

DISCOURSE

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“What’s the hurry?”

Dear Brothers:

Have you sat back and looked at today’s world, only to realize that life is way too fast, everyone is in a hurry, instant satisfaction or gratification is being sought for constantly. A drive-thru mentality prevails in our society. No one stops to smell the roses.

Remember these old clichés and quotes “if it is worth doing, it is worth doing it right.” “time is money,” “Time is the most valuable thing a man can spend,” “so much to do, so little time,” “Time is what we want most, but... what we use worst”, I do and they are all very true let’s look deeper into the subject of time.

Our lives are constantly assaulted by speed; it is all around us each and every day. The demands for speed can be demonstrated by just looking at how we communicate and eat to prove the point of a fast pace life. With cellular phones, we are constantly bombarded with calls, instant messages, email and twitter 24/7 no getting away from it if it is on and when you want to eat a fast food establishment is around the corner and sometimes two or three on the same intersection. All you need to do is drive thru, no time to go in sit and eat comfortably, no, no, we need to get somewhere, so we eat in the vehicle.

The quality of work has gone down, because everyone is trying to do so much, so fast and as a result they end up making mistakes, causing call backs, and general dissatisfaction with the quality of service and/or product.

Now let us take a look at how this fast pace is affecting our Fraternity. All too often, we bring that mentality to Lodge instead of using the Lodge as a refuge from it. Without being able to shed this state of mind, we look to the Lodge to deliver us Masonry like a Drive thru delivers food. Too many of us want drive by Masonry, but Masonry like life needs the time it requires, no more, no less.

Others choose the internet to get their Masonry, but is that really Masonry. Masonry requires individual efforts working together towards a common goal as a group, sharing their dedication and Brotherhood to achieve their goals in a real not a virtual world. In other words, we congregate in Lodges to strengthen our relationship between Brothers through that personal contact; men by nature are creatures who seek others like themselves to congregate.

Our Lodges should be oasis of tranquility in this fast pace world that seems to be doing everything to drive us mad. Think of the Lodge as a way to unwind from the time you have been away from it. Think about slowing down enough where you can smell the roses. Remember if it is worth doing, it is worth doing it right.

I know you may have to work the next day, but believe me when I tell you. That if you go to Lodge in a hurry you will not enjoy it as much and you will feel drained at the end of the meeting waiting for the time to get by watching the clock thinking to yourself when is it going to end. My Brothers guess what it won’t happen any faster as we all know, its going to take whatever it takes, no more no less.

Next time you go to Lodge, take a different approach, take a deep breath and make yourself a promise to relax not worry about time and to enjoy yourself. You will find yourself enjoying the proceedings, engaging your Brothers, creating fellowship, possibly lowering your blood pressure, leaving the stress of every day life outside the doors, doing good deeds for someone that you may not even know, which will make you feel good. Grab a bite to eat or share a cup of coffee with a Brother and friend you have not seen in a while.

Talk to the Master and volunteer for something to do around the Lodge, it will give you a way to escape from the everyday cares of life, help the Lodge and Brothers, teach others by your actions and learn something yourself.

All too often, Brothers do not attend the Grand Master's Official Visit to the District or District Deputy Grand Master visit to your Lodge and fail to hear the message being delivered by the Grand Lodge Officers and more especially our Grand Master or his District Deputy in their respective Districts, they worry it will be too long a meeting.

My Brothers can you spare the time for just two meetings, most of them start and finish on time, at worst it can take a half hour to an hour more of your time. Can you please give us that much we would like to meet with you and let you know what we are trying to do on your behalf?

Can we speak frankly, the Grand Master and Grand Lodge Officers do not travel all over the state for their health or because they have nothing else to do. They do it because it is mandated by Regulation one, but secondly and more importantly because we wish to communicate with the Craft, to meet the Brothers, to establish bonds of Brotherhood.

It is you, every single one of you that we are interested in. Your Grand Lodge Officers are constantly conveying the message that with you all the hard work and sacrifices are worth making, without you nothing is worth doing. You my Brothers are the Fraternity. We need your participation in all our doings.

I know in my heart that if you commit to prioritize your time and if we are part of your efforts, you will find a little bit of time to attend your Lodge and share time with your Brothers creating bonds and friendships that will last a lifetime.

I also know that if you are asked to help, aid and assist you will do your best and for that we thank you, based on that I ask all Officers of the Lodges and the Brothers that attend on a regular basis to the Lodges to commit to attend the Grand Masters Official Visit to your District. Furthermore to bring a Brother that has not attended in a while to meet the Grand Master and Grand Lodge Officers it would be my personal pleasure and honor to meet and greet every one of you, it would definitely be a great opportunity for me.

This coming year I plan to visit some Districts in an effort to carry the message of our Grand Lodge to all who can take a little bit of their time to visit the event. No fanfare, nothing fancy, just a place where we can have a conversation. I am interested in you and what you have to say. I am making time for us, can you make time for me. Come on out and lets visit together. Together we can make a difference as Masons always rise to the occasion.

Remember, don't be in a hurry, it is not the speed in which we travel to get there that matters, but in what we see and hear along the journey that makes life experiences, and life worth living, slow down let us be your oasis of tranquility, where Brotherly Love reigns true.

Fraternally, I remain your most humble servant.

Jorge L. Aladro
Senior Grand Warden.

If you would like to receive, these newsletters make request at email below if you would like to forward to your list of friends you have my permission and thank you in advance.

"My Brothers, the newsletters are intended to be thought provoking, to get you to think creatively, to get you thinking what if?, to dare you to improve yourself and your Lodge."

Note: If you would, like to have any of these presentations made at your Lodge or District Associations feel free to call.

"Masons always rise to the occasion"