

# DISCOURSE

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## “Brother can you spare the time”

Dear Brothers,

I want to share with you a repeat experience of one I had many years ago, which moved me in a very profound way. All too often, we speak about the youth of our nation and wonder what the future will bring, and yet most of us including myself are not as involved, as we should be.

Our attitude towards our youth sounds to me like people who are constantly discussing politics but never vote, never volunteer in their community for the party they like so much or take action in some grass roots movement that shares their belief. Yet they profess loudly and clear their opinions but never take action to see their concerns through by actual involvement to make a difference.

Yes, this is the way we resolve most of our problems we are expert critics, we never offer solutions, always looking for what is wrong or could be potentially wrong, we do a lot of talking never really saying much of anything, just for the sake of conversation. The simple reason for our actions is simply that we are talkers not doers.

Yes, we talk about where our youth is going, and that has its merits if we are going to get involved in trying to make a difference. Have you tried to make a difference lately, have you involved yourself with your Children, Grand Children or just young people, have you tried to understand them. If you have not you are part of the problem and not part of the solution.

The young people of today have been born in a time when changes are constantly and rapidly in their lives. They have experienced more changes in their short life than we did in ours during our childhood and they have to be on top of all these changes or life just leaves them behind, something many of us cannot begin to understand.

They are connected electronically thru cyberspace 24/7. They can check the validity of a statement instantly, whether good or bad, information is at their fingertips within seconds of their inquiry. They are in touch with whatever it is that interests them and they dig deep into whatever their interest is, because, their friends can also do it and they need to be up to par.

What these young men need is supervision and involvement from a person they can look-up to that will guide them through this hectic maze we call life. They are hungry to learn, and you can be an important part. Just think of this, most of the things they are reading about you have lived through and have first hand experience, which is a better source than what they can look up in the internet.

What greater pleasure can one have than to mentor a younger person and see them achieve their dreams? What greater satisfaction can one receive than that of being a positive influence in a young person's life? What greater enjoyment can one receive than seeing a young person grow to be a model citizen, compatriot, and pick where you left off by assisting other young people?

Unfortunately, too many young people go without mentoring, guidance or assistance from men and women of quality that will assist in character building encourage education, promote tolerance, and advance benevolence so they too can repay their debt to society at a later day by helping others.

Less than a month ago, I went to one of our youth groups and was able to stay a few days with them; it was a refreshing experience to watch these young people and adults that supervised this convention. The participation and enthusiasm was over the top. The level of involvement by the young people was indeed worthy of emulation by the Fraternity at large regardless of what body or level of involvement.

The adults were possibly exhausted after 4 or 5 days, but you could never tell by their exuberance and complete focus to detail. The program included educational, ritual and sports among some of the events. Of course, there was a little time for relaxation with pool, games, and talent shows. All these young people would make fine citizens and I am very proud to have made their acquaintance.

Back to the adults. It is just a shame that we cannot help more young people achieve their full potential because we do not have the adults to supervise these youth groups nor the resources to do it well. You ask why this is the case, simply we do not spend enough time promoting them in our Lodges. We do not find enough people to divide the work among them, as not to over burden the few. I can tell you your rewards here and in the heavens will be many folds when you feel the satisfaction that you made a difference.

There are two ways you can help, one get personally involved and certified to work with young people. Seek the help needed from the State Organizations such as Job's Daughters, International Order of Rainbow for Girls and International Order of DeMolay so that you too can get involved, start slow and volunteer with an existing group learn the ropes and get others started.

The second way is to assist them with funds or fundraisers so they can raise their own funds and learn the value of hard work another great lesson; however, they will still need your assistance to have all the materials needed to create life-learning experiences.

Get involved, participate, and make a difference. You will be the better for it. You will change lives including yours and when all is said and done, it will be a great feeling to know that you made a difference in one young person's life. God Bless you and all of those that Mentor young people for you are molding our tomorrow.

Respectfully and Fraternaly 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.***

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