

The Discoverer

The Monthly Newsletter of The Lodge of Discovery

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Greetings Brethren,

The Lodge of Discovery is very much focused on the upcoming Installation of our Master-Elect on Saturday 11th March.

We are expecting a delegation from Lodge Lautoka, Fiji as well as the Grand Inspector.

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Membership e-mail address list

A list of current members and their e-mail addresses is available on request.

THE EMBLEMS OF FREEMASONRY

The First Degree

The Furniture

The Furniture of the Lodge consists of the V... S... L..., the Compasses and the Square. The Sacred Writings are a gift from God to man to rule and govern his faith, and on them all Freemasons are obligated. The Compasses and Square when united are to regulate our lives and actions. The Compasses belong to the R.W.M. in particular, and the Square to the Craft in general.

Charter.

Every properly constituted Lodge holds a Charter from Grand Lodge, empowering it to enter, pass, and raise Masons, and to collect the necessary fees. This Charter is produced to every candidate as an authority, and must at all times be open in the Lodge for the inspection of the Brethren.

Laws and Constitutions.

A copy of the latest edition of "The Laws and Constitutions of the Grand Lodge" must be in the possession of every daughter Lodge, and must be accessible to the brethren.

The Moveable Jewels.

The Moveable Jewels are the Square, Level and Plumb-rule. They are called moveable jewels because they are worn by the R.W.M. and his Wardens, and are transferable from them to their successors on nights of installation. The R.W.M. is distinguished by the Square, the W.S.W. by the Level, and the W.J.W. by the Plumb rule.

The Immovable Jewels.

The Immovable Jewels are the Tracing Board, the Rough Ashlar, and the Perfect Ashlar. They are called immovable because they lie open for the brethren to moralise upon at ~h times, and are thus regarded as permanent and enduring.

The Tracing Board.

The Tracing-Board is for the R.W.M. to lay lines and to draw designs on, by all of which he may teach the brethren to pursue the path of virtue. It is an emblem of the Book of Life in which the Great Architect of the Universe has laid down the lines which guide us in the work of erecting a spiritual temple. By following the Divine Laws and Moral Plans therein laid down the Mason will at last succeed to a mansion not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Taken from William Harvey's book "The Emblems of Freemasonry 1918"

With acknowledgement to SRA76

TAKING THE CHAIR

Worshipful Master and Brethren, this has been a topic that has been of intense interest to me ever since I joined the Craft.

We live in rapidly changing times. One of the areas which have changed markedly is that of entertainment. When I was initiated, television was in its infancy. Now, it is a dominant factor of family life to the extent that with both husband and wife working, the usual thing to do in the evening is to flop down in front of T.V. and see what's on offer. Most of us would say "not much", but it doesn't alter the fact that that is what we in the Craft are competing with. We need to offer something much more attractive if we are to entice young men away from satellite television. And we need to bear in mind that the next generation seems to share domestic duties in a way that we would have found quite strange to say the least.

At the risk of hammering an old theme, I hold firmly to the view that if Freemasonry is to recruit, regain and retain, we need to do things right. That means that one of the unique features of Freemasonry - the Ritual - has to be done properly. It means that the refectory should be a place of enjoyment and relaxation where new refreshing ideas are encouraged. It means that the lodge business must be conducted efficiently and in a manner which assures the membership that the lodge is in good hands. This means that whoever takes the chair deserves to have had some proper training for the job and in my view Brethren, this does not happen. If someone says to me, "yes it does, we have training courses". Then regrettably, in most cases, they don't work.

No doubt those of you who were present 10 years ago will have forgotten what I had to say. You are forgiven if that is indeed the case, because what I found easy to remember 10 years ago is not so today. But my accounting background told me that I should check the records and I find that I did touch briefly on the matter of taking the chair: that is to say, being a chairman.

At his installation, the Master is told that "the honour, reputation and usefulness of this lodge will materially depend upon the skill and assiduity with which you manage its concerns". Fine words, but has he had any formal training for the job?

There is no substitute for practice, of course and as you will all be aware, there is a subtle difference between sitting and watching the Worshipful Master and having to sit in the chair of K.S. yourself. It can be a shock to one's system to find that if you don't do something, nothing happens! Sometimes you are prompted by the I.P.M., or by one or three of a group of experienced Past Masters; who are often wrong! Which is why many Lodge Secretaries secretly cherish the view that it is they who are running the lodge and the Worshipful Master is only here for twelve months?

As I have said, this is not the fault of the Master - what training has he had? But what sort of impression does it leave on the members, never mind the Initiates. Those Initiates are told of the Lesser Lights - that the Master is there to rule and direct his lodge. So if he doesn't rule and direct, he'll find that the Past Masters and Secretary will be doing it - which destroys both his confidence and credibility.

It is a matter of preparation. The Master has had years preparing to take the Chair, but once he's there, the preparation continues. Before each meeting, the Secretary should prepare an agenda and discuss it with the Master, so that the Master knows what business is before the Lodge and what to expect. The Master should be in the comfortable position of knowing that he knows more than anyone else.

Similarly, the Master and Secretary should review the correspondence and decide which items need to be advised to members in detail. In the event that my remarks may have offended any Lodge Secretary present this evening, can I say that he is the kingpin of his lodge. He sees all the outgoing

mail and reports, receives all the inwards correspondence. He should be a mine of information, but he cannot do his job without the help of the Master and other members. So - keep the Secretary informed. In turn, the Secretary must keep the Master fully informed on all relevant matters.

The Ritual teaches us that we should have a "perfect submission to the Master and his Wardens while carrying out the duties of their respective offices." This could be construed as a licence to total dictatorship, but fortunately it doesn't happen that way.

The Master does - like any chairman have certain duties, powers and obligations.

His main duties are:

1. To conduct the meeting through the agenda.
2. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to be heard.
3. To make sure that everyone has an equal right to vote.

His powers are:

1. To preserve order.
2. To decide whom shall address the meeting.
3. To rule on questions of procedure and points of order.
4. To prevent irrelevant discussion.
5. To reject badly worded or ambiguous motions or amendments.
6. To ask any person who is speaking to resume his seat if he is out of order.
7. To request a poll if there is any doubt of the outcome of a vote by show of hands.
8. If the rules provide, to exercise a casting vote as well as a deliberative one.
9. To adjourn the meeting if a quorum no longer exists, or the meeting gets out of control.

His obligations are:

1. To know why the meeting has been called.
2. To know who is entitled to attend, speak and vote.
3. To have the agenda prepared well in advance.
4. To open the meeting on time, with a quorum present.
5. To welcome visitors and guests.
6. To ensure the smooth passage of the business in accordance with the agenda.
7. To sign the approved minutes of the previous meeting.
8. To see that motions and amendments are clearly worded ~ preferably in writing.
9. To be firm but impartial.
10. To use his common sense and retain a sense of humour.

I am sure that most of you will have attended meetings, not necessarily Masonic, that have lasted far longer than should have been the case, In many instances, this is simply because the chairman did not insist on having a motion before the meeting. Once a motion has been moved, it focuses the meeting on the matter in hand. It gives the chairman the advantage of controlling the discussion. He can insist that any speakers to the motion stick to the subject. In addition, he can of course, ensure that everyone has the proverbial "fair go. by ensuring that everyone may speak to the motion - but only once.

There are three fundamentals for democratic meeting procedure:

1. Justice and courtesy to all.
2. Handling one item at a time.
3. Reach the democratic majority decision but allow the minority view to be heard.

Without doubt, a badly run meeting will not only lower the morale of members, but may create an atmosphere that encourages personal differences. Controlling a meeting is a simple task if a few rules are understood and followed. The understanding of motions and the rules pertaining to them will allow the chairman to control the meeting comfortably.

Experience shows that where a chairman has demonstrated that he is in control, the "stirrer" is less likely to try to perform. But what is needed is training and practice. If we are going to ensure that the Members of the Lodge - new and old - enjoy their masonry, I believe that the Grand Lodges have an obligation to ensure that the incoming masters have been given every assistance in preparing them for their duty.



MEETINGS

The Book of Constitutions provides that regular days of lodge meetings and place of meeting must be specified in lodge by-laws and no meeting can be held if not in accordance therewith, except if the meeting day falls on a public holiday in which case the meeting may be held, if practicable, on the day before or the day after at the discretion of the Master, without the need for dispensation.

Dispensation may be granted by the Grand Inspector for the holding of a regular meeting on a day not more than 14 days before or after the day specified in the by-laws.

A Lodge of Emergency may at any time be called by the Master or, in his absence, the Senior Warden, or in his absence the Junior Warden. The business to be transacted must be stated in the lodge summons and no other business shall be entered on. Not more than one emergency meeting for the purpose of conferring a degree may be called between any two consecutive regular meetings.

Should the Master not be able to attend a meeting, the Immediate Past Master will take the chair. If he cannot be present, the chair will be taken by the Senior Past Master of the lodge or, in his absence, another Past Master of the lodge or, successively, the Senior Warden or Junior Warden.

If a Warden were to preside, he would not occupy the Master's chair, nor would he be authorized to conduct any degree ceremony.

Why should I join Masonry?

What would you say to a possible new member?

You're interested in joining the Masonic lodge? We'd love to have you. You are the type of person we look for.; committed, enthusiastic, a leader. We think you'll do great things here. You will make life-long friendships, and, hopefully, you'll be the type of person whose positive impact will be felt here for many years.

This is the start of something really cool.

We know you have your reasons for joining, and we also know that the reasons you'll stay will be entirely different. They stay around for the friendships and because they find a place where they can impact the lives of others. It's a family. We know this. Soon, you will, too.

The badge of membership will soon be yours. But, there's one lesson we need to impress on you before you sign your name on the dotted line, pay that first fee, and take that first step. It's the single most important thing we're going to ask of you, so you need to listen and understand it, now, before you say 'yes'.

It's the one most important thing that any fraternity can impress upon its new members. Truly, our survival as an organization depends on you understanding this one simple lesson and taking it to heart.

It's more important than our history, our traditions, our structure or our rules. Because, if you don't understand this most fundamental lesson, then none of the other stuff will matter.

If you don't get this one "golden rule of Masonry" then your son or grandson won't have this organization to join someday, and all of this will be just a fuzzy memory.

Here it is. Ready?

From the moment you say yes to this organization, you are always wearing your badge.

We are not talking about T-shirts or sweatshirts, or hats made with logos of the group. We are not talking about a tattoo on your ankle, some party favour, or a badge you wear on your dress shirt.

What we mean is that when you say yes to lifetime membership in masonry everything you say. Do and represent from that moment forward is a direct reflection on this group, your brothers,, and the thousands of members who have come before you. Everything you put out to the world is a direct reflection on this fraternity. Every decision, every achievement, every mistake happens to all of us from this point forward.

When you go to the grocery store, you represent us. When you drive down the road and slow down that a pedestrian can cross the street, you represent us.

When you become a leader, you represent us. When you insult someone, or talk badly about another, you represent us. When you make decisions about how you behave, you represent us. When you go anywhere, you represent us.

When you go home and sit at your mother's dining table, you represent us. When you get a job and

When you go home and sit at your mother's dining table, you represent us. When you get a job and work for a company or organization, you represent us. When you commit your life to that special person, you represent us.

You are always wearing your badge.

From this day forward, always, every day, in every situation, it never comes off.

It doesn't matter if you are wearing a jersey with our name on it, or a business suit at an interview. You have to assume that every person you meet will form a permanent opinion about masons—good or bad—based on how you interact with them. Every good thing you do builds us up. Every dumb thing you do tears us down.

We live in a time when the actions of one man can kill a group like ours. One person who acts in a way that is inconsistent with our shared values can end hundreds of years of tradition and pride. One bad choice you make can take away everything that generations of men have worked to build.

All the stuff you see that belongs to us can be boxed up or thrown out, because of the choices you make.

If this seems a little intense, that's good. Because it's serious. If it sounds like too much responsibility, or if you don't think you can behave in a way that reflects well on us, at all times, then walk away now. Do us the favour. We won't think less of you. In fact, we'll thank you. This sort of commitment isn't for everybody.

But don't say yes unless you understand.

We're not asking you to give up anything. We aren't asking you to be something you are not. We're asking you to become something more. We're inviting you to become part of a group of men who make a promise to take care of each other, every day. We're asking you to become the very best version of you that you can be.

It's a big deal, and not everyone can do it. Forget everything you've heard up to this point. Forget how much you might desire this, or how much we might want to bring you into the group. Just clear your mind and ask yourself one question.

Are you ready to never take off that badge?

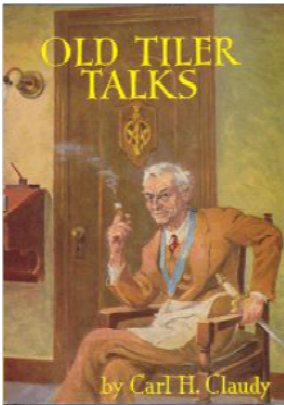
Because, when you say 'yes' you're not just putting a badge on a sweatshirt. You're putting it into your heart. You're forever stamping your identity with it. Everything you are, from this point on, becomes whom we are.

You will make mistakes, and brothers will remind you of your commitment. There will be times when you will see other brothers forgetting their promise, and you'll need to remind them. That's part of this whole "Masonic" thing. We work together to make ourselves better men who stand for something. We carry each other. We matter to one another.

If we're doing our Masonic duty right, then we'll make you a better man. If you're doing everything right, then you will make us a better organization. So, please think about it. Take it seriously.

Because if you say yes, this badge belongs to you as surely as it belonged to our founders. If you say yes, this badge becomes your responsibility forever. **That's a promise.**

This article by Bro. Hugh Goldie was sourced by the Sunday Masonic Paper. Thanks also to SRA76.



Old Tiler Talks— COULD BE

"I am much disappointed," announced the New Brother, sadly, sitting down beside the Old Tyler during refreshment.

"Disappointed in what?" asked the wielder of the sword.

"Why, Masonry in general, and this lodge in particular," answered the New Brother. "Neither are what I thought they were."

"That's too bad," sympathized the Old Tyler. "Tell me about it."

"My dad was a Mason. He told me how helpful Masonry was and how a lodge stood back of a fellow, and how one brother would go out of his way to help another, and if you were in trouble, a brother would help you out of it. I believed it. But I have been a member here now for some time, and I have seen none of that."

"Been in trouble, son?" asked the Old Tyler.

"I suppose everyone has some troubles."

"Have you been in any real trouble, in which you could have been aided by the lodge had the lodge known of it?"

"That isn't the question," answered the New Brother.

"No, I agree it isn't. So I will ask you the real question," said the Old Tiler, and his lips lost their smile. "How many brothers have you helped since you have been a member? How many shoulders have you slapped? How many men have you gone to and said, 'Jim, I know you are in trouble, count me in to help because we both belong to the same lodge?'"

"Why, how you talk!" replied the New Brother. "I hardly know anyone in the lodge, yet. How would I know whether they were in trouble?"

"The same way they would know if you were in trouble, of course!" answered the Old Tyler. "I am a old man and I have had a lot of trouble, most of which never happened. You complain that Masonry is a failure because you have not personally experienced its helping hand. You admit you haven't needed it. And you also admit you haven't held it out. Brotherhood means the relation between two brothers, not the relation of one brother to another and no comeback. If you can't be a brother, how do you expect a man to be a brother to you? You ask me how you would know if a brother is in trouble. How does anyone know?"

"Here are some stories I heard last week. Brother A, of this lodge, lost his wife two weeks ago. It was in the papers. Two brothers of this lodge sent their wives to his house to look after his children until he could make arrangements for a nurse. Another brother of this lodge failed in business. Lodge action wasn't necessary, but two bankers and a business man went to the poor failure and staked him, and put him on his feet. A brother of this lodge has a boy who is wild. Last week the boy went joy riding with too much hooch in him and smashed up a car which didn't belong to him. The owner wanted to put the boy in jail, where he belonged, but a brother of this lodge took the responsibility on himself, sent the boy to a farm during good behavior, saved the father from a broken heart and maybe society from a criminal. The home of a brother of this lodge burned down last month. It wasn't insured. He had just paid for it. Ten brothers of this lodge financed his new house; he will pay a dollar a week for life, or something, but he had fraternal help. Three brothers in the lodge tonight are out of work, and with little money. Before they go away someone will see that they get a chance."

"But how do brothers know other brothers are in trouble? They don't get up in lodge and tell it!"

"How did you expect people were going to come and help you if you didn't let them know you needed help?" countered the Old Tyler. "Why, I just thought maybe someone would have enough interest in me to know..."

"Have you had enough interest in your brethren to know when they were in trouble?" "I...er...why..." "You needn't answer. In every lodge are the 'gimme's' and the 'lemme's.' The 'gimme's' are those who want things done, and the 'lemme's' do them. In every lodge are the 'have's' and the 'haven'ts.' It's up to the 'have's' to share with the 'haven'ts.' I take it you are naturally a 'have.' You have money, clothes, a good position. You are not in need of help from your brother. But some brethren are in need of help from you. It may be a dollar, advice, a word to an influential friend, a loan, it may be some of the things I have told you about. If brotherhood is to mean what you hoped it won't be because you get it, but because you give it. A Masonic lodge should never be an organization from which a man expects to get something. If everyone was disappointed because no one did anything, it would be a failure. It isn't a failure because most real Masons look for the chance to do something for some brother who needs help."

"Some brethren do a lot for idiotic new brothers, just by talking to them!" responded the New Brother remorsefully. "Do you suppose you could slip a dollar to each of those three who haven't any and tell 'em you found it on the floor?"

"Could be," answered the Old Tyler. "And please believe I don't think it's a failure and the only thing about it which is disappointing to me is myself." "Could be," answered the Old Tyler.

Lodge Birthday

Charles Kleiman 23 (J)

News from the South

Hearty congratulation to W. Bro. Rex Kersley on being appointed to Overseas Grand Rank



FROM LIFES LITTLE INSTRUCTION BOOK

1. Keep a tight rein on your temper
2. Surprise loved ones with little unexpected gifts
- 3 Make the best of bad situation



It is not the mission of Masonry to engage in plots and conspiracies against the civil government. It is not the fanatical propagandist of any creed or theory; nor does it proclaim itself the enemy of kings. It is the apostle of liberty, equality and fraternity.
Albert Pike



Hoodwink

A symbol of the secrecy, silence, and darkness in which the mysteries of our secrets should be preserved from the unhallowed gaze of the profane. It has been supposed to have a symbolic reference to the passage in St. John's Gospel, (i. 5) "And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehend it not." But it is more certain that there is in the hoodwink a representation of the mystical darkness which always preceded the rites of the ancient initiations.

Mackey's Encyclopedia



HOW THE INTERNET STARTED, ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE.

PLEASE DO NOT GOOGLE THIS ONE OR CHECK WITH SNOPES.

THEY WILL LIE TO YOU. TRUST ME!

In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a healthy young wife by the name of Dorothy (Dot for short). Dot Com was a comely woman, large of breast, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she was often called Amazon Dot Com.

And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?"

And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, "How, dear?"

And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you who hath the best price. The sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever having to move from his tent.

To prevent neighboring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot devised a system that only she and the drummers knew. It was known as Must Send Drum Over Sound (MSDOS), and she also developed a language to transmit ideas and pictures - Hebrew to The People (HTTP).

And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites, or NERDS. And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum dealer, Brother William of Gates, who bought off every drum maker in the land. Indeed he did insist on drums to be made that would work only with Brother Gates' drumheads and drumsticks.

And Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others." And Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or eBay as it came to be known. He said, "We need a name that reflects what we are."

And Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators."

"YAHOO," said Abraham. And because it was Dot's idea, they named it YAHOO Dot Com.

Abraham's cousin, Joshua, being the young Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid (GEEK) that he was, soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside.

It soon became known as God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything (GOOGLE).

That is how it all began. And that's the truth. I would not make up this stuff.