



SOUTH CAROLINA SUPPLEMENT  
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### Greeting Sir Knights

With what the country is spiraling into this seems appropriate. A discussion on tolerance.

After Cyrus was killed, his son Cambyses, succeeded him. While Cambyses was away at war, a usurper named Gaumata seized the throne. During this turmoil Cambyses died. Darius lead a revolt, claimed the throne, and moved to consolidate power. To gain the good will and support of the subject population, he augmented his tolerance with efforts to promote his people's prosperity. Darius not only tolerated local religious beliefs, but actively encouraged them and supported them. He allowed the work on the temple to resume, sponsored the building of Egyptian temples, and Greek temples in his realm. Darius, in our degrees, exemplifies tolerance and brotherhood, through his aid to the Jews and to his friend Zerubbabel in the project of rebuilding the Temple at Jerusalem. Through his tolerance, he comes to recognize that Truth is the strongest force affecting the human race.

If the ideal of enduring peace is ever to be attained, Individuals who believe in tolerance and good will, and who convince others of the importance of these traits, will make a vital contribution.

Tolerance, by reducing the emotional factors, allows greater concentration on resolving causes of conflicts and creates a better path for resolutions.

Tolerance must begin with the individual. It can never be legislated or imposed by executive or judicial fiat. It will only deal with the symptoms of intolerance. Suppression does not cure the disease but often aggravates it.

While tolerance will not eliminate all causes of conflicts, it can reduce their number and hopefully ease the emotional pressure.

If tolerance must begin with the individual, it still helps if the individual practicing tolerance is one with power or influence, provided power or influence is used to lead and persuade rather than to coerce.

Darius appears to stress this lesson, and the importance of justice, equality, friendship, and generosity.

“Tolerance is the positive and cordial effort to understand another's beliefs, practices and habits without necessarily sharing or accepting them”

Joshua L. Liebman

The holy Bible has several references.

Leviticus 19:17 “Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbor, and not suffer sin upon him.”

Leviticus 19:18 “Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: I *am* the Lord”

I struggle daily not to be vengeful.

With fraternally love and affection

Mike Kirk  
Grand Commander