



The current emergency in our nation, and indeed the world, has been a cause of great reflection by many. Starting from the leader of a nation to the single mother trying to do the best for her children in keeping them safe, fed and sheltered. We have already seen the best of humanity and the unfortunate worse in some cases. A circumstance that should galvanize nations has sometimes polarized the world yet further. Depending on the region and locale one lives in, the issue at hand with Corona Virus acuity is urgent or may seem remote. Regardless of the urgency in one's locale, or not; the health, life and death, financial, social and religious impacts this emergency has created will last a great time.

How do we cope with this 'new' not-so normal? Each according to his or her beliefs and character guide one's path, along with valid and timely information; for oneself and their family. How about one who has had the fortune to be invested in our illustrious Order? How do we react to this emergent and perhaps on-going pandemic? Our Order was founded on the enlightenment principles to "worship the Supreme Being, show tolerance towards all religions, loyalty towards their princes, support the needs of their military, the poor, widows and orphans."

How does this apply to a Pandemic? Some could say it obvious, to help and assist those less fortunate than ourselves. However I would propose we have a duty for something additional, more enduring. As society looks inward and nerves start to fray, enmity towards our fellow citizens may find fertile soil to grow. We must set the example of civility and tolerance towards others. Particularly for those less fortunate; many of whom suddenly found themselves and their families without the means they had just a short while ago. The shock is still there for many, for others it is beginning to wear off and emotions not felt before, sometimes surface. Financial support provided by governmental agencies and some social service agencies are flowing, but for many, at a painfully slow pace. We are not a materially wealthy Commandery, but we have pledged to do what we can, through limited grants provided by the leadership to those in urgent need. Should our members become aware of some in their communities, we urge them to communicate that need to Commandery leadership.

Of course we look to the needs of our members. Should any members be in financial or emotional distress, please let us know. The conversation(s) will be confidential, if only for an ear to listen; leadership is available to our members.

We wish every one of our members, and your families and loved ones, safe passage through this Pandemic. Stay in touch. Reach out to one another. Be a presence in another's life. Above all be safe and let's meet in comradeship after the storm.

Fraternally yours,

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