



University of Santo Tomas

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*Souvenir of the
Special Solemn Investiture
on which occasion the University conferred
the degree of
Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa
upon*

*General of the Army
Douglas MacArthur
Supreme Commander Allied Powers
Saturday, August the twenty-fifth
nineteen hundred and forty-five
at 4:30 o'clock p. m.*

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UNIVERSITY GYMNASIUM
ESPAÑA STREET

PROGRAM

I

ENTRANCE OF THE FACULTY

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur
The President of the Philippines
The Rector Magnificus and
The Vice Grand Chancellor

II

ADDRESS OF PETITION

By Dr. Gabriel La O
Dean of the College of Law

III

ADDRESS

By the Very Rev. Dr. Eugenio Jordán, O.P.
Rector Magnificus of the University

IV

READING OF THE DIPLOMA OF DOCTOR OF LAWS

(In Latin and English Translation)
By Rev. Dr. Florencio Muñoz, O.P.
Secretary General of the University

V

IMPOSITION OF THE HOOD

By the Very Rev. Dr. Eugenio Jordán, O.P.
Rector Magnificus of the University

VI

CONFERRING OF THE DEGREE

By the Very Rev. Dr. Tomás Tascón, O.P.
Vice Grand Chancellor of the University

VII

ADDRESS

By

GENERAL OF THE ARMY DOUGLAS MacARTHUR
Supreme Commander Allied Powers

VIII

STAR SPANGLED BANNER

I

ADDRESS
OF
DEAN GABRIEL LA O
OF THE COLLEGE OF LAW
PETITIONING THE VERY REVEREND
VICE GRAND CHANCELLOR AND
THE VERY REVEREND RECTOR MAGNIFICUS
TO CONFER THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF LAWS, HONORIS CAUSA ON
GENERAL OF THE ARMY
DOUGLAS MACARTHUR
SUPREME COMMANDER, ALLIED POWERS

Rev. Father Vice-Grand Chancellor

Rev. Father Rector Magnificus

In the history of its three hundred and thirty-five years of existence, the University of Santo Tomas has never entertained in its halls a man as internationally distinguished as General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, on whom we are about to confer the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.

I have prepared for this occasion as complete an outline as I could gather of the service, the promotions and the honors, degrees and decorations conferred upon this great man by the nations of the world. I find, however, that due to certain circumstances my time has had to be cut short and I am unable to present to you the complete and glorious picture that makes up his background.

I might mention some of his decorations—The Congressional Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, the Philippine Medal of Valor, the Philippine Distinguished Service Star, the Philippine Defense Medal, the British Knight Grand Cross of the Bath, French Grand Officer of the Legion of Honor, the Legion of Honor Fourragere, the decorations from Belgium, Holland, Italy, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Rumania, Mexico, Ecuador, and Greece. I might also mention his Honorary Degree from Norwich University, the Pennsylvania Military College, the Universities of Maryland, Pittsburg, the Philippines, Wisconsin and Queensland, Australia. Added to all of this, the honorary degree which we are about to confer upon him today would seem superfluous and insignificant.

But on the other hand, I think we have strong reasons for adding our bit to this imposing array. General MacArthur today is the supreme hero of the Filipinos. The Filipino people and all the other inhabitants of these islands love this man, appreciate his leadership and admire the genius displayed in his liberation of this country. It is therefore fitting that the University of Santo Tomas, the oldest university under the American flag, within whose walls the civilians of the United States and other allied nations were interned during the infamous occupation, a university closely linked

with the history of this nation and truly representative of its traditions, should honor General MacArthur this afternoon.

General MacArthur is, in my opinion, greater than Alexander the Great and Napoleon. His military genius is superior to theirs. And what is more important, those generals used their talents to dominate and enslave the world, while General MacArthur's ideals have always been to liberate the oppressed. The strategy he employed in overcoming the great difficulties of the South Pacific War, his technique in maneuvering through the jungles, his invention of the bypass and his surprise landings completely baffled the enemy and had the world acclaiming him as the greatest general of modern times. The landing on Leyte took the Japanese by surprise. They believed the Americans were going to land first on Mindanao. The second landing in Mindoro was a bigger surprise and the Japanese got so excited that General Yamashita ordered his troops to withdraw from Manila to the North expecting a landing on Batangas. But the next landing was in Lingayen which was left by the enemy completely undefended. The result of this unique strategy was the complete annihilation of all the land, sea and air forces of the once great Empire of Japan, with the least casualties on the part of the Americans. The atomic bomb only afforded the Japanese a face-saving excuse for unconditional surrender, as it was impliedly admitted by a Japanese newspaper. But, indeed, the rhyming prediction that Japanese ambition, which began with PORT Arthur, would end with MacArthur, has come true.

I beg now the Very Reverend Fr. Vice-Grand Chancellor and the Very Rev. Fr. Rector Magnificus of the University of Santo Tomas to confer the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, on General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Allied Commander and Liberator of the Philippines.

I THANK YOU.

ADDRESS

OF

VERY REVEREND DR. EUGENIO JORDAN, O.P.

RECTOR MAGNIFICUS

ACCEDING TO THE PETITION TO

CONFER THE DEGREE OF

DOCTOR OF LAWS, HONORIS CAUSA ON

GENERAL OF THE ARMY

DOUGLAS MACARTHUR

SUPREME COMMANDER, ALLIED POWERS

General MacArthur,

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This date, August 25, 1945, will pass into the history of the University of Santo Tomas as one of the most glorious days of its existence. On this day, the University confers on General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers, the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, in recognition of his great service to the Philippines, to his country, to the cause of peace and to his having liberated the Santo Tomas Internment Camp as well as the University itself. In the past, the University has conferred the same degree to only three men—to the late President Manuel L. Quezon, to President Sergio Osmeña and to Justice Frank Murphy. This occasion is a notable event that will be written in letters of gold in the history of the University.

Founded more than three centuries ago, the University of Santo Tomas has been the principal center and the impregnable bulwark of Christian civilization and culture in the Far East, particularly the Philippines.

But there came a day of ill-omen when this fortress built on secular foundations threatened to collapse, its very existence at stake because of the sinister designs of a pagan nation, a nation without God, a nation bent on ruthlessly erasing every vestige of Christian civilization from these beautiful isles. If their infamous projects and designs had been realized, the Philippines would have ceased to be the only Christian nation in the Orient, a distinction that has always been a manifest glory and a justifiable pride of the Filipinos.

But God, Who has always watched over the well-being and the happiness of the Filipino Nation, chose a man, a providential man who, with his valor and armed with faith in God and the might of

his sword, reduced the infamous projects of the treacherous enemy to nothing, now and for always, by achieving over him one of the greatest and most decisive victories recorded in the annals of history.

This man of destiny, with his overwhelming victory over the enemy returned to the Filipino nation its dearly prized liberty after three years of brutal and humiliating oppression and slavery, and also saved Christian civilization in this part of the globe. This providential man, my dear friends, is General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers. General MacArthur has been justly honored with diverse titles that credit his strategy and military valor. He has been called the Liberator of oppressed nations, the reconqueror of the Philippines, the Champion of Democracy and the rights of men as well as of nations. But I believe that, without minimizing the significance of these titles, one of the untainted glories that ennoble General MacArthur most is his having saved the civilization and the culture of the East—of the Philippines.

The Filipino Nation has a debt of eternal gratitude to General Douglas MacArthur. It is a debt that has been publicly expressed by the representatives of the Filipino nation in the Congress of the Philippines. Both chambers have passed resolutions of thanks, resolutions unanimously approved by all the members, signed by the presidents of both chambers, and endorsed by the President of the Philippine Commonwealth. The University of Santo Tomas cannot remain indifferent to these manifestations of sympathy and gratitude to General MacArthur. By unanimous vote, its Academic Senate joins the nation by conferring on him the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa. The University in honoring him does not do it as a mere gesture of courtesy or as a proof of sympathy. The University is convinced that it ought to do it, that it has the duty and obligation to do it for reasons both of justice and of gratitude. Justice because he saved the Christian civilization in these islands, in the development of which the University of Santo Tomas has been a powerful factor. Gratitude because General MacArthur with his forces saved thousands of lives in the concen-

tration camp of Santo Tomas, thousands of his countrymen who suffered untold horrors and ignominies during three years. In saving them, however, he also saved the lives of the Fathers and the hundreds of Filipino refugees to whom the University had opened wide its doors. The buildings of the University were spared from destruction by his timely arrival on February 3, 1945.

In response to the speech of petition of the Dean of the College of Law of this University, I wish to say that it is with pleasure that we grant the petition of conferring on General Douglas MacArthur the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, and that to the Very Reverend Father Vice-Grand Chancellor as well as to me as Rector of this University it is a great privilege that will perhaps have no parallel in the future, that during our incumbency in this institution, the University of Santo Tomas should honor General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers with the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.

(ENGLISH TRANSLATION)
of the Diploma

IN THE NAME OF GOD: AMEN!

Know all men by these presents that we, the undersigned, the Vice-Grand Chancellor and the Rector Magnificus of the PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS, MANILA, do hereby certify that

Whereas, General Douglas MacArthur, having graduated with the highest honors from the West Point Military Academy, fulfilled difficult commands in his own nation, in the Philippines and in various countries; and,

Whereas, as organizer and commander of a Division in the First World War, he fought in France and led his men to victory; and,

Whereas, entrusted with delicate missions, and decorated with manifold honors, he was made Chief of Staff of the United States Army; and,

Whereas, at the outbreak of the Pacific War, appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Phil-American Forces, he spared the City of Manila the horrors of war and departed with a promise to return; and,

Whereas, fighting his way across the ocean, he redeemed his pledge and returned a conqueror of the Philippines and was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces in the Pacific; and,

Whereas, upon his return, with the welfare of the people at heart, he restored constitutional processes, the civil government, education and, religion; and,

Whereas, by a daring and lightning thrust into this University's compound, he liberated from death thousands of his countrymen herein interned and saved the University itself from destruction; and,

Whereas, attributing to GOD, the glory of victory, and, rendering thanks to HIM, he brought to a glorious end the war in Far East amidst the universal rejoining of all nations; and,

Whereas, appointed Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers, he is entrusted with the mission to dictate and enforce peace in this part of the world;

Wherefore, in view of these and many other merits, we deem it worthy to confer upon him the degree of

DOCTOR OF LAWS, HONORIS CAUSA

And by These Presents, we do hereby certify that he has been elected by the heads of all the Faculties thereof.

In Witness Whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed our Seal's, and our Secretary General has hereunto affixed the Seal of the University, so attesting.

Given at Manila, at the University of Santo Tomas, this 25th day of August, in the year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Five.

DR. FR. TOMAS TASCÓN, O.P.,
Vice-Grand Chancellor

DR. FR. EUGENIUS JORDAN, O.P.,
Rector Magnificus

DR. FR. FLORENTIUS MUÑOZ, O.P.,
Secretary General

Reg. Lib. III, folio 317.

OF THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LAWS FORMULA FOR THE CONFERRING

(Translated from Latin)

I, Dr. Fr. Tomás Tascón, O.P., Vice Grand Chancellor of the Pontifical University of Santo Tomas of Manila, by Pontifical authority in me vested, do hereby create and make you Doctor of Laws, honoris causa. I hereby confer upon you the power and faculty to lecture, teach, interpret, expound and declare publicly the Law. I also grant to you all privileges, honours, prerogatives and plenary rights here and everywhere which are enjoyed by Doctors in like manner created. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

ADDRESS
OF
GENERAL OF THE ARMY
DOUGLAS MACARTHUR
SUPREME COMMANDER, ALLIED POWERS
ACCEPTING THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF LAWS, HONORIS CAUSA

24 August 1945

Your Excellency, the Apostolic Delegate

Rector and members of the Faculty of Santo Tomas University

For over three hundred years—years of war and peace, of happiness and sorrow, of life and death—this University has stood—bulwark of Christianity in the East.

For four hundred years it has thus had the opportunity to inculcate into the minds and hearts of generation upon generation of the Filipino people the teachings of Christ and the enlightened knowledge of Western culture—and Western ideals.

For four hundred years, while its physical appurtenances have crumbled in the dust of antiquity, necessitating restorations to meet the ravages of time and changing concepts of modern requirements, the soul of the University has maintained its great and noble influence upon the generations who have lived and died.

When my country assumed the mantle of sovereignty over these Islands at the turn of the century, it found here a people in whom was already deeply implanted a veneration for and devotion to the principles of Christianity, with minds already enlightened to the knowledge that in the culture of the Western world lay progressive ideas designed to advance the cause of the human race.

Thus, when it sought to fashion here its own political philosophy—or any modification thereof which might better serve the capacity, temperament and welfare of the people—a philosophy designed to give higher dignity to man as an individual and to bestow upon him the blessings of greater freedom of thought and action, a social order indeed predicated upon increased tolerance and understanding, the depth of the Christian faith, already firmly implanted in the soul of the Filipino race, offered a solid foundation upon which such concept of human relations might be erected.

So when this great struggle, which we are just now bringing to a victorious conclusion, swept the earth—a struggle between those things that are wrong and those things that are right—a struggle which placed in the very balance survival of the teachings

of Christ and the civilization of mankind whose course had been charted from those teachings—the spiritual strength of the Filipino people faced its vital test.

The world now knows how steadfastly they kept the faith even into death—that faith borne of Christianity and of Democracy.

The struggle is now over—the cause of right and justice has prevailed. Christianity, Democracy and the essence of Western culture have survived—and the East is about to be opened to an enlightened age wherein its peoples progressively may attain that higher degree of human dignity which the war has been fought to preserve. They will find a blend between the culture of the East and the culture of the West which best suits their character and divergent philosophies of life. Thus to mankind, some day will come a realization that the same sun with which the Creator, in his infinite wisdom, has endowed all peoples on earth, gives light and warmth to the entire universe—both to the East and to the West—and that the distinction between the two is basically geographical in character—and all hesitancy against the assimilation of the cultural strength of the one by the other will eventually disappear. Then will come hope for lasting peace between the peoples of the earth—peace based upon the mutual faith and understanding of all mankind—upon an admixture of ideas and ideals that will best serve the advancement of the human race—and finally upon the realization that only through peace may mankind find progress, happiness and his very survival.

As I reflect upon this great test of strength for Christianity in its isolated intrenchment here in the East, I realize the great honor which is due the University of Santo Tomas for the historic role it has played through the ages, in erecting the indestructable foundation upon which the faith of the Filipino people during this critical period has rested. In that realization—and in the humility of a soldier who knows that all men and all things are dependent upon the will of almighty God—I accept the honor which you have here elected to confer upon me—an honor which I shall treasure in reverend appreciation all of the days of my life.