



GRAN LOGGIA 2017

LA MEMORIA DEL PASSATO LE RADICI NEL FUTURO

RIMINI PALACONGRESSI 7 • 8 • 9 APRILE



Allocution
M.W. Grand Master
Bro. Stefano Bisi

Dear Brethren, Ladies and friends, dear guests, my heartfelt greetings and thank you, to be here for the Annual Communication of Grande Oriente d'Italia.

We live this Meeting and feel it, as a part of us, and for this, to be here, the Brethren work hard, and sacrifice their families, their personal engagements and jobs, because this annual meeting strengthens Grande Oriente d'Italia, reinforces it, and allows thousands of men coming from different regions and Orients to meet, to embrace, and share their common work, charity and brotherly love.

But first of all, my gratitude is to the Worshipful Masters: they are the heart of our Craft: Those working in the small communities, those leading their Lodges active in the big towns.

We will try to remain in touch with all of them, ready to listen to them, and happy to share every moment of our Grand Lodge. To live together, in Harmony: this spirit marks and always must mark the Free Masons.

Allow me to greet also the many Brethren who wanted to be here, but could not. One for all, Giuseppe, a Brother living in Turin: he is 104 years old and is our doyen, I am sure one of the veterans Free Masons in the world.

We are proud to have Free Masons like him, so firmly devoted to our Craft, and like Aurelio, who cannot travel from Locri, but joins his hands with us, in our Chain, and is virtually with us, with his heart, and his mind. Brother among Brethren. And Like Silvano, in Massa Marittima, Mario in Rome, Silvio in Bari, and Aldo in Reggio Calabria: the old partisan who left his town and his quiet life, when he was very young, to fight for the freedom of our Country. To fight for our liberties.

This is also the first Annual Communication without Mrs Daniela, our greatly estimated assistant. Her long-serving and precious work in the office of Grande Oriente d'Italia will never been forgotten. To remember her, some days ago, we planted a tree in our garden, at Villa Il Vascello. To not forget. Thank you Daniela, from all of us! Your kind severity is greatly missed.

Dear Brethren, this Annual Communication is for us a particular one, and particularly felt, because this year we celebrate a very important date for the Universal Brotherhood: the 300 anniversary.

Three hundred years of history really are so many, for an Initiatory school that in every part of our globe represents a gymnasium of values and symbols, which allow many people to improve their own spiritual condition, and to use this intense and infinite inner work for the Good of Humanity.

Without Freemasonry, our world would be culturally and spiritually poor.

Without Freemasonry, the modern and democratic States would not exist.

Without Freemasonry, and the enlightened works and ideas of so many men, the rights would not exist, and the Man would have continued to live in the obscurity.

Without us, and the admirable principles of Freedom, Equality and Brotherhood, we would miss the salt of Secularism, of Tolerance, of dialogue, of Democracy. Man would be a poor and sad prisoner of hypothesis and imposed truths, of dogmatic and unacceptable appearances.

But, nothing of this happened. The impetuous wind of Free Masonry has blown on all the earth, spreading the fruitful seeds of a sublime Institution which no tyrant, no regime, no political system was able to submit, to demolish.

So was it yesterday, so it is today, so it will be tomorrow. No regime will succeed. We observe, we reflect and we have no fear of those people that under their lambskin, behind their democratic face, reveal their real face, and the hateful claws of discrimination, just for propaganda and populism, in such a delicate moment of Italy and Italians.

The Freemason does not hesitate, does not have any fear for the many wolves, vulgar and resentful wolves, barking to the moon, aiming to show a very different reality: A totally different reality.

Our world is far away from the darkness and the organized crime, contrary to what many "candid souls" might think to present to the public opinion. Those men and women who aim to choose "anti-mafia" like their crest, an "hashtag" for their political career, and who should take care of the real problems of the people, rather than fight the witches, like in the Middle Age.



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Many people have understood how we really are, like Enrico Iacucci, President of the Province of Cosenza, and Mayor of Aiello, a little village, which hosted hundreds of Free Masons, for a meeting. Not all the people are like the "Anti-mafia Commission". Since the very beginning, I said to the "Anti-mafia Commission", and to its President, Rosy Bindi, that we are ready to co-operate: "Tell us the names, and we will answer" - I immediately answered to her, last August. "I would give my life for the arrest of the super-fugitive" - I added. And my words were not a "tweet", not a slogan. I pronounced those words to the 50 members "inquisitors" of the Parliament, to the magistrates, and the Anti-mafia officials. 50 against one: did you ever see something like that? Could you imagine, that in a Republic, with balanced powers, such a Commission exists, with such extraordinary powers? We do not think so, we do not think that this is right, for any person or association. It is not possible to be at the same time a legislative power and a judiciary power. It is not possible.

Then, they went on. My words were not enough. My willingness was not enough.

No: they want our lists, at any costs, because their primary object is just the following: To see who the members of Grande Oriente d'Italia are. This is a long lasting obsession, coming from very far: the same of the Inquisitors, of the totalitarian regimes. A magistrate, in 1992 had the same obsession: he was fought by his own colleagues. This Anti-mafia Commission has the same obsession, too.

Dear Brethren, this event has left a wound in our soul. To me and you all; in particular, to those people, who have experienced the 14 hours of the searching at our seat Il Vascello, made by the "SCICO" dept. of the Financial Guard. They arrived at 4,00 pm, on March 1st; they left at 6.30 am of March 2nd. When I closed the door, I was alone, and I said to myself that this event make us stronger, will not cancel our smile, and the certainty to be right.

This does not cancel our faith in the Republic, which last year we celebrated with so many meetings, all over Italy. They wanted to deeply wound our soul, and the wounds of the soul never cicatrized: Never.

We will never forget the 1st of March, 2017, but that wound is now shaped like a smile.

Grande Oriente d'Italia arises from this event stronger, more united, and more determined. Every year, the 1st of March will be the day of the Masonic Pride.

Sure, we cannot permit such a violation of the Constitution, and of the more basic rights, be made: with our college of defense, so masterfully leaded by lawyer Giuseppe Zupo, we have denounced and will denounce towards every seat in charge, these violations, and we will defend our Brethren everywhere.

They want to humiliate us, they want us to cry, but the tears of the Freemasons do not extinguish the flame of Liberty; on the contrary they nourish it.

Brethren of Sicily and Calabria: our appreciation and our gratitude go to you. I am a Calabrian Freemason, we all are Calabrian Freemasons. I feel a Sicilian Freemason, we all feel Sicilian Freemasons. Brethren: be sure: we will do everything to defend yours and ours rights. We will proceed in any seat, Italian and European ones.

I want to say it explicitly: to find the "Masso-mafia", they must look elsewhere: this mortal and infamous germ does not live among us. Also Don Ciotti, in his telephone call to me, to clarify his words on Freemasonry, told me these words. Not many people when say something wrong, then have the strength to clarify. Don Luigi, wrote us a beautiful letter to remember what we do for the needy - I esteem him, for what he does and has done.

Something beautiful can arise from a controversy.

The Ndrangheta has made so many victims, and we count several martyrs of the legality, among our Brethren. Like Nicola, a surgeon in Calabria, killed by a boss, for not being able to nurse his daughter. Like Gianluca, killed in Siderno, on a May evening, in 2005: he was a young entrepreneur, who did not bow his back, and so paid with his life this act. He was a Brother, a member of Grande Oriente d'Italia, like his father Mario is, and I want to embrace him, and I want to say to Brother Mario: let's do something, to remember Gianluca and his courage, as a man and as a Freemason. And Like Tonino Salsone, our Brother: he was just a kid, when he saw his father dying in his arms, shot to death by a crime clan, only for making his job as a prison guard.

Nicola, Gianluca, and Arnolfo Foà, Enzo Maiorca.



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Brethren, I am proud and happy to be a Free Mason, like they were, to be a member of the more ancient Masonic Institution in Italy.

I am thinking of them, who decided to be part in an endless school of life, a gymnasium for values, where to train and strengthen the spirit, and improve oneself and the others.

Reminding so many Brethren, we have defended and we will defend the right to associate, to take part in activities. This is not only our contest, this contest belongs to all the men who are free.

Let me quote some words that have been ascribed to Bertold Brecht: these words must induce us to be alert: "First of all – he said – they came for the gypsies, and I was happy, because they were used to filch. Then they came for the Jews, and I remained in silence, because I did not like them. Then they came for the homosexuals and I was comforted, because they annoyed me. Then they went for the communists, and I did not say a word, because I was not a communist. One day, they went for me, and nobody was there to defend me".

This is a meaningful message, that the people must always remember, because the history of man is full of horrors and abuses.

But we are the sentinels of freedom: we cannot bend down, and we do not have any reason to sprinkle ashes on our heads. We will fight this battle, ever and ever.

Freemasonry exists from 300 years. Since the very beginning it was able to spread in Europe and America, becoming a refuge for all free men, who try to walk along the path of spiritual work, with strength and determination.

We men and Masons, we standard bearers of the liberties of the third millennium, we always must look at the past, carefully and without any futile narcissism, considering the present.

We must strengthen our roots, which are projected to the future. For other 300 years, and more. But how can we do this? Grande Oriente d'Italia wants to give its contribute, but always considering that we are an Initiatic Order. We want to act promoting the culture, an indispensable way for the young people, but for all.

We want to act, promoting those arguments that concern the people. It is no more possible, to think of the "biologic testament" or the "life ending" like something to be given up, or to be deferred ad infinitum, something that are not urgent issue to regulate.

We must defend the right to live, but also the rights of the people who do not want to suffer anymore. The laical forces in our Country have the duty to motivate the people. Just think about this: there were more members of the Parliament, at my audition at the Anti-Mafia commission, then at the discussion on the "life ending", at the same Parliament.

We must insist so that young people – and I am saying this without any paternalism - can attend a school where they can grow up. We want to support all those aiming to consider education a priority. For us, school must not be a good one or a bad one, but the school for everybody. We think that school must be a laboratory for hope: it is not up to us to say if this government or a government of the past is guilty, or to judge if the Minister of Education is the right person, or not; but we must pay attention to this problem, and encourage the consciences.

Because we can talk about economic crisis, about the lack of financial resources, but we cannot wait any more. A country that is poor from a cultural point of view is like a tomb for the young people, and for all of us.

And then, we must think about employment: the charge of a leading class is to promote the growth of employment, so that every person can have his dignity. This is in our Constitution.

We are not trade-unionists, but it is evident that the unemployment is a complicated problem, and from so many years, we are not able to find a solution, so to foster the development and stop the continuing loss of employment.

Those who lose their job, do not find another one, and young people start working late, and many of them lose every hope. All this weakens our values and the basement of our social tissue.

But in the darkness, there are some beams of light. In the darkness, we find a "humanist-entrepreneur", Brunello Cucinelli: in the globalization era, he said that the profit is not the only value: Let's think about this: "During my life – he



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wrote – I always had a dream: a work that is useful. I felt that the profit, if alone, was not enough, to make this dream come true, and that another more “high” aim had to be searched. I listened to the words of Saint Francesco, Saint

Benedetto, Kant, Marco Aurelio, Socrate and Seneca, and I understood that the economic value is nothing without the human value. Work – if we consider it an expression of the human value - participates in the spirituality, also respecting the rules of the managing.”

Education, work, charity.

Freemasonry is also charity, and Grande Oriente d'Italia acts in many parts of our Country, with passion, helping the needy. We do it with passion, and the sacrifice of so many people, in the name of the others. But let me say: there is anything more beautiful, that help those who are less lucky?

We have financed the lighting system of the sporting stadium, as requested by the young people of Norcia, and by the Mayor of Norcia Nicola Alemanno. I can give you the good news: the Super-intendance has authorized us to proceed, and we have signed the agreement with the municipality, some more signatures and we can proceed.

To give the light back to people so hit by the earthquake will be a beautiful thing.

So we will do many other projects, for the young people, thanks to the funds gathered by the Brethren.

Freemasonry are us, with our skills and our vulnerability, with our certainties..

A young poet wrote a poem, which seems to be written for us.

“We are not perfect, but we want to live. We are not almighty, but we can choose our lives. we are not immortal, but we can leave something special to our posterity. We are small and fragile, but we can hold up incredible weights. we are just what we want to be. We are a segment of the universe, and the universe is infinite”.

Also, we Initiate can reflect in these words, and reflect on the sense of life, and on our special way to help Humanity, like the Free Masons know and must do.

To all of you, from the deep of my heart, my heart, so deeply wounded, but proud to represent all of you, I way, with anger, with determination, but also with a smile: long live Liberty, long live Free thinking, long live Grande Oriente d'Italia!

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Rimini, April 7, 2017.