Beyond a Founders’ Memorial, build a monument to the people

Great leaders are important but are nothing without the many seen and unseen people and acts that support them.

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For The Straits Times

Instead of drafting this article last week and was mulling over the poem ‘The Builders’ by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. It reads:

All are architects of fate, Working in these walls of Time; Some with massive deeds and great, Some with whispers of rhyme.

Nothing is less or more, Each thing in its place is best. And what seems but idle show Strengthens and supports the rest.

In the earlier days of Art, Builders wrought with greatest care Each minute and unseen part; For the Gods are everywhere. Let us do our work as well, Both the unseen and the seen.

When I copied these lines into this article, the spirit of Notre Dame was not far away. The 800-year-old cathedral is almost 24 times the size of the Founders’ Memorial. If you close your eyes, you can almost see the monkeys going about their daily business. It makes me think about the monuments and memorials. But my accidental choice of the Builder did not have to be more poignant or relevant. Cathedrals and cathedral builders have much to teach us.

Singapore’s own bicentennial is a good moment to reflect on its own cathedrals and building. The commemorations of the century’s 200 years since the landing of the French and Sir Stamford Raffles in Singapore is a moment to reflect on the journey of our society and why we made great strides or stumbled along the way.

Tamtam has a profound saying that might offer some insight: “As the king, so the subjects.”

Undoubtedly, leadership plays a critical role in the overall performance of the people.

As we look at the transformation of Singapore, we can see ample evidence of the role leaders play. The most oft-cited being the leadership of Mr. Lee Kuan Yew in the Singapore prime minister of Singapore. Where such outstanding leadership is absent or unavailable, the performance has been less than inspiring.

How would the visitors of the many cathedrals that built the cathedral of Singapore be able to make it a monument like such Raffles and Mr. Lee?

Why do we need the Founders’ Monument?

Perhaps one of the most powerful figures in the public consciousness of Singaporeans was Sir Stamford Raffles. His leadership and vision for the future of Singapore saw the establishment of a new city-state. The Founders’ Monument is a tribute to the many who laid the foundation for Singapore’s growth.

The Founders’ Monument is a symbol of the city-state’s history and heritage. It serves as a reminder of the many who came before us and the sacrifices they made to ensure Singapore’s success.

In summary, the Founders’ Memorial is a monument to the many who came before us and the sacrifices they made to ensure Singapore’s success. It is a reminder of the importance of leadership and the role they play in shaping our future.