

DISCOURSE

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“Are we on the right track?”

Dear Brothers:

Are you wondering if we are on the right track, if you are it shows that you care for the well-being of our Fraternity and for that I'm thankful.

I know that modification of anything that we are used to doing in any set manner is sometimes dramatic and even outright disturbing, but in a world where change is a constant, adjustments must be made in order to better handle the different situations we encounter on a day-to-day living.

As Masons, we often look at our Fraternity and think of its history as something that happens in the last ten to twenty years forgetting that our history is centuries old. A decade or two merely points to a starting trend, we need to look at half a century at least to begin to understand the swings in our Fraternity.

Here is some food for thought. Remember these are observations to make you think and look at our Fraternity in a slightly different way, to take into view the totality of the whole picture and not just a few frames in the middle, which can lead you to think one way or another of the beginning or ending of the picture.

In the second half of the last century the Fraternity started to place more of an emphasis on the Ritual and less and less on education. It was easier to teach catechism than to instruct on Masonic Education, just from a financial point of view you can start to see the necessary expenditures in order to promote the Educational program.

Actions	Ritual	Education
Booklet Expenditures	NO	YES
Test Expenditures	NO	YES
Digest Expenditures	NO	YES
Certificate Expenditures	NO	YES
Proficiency/Completion Card	YES	YES
Demonstration of material learned	At every Degree	When Lodge discussion calls for it.
Importance given in Lodge	High	Low
Suitable Proficiency	High performance required from all	No performance required
Law vs. expectation of Ritual	Required by law, high expectation	Required by law, no expectation
Actual results	Poor quality of work	Poor education results
New awareness of the law, new emphasis on education & ritual Brothers raising the bar of expectation and performance	Better Ritual Performance	Better Educated Mason

You can see in the table above how Ritual and Education have been treated and received different from the Craft at large, both of these important aspects of our Fraternity have received considerably different treatment over the last fifty to sixty years.

It is my core belief that both Ritual and Education must be treated on an equal footing in order for both to succeed. The last action is self-imposed by those that care what happens in Masonry, by those who are willing to

treat Masonic interest with its due priority and respect. My Brothers only you can ask for excellence from yourself and only you can achieve it, if only you would demand it of yourself. You see Brothers it all goes back to your genesis in Masonry, where were you first made a Mason? IN YOUR HEART, then the question begs is it still in your heart, if not, we are just merely going through the motions, not only fooling ourselves, but worst fooling our very own Brothers that have put their trust in us.

We need Masons of quality, not quantity, we need the strong at heart not the weak, we need the learned not the ignorant. We need the thinkers to promote our Fraternity; we need good active Masons to get involved in community affairs, to become the leaders of men. Let us emulate our predecessors so that our posterity can emulate our actions without having to skip a couple centuries to name men of honor and action who served their fellowmen in key roles in our communities, states and nation.

Can you be counted on, will you step-up, will you do your part, will you lead by example, will you be the force of good in your Lodge or District to move the Brothers in the right direction. Your DEDICATION, SACRIFICE AND SELFLESSNESS will be appreciated by all, more especially your Grand Lodge Officers and everyone else that Loves Freemasonry.

Respectfully and Fraternaly Submitted, I remain your most humble servant

Jorge L. Aladro
Senior Grand Warden

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.”

Note: If you would, like to have any of these presentations made at your Lodge or District Associations feel free to call.

“Masons always rise to the occasion”