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By Evan G. Koons

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BOYERTOWN, Pa.—There was once a wise, kind and humble man in antiquity who spent his life in search of truth and spreading wisdom among his people. He was a man of peace who loved his state and his community. His method of teaching was to ask thought-provoking questions in a pleasant mood to his students and among the citizens. Some of his questions were these: What is truth? What is love? What is honesty? What is justice? His object was to assist people to conquer their own ignorance.

In the twilight of his years this man, whose godly tactics alienated many, was tried for corrupting the young and for religious heresies, and was sentenced to death. This just and good man, Socrates, died in prison by drinking hemlock, as was the rule in Athens.

Five centuries later, an even wiser and greater man who preached peace, truth and love appeared on the scene. This man healed the sick, raised the dead, and preached a new philosophy

for all mankind: Love your enemies. This man had a greater influence on the people of the world than all the kings that ever reigned, or all the armies that ever marched, or all the great men together. He changed the history of the world.

In the prime of his life he was tried and convicted by an ecclesiastical court. The governor tried to evade ordering his death, but the people demanded the sentence of death. This compassionate and gentle man, Jesus, was humiliated beyond all reason and crucified on a wooden cross as guards stood watch.

Of his loyal and dearest friends one doubted him, another denied him, and one betrayed him.

Now in our present day, 2,000 years later, there is a man who is the leader of a great and powerful country. This man, too, has preached peace. He has demonstrated to the world his genuine sincerity for world peace by halting warring nations in actual combat, bringing together belligerent nations who have lived for a generation in a state of readiness for war, and has gone to the opposite end of the world

to extend his hand in friendship to a hostile country isolated for many years from the rest of the world—a modern miracle. This man has done more to establish world peace than anyone in a thousand years.

The tide of public opinion has turned against this good and kind man. He, too, is being tried and convicted by the court of public opinion. He is being assailed, cursed and crucified by the power of irresponsible pens accountable to no one. A living death is more cruel many times than the death of the flesh.

He, too, has been betrayed by his friends, lied about by his associates, and doubted by many.

This man, Richard M. Nixon, has not been tried in a court of law or by other legal processes, but if and when it comes, as surely as night follows day, he, too, will be found guilty as charged, for the verdict is already in.

I am a part of public opinion. I am ashamed.

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