

A THANKSGIVING  
FOR THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS  
FROM THE PEOPLE OF  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## THE GOLDEN RULE IS COMMON TO ALL RELIGIONS

BUDDHISM. Hurt not others with that which pains yourself. *Udanavarga*.

CHRISTIANITY. All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. *Bible, St. Matthew*.

CONFUCIANISM. Is there any one maxim which ought to be acted upon throughout one's whole life? Surely the maxim of lovingkindness is such – Do not unto others what you would not they should do unto you. *Analects*.

HEBRAISM. What is hurtful to yourself do not to your fellow man. That is the whole of the Torah and the remainder is but commentary. Go learn it. *Talmud*.

HINDUISM. This is the sum of duty: do naught to others which if done to thee, would cause thee pain. *Mahabharata*.

ISLAM. No one of you is a believer until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself. *Traditions*.

JAINISM. In happiness and suffering, in joy and grief, we should regard all creatures as we regard our own self, and should therefore refrain from inflicting upon others such injury as would appear undesirable to us if inflicted upon ourselves. *Yogashastra*.

SIKHISM. As thou deemest thyself so deem others. Then shalt thou become a partner in heaven. *Kabir*.

TAOISM. Regard your neighbor's gain as your own gain: and regard your neighbor's loss as your own loss. *T'ai Shang Kan Ying P'ien*.

ZOROASTRIANISM. That nature only is good when it shall not do unto another whatever is not good for its own self. *Dadistan-i-dinik*.

“We have committed the Golden Rule to memory,  
let us now commit it to life.”

EDWIN MARKHAM

*Excerpts from the research of the artist, Norman Rockwell, including extracts from “The Norman Rockwell” Album published by Doubleday & Co., Garden City, New York, 1961.*

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# I PAINT THE GOLDEN RULE

Most of the time I try to entertain with my *Post* covers. But once in a while I get an uncontrollable urge to say something serious.

Like everyone else, I'm concerned with the world situation, and like everyone else, I'd like to contribute something to help. The only way I can contribute is through my pictures. So for a long time I had been trying to think of a subject that might be of some help.

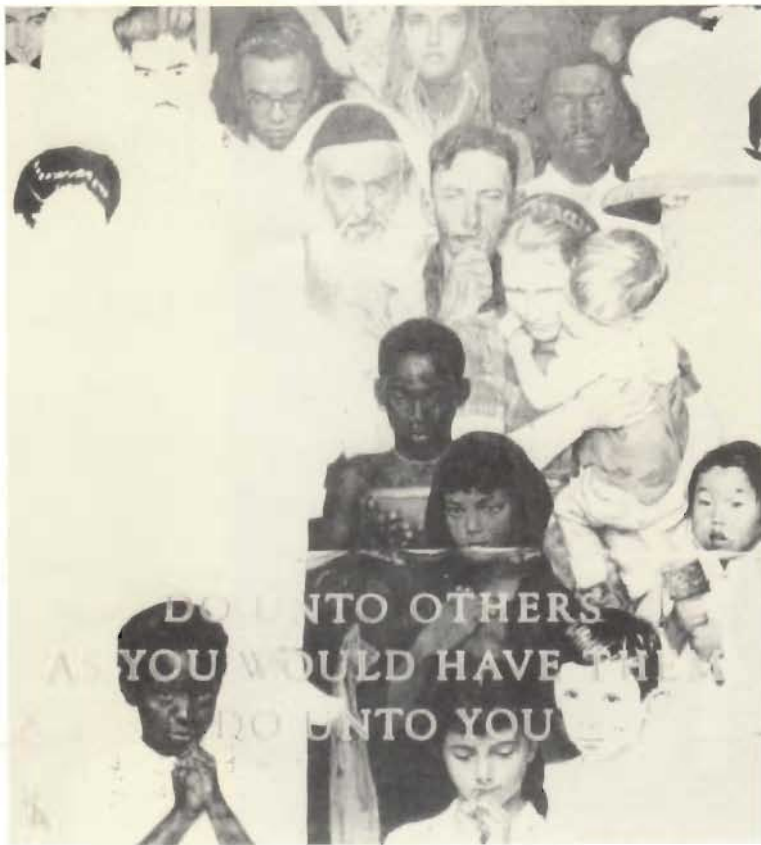
Then one day (I don't know why or how) I suddenly got the idea that the Golden Rule – "Do unto Others as You Would Have Them Do unto You" – was the subject I was looking for. Right away I got intensely excited. But how could I picture the Golden Rule? I began to make all sorts of sketches. Then I remembered that down in the cellar of my studio was the ten-foot-long charcoal drawing of my United Nations picture, which I had never finished. I hauled it upstairs. In it I had tried to depict all the peoples of the world gathered together. That was just what I wanted to express about the Golden Rule.

I spent almost five months painting the picture. It was an enormous amount of work. But I never got discouraged about it and, right or wrong, I never stopped thinking that it was worthwhile.



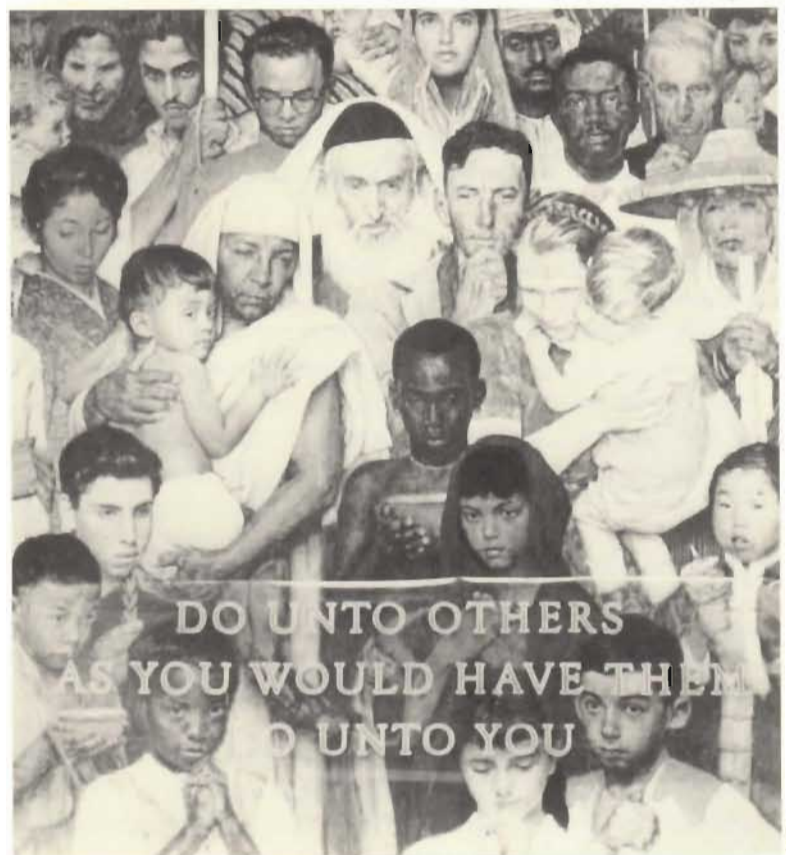
I wanted to include people of every race, creed, and color, depicting them with dignity and respect. Though I had not solved all the problems in this final version of the drawing, I felt I should start the painting.





A painting always progresses rapidly while I am laying it in roughly. The Golden Rule is lettered on a cellophane overlay. I did not paint it on until the picture was finished.

The painting progresses more slowly as I work out the subtle relationships of color and tone. I am still making changes in an attempt to tell the story more clearly, with greater impact. Each head must have a character of its own and yet contribute to the over-all conception.



(5)



This United States gift to the United Nations was made possible by Thanks-Giving Square Foundation. Concept and funding of "The Golden Rule" were provided through Thanks-Giving Square Foundation by people over the United States of America of many cultures and religions.

Thanks-Giving Square is a small garden at the center of a modern city that honors the spirit of universal human gratitude to God as our deepest personal response to the gift of life. It is dedicated to revitalizing the ancient spirit of thanksgiving worldwide. The inspiration for Thanks-Giving Square emerged from conversations in 1961 in Dallas, Texas asking the question, "Can we center the daily life of a modern city on a spiritual idea, as in the ancient cities of the world?" The answer was yes, and today the meditation garden and Chapel of Thanksgiving in the exact center acre of a city and continent, provide a "common place" of world gratitude, symbolic of humanity's highest common denominator.

In 1981, the Center for World Thanksgiving was established at Thanks-Giving Square. The Center celebrates humanity's oneness in expressing gratitude to God and is dedicated to exploring the healing and uniting power of thanksgiving. It gathers the creations and traditions of thanksgiving from cultures of every continent to inspire each of us to our own acts and expressions of gratitude.

The "Golden Rule" began with Norman Rockwell's vision for the United Nations. In his early drawing of the Security Council he placed figures of men and women representing all the peoples of the world. This was the first sketch that later inspired "The Golden Rule." So, it is fitting that this work of art find a home at the United Nations where so many people seek hope and encouragement in rediscovering the gift of life for their countries and cultures. The Golden Rule is, in itself, a Thanksgiving.



## DEVELOPING THE MOSAIC FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

Because of Rockwell's vision and world concern, the United Nations is a fitting home for his painting. To translate *The Golden Rule* into mosaic, a firm in Venice, Italy was selected. Skilled artists at the Cooperativa 'Scuola Mosaico Veneziano' spent the better part of a year creating the larger-than-life art work. The finished product is a testimony to the quality of craftsmanship achieved. Rockwell's contribution will truly reach all those – Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Christian, Muslim, and others – in whose writings he found *The Golden Rule*.



Members of the Cooperativa confer with Peter Stewart, President of the Thanks-Giving Square Foundation which commissioned the work. They are, from left to right, Renato Vaccher, Associate Member, Giovanni Cucco, Vice President and distinguished director of the vast mosaic restoration at Saint Mark's Cathedral in Venice, Mr. Stewart, and Paolo Cassadoro, Artistic Director. These three artists accompanied the completed mosaic to New York and installed it in the United Nations.



Pieces of glass are broken by hammer for brilliance of color.



Color charts are created and the mosaic colors are matched with careful fidelity to Rockwell's quality and color tone.



Each figure is treated individually with painstaking attention. The image shown is always backwards until the final moment when the paper is torn off the completed image.



As each figure is finished, it is placed in position within the total mosaic.



# AN ARTIST'S WORLD VISION: UNDER THE GOLDEN RULE, THE WORLD CAN LIVE IN PEACE AND FREEDOM



The noted American illustrator, the late Norman Rockwell, in a real concern for the world situation, wanted to offer a vision of a better world through this painting.



Rockwell's early charcoal sketch of the United Nations Security Council was never completed. But the vague concept wouldn't rest, and he awoke one day inspired by the specific idea of the "Golden Rule". He feverishly completed it, and it has become one of his most popular paintings.

## AT THE UNITED NATIONS



The United Nations from the earliest days at Lake Success under Trygve Lie, had one room set aside for quiet meditation.



Under the personal direction of Dag Hammarskjöld, the new Meditation Room at the United Nations shows striking symbols that speak to all people. Gifts of other nations recall the passage, "...and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4).



U Thant brought the reality of grateful living into focus when he said, "The law of love and compassion for all living creatures requires a process of education, a veritable mental renaissance."

Under U Thant's encouragement, the Meditation Group at the United Nations started with Sri Chinmoy's guidance in 1970. The "International Day of Thanksgiving" began in 1975 among representatives and staff. This expresses Dag Hammarskjöld's famous words, "For all that has been—thanks. For all that will be, yes!"

## IN THE UNITED STATES



Congress's first decision was to pray. The First Continental Congress on its opening day in 1774 asked, "Can we open the business with prayer?" After hot argument they decided that they could, and did so, achieving a deep bond of unity.

George Washington knelt in Thanksgiving with his troops in 1777 on a snowy hillside near Valley Forge. At this low point in his life, he had halted his army, despite bitter winter weather, to celebrate the Continental Congress's First National Thanksgiving. In time of trouble, Thanksgiving can have powerful results. America will always be hallowed by the army's sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving on that day.

Washington, the towering statesman, in 1795 ended his last Presidential Thanksgiving Proclamation with the prayer—"Impart all the blessings we possess, or ask for ourselves, to the whole family of mankind."



America forgot national prayer during 45 years of peace and prosperity. Then in 1863 Abraham Lincoln thundered, "We have been recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown, but we have forgotten God."

Since Lincoln, no President has forgotten Thanksgiving to God each year, weaving a picture of our most beloved tradition. Around the globe for over 200 years, Americans have invited friends of every nation to their Thanksgiving table. Canada, Brazil, Japan, Korea, Liberia and Switzerland have official Thanksgivings, and probably every nation has its customs of Harvest Thanksgiving.





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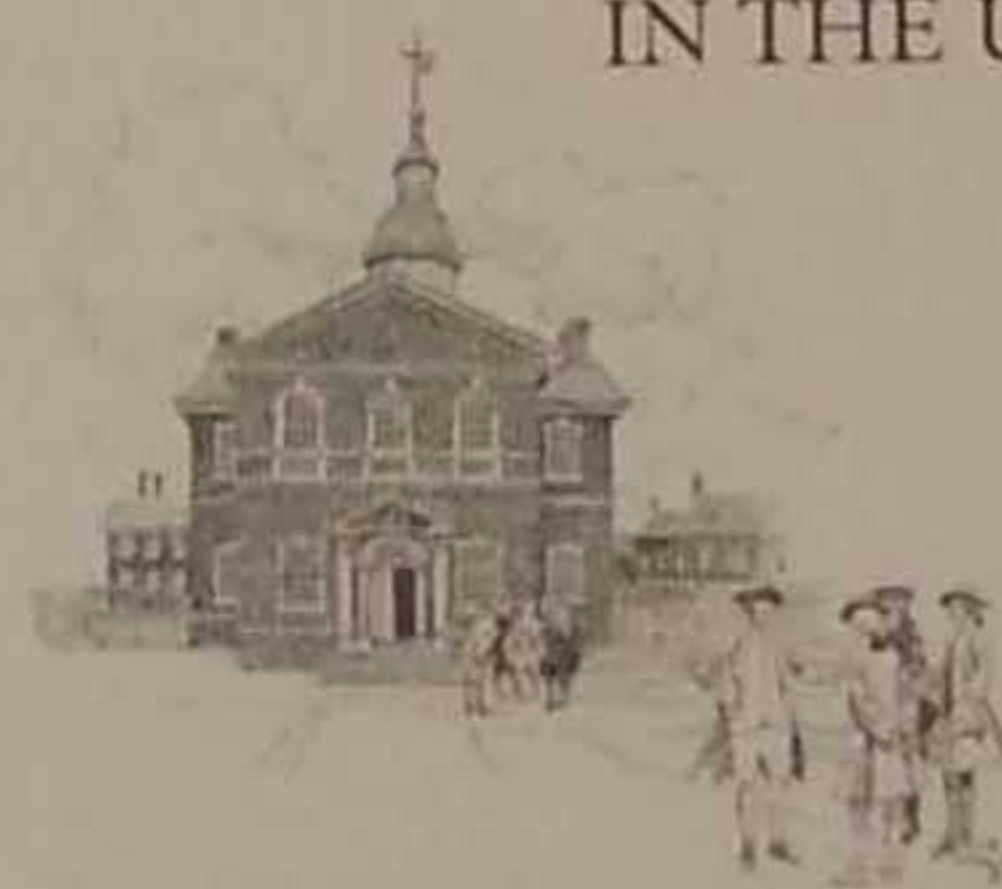
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