

DISCOURSE

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“Building Character I”

Dear Brothers:

Once again, I come to you as often times I do with a problem systemic of our Fraternity in an effort to bring light to a situation that should have never existed to begin with. Yes, I know that we are imperfect beings in an imperfect world. However as Masons we should always endeavor to rectify our own weaknesses.

Building character is one of Masonry’s greatest attributes and yet we spend very little time reinforcing this very important facet of our Fraternity, our ritual, our lectures and our Masonic Education is filled with lessons and examples of upright living. Masonry, my Brothers is a way of life.

In our Masonic infancy we were presented with two basic tools of construction a Rule and a Common Gavel. The rule taught us to divide our time and that we dedicate a third of our time to the service of God and distress worthy Brother.

By dedicating our time to the service of God, we may learn and practice the precepts, which the Volume of Sacred Law, that Great Light in Masonry has to offer, this book of love and light will direct us to the true path of happiness by first teaching us to be true to ourselves, that we may treat our Brethren as we would like to be treated. The rule also teaches us to measure our devotion to duty and actions that we may stay on the path of virtue that our actions may meet with the approval of the Great Architect of the Universe.

The Common Gavel is another ever so useful tool for those that have just entered this Noble Institution, our predecessors were definitely wise, for out of all the tools and implements of an Operative Mason this tool is certainly a tool worthy of Entered Apprentice internship. As a new man in Masonry we certainly are capable of bringing in certain baggage that may not be compatible with Masonry and this tool will certainly help us divest ourselves of our vices, evils, immoralities, depravities, iniquities, corruption, sins and wickedness of life; preparing ourselves in hearts and minds as living examples fitted for a spiritual building where the Great Architect of the Universe will inspect and judge your life’s accomplishments at the end of what would hope to be a just and upright life while here on earth.

I pray the rule you have used to measure others is just, for he who knows all may use the same rule to measure yourself after you lay down your tools and no longer have the opportunity to prove otherwise. Be prudent remember the time to act is now; do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

The symbolism of the Entered Apprentice Degree is the entrance of man from a dark and ignorant world into a world of light that light, which originates from the Great Light in Masonry, the Holy Scriptures and that light of knowledge which by due study of the liberal arts will give you the light to understand the beautiful tenets precepts, of this Ancient Craft.

Taking into consideration what was taught in our Entered Apprentice Degree, I would say to you to take a few minutes of your time and reflect on what you just read and examine yourself on how well you have done in practicing those Great Moral Lessons taught in that Great Light in Masonry, while following the teachings of your own religion.

I think it would be fair to say that Masonry and your religious beliefs would both agree in divesting yourself of the vices that may lead you astray. Both of these Institutions will have you work on yourself on a daily basis. As human beings we are naturally imperfect beings, and constant work will be the only way by which we can lessen the error of our ways. Remember the only one we have to compete with is ourselves. By constantly striving for perfection we can honestly say we have done our best, and fulfill our obligations to be a better man, husband, father, son, brother, citizen and servant to our God.

As you travel up the road towards that undiscovered country from, which no traveler ever returns make sure that you visit the lessons taught in the Entered Apprentice Degree often, it may be that along this road you may achieve many goals and reach many pinnacles in your Masonic career and life itself, however if you do not practice the first and important lessons taught to you in your first encounter with Freemasonry, you have really not achieved much worth in either your personal or Masonic Life. Take do notice and act accordingly.

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.”