

DISCOURSE

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“Building Character III”

Dear Brothers:

The last two Discourses were dedicated to the lessons taught us in the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Degree dedicated for building character. As we continue to build on these lessons we find a common thread of self-improvement, of character building. Now, with the additional tools we can continue to build our characters as we learn the lessons of the Fellow Craft by measuring our conduct by the Plum as we walk in our several stations between God and man, squaring our actions by the Square of Virtue and always remembering that all our actions are being tried by that Level of Time.

As we are raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason we are introduced to another set of working tools, we are told, the working tools of Master Masons are all the implements of Masons in Masonry, more especially the Trowel. The Trowel was used by operative Masons to spread the mortar which unites the bricks of a building into one single mass. However, we as Masons are taught to use the Trowel for spreading the cement of Brotherly Love and Affection.

This last lesson speaks volumes of the duties of a Master Mason. It charges us to use all of the other tools of Masons to teach us how we should improve and conduct ourselves as Masons. However the trowel is singled out with special prominence in this Degree above all the other tools.

The trowel is a key tool in Masonry itself, used properly it spreads the cement that unites the bricks as one single mass. Used symbolically it spreads the cement of Brotherly Love and Affection that cement which **unites** us into **one sacred band**, or society of friends and Brothers, among whom no contention should ever exist, but that noble contention, or rather emulation, of who best can work and best agree, this my Brothers is a very profound and awesome statement.

We are charged with our greatest obligation of a Master Mason and that is to learn to overcome our adversities by working together as **ONE**, where we can act as One Sacred Band or Society of Friends and Brothers. Our founding fathers recognized that our ability to work together would be our greatest strength; therefore they encourage us to emulate all that is good in others, becoming of one mind and action that we may become stronger.

The wisdom in not allowing any discussions of Politics and Religions was a masterful move on their part since at that particular time in history we had several religious movements on the go, as well as a political battles created by those movements. Instead our founding fathers concentrated on self-improvement, education and personal growth at a time when education was designed for, the monarchy, the clergy and the well to do.

As we continue to look at this Third and Last Degree the message is definitely clear that we as Masons, number one are obligated to constantly work on ourselves that we may be able to fit in that building that house not made with hands eternal in the heavens, number two that we apply the lessons taught by all the tools in Masonry to improve ourselves and number three that we use the trowel to spread Brotherly Love and Affection among our Brethren that we become one close knit Band of Friends and Brothers.

With this new charge of greater self-improvement and of greater participation between the Brethren we must be willing, ready and able to institute all our lessons in order to achieve this important charge. Only through constant application and perseverance can we achieve such a demand of ourselves, for the greater good of the entire Fraternity.

We are as strong as our weakest link in that Fraternal Chain of Union, this symbol which has very little known use today is one that is in the ritual but not given sufficient significance and probably alludes to one of Masonry's goals that we become a Band of Brothers and in many places it is demonstrated by Brothers interlacing hands and arms of the Brethren in attendance at meetings or funeral services. Only through Brotherly Love and Affection can this Chain of Union express and generate the love necessary to eliminate discord and disharmony in our midst.

This Chain of Union also known as the Mystic Tie refers to the fact that men come to Masonry from all different religions, ethnicities, places of origins, and financial background. These men become part of this Band of Friends and Brothers we call Masonry, where we meet on the level regardless of any difference we may have had previously, promoting true friendships among men that would otherwise remain strangers.

As Masons we should give more consideration to this Mystic Tie that binds us as ONE Band of Brothers, we should be more ready, more willing and more active in spreading Brotherly Love and Affection that we may rise to the level of being as ONE with ourselves and our GOD. Be a leader; make it happen.

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."