

DISCOURSE

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“Egos”

Dear Brothers,

I have been approached by several Brothers with a request that I write a Discourse on “Egos.” As it may be apparent to all of you I have no psychological training nor do I consider myself a student or follower of Sigmund Freud. As a matter of fact I know as much about Egos as I do about interplanetary travel.

Nonetheless, what I do have is the general knowledge of the term as it is used in common everyday use of the English language in today’s society.

Ego is defined as 1. Somebody’s idea of his or her own importance or worth, usually of an appropriate level. 2. An exaggerated sense of self-importance and a feeling of superiority to other people. These two definitions are obviously at odds with each other and automatically defines that what the Brothers wanted discussed is the second definition.

I have no clue, what Freud would say about the subject from a psychological point of view. However, based on the two definitions it is clear to me that Egos in the second form have no place in team building, in camaraderie, partnerships, and more especially in Freemasonry.

Although Freemasonry celebrates individuality and encourages its members personal and spiritual growth by the constant competition with oneself, striving for perfection even though we know it cannot be attained, yet knowing that as imperfect beings there is always room for improvement.

This self-improvement quest is in no way to be confused with any self-importance and feelings of superiority to other people whether members of the Fraternity or not. As a matter of fact this quest for perfection would most definitely lead one to the conclusion that regardless of how much one has improved, how much knowledge one has attained that as a mortal one really has so much more to improve, coming to the realization that as individuals we really know nothing.

Masonry teaches Equality, we could never have equality if we have members that would consider themselves superior to others. Can you imagine building a team, where you have members that are Ego dependent, you would have to spend more time patting their egos than you would be working.

This is not to be confused with the fact that we need to praise and recognize those Brothers that have taken on a task and completed them successfully for the benefit of the Craft. Furthermore all of us are probably guilty of not saying Thank You enough to those very few Brothers that manage to perform most of the work. This is not Ego patting, this is showing appreciation for sacrifice and dedication.

Whether you are the Chairman of a Committee or a member, the Master or an Officer, a District Deputy or a District Chairman, a State Chairman or Zone Chairman, an Elected Grand Lodge Officer or Appointed Grand Lodge Officer, we must remain well-grounded in the fact that those who have been given the privilege to serve, are there by the grace of the Craft. Let not our ego's swell with self-importance that we demonstrate a weakness in our character and let down those who place their trust in us.

Let us all realize and seize the opportunity our Brethren have entrusted to us by elevating our commitment of service to the Craft. Demonstrate to your Brethren that as Masons we can vanquish self-importance, subdue our self-worth and conquer our arrogance, that we may become a better living stone for our personal and spiritual foundation.

Masonry has no place for Egos that are greater than the individual. Nor for an individual who thinks he is better than the whole. On the contrary Masonry is and should remain about self-improvement and self-control, and most importantly being true to oneself, and while we compete with the inner person, we must labor together and in unison so that we may build edifices worthy of our Father, the Great Architect of the Universe for the betterment of mankind. Only in this way will the truism of the Brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God can become a reality.

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."