have received from those out of the city and out of the country, this one is typical:

“My every blessing showers upon your great work and its cultural influence. Continue to widen and deepen, enriching all within the circumference of its illuminating rays.”

And now I give you to our good friend, Manly Hall.

MPH:

Friends, this occasion, we sincerely hope and believe, establishes a precedent that will go far beyond the small and humble work that we can do. This Society has been created for the people, by the people. It has not been given to us by government or by special groups. It represents a statement of our sincere belief that certain ideals must be preserved, certain principles must continue, certain truths must be more generally known, if our civilization and our way of life are to endure and be perfected. Therefore, we hope that in this fair city, the center of a new way of life in the midst of the great Pacific theater of the future, we shall be able to make some real and lasting contribution. We hope that we shall help and inspire others to realize that if human beings want to grow, improve, and become interiorly enlightened and dedicated to conviction, they accomplish this best and most permanently by uniting, working together and causing the things they believe to become true through their own efforts and through their own concentration and consecration.

This work has been the result of many years of preparation and labor. Many of those who have helped to make it possible are no longer with us in the body. In their names, also, and in the names of all those wonderful people who have seen what needed to be done, and have so generously helped to make this

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possible as a symbol of future good for us all, this building is dedicated. Therefore, on the cornerstone of this building, there are no names of individuals. These names move with the ages. Those who have long gone – the great idealists and dreamers of our race – were the truth seekers. Those of us who are trying to do this work now are truth seekers. And after us will come others – and we hope they will build better and stronger than we can build – and they will also be truth seekers. And in the search for eternal value, the past, present, and the future are united in one eternal structure.

It is in this spirit, therefore, that we place this stone, enclosing within its aperture a list of all, living and dead, who have contributed to this cause, together with a copy of our Constitution and By-laws and the most prominent of our descriptive material, telling the story of the principles for which we stand and the work that we are doing. We hope that in this way, those who come after us will know that we, too, have dreamed, and that we have tried, in every way possible, to be true to this dream.

To have you all here today, after these years of waiting and of labor, is a great honor, and I am deeply moved and impressed that we can now work together, not for persons or individuals or names, but for principles that must endure to guarantee life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all of us in this wonderful world.

Now as you know, this Cornerstone Ceremony is exactly timed, and I believe that we are now very close to the time. In one half minute, we will place the stone... This box contains the records of the Society and the names of the donors and friends, both living and dead, who have helped to make this work possible... We hereby declare that this building is dedicated to those who search for truth, who love principles, and love their fellow men...

Friends, we hope that you will have continuing pride, of the right kind – an internal satisfaction and peace – for having helped to make possible something that is so sorely needed in our time. In perpetuating these principles that we believe in, each one of us is making a valid contribution to life, and not only to our own life, but to that greater life which moves through all of us. I would like to ask all of you now to join with me, for a few moments, in prayer.

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Eternal Father, Master of all Builders, Grand Master of architects and of all who would construct for man, the living temple of an eternal life.

We ask the blessing of Thy love and understanding upon this frail effort of our hands.

We ask Thy presence in this work which we are seeking to do for the greater glory of Thy name.

Eternal Father, bring peace and blessing into this house.

Assist us to so live that Thy presence shall be with us, in the going out and the coming in.

We ask that this place be sanctified against all those forces and circumstances which may cause mortals to lose sight of Thee.

We ask Thy presence, and we ask for the strength to so live and so conduct ourselves that Thy presence will be with us, justified by our own conduct.

We ask that we may have depth of understanding to love one another, to serve one another, to overlook all weaknesses and failings of the flesh, and unite in the common service of man's common need – the need for love and truth and right example and dedication and devotion – no only here, but in our private lives and in all our contacts with our fellow men.

Into Thy eternal keeping, Great Father, we place this house as our offering.

We ask Thy loving guidance; we ask Thy presence in all our works. We seek only to serve Thee, and not for the glory of ourselves.

We ask that the future shall bring to this house, when we are gone, others wiser and better than ourselves.

We ask not that this be a monument to any person, but an eternal monument to the spirit of truth-seeking and truth-loving in all men.

We hope that the foundations we have laid will be used by others who will grow further and do more, and more greatly spread the needed message, which we believe to be right and proper.

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Into this house, O Father, we welcome all Thy children. Let not race nor creed nor sect divide us.

We search honorably, we desire honorably, that Thy presence, as represented by this sun at high noon – a light that shines upon all men – shall shine into this house and into our hearts, and from our hearts, to all who need.

Eternal Father, bless those who have helped; bless those who are helping; bless those who shall help; and keep this work clean and honest and right, and forever dedicated to the majesty of Thy name.

We ask this humbly, as Thy servants, awaiting the works that Thou wouldst have us do.

Bless all who need; comfort all who mourn; and to those who come here, let inspiration and truth and righteousness move their lives toward Thy purpose and Thy service.

We ask it in Thy Eternal Name, Great Father of works.

Amen.

Friends, our foundation is the sincere belief in the basic good in all men. We believe that the time has come when division, separation, and conflict can no longer be endured if we are to survive. We therefore seek to build here a place of union, where the members of all the living religions of the world can meet as brothers; where no creedal limitation will ever divide men; for we would not have a wall of creeds, but an open door in the human hearts to that God who is the Father and the Power of all things. In our foundation, we have recognized the three great instruments of the divine purpose – religion, philosophy, and science. We believe that these, divided, have brought a terrible hardship upon mankind, and that in the re-union of these, we have the perfect servant of the Eternal.

We seek in religion to establish men of good faith and good hope, regardless of the names of their creeds or sects; to establish them upon the security of their own internal convictions, helping them to live strong and true and right, and to come here without fear that we shall try to take away from them anything which they believe to be true. We wish to take nothing; we wish only to give more, if it is our power or privilege to do so.

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We believe in philosophy because we believe that the great philosophical principles of the ages, as taught through time by the most respected and honored of human beings, are of eternal utility, inasmuch as they are based upon man's universal veneration of one Divine Power, the eternal beauty of the universe, and the eternal goodness of man's nature. We feel that this belief, so sacred, so noble, and so long held, must be sustained, preserved, and protected by every means available to us. Therefore, we dedicate our work to the carrying on of these principles for which men have lived and died. And let us try, in every way we can, to prove that these good ones have not lived, or died, in vain.

We believe that science, the youngest or our great branches of knowledge, is potentially one of the richest and most beautiful, and that the scientist is peculiarly and wonderfully endowed with powers and capacities by which he can become a great servant of the Divine Principle at the root of life. We know and believe that, as time goes on, science will enrich, deepen, idealize, and become an instrument through which to worship Deity eternally through the wonders of the divine works. For in these works, we have the eternal evidence of that Divine Power which lies behind works and is the power of God in the presence of all things.

We believe in cultivating all useful knowledge, and we invite all of you to make every possible use and advantage of the various facilities which we offer. We firmly hope, also, that here we have set up a pillar in this world – a column that shall stand – and that our foundation will grow and increase, until it represents a real and enduring power, working for good, for principles, and for truth, through the consecration of individuals who believe these things and do not wait for others to do the work, but do it themselves. For in this way only can the work be done. We hope that this example may help those who are in doubt – young people growing up in a world of uncertainties-to realize that there are foundations in eternity, in principles, and in truths; foundations that shall not fail.

It is impossible for me in any way to express my gratitude to all the friends who have helped in these works by the wonderful things they have done. For years, they have brought flowers to our meetings; they have helped to bring displays of our books

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and publications to libraries, schools, and institutions; they have continuously and unceasingly dedicated themselves to the purposes for which we stand.

It is a great and solemn responsibility to be thus the center of a purposed endeavor, but I would like to say that, actually, I am not any such center at all. I am only working with you, trying in my own way, just as you are trying, to do something that my heart and soul tell me we all want to have done. We do not want this in any way to be a personal loyalty, but a loyalty to ideals. Our own staying in this world is but short; others must come after. And we want for those others only one thing; not that they shall continue anything that I have done, not to be true to me, but to be true to truth; to be true to principle; to correct the errors that I have made; to go further than I can ever go.

All that I ask and beseech of you is your kindly friendship, one with another, and all together with us here, in order that we may do the best we can for you, and for those whom we do not even know, from whom we hear so frequently by letter or by request for help. We want to help; we know that you want to help; and in the spirit of this helpfulness, we cannot fail to make a richer life for ourselves and others. And out of this richness, we make our great and solemn offering to that Power which is the guardian of all riches, the guardian of all treasures.

It is our hope that for this little building before which we stand today, there is in the universe an archetypal house, a universal temple, of which this is the symbol. We hope that this great and archetypal house shall hover above us. For all the works that shall be done here, shall be done in the name of that invisible Power and that great house where all men dwell together in fraternity and brotherhood.

It is a wonderful experience for me to have you all here today. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. But the real thanks that must come to you will come in the silence of your own lives and in the inner realization that you have united yourselves in the service of the building of a better world for all of us and for those who come after us; for our own coming years, and for our children, and for their children.

And so, in this spirit, we dedicate this house. We ask for you, all of enlightenment and understanding, and the peace that surpasseth understanding. We are grateful to you all, and we

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will do our best to continue to be worthy of your confidence. It is our sincere hope that in the time to come, when we are gone, others will carry on good works in the name of the Master of all good works.

We thank you.





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