

DISCOURSE

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“What if You, Catch it”

Dear Brothers,

Have you ever heard of a person chasing a dream for a great portion of their life and then finally catching the dream and not knowing what to do, because they concentrated so much effort in the chase they forgot to plan what to do, when the dream became a reality.

Well this happens in life and especially in Masonry more often than what you can imagine, too often, our Brothers spend so much time chasing the dream of being in a leadership position that they become consumed with the chase.

Some of the primary reasons for this phenomenon are caused by peer pressure. Not the type of peer pressure, where your peers encourage you to run for a particular office, but the type of peer pressure that comes from being in a circle of friends that have achieved such offices, and you are one of the few that has not tried it. In addition they have performed their duties so flawlessly, have made it seem so easy, have run it so smoothly that it makes it seem as if anyone can do it.

Further, why did it seem so easy and flawlessly? Have you stopped to look into what was really accomplished. Did he make a difference? Was this a team effort or one man's one year plan. Will the accomplishments stand the test of time, or did status quo reign, and all you saw was smoke and mirrors.

As we have discussed many times before it all starts with the three P's, Plan, Prepare & Perform, with one major difference, before you start your planning one key piece to your success will be a sincere and critical self-evaluation, to tell that man in the mirror whether you are qualified or not, and this will include the following questions. Does my family support my endeavors? Do I have the time when I set my priorities according to my new would be responsibilities? Does the nature of my character allow me to accept criticism without repudiation? Do I have the leadership skills to lead men into new heights and greater achievements? How much time and resources am I willing to take away from work and family to maintain a happy balance and fulfill my responsibilities? Do I have the will power to stay the course? These and many more are the questions to ask yourself before making a commitment, if done right it takes a man of mettle to be a good and successful leader.

Now that you have answered all the questions in the affirmative we can start to plan, but not the plan on how we are going to get there, but the plan on what we are going to do when we get there. This is most important. Why you ask? Because this will be the message you will be communicating to those that you seek to represent when you get there. This once again requires much effort on your part, and self-analysis to prove to yourself that you are going to provide leadership and prove to yourself that at the end you will leave, the Fraternity in better shape than that in which you found it.

Besides having, a plan that will lead the Fraternity into greater heights, now you must possess the communication skills necessary to convey that message to your Brothers for you must persuade them to come along with you on this journey. This in of itself will be your greatest challenge, because only yourself conviction and knowledge in the minutest details of your plan, when questioned will demonstrate that you have the knowledge and capability to lead your fellow Brother. This will show your ability to handle pressure when your plan is questioned and the way you deliver the answer will once again demonstrate your ability to lead men into action. It will also reveal your ability to be prudent, just, determined and most importantly temperate in dealing with your peers.

Now, that you have developed a plan of what you would like to achieve for the greater good of all. And you have determined the best way of communicating that message is to obtain a following, you have to maintain that flame burning until such time as you reach the summit, where you can impart light to those that followed you to the mountain top. Now after you have conveyed your plans and have given the assignments, it will be your job to be the cheerleader of the team, to keep everyone engaged to see that no one falters, that the right people are placed in the right places so the plan can be executed flawlessly, that we may achieve positive results.

At no point along the way, should there ever be a time where your followers' time is wasted. Where your peers are taken for granted. Where you never forget, not even for a moment that you are their servant and not the other way around. Only then will you be able to be worthy of thinking about leading them and being their representative.

Now, if you are lucky to **catch your dream**, you will be prepared to act as a leader who will take your fellow men to greater heights and be worthy of their recognition and accolades. Always humble and focused on the goals, through communication, and personal involvement, ever mindful to expand the team that can carry out the mission and continue the success.

A good leader is accessible, kind and benevolent. Always ready to lend a sympathetic ear, a kind word and a warm embrace. Be the leader you would want to see lead you. And in the end when all is said and done give thanks to the Great Architect of the Universe whom you should always humbly and reverently give thanks for the many mercy and blessings he has conferred on you.

Respectfully and Fraternally Submitted, I remain your most humble servant

Jorge L. Aladro
Deputy Grand Master

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.