

• Towards a unified understanding of philosophy, science, religion, and the arts •

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*All things arise and cease due to  
interdependent causes and conditions*

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~Δ~

## **A Real Understanding of the Universal Brotherhood**

by

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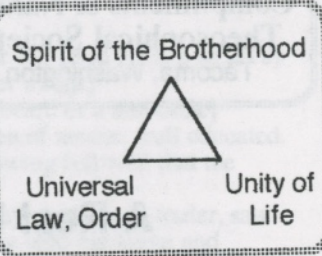
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*Summa Sophia: Questions for further study and for group discussion  
What do you think? What does it mean? What ought to be done?*

## A Real Understanding of the Universal Brotherhood

By  
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The *Spirit of the Brotherhood* is a *Universal Law* based on the *Unity of Life*—thus, the *Unity of the Universal Brotherhood*—the *Truth* within that awaits our realization. Every form of manifestation in all the kingdoms of nature are linked to each other in an indivisible unified way. This means that the weal or woe of each and every life is felt and shared by all. In human terms, no one can be truly happy unless all are happy. Any pain or suffering inflicted on another, sooner or later, becomes our very own. Thus the help we give and the happiness we bring to others is the fulfillment of the *Law*. (Kindly see diagram)



The *Spirit of the Brotherhood* we pledge to each other, as well as toward all sentient beings, is a *Spirit* because the virtuous qualities of spirituality define the essence of its reality. Also, the *Spirit of the Brotherhood* means the *Selflessness of the Brotherhood*. Being selfless, the *Brotherhood* is, therefore, genderless or beyond opposites. (Also, as in the *Unknown Brotherhood*.)

Moreover, in the stainless nature of the *Spirit*, there is that ideal freedom, liberated from those distinctions which tend to degrade into stressful segregated situations, aggravating into conditions of conflict. For the true *Brotherhood*, in its universal manifestation, implies that the thoughts we think, the emotions we feel, and the deeds we do are spiritually oriented. Thoughts do not hurt, they are compassionate. Emotions are not negative, they are benevolent. Deeds are not harmful or disorderly, they are helpful and beautiful. There is respect for the spiritual space that each person needs to grow into in our dealings with each other.

A *Universal Law* is like gravity as a law, whereby we recognize and readjust ourselves accordingly, or else, we are bound to fall, hurting ourselves to breaking a neck or a leg. Death forbid, simple as that. Because we know the effects (or karma) of gravity, we are careful not to stumble or drop something that could hurt. As the entire universe is ruled by gravity as a law, so is our humanity governed by the *Spirit of the Brotherhood* that is, likewise, a Law in Nature. Since no object is exempt from gravity as a law, so is there no person who is not included in the Law of the Brotherhood. In this context of law, we mean there is a state of universal order. The mysteries have their meaningful rituals as a rehearsal of the universal harmony that is inherent in the Cosmic Order. Thus, in truly understanding the Universal Law of the Brotherhood, we relate to each other in an orderly, amiable, and harmonious way. The genuine quality of our spiritual relationship exquisitely improves to its best.

The *Unity of Life* is the very life of every existence. Each life depends on every other for their sustenance and existence. Such a kindred Spirit of Wholeness (Holiness) is the right understanding of what the Holy Spirit is about in all. This is the Truth of Oneness that includes all the Ones, from the lesser to the greater; into the Supreme Unity wherein all live and move and have their being. The role of the greater is to uplift the lesser; and the role of the lesser is to grow unto the measure of the greater; until both lesser and greater, and the states in-between, all come to the realization of wholeness that is greatest in the Oneness of All. Thus, our life commitments are made wholesome—in the restoration towards our original unity.

In each day, we have the opportunity to make manifest this *Spirit of the Universal Brotherhood*, in the light of wisdom, by the strength of the will, and with the beauty of harmony; as in our aspiration for the spiritual ideals, in our offerings of real service to the betterment of humanity.

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## The Declaration of Independence

(Approved by Congress on July 4, 1776, and signed August 2, 1776, Philadelphia)

### and The Undeclared Aftermath\*

No wonder. Has anyone wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the U.S.A. Declaration of Independence?

- 5 signers were captured by the British as traitors, tortured before they died.
- 9 out of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War. They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

What kind of men were they? [• agewise: 7 over 60, 18 in 30's, 3 in 20's]

- 24 were lawyers and jurists [• 10 were preacher's sons]
- 11 were merchants [• not one wore a beard or a mustache]
- 9 were farmers and large plantation owners, men of means, well educated.

But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

• **Carter Braxton** [1736-1797 Virginia] a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

• **William Floyd** 1734-1821 New York, the British Tories plundered his woodlands and family home. His wife, children, other victims had to escape.]

• **Thomas McKean** [1734-1817 Delaware] was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

• **Dillery** [**William Ellery**, 1727-1820 Rhode Island]} Their properties

• **Lyman Hall** [1724(?) - 1790 Georgia] } were looted by

• **George Clymer** [1739-1813 Pennsylvania] } vandals or soldiers.

• **Thomas Nelson Jr.** [1738-1789 Virginia] saw his home occupied and made into the headquarters of the British General Cornwallis. Nelson quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed. And Nelson died bankrupt.

• **Francis Lewis**, [1713-1803 New York] his home and properties were destroyed. His wife was jailed. She died within a few months.

• **John Hart** [1711(?) - 1779 New Jersey] was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His farm fields and his gristmills were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and all his children vanished. A few weeks later, he died from exhaustion and a broken heart.

• **Norris** [*Must be either Lewis Morris*, 1726-1798 New York, *or, or both* (?), **Robert Morris**, 1734-1806 Pennsylvania] and } who suffered

• **Philip Livingston**, [1716-1778 New York] } similar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution, [in the bonds of brotherhood of the Declaration Signers, for the cause of freedom which was meant for generations to come].

\*Author unknown, shared by former colleagues, in Baltimore to California. Adapted, title & brackets added by Bing Escudero. See: Merle Sinclair & Annabel Douglas McArthur, *They Signed for Us*, NY: Duell, Sloan & Pearce, 1957, where the following references are listed: Charles Goodrich, *Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence*, NY: Reed & Co., 1829; and John Sanderson & Robert Wain Jr. *Biography of the Signers to the Declaration of Independence*, 9 vols., Philadelphia: R.W. Pomeroy, 1823-27. ~Δ~