

The Discoverer

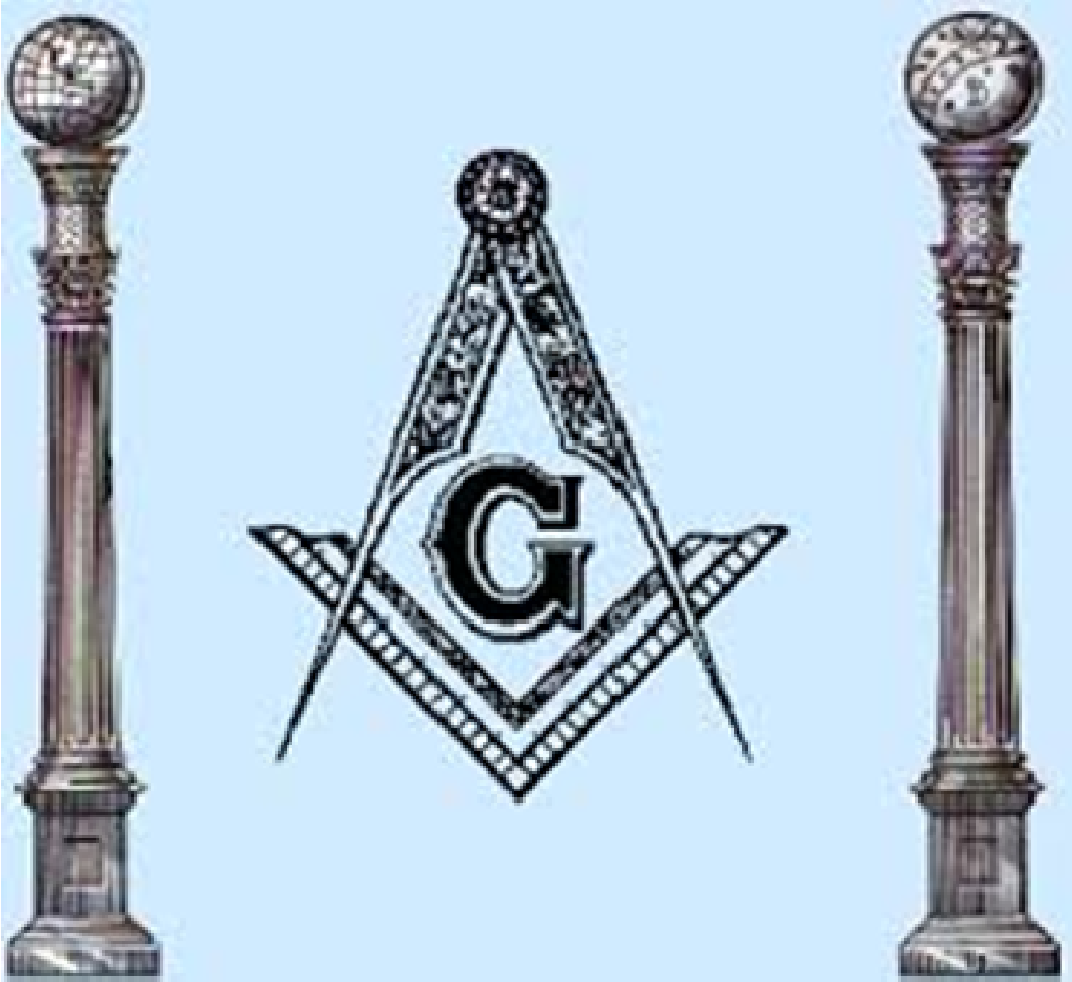
The Monthly Newsletter of The Lodge of Discovery

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Greetings Brethren,

A mixed bag of articles this month for your information and, hopefully, your enjoyment.

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FIVE MASONIC THOUGHTS

by Bro. William A. Carpenter

From a "Masonic Culture" handbook issued by the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania we have extracted several items which came from the inspired pen of Brother William A. Carpenter, the current Right Worshipful Grand Master, written many years ago. They stand the test of time.

OUR BASIC FUNCTION

The basic function of a Masonic Lodge is to make Master Masons.

This does not mean the formality of raising candidates. It extends far beyond that period in the life of a Mason. The task of making Master Masons must be directed toward all of us, those who are Master Masons and those who are in the process of becoming Master Masons.

The fruits of our efforts to teach and to learn about Freemasonry, the interest that we show the candidates as we welcome them into the new world of Freemasonry, will be evident in the years to come.

If we sow well, we are bound to reap well.

BEING WELL AND DULY PREPARED

Being "Well and Duly Prepared" is a Masonic expression. Masons understand its significance in the Lodge Rooms. However, they may also interpret it outside the Lodge. No Mason enters even the ground floor of the Lodge unless he is "Well and Duly Prepared." So simple is his dress that it provokes no envy. He is dressed properly for the occasion, and everyone so dressed feels perfectly at ease among his Brethren. No place here for the rich to boast of fine raiment and resplendent jewels, nor for the poor to envy his more fortunate Brother or covet his wealth. Their clothing in each case symbolizes labour and innocence. With hand and brain, each is ready to serve his fellowman; with forbearance and toleration, each is willing to forgive the crude and ignorant everywhere.

To carry the symbolism of Masonic investiture still further, every Mason should be clothed in the habiliments of truth. His wardrobe should contain the robe of justice, with which to protect those who, for any reason, have been deprived of their just rights; the mantle of charity, with which to comfort those made destitute, many times by no cause of their own; the tunic of toleration, with which to hide the weakness of the wayward, and help them to the road of recovery; the cloak of mercy, with which to cover the wounded and suffering in mind or body with unstinted sympathy and kindness.

These garments are all of genius quality, measured and cut by a Master Tailor. They are serviceable and in good taste on every occasion. They, too, may be had without money and without price, and, the man who wears them is truly "properly clothed," and "Well and Duly Prepared" as a Master Mason.

FREEMASONRY IS MANY THINGS

Freemasonry is a Story of Life; with all its joys, its heartaches, its failures and its final triumph over all earthly things.

Anyone can read it, in countless books. Its teachings, its symbols, and its ambitions, are open for general observation. They are practiced in the light, and held up for all the world to see.

Freemasonry is not practiced in the dark, neither are its teachings the dogma of some forbidden cult. We, as Freemasons, are required to reflect the light; to practice its teachings and love by their direction. No greater thing can be said of Freemasonry than that it is an ideal way of life.

No other fraternity offers such profound lessons in its Ritual or Work as does Freemasonry. Each word and each act in the ceremonies of the Lodge carries a true lesson to each of us, if we will but open our eyes to see, our ears to hear and hearts to accept.

We can study Freemasonry for years, as we attend its meetings, and each time we stop to think on the things said and done, we get a new meaning and inspiration from them. There is a never-ending source of pleasure in the various shades of meaning that can be read into each line of our work. Each new meaning and interpretation that we put into some word or act will make that passage live for us, and we will begin to see Freemasonry for what it is intended. Great men have devoted many years of study and meditation to the cause of Freemasonry and when their work is finished they realize that they have only begun to see the light and that they have only started to uncover the true meanings of the work.

Freemasonry has been talked of and written about by countless men in every country of the world. Its members have been persecuted in all lands at one time or the other, but it still grows and flourishes as no other fraternity on earth today.

There must be something good and great in Freemasonry, for it to stand through the years as a beacon of light to its members and as a symbol of the true way of life for all to see and follow. Its greatness is not due to its secret teachings, its mysteries or fanfare of its deeds, but rather to the profound lessons taught to its members and to the comfort, inspiration and enlightenment brought to all who will but study.

Freemasonry frowns on advertising its good deeds, preferring to let those who benefit from them reflect its goodness, that others might have hope and desire the better things of life. Freemasonry offers comfort to those who sorrow, hope for those who despair, wise counsel for those who err, and the joys and contentment of life to all.

SEEK AND YE SHALL FIND

The making of a Freemason consists in a continued course of education, and of character forming. While it may be accepted that it is an innermost desire, followed by obligations that makes one a member of the Craft, yet in a truer term did better sense, a man is never a Freemason until he truthfully and loyally lives up to his obligations. And he cannot do that until he understands them, and eventually knows their scope and real meaning.

Freemasonry can very well be divided into many phases. Its landmarks, its customs, its constitution and its laws, just to mention a few, if studied and mastered, can provide a most interesting course for the Master Mason seeking Masonic knowledge. Its historical background can provide an interesting program of investigation to the member attracted to a desire for research.

One peculiarity about Freemasonry is that it will stand investigation. The deeper the research, the more extensive the knowledge of its hidden art and mysteries, the more highly it is appreciated. A member of the Craft who merely takes his degrees in a listless, careless sort of manner, and then remains as just a spectator at Lodge meetings, may hold to the opinion that Freemasonry differs little from other societies. To the contrary, the Master Mason who delves deeply into Masonic literature, takes a lively interest in every part of the Ritualistic and lodge Work, and learns the origin, meaning and moral bearing of its symbols, cannot possibly fall into such an error. To him Freemasonry has a refining and elevating influence not to be found in the ordinary run of organizations.

The philosophies of Freemasonry, when discovered and then accepted and practiced, provide that simple but profound solution to the problems of human relationships. May it be accepted that Freemasonry is a way of living to the Master Mason who is interested enough to appraise and value the wealth that is his, and his alone, by virtue of his Masonic Membership.

The best informed Master Mason is the Master Mason who reads and studies. Consequently, if we want Freemasonry to be of practical usefulness and cultural attainment, we, as Freemasons, must not neglect our Masonic reading, our Masonic studying and our research for more Masonic Light.

NEEDED: KNOWLEDGE OF FREEMASONRY

At no time in Masonic history has there been a greater need for understanding of what Freemasonry is and what it stands for than there is today. Much has been left undone in the education of Members of our Lodges.

The first essential in Masonic education is that desire to become interested and enthused in Freemasonry followed by a thirst for knowledge as to what Freemasonry is all about. Here is where the instructors can serve well and can influence the candidate in a continuous search for more Masonic Light.

The qualifications for instructing are less exciting than may be imagined. What is essential is a basic knowledge of Freemasonry by the instructor. In this day and age, with so many counter attractions, it becomes more evident that greater efforts must be put forth to instruct our new Members in the ideals and fundamentals of Freemasonry.

Every Lodge should have a definite program along authentic Masonic educational lines. We must understand what Freemasonry really is before we can practice Freemasonry in our lives. We must remember that Freemasonry is judged by the actions of its individual members. We must set an example to those outside the Craft at all times.

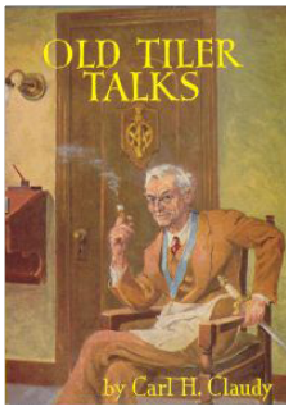
The need for Masonic knowledge is often evidenced in our Lodges, This can be alleviated where dedicated members qualify as instructors and then serve in teaching the principles and fundamentals of Freemasonry to all who will listen.



HAPPINESS

If you will take the time to read these. I promise you'll come away with an enlightened perspective. The subjects covered affect us all on a daily basis. They're written by the late Andy Rooney (one time contributor to 60 Minutes USA), a man who had the gift of saying so much with so few words. **Enjoy.**

- I've learned.... That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.
- I've learned.... That when you're in love, it shows.
- I've learned.... That just one person saying to me, 'You've made my day!' makes my day.
- I've learned.... That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.
- I've learned.... That being kind is more important than being right.
- I've learned.... That you should never say no to a gift from a child.
- I've learned.... That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.
- I've learned.... That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.
- I've learned.... That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.
- I've learned.... That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.
- I've learned.... That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.
- I've learned.... That we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.
- I've learned.... That money doesn't buy class.
- I've learned.... That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.
- I've learned... That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.
- I've learned.... That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.
- I've learned.... That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.
- I've learned.... That love, not time, heals all wounds.
- I've learned.... That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.
- I've learned.... That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.
- I've learned.... That no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.
- I've learned... That life is tough, but I'm tougher.
- I've learned.... That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.
- I've learned.... That when you harbour bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.
- I've learned.... That I wish I could have told my Mom that I love her one more time before she passed away.
- I've learned.... That one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.
- I've learned.... That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.
- I've learned.... That when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, that you're hooked for life.
- I've learned.... That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.
- I've learned.... That the less time I have to work with the more things I get done.



Old Tiler Talks— BEAUTIFUL ADVENTURE

"They are forming a study club in there!" announced the New Brother, disgustedly, to the Old Tiler. "Get all I want of study in school. Can't see why men in lodge want to make a job out of Masonry!"

"Maybe they want to learn something about it," suggested the Old Tiler. "Some people do like to know something about the religion they practice, the organization they belong to, the truths they embrace."

"Is that a dirty dig?" demanded the New Brother. "It isn't deserved. I am not one of those careless Masons who wear the pin and pay dues and end their activity. I attend regularly. I do what I am called upon to do. I learned the work and learned it well. I even learned all the third degree, although it wasn't demanded of me. But to get together evenings in a study club and go all over it again and learn it some more-not for mine!"

"Well, no one is going to hog-tie you and throw you into a study club," answered the Old Tiler. "It's not only a free country, but a free lodge."

"I am properly thankful for it," answered the New Brother. "But I can't understand the complex these fellows have."

"Suppose you change the subject and give me a definition of the philosophy of Masonry," suggested the Old Tiler.

"Why, the philosophy of Masonry is . . . it's er . . . why, I suppose it's . . . I don't know what it is."

"Well, tell me then, what the religion of Freemasonry is?"

"That's easy," laughed the New Brother. "Fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man."

"Brotherhood of man cannot be a religion," answered the Old Tiler, "because a religion is a system of belief and worship of Deity. And the Fatherhood of God is taught in a dozen different religions, including the Christian religion, the Jewish, the Mohammedan and most of the pagan religions. You'll have to dig deeper than that for the religion of Freemasonry."

"As that sticks you, you might explain to me the real origin of the letter 'G' in Freemasonry; I don't mean the ritualistic reference to it, but its connection with the symbols of the first and second degrees."

"I didn't know it had any other origin than what we give it in the Fellowcraft degree," answered the New Brother.

"Seems to me there are several things you don't know about this craft the work of which you are so self-sufficiently proud to have learned," scoffed the Old Tiler.

"Can you give a history of Freemasonry? Do you know anything about the first Grand Lodge?"

"You mean the one at Jerusalem?"

"No, I mean London!" was the sharp answer. "Can you tell me anything about Ars Quatuor Cororiatum? Do you know the story of Price and Coxe and Freemasonry in the United States? Who Morgan was? What Freemasonry had to do with Mormonism? What other patriots besides Washington, Warren, Lafayette and Paul Revere went to a Masonic lodge for help in the Revolutionary war?"

"Do you know anything of the Egyptian and Syriac origins of any of our ceremonies and symbols? Do you understand the connection of the myth of Isis and Osiris with our lion's paw and Lion of the Tribe of Judah? Do you know why clandestinism is mentioned in our ritual or anything about Cerneauism and other spurious Masonry?"

"I know you do not! And therefore, it seems to me that you are among the many to whom attendance in a study club would be of the greatest value.

"Freemasonry is much more than a system of lodges. It is a system of living. It has many secrets to give you . . . you have learned only, the exoteric secrets; the secrets which all initiates are taught. You have nothing more from your Freemasonry than any of the rest. Yet the simple and few secrets given you in our degrees are keys with which to unlock doors behind which lie other secrets of untold value. They cannot be told to you. You wouldn't know how to understand them if you had them told to you. The only way a Mason can learn these, the inner, esoteric secrets of Freemasonry, is to use the keys we give him and unlock the doors and enter the holy of holies for himself.

"A man can do this alone. Many men have. A man may study medicine or engineering or stenography or house building or anything else alone, if he has the wit and the determination so to do. But it's easier to study such things in the company of others and with a teacher. Teaching is an art and so is study. Not all of us know these arts. Hence, we have schools and colleges to help those who want to learn but don't know how.

"A study club is a Masonic school. It makes Masonic study easier. Unfortunately, there are many to whom the word 'study' is anathema; it is connected in their minds with tiresome days in School, when some teacher taught an uninteresting subject uninterestingly. If I should form a club, I'd call it the Beautiful Adventure Club. I'd try to make its members feel that instead of hard, laborious hours studying something, they were setting out on a beautiful adventure to find the end of the Masonic rainbow, to look for the pot of hidden gold, to learn the secrets which may not be told, to get the knowledge that each man must find for himself. That's what the right kind of a study club is; a means of having ail adventure which the casual-minded man can never have. But, of course, it's only for the Masons who like adventure and who want to see behind the locked door to which they hold the keys - where are you going?"

"You know perfectly well where I'm going!" retorted the New Brother scornfully. "I am going inside to join that club before they close the list of members! If there are any adventures to have in Freemasonry I want them, and if there are any locked doors I want to open them!"

The Old Tiler smiled. He had been an Old Tiler for a long, long time.

The Final Toast

"Are your glasses charged in the West and South?" the Worshipful Master cries.
"They're charged in the West, They're charged in the South" are the Wardens prompt replies.
Then to our final toast tonight your glasses fairly drain,
Happy to meet-sorry to part - happy to meet again.

The Masons' social Brotherhood around the festive board,
Reveal a wealth more precious far than selfish miser's hoard.
They freely share the priceless store that generous hearts contain,
Happy to meet - sorry to part - happy to meet again.

We work like masons free and true, and when our task is done,
A merry song and cheering glass are not unduly won.
And only at our farewell pledge is pleasure touched with pain,
Happy to meet - sorry to part - happy to meet again.

Amidst our mirth we drink "To all poor Masons o'er the world"
On every shore our flag of love is generously unfurled,
We prize each Brother, fair or dark, who bears no moral stain,
Happy to meet-sorry to part - happy to meet again.

The Mason feels the noble truth the Scottish peasant told,
That rank is but the guinea's stamp, the man himself's the gold.
With us the rich and poor unite, and equal rights maintain,
Happy to meet - sorry to part - happy to meet again.

Dear Brethren of the mystic tie, the night is waning fast.
Our duty's done, our feast is o'er, this toast must be our last,
"Goodnight, Goodnight, once more, once more, repeat the farewell strain,
Happy to meet - sorry to part - happy to meet again.

Brethren by command of the W/Master I give you the Tyler's toast,
"To all poor and distressed Freemasons where e'er dispersed,
Over the face of earth, water or in the air,
wishing them a speedy relief from all their suffering,
and a safe return to their native land, Should they so desire".



THE STATUE OF LIBERTY AND FREEMASONRY

The famous Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor was designed by a Frenchman, Frederick A. Bartholdi, a Freemason. The Grand Lodge of New York laid the cornerstone with masonic ceremonies on August 5, 1885.



I am ready for my Last Degree

An old man lay sick in the Masonic State Home
His face was as white as the White Sea foam.
His eyes were dim; his hair was gray.
His back was bent with the toils of the way.
He unflatteringly spoke, and I heard him say,
I'm ready for my last degree.

I've come to the end of that level of time
That leads us all on to that Grand Lodge sublime.
From whose sacred form none ever returns.
More light in Masonry there I shall learn
By an altar where light ever more burns
I'm ready for my last degree.

With the apprentice's gauge I divided my time
And this I have found amidst life's' great turmoil:
Time for work, for worship and rest from my toil
My wages are due in corn, wine and oil-
I'm ready for my last degree.

Each day from life's quarries I've hewn out a stone,
With the gavel I've shaped them each one alone
And shipped them alone beyond that bright strand
To build me a house in that bright better land.
A spiritual house not made by hands-
I'm ready for my last degree.

I've squared each stone by the virtue square
And plumbed them all true as I shipped them there.
With the compass, I've measured the Master's Designs
And kept in the due bounds with his points and his lines.
My blueprints are folded-I've answer his signs
I'm ready for my last degree.

A few moments later the old man was dead
And I fancy I could see his soul as it fled
Upward and onward to that great door where he gave his alarm
And a voice did implore
The old man made answer with these words once more:
I'm ready for my last degree.

That night in a lodge free from strife and from storm
He took his last Degree-his last in due form
So may I live as to build day by day
A spiritual house in that land far away
So when I meet my Grand Master I can say,
I'm ready for my last degree.

INSTALLATION

Every year, the brethren of each Craft lodge elect one of their number as the Master to preside over them for the following 12 months (in our Lodge the election is carried out in February of each year). The brother so elected, who must have served previously as a Master or a Warden in a regular lodge for 12 months, is later formally placed in the chair of the lodge at a Board of Installed Masters, such action forming part of a larger Installation ceremony. The Installation takes place in a particular month each year (in our Lodge – March) as prescribed in the by-laws of the lodge.

The Installing Master must be a brother who has occupied the chair of Master in a lodge. In some jurisdictions, it is required that each Master be installed by his predecessor in office.

Grand Lodge also holds an annual Installation for the placing in office of a Grand Master who has been previously elected to that post.

At both the individual lodge and Grand Lodge installations, the brother elected to the chair of lodge Master or Grand Master as the case may be is required to take a formal obligation promising to adhere absolutely to the laid-down requirements of office. In the case of a lodge Master, there is also a communication to him of certain symbolic and traditional secrets.

Following the installation of the Master of each lodge (and the Grand Master), the investiture of supporting officers for the ensuing year is carried out.



Lodge Birthdays

Rex Kersley	18
Ian Martin	15
Barry Amoss	14 (J)
Greg Whitford	12
Bryan Death	7
Andrew Hibgame	5
Mike Piggott	2

News from the South

Congratulations to W. Bro. Tony Ryan who has been appointed to Overseas Grand Rank (OGR)—a well-deserved honour.

Work on the Suango School Library & Media Centre is progressing well—see article and photographs on Page 11.

Suango School Project update

The following update is provided by W. Bro. Russell Chilton, Chairman of the project:

It's been six weeks since the last communication so I thought I should bring you all up to date with the progress so far. The footings went down without incident as you saw from the previous newsletter. From there, the walls shot up quickly and a reinforced ring beam was put on top of the walls and joined the rods set into the wall's cavities. The roofing trusses soon followed with the roofing sheets finishing off the weathering for the structure. The windows and door have been faced with the fittings happening soon. The inside ceiling has now been completed and the walls rendered. The inside will be finished off with fresh paint and a tiled floor.

The structure will be finished soon and we have arranged a small handover ceremony for Tuesday 13th October. We wanted this to happen as soon as possible so a group of expats could furnish it and install the books they have had sent over from New Zealand. I'll be there with my camera and will take lots of photographs of the ceremony and the finished library.

Other projects on the school site are being worked on by other organisations and they hope to finish a month after us. There is planned a large ceremony including all the community to formally give the school all the new and repaired buildings, so we look forward to inclusion in that too.



Most of our generation 50+ was HOME SCHOOLED in many ways.

1. **My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE.**

"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

2. **My mother taught me RELIGION.** "You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

3. **My father taught me about TIME TRAVEL.**

"If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

4. **My father taught me LOGIC.** " Because I said so, that's why."

5. **My mother taught me MORE LOGIC.**

"If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the shop with me."

6. **My mother taught me FORESIGHT.**

"Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."

7. **My father taught me IRONY.** "Keep crying, And I'll give you something to cry about."

8. **My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS.**

"Shut your mouth and eat your supper."

9. **My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM.**

"Just you look at that dirt on the back of your neck?"

10. **My mother taught me about STAMINA.** "You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."

11. **My mother taught me about WEATHER.**

"This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."

12. **My mother taught me about HYPOCRISY.**

"If I told you once, I've told you a million times. Don't exaggerate!"

13. **My father taught me the CIRCLE OF LIFE.**

"I brought you into this world, and I can take you out..."

14. **My mother taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION.**

"Stop acting like your father!"

15. **My mother taught me about ENVY.**

"There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do."

16. **My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION.** "Just wait until we get home."

17. **My mother taught me about RECEIVING.**

"You are going to get it from your father when you get home!"

18. **My mother taught me MEDICAL SCIENCE.**

"If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to get stuck that way."

19. **My mother taught me ESP.**

"Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?"

20. **My father taught me HUMOR.**

"When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."

21. **My mother taught me HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT.**

"If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."

22. **My mother taught me GENETICS.**

"You're just like your father."

23. **My mother taught me about my ROOTS.**

"Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?"

24. **My mother taught me WISDOM.**

"When you get to be my age, you'll understand."

25. **My father taught me about JUSTICE.**

"One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!"

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MORE TIMELESS TRUTHS

A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul.

George Bernard Shaw

Foreign aid might be defined as a transfer of money from poor people in rich countries to rich people in poor countries.

Douglas Casey (Classmate of Bill Clinton at Georgetown University)

Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys.

P.J. O'Rourke, Civil Libertarian

Government is the great fiction through which everybody endeavours to live at the expense of everybody else.

Frederic Bastiat, French economist (1801-1850)

I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.

Will Rogers

If you think health care is expensive now, wait until you see what it costs when it's free!

P.J. O'Rourke