

DISCOURSE

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“Obligations, are you serious?”

Dear Brothers:

At this time of year, we are engaging in one of the most beautiful ceremonies in Masonry, the Installation of Officers, one that involves the public and our families, many Brothers are very proud of the milestone they have achieved and the fact that friends and families were a part of it. What a wonderful feeling this brings to the Brothers and Officers of the Lodge, yes it brings hope and promises of a new dawn, new people, new energies, new Brothers working together to take their Lodge to new heights.

A great event celebrating the uplifting of Brothers, that just a few years ago were novices and now hold positions of leadership. Now they have in the palm of their hands the well-being of the Lodge it is up to them to guide, direct and point the Membership in the right direction.

The Masonic Lodge system of government is unique; there is no other system like it, it is a democratic system with and autocratic leader, which is omnipotent yet it has many limitations. It sounds like a contradiction in terms yet it has worked for centuries. The new Masters must learn how to master this system; it is a careful balance of authority and mercy, of benevolence and malevolence, of tyranny and compassion.

Although your new station as Worshipful Master is extremely important be sure to remember that, your Lodge Brothers are more important. That this station is a station of Service, that you are there as a Sheppard to watch over the flock temporarily, and to return the flock to your successor in better shape that you founded.

Prior to being a Worshipful Master, you took several obligations and charges that gave you a clear understanding of the position the members of your Lodge's duties and responsibilities. Now you have taken upon yourselves greater responsibilities and duties to lead your Lodge and there in are greater obligations you have promised to undertake and do the very best your ability will allow, leading them into greater success.

Remember, my Brother that you have volunteered to dedicate yourself to be the leader of this Lodge. You have accepted the personal responsibilities that come with leading your Lodge; you have accepted the control of the Charter, which is a contract between your Lodge and Grand Lodge and holds you responsible for the duties and conditions that must be performed in order to maintain this contract alive. Always keep in mind that volunteerism is not for the faint of heart, it is for those that are selfless, dedicated and willing to sacrifice for others, and such is the calling necessary to be a Worshipful Master.

As Worshipful Master you are the ultimate teacher, you will be imparting instructions to your less informed Brethren, you will be teaching them what to do, and what not to do. Lead by example, and teach them to do the same, you will demonstrate that although your station may be one of leadership, you are also on the level with your Brothers, that they are not there to serve you, quite the contrary you are there to serve them. Ever remembering that leaders do not create a void in leadership, they raise the Brethren and get them ready to fill in the opening created by the normal course of progression.

Now as you were chosen to lead so others must follow and those are the Brethren who elevated you and are too generous a disposition, and will do their lions share, to work together with you and make the Lodge and the Brethren better, by applying themselves to perform their duties and responsibilities. Together you will make a difference. Be that Brother who will volunteer to assist in the everyday necessities of the Lodge, by accepting committee appointments, by taking the initiative and bringing solutions to the Lodge, by taking on jobs that no one else wants and making it a success, and furthermore teaching others how to do them.

The one group we have not yet referred to is the Officers of the Lodge elected and appointed. You have a lot to bring to this equation, your stations or places in the Lodge have great significance and as you are understudies for

greater achievements down the road. You must apply yourselves to mold your mind in leading those under you and following those above you, which in each case will be too happy to teach or learn whichever the case may be.

You must learn your duties and responsibilities, and perform them to the pleasure of your Brethren, you must be punctual at all meetings, tardiness is a sign of carelessness, dress the part, you are a leader now, lead by example. Learn the ritual hold practices and most importantly attend them, no excuses be the ones that retain or start the good habits of practicing on a regular basis. If you explain it in open Lodge, the sideliners should take to heart the need and expectations of those committed to leadership, and those lacking in their performance should be appropriately compensated. After all being a leader is not for the weak, for the doubtful, for the timid.

Therefore, my Brothers you see once again the Worshipful Master took some serious Obligations, and I mean serious. He in his new office should apply all of his devotion, sacrifice and selflessness a servant of the Craft must employ in order to succeed. He is to take his obligations to heart, leadership is for the strong, for a man of conviction, for the bold who dares to make a difference for the good of all his Lodge Brothers.

Obligations, are you serious? As serious as a heart attack my Brothers, serious enough to expect nothing but excellence of the Worshipful Master in his new obligations, serious enough to expect nothing but excellence of the Officers duly installed and charged to assist the Master in the discharge of his duties. Serious enough to expect nothing but excellence from the Craft, which will be all, too inclined to assist the Master and Officers of the Lodge in the discharge of their duties. All of us have obligations my Brothers and if collectively we commit to their fulfillment, we will achieve nothing but EXCELLENCE.

You see my Brothers we must take our OBLIGATIONS SERIOUS. I know I do, I hope you do as well.

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”