

# DISCOURSE

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## “Building Character II”

Dear Brothers:

The last Discourse was dedicated to the lessons that the Entered Apprentice Degree offered us for building character. It is my belief that these were so important that our predecessors selected them for our first lessons that we may have a chance to build on a solid foundation, after divesting our minds and consciences of the vices and superfluities of life.

The Fellow Craft Degree confronted us with a different set of lessons and values to start building on this spiritual edifice. Now we have left our infancy and have entered our young manhood in search of more light.

In this Degree we are presented with three different tools the Plum, Square and Level, these tools reemphasize the lessons learned in the Entered Apprentice Degree. The Plum admonishes us to walk uprightly in our several stations before God and man, squaring our actions by the Square of Virtue, ever remembering that we are traveling upon that Level of Time, toward “that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns.”

This brings into play the importance of the lessons taught by the tools of the Entered Apprentice, it would be humanly impossible to use the Plum, without having completed the task of dedicating and prioritizing our time correctly. Secondly by dedicating and prioritizing the correct time to prayer and meditation is the only way we can achieve the inner strength and courage to divest ourselves of the vices, which can lead us awry.

The Plum teaches us to walk uprightly in our several stations before God and man. The truth of this statement in most cases are only known by two entities you and the Great Architect of the Universe as he is all seeing, all knowing and holds the line on the Plum by which he will measure the true intent of your heart and conscience.

My Brother, in your travel through life, you may fool many, but as we said above, there are two who you cannot fool under any circumstances your God and yourself, make sure that when you look at that man in the mirror you don't feel reproach from that man that is looking back at you.

Once again, only if you have divested yourselves of the imperfections of the outer world will you be able to square you actions by the Square of Virtue.

Virtue is defined as 1. moral excellence; goodness and righteousness 2. Conformity of one's life and conduct to moral and ethical principles; uprightness; rectitude. The square is an instrument made for trying the trueness of objects whether it is a stone, a wall, or an opening in a wall, with the proper knowledge a person can proof a vertical or a horizontal with relation to another object and the right angle or true corner of any object.

We as Masons identify ourselves with the square according to most Masonic writers more than any other implement in Masonry; it may be because it is the tool that represents the highest authority in a Masonic Lodge being the tool that represents the Worshipful Master and one of the Great Lights in Masonry.

The Worshipful Master is the one Brother, whose station represents the Wisdom of Solomon, the Square regulates the actions of our conduct against those of our Brothers it measures fairness, righteousness, honesty and rectitude of conduct towards our Brothers and the profane world. Therefore it would be safe to say that the Square measures the morality and virtues of our

behavior, teaching us to square our actions that we may be true stones for that spiritual building where we hope to be receive with those immortal words well done good and faithful fellow... welcome into the kingdom of heaven.

If we have managed to be good and bright Masons and have improved ourselves in Masonry by following the lessons in the first two Degrees we have now proven our worthiness by traveling upon that level of time. Very profound statement as the other tools of Freemasonry teaches us to walk and act as Masons, to correct our actions, to measure our own inadequacies; the level takes the total sum of our labors and measures them against time to truly measure the resolve of our convictions.

Can your actions meet the proof of the level that your Masonic way of life demands of your conduct, have you lived up to your promises not just those you made to your Brethren but those you made to yourself? Remember you came to Freemasonry to make yourself better, have you accomplished the task, have you satisfied that man in the mirror, will your actions stand the test of time?

In Masonry we are taught that what we see good in others we are to emulate, and what we see wrong we are to carefully see that we amend it in ourselves. As I see it in order to be good Masons we need to be those that are emulated, if we have not become that example to our Brethren, friends and family we have not only failed Masonry we have failed ourselves. Step up to the Challenge live Masonry today that tomorrow you may reap its rewards of a life well spent. You can do it, you have the greatest of the Almighty in you; you just need to apply yourself to make it happen. Remember one step at a time, dedicate yourself to the values and principals, study them but most importantly practice them in your everyday life. God's speed I know you can do it. Be a leader make it happen.

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."*

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