

DISCOURSE

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“Building Character”

Dear Brothers:

Are you ready for the task, do you have the type of environment needed, do you have the material, do you have the personnel. The aforementioned are key ingredients in Character Building and a very important part of the learning experience.

We as Masons have the awesome challenge of building moral edifices, from the basic commitment that we have promised to **“make good men better”**. My Brothers this is serious work, it is a God given opportunity to help our fellow Brother to succeed as an upright man and Mason, and be an integral part of the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.

In order for us to get this great task accomplished we must plan, prepare and perform. We need to use our resources at hand to make this possible. If your Particular Lodge does not have the personnel available or the resources and you, need assistance in getting this task accomplished please call on the particular Grand Lodge Committee to assist you. Your Grand Lodge Officers would like you to succeed in all your endeavors and pledge to help aid and assist in such an undertaking.

Another way we can accomplish this task of Character Building is to have a group of Lodges or Districts pool their resources in order to accomplish this task. Committing to a District wide enterprise may require a little bit more planning but when resources are limited this may very well be the answer until the Lodges or Brothers can tackle the situation at the Lodge level. Regardless how this task is accomplished, it is one well worth it, as this is a commitment we have made to the Candidate and the world.

We start Character Building from the very first meeting of the Candidate with the Lodge Mentor. The lessons, camaraderie and examples set by the Lodge Mentor and Lodge Instructor will be the beginning of a lifelong commitment you will instill in the Candidate for a continuing search of further light in Masonry.

The end of the instruction period after the completion of the Mentors Lectures and the Catechism should not and must not be the end of the instruction period in our Lodges. We as members of the Lodge need to foment these learning opportunities for our members to expand their horizons, to increase their knowledge in the esoteric meaning of our work.

If Masonry is a Way of Life, and life and Masonry are one in the same philosophy, one can see the need for a continuing study, since life is ever evolving. The philosophical side of Masonry is often ignored yet it is the one ingredient that attracts more candidates because it creates the mysticism and spirituality of Freemasonry that so many men seek to improve themselves.

By creating the opportunity for an open forum, where discussions and exchanges of ideas are welcome, we will make the Masonic Experience a reality. This is happening in many Lodges across the state and they are experiencing growth, a different growth, one of spiritual, quality and knowledgeable members. Masons who valued the Masonic Experience and who appreciate the Fraternity for its values.

My Brothers things easily obtainable are seldom appreciated my most; sometimes it takes the wisest of men to know the value. Most men place very little importance to something that is cheap to obtain, and to maintain. They lose interest very fast when they do not have personal ownership or direct involvement with the idea, product or

concept. Their perceived lack of value and personal involvement makes Masonry dispensable to many and they continue to pay their dues if no questions ever come of it, simply out of habit. However, the minute there is a question and they perceive no value because they are not personally involved, what they perceived gave them no real gain to their lives, they simply drop out.

If we build Strong Character, and create the Masonic Experience of ownership, they have experienced personal and spiritual growth then we have created value. When they have experienced the Masonic Way of Life and understand the philosophy of our Noble Craft, only then will we have a practicing member until they are called to “Thy Lodge on High”.

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.”

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