

DISCOURSE

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“Have you mastered the Craft”

Dear Brothers:

I have been wondering when I became a Master Mason, I mean a real Master Mason and I do not mean the evening that I was raised in my Mother Lodge.

We are often asked if we are Master Masons, generally the answer will be a resounding yes and many of us can recite the day of our raising. However, did we become Master Masons I dare say not? What we started that day is a journey on a new way of life called Masonry.

After receiving our degree, we are charged to go out and practice out of our Lodge what was taught in it. As you can see in order for us to do this we must be proficient in the teachings and lessons of Freemasonry, in addition we must have mastered those lessons, not only by reading but by experiencing them in action.

My Brothers there are too many of us that think that once a Brother has been raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, he has reached the end of the road that he cannot travel any further, for he has reached the highest degree a Brother can reach in Symbolic Masonry. To that I say “quite contraire my dear friend he has just begun his Masonic Career”.

Our Masonic slogan “we make good men better” can only be true if we encourage and nourish our Brethren to improve themselves in Masonry. We must foster an ambiance of learning, create a forum for philosophical discussions about our Masonic Principles and inspire all our Brothers to continue their quest in self-improvement based on those principles.

Our fore fathers were men of deliberation; they were men who taught the world about our Masonic Principles of Liberty, Equality and Brotherhood in an era where ordinary men did not dare think in such revolutionary terms. They were men who believe in our principles so strongly that they set them into action liberating not only millions of people, they liberated countries add continents.

These men gathered in our Lodges and discussed the principles, teachings and values of Freemasonry, they were men of letter, of intellect, of wealth, they were scholarly and eager to share that with all their Brothers, fostering and nourishing a learning atmosphere where they could raise the life standards of their Brothers and compatriots.

For years, this was the type of Lodge we had in America and around the world. Today in this beautiful land of ours sometimes we fall short of providing this type of atmosphere, we are too concerned in taking the Brother as fast as possible to that imaginary completion of the Master Mason Degree only to halt that beautiful journey at the speed of light, practically sacrificing the Masonic way of life.

Each one of us will strive to become Master of the Craft and engage in a quest for knowledge and service to our Fraternity, Family and Fellowmen improving ourselves along the way. Ever challenging ourselves for further personal and spiritual growth.

My Brothers if we are going to grow personally and spiritually our Lodges must lead the way in providing the ingredients necessary to encourage the Masonic Experience, so that we can have an opportunity to Master our Craft. And although we strive for perfection knowing it cannot be attained in this imperfect world, we use it as a character builder to persevere and overcome any obstacles life may have to offer.

I urge my Brothers to dedicate themselves to Master the Craft, to join in creating the Masonic Experience in every Lodge across the state so that our Brothers can grow both personally and spiritually in Masonry. Making the Craft their way of life and commit themselves to serving our God, Country, Family and community.

Masonry my friends and Brothers is a life altering experience, it is a way of life, it is a university of life from which there is no graduate in the here and now. He, who is all knowing and all seeing, will present our graduation certificates, when He welcomes us to his house not made with hands eternal in the heavens.

I for one will dedicate myself to this commitment and I invite you to join me with this little poem.

Don't walk behind me
I might not lead
Don't walk in front of me
I might not follow
Please take me by the hand
Let us walk together.

Will you join me?

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."