

DISCOURSE

Volume I, Issue 3

September 22, 2010

“Personal Responsibilities”

My Dear Brothers:

It has been said many times that Freemasonry is a microcosm of society, and anyone can see the truth in this statement with just a glance. Good and bad behavior is represented in society and ours is no different.

If you look at the settlement of our country throughout our westward expansion of three and a half centuries you can see and recognize a pioneering spirit, a sense of deep commitment to succeed, were both men and women took their responsibilities seriously, life itself depended on it, failure was not an option.

This brings me to today and how much our world and our society has changed. I give thanks to my God each and everyday that we had these folks as our predecessors; which have given me a leg up, an opportunity to succeed, a place where I was free from interference, where I was the master of my future, if I only took the responsibility for my failures and success? If I applied the teachings, my parents taught me of hard work, of perseverance, of righteousness, of forgiveness, of charity, of education, of common decency, of love of God, country and fellow man, good things can and will be achieved.

Today, we have the obligation to leave a future to our successors just like our predecessors left us. However, there is a small problem, today there is a constant gambling of tomorrow's future whether it will be there or not. What is he saying? Has he gone out of his mind?

Well my Brothers the answers are simple. Look around your Lodge, is your Lodge future secure, can you see your Lodge being in existence 5, 10, 25, 50 years from now, because if you do not, than you have not secured its future for your posterity. My Brother this is your responsibility.

I want you to think carefully about the condition of your Lodge. Nothing is to be left out of the equation, is your Lodge financially secure. Is the Building in good repair? Are there any funds to address proper building maintenance? Do you have reserves for future air conditioning, roof or other major repairs? Do you have property or at least liability insurance? Do you have fire and burglar alarm. Does your building compliment the neighborhood standard or better than them. Do you have open houses to meet your neighbors? Do your Lodge Officers perform according to their duties and responsibilities? Do your Lodge Brothers assist the Officers in the performance of their duties? Is your Lodge proficient in the ritual including but not limited to opening and closing, and conferral of the three Degrees. Are candidates and Brothers Mentored in your Lodge? Does your Lodge teach Masonic Education? Do you sponsor different charities throughout the year in Open Lodge as well as trestle board? Does your Lodge have a Trestle Board? Do you have a Widow's Program? Are your Lodge records up to date and secure? Have the Lodge minutes been backed-up by Grand Lodge to preserve them. Are the Lodge Records secured at the Lodge and not a members home. Brothers the list goes on and on and on, think about it.

The questions above are just simply to stimulate your thinking of the different aspects of the Lodge. So many times, we just look at the surface and fool ourselves that everything is okay. Remember appearances often fool us. Be diligent, look deep and seriously, into all matters, if they are worth doing they are worth doing right.

We as Masons must take our responsibilities seriously. Remember that although we can delegate many things, we cannot delegate our responsibilities. Because regardless of whom you have asked to perform some type of service, ultimately it is, your responsibility to see it that it is done and not an excuse to place the blame on someone else.

All too often we see this happening and every time it happens it seems to have less of an impact, as society makes this kind of action more and more acceptable. However, no one is looking down the road and sooner rather than later, we will reach a point where there will be no one left to blame for the inactions of those in charge.

You see my Brothers we are also a reflection of society and as such we have too many of us that take positions of greater responsibilities for the wrong reasons. While the rest of us go along with it so we ourselves do not have to take them on, consequently we fall short, very short of good leadership and management of our Lodges.

Along with this shortfall, comes apathy and mediocrity a symptom that seems to be spreading at a very fast rate over the last one a half to two decades, so often it is accepted because God forbid we may have to do it ourselves. At other times and again all too often is made into a joke or something that is supposed to be funny devaluating the importance of whatever is being done, such as opening and closing, Degree or proficiencies.

Accepting less than perfection is un-Masonic, as we are taught to seek perfection although we know it is not attainable, because man's perseverance and determination to improve himself must be a quality among us Masons that it should be an automatic known part of any Mason.

So I challenge everyone that reads this dialogue, to analyze himself first, than his Lodge and his peers and serve as an example of what a Mason and a well operated Lodge should look like. Step-up to the plate be a leader remember our Grand Master M.:W.:J. Dick Martinez slogan "Masons always rise to the occasion" and my Brothers there is no more pressing time than the present, stand-up and be counted, are you with me.

My Brothers I urge you to be the one who says, "We're going to make it happen"

Fraternally 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"