

WELCOME TO ANCIENT ARABIC ORDER OF THE NOBLES OF THE MYSTIC SHRINE, NATIONAL SHRINE CONVENTION

Boumi Temple, Emerson Hotel

June 27, 1939

Baltimore

IN extending to you the most cordial welcome of the people comprising the Sovereign State of Maryland, I shall not refer to the resources or attractions of this Commonwealth unless it be to indicate the extent of the greeting which I am privileged to express to you. I shall not refer to the characteristics or the hospitality which represent the "Heart of Maryland" unless to assure you doubly of the warmth and of the cordiality which abounds in the feelings of our people for you.

I trust that it will not be considered a matter of invidious comparison if I say that this national convention of members of the Shrine is the greatest event in the history of fraternal visitations to our State. Coming from every section, State and Territory of our Nation and constituting, as you do, such a representative cross section of the best in citizenship, you are assured of our delight in having you in our midst. As the spokesman for this State, I am honored to have this opportunity of extending the hand of fellowship to you. The people of Maryland express unbounded happiness of your selection of their State for your assemblage.

Not alone is this so because of your great numbers or the high position of consequence and substance which you enjoy in your respective States and communities. These are real considerations, it is true. However, the crowning quality characterizing the tradition of your fraternity is to be found in the generous and unselfish assistance which your great organization has extended, for years, to those who, otherwise, would be helpless and forgotten. Our people, outside of your membership, have long been acquainted with your beneficent acts of brotherhood and charity.

In the final analysis qualities of heart and mind, as evidenced by individuals or organizations through acts of brotherly interest and charity, are the surest countersigns of true superiority. I stand in respect and admiration of you and ask that you accept our friendship and our reception of you as a token of gratitude and appreciation for what you have done for humanity.

You could not have chosen a better outlet for your humanitarian instincts than when you elected to undertake, as an organization, the work of providing hospitalization and skilled surgical attention free to crippled children whose parents are unable to provide such helps themselves. By so doing you are giving these handicapped youngsters a priceless opportunity to win for themselves in the world some measure of the joy and happiness and success towards which we are all striving.

A fine man becomes finer—a great fraternity becomes greater every single time he or it lifts a cripple or otherwise gives succor to the helpless in the great brotherhood of man. And you gentlemen, Shriners, to your everlasting credit, for years, among other acts of generosity and brotherhood, have been practicing such acts until it is now a regular routine.