

DISCOURSE

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“Idle talk, piques and quarrels?”

Dear Brothers:

My Brothers once again, we come to a subject that may be controversial to some degree. I hope you take this in the spirit that is being discussed which is to be as a means of information and self-evaluation.

So often we hear of problems in Lodges, that have caused a rift among the Brothers, to the point where the Lodge suffers, attendance is down, no one wants to do anything, Degrees are very poor, maintenance of the building is not being performed, fund raisers are non-existent, things are going down the tubes. Both sides are right or at least according to them, and they cannot see the damage they are causing the Lodge, that sort of “can’t see the forest for the trees type syndrome.”

Today our Lodges suffer from lack of Masonic Education, which includes Masonic Leadership and Lodge Mentoring, the deficiency that this has caused can be seen through every facet of our Fraternity. When looking at the cause of most of these arguments, which have caused these terrible divisions in our Lodges, you find that they are mostly caused by ignorance, lack of education and just plain intolerance. One man’s will over the other and their allies, with no regard to what they are doing to the Lodge and the other Brothers that want to remain out of the fray and choose to stay away from the Lodge.

Well now, we have the two sides of the split in the Lodge, which is tearing the very fabric that holds the Lodge together, and I have one question. **Who speaks for the Lodge?** Where are the Brothers from either side and why are they not looking out for the Lodge? Where are the Brothers that will not get involved with either side, why are they not looking out for the Lodge? You see my Brothers there is one loser here and that is the Lodge.

The Lodge is the loser, that benevolent institution, who has exalted men to such great heights, who has nurtured the needy, who has fed the hungry and who has sheltered the traveler, who has always been tolerant, who has been a refuge for good men, a charitable giver, a lover of mankind. Yes, that is the one and only one that suffers when piques and quarrels arise among the Brethren.

Edmund Burke the famous Irish orator, philosopher and politician said and I quote. “All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.” Wayne Greeson in many of his faith writings explains with scripture and common sense just what Burke earlier said, and I quote “God commands those who are good, not just to avoid evil but actively oppose it.”

He also tells us that in the days of Elijah, the silence of many had allowed the evil of Ahab and Jezebel to prevail throughout the land of Israel. "And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, how long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word" 1 Kings 18:21. The silence of the people spoke volumes of their indecisiveness and inaction. Their failure to stand up, speak up, and speak out permitted wicked and evil men to run rampant.

Do not allow evil to succeed. Do not sit by and do nothing. Stand up and be counted, speak up against evil and speak out against evil men and their sinful deeds, and good will prevail.

You see my Brothers, even the parable from the Bible tells us two things, one is that the situation of people standing on the sides without getting involved and letting wrong succeed has been happening since biblical times, and two that this failure to act personally has prevented good from prevailing.

Let us, you and me stand up for our Lodges, let us speak up for our Lodges, and let us speak out for our Lodges so that ill-intended Brothers are not allowed to succeed. We will be addressing the Lodge’s tribulations to make them

better, not engaging anyone just looking out for the Lodge, after all, we are the caretakers, we swore to do just that, and have renewed that commitment every year at the Annual Installation.

Its been said over and over again that we are a reflection of society and all we have to do is look around us in our communities, the apathy, lack of interest in the common good of our communities, the laziness that has plagued our culture, the indifference portrait for our fellowman is abounding.

My Brothers that same behavior has crept into our beloved Fraternity, just look around and you can see the apathy, personal interest over the well being of the Lodge, laziness, let others do for us or we are too good to do that ourselves, indifference not caring what happens to the Brothers, Lodge or Fraternity. So my Brothers here we have come to a cross roads, and I hate to be blunt, but we must if we are going to jar the reader into action, and that leaves us to two choices you are either part of the problem or part of the solution. I pray we have more of the latter. I know I want to be part of the solution. How about you?

After looking at many of these situations in different Lodges it is apparent that both sides are always right, regardless of how ill intent they may be, or how obvious it is that they are destroying the Lodge. Their principle goal is to prove they were right and the ends justify the means, sometimes the cause of the problem is often forgotten and what remains is that “we have to get them, attitude.” Frankly, my Brothers it makes me sick there should be no tolerance for this behavior. Masons by definition should be better and always above this type of conduct.

What makes this even more unsavory is that they use less informed Brothers by poisoning them with rumors and innuendos, causing a greater split in an effort to gather more in one camp than the other does. My Brothers be wise do not let anyone convince you to join one side or the other, weigh the sources, the evidence, look at their overall goal, look at what the end results will be and most of all look at what will be the effects of your actions with respect to the overall well being of the Lodge.

All too often Brothers are drawn into these situations without realizing what has happened, be aware that this can happen to you, more especially sometimes the Brothers are used, to be the lead of the issues they cannot even defend, while the wiser more deceitful Brothers lurks in the background savoring the moment. All the while, the Brother that has taken the lead is being disciplined, scorned and tried not only by the opinions of their Brothers but also by a trial commission of his peers.

Meanwhile your Mother Lodge cries in silent as she is being ripped apart by her own children. The very same she raised, the very same she nurtured, the very same she guided to do better, than what they are doing now. Don't be like your other Brothers stand up, speak up, speak out and take your Mother Lodge's silent call, exercise Fortitude, Prudence, Temperance and Justice and see that above all the Lodge is triumphant.

Good Brothers must take a stand, let it be known that intolerance, selfishness, greed, misbehavior is not acceptable conduct among Masons, and that it is not compatible with the principles taught in Masonry in general and your Lodge in particular. Stand up, speak up, speak out and most importantly STAMP OUT this kind of behavior, we do not like it and we are not going to stand by anymore.

Respectfully and Fraternaly Submitted, 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”