

Collection
HUMILITY

(Suitable for several occasions)

This is the time when Brethren are advanced in Masonic chairs and those who have been Masters "step down to a higher position". This may seem a paradoxical statement, but it should be true. "P.M." should not stand for post meridian: a Past Master has arrived at what should be early morning of his service.

To be a Past Master of a Masonic Lodge is good reason for pride. Past Masters are justified in having pride in their service, but I have noted in those who have risen highest, a certain humility which better becomes a Mason than a display of the pride he is justified in feeling.

Someone has said that "humility is the greatest of the virtues and mother of all others." It is the foundation of strength and the outer manifestation of wisdom. Upon it alone an upright and beautiful character may be erected.

The one who has given such study to the Mysteries, Teachings and Symbols of Freemasonry as to make him worthy of high honours can't help but realize that he is but an atom in an infinite universe. He must be humbled by a realization of his own inferiority when his puny accomplishments are compared to those of the infinite power which controls our destinies.

In the life of the conscientious Mason must be fought the battle between pride and humility, and for the Mason worthy of high honours, humility will be the victor. The Mason will best exemplify the Teachings of our Ancient and Honourable Order.

Let me conclude with this thought: Let us have pride in our achievements; let us have pride in honours our Brethren have conferred upon us; but let us be humble, as becomes both high and low in our great Fraternity.

I AM A FREEMASON

by: BROTHER RAY VAUGHAN DENSLOW, FPS

I AM A FREEMASON, I was born in antiquity, in the ancient days when me first dreamed of God. I have been tried through the ages and found true.

The crossroads of the world bear the imprint of my feet, and the cathedrals of all nations mark the skill of my hands. I strive for beauty and symmetry.

IN MY HEART is wisdom and strength and courage of those who ask. Upon my Altars is the Book the Holy Writ, and my prayers are to the One Omnipotent God. My sons work and pray together without rank or discord in the public mart and in the Inner Chamber. By signs and symbols, I teach the lessons of life and death, and the friendship of man with God and of man with man.

MY ARMS ARE WIDESPREAD to receive those of lawful age and good report who seek me of their own free will. I will accept them and teach them to use my tools in the building of men, and thereby find direction in their own quest for perfection so much desired and so difficult.

I LIFT UP the fallen and shelter the sick. I hark to the orphan's cry, the widows' tears, and the pain of the old and destitute. I am not church, nor party, nor school, yet my sons bear a full share of responsibility to God, to country, to neighbour, and themselves. They are freemen, tenacious of their liberties and alert to lurking danger.

AT THE END I commit them as each one undertakes the journey beyond the vale into the glory of everlasting life. I ponder the sand within the glass and think how small a single life in the eternal Universe is. Always have I taught immortality, and even as I raise men from darkness into light, I am a way of life.

I AM FREEMASON

CHALLENGE FACING THE NEW MASTER
WBro E.G. (Ted) FRANKLIN,
CHARITY LODGE #69, GRAND LODGE of NOVA SCOTIA

As we are short of time permit me to zero in on the new Master and his Wardens.

The root of the word master is "majester" from which comes magistrate.

Warden is defined as "having special supervisory duties and one who sees that rules and regulations are followed."

In Freemasonry, whom do they represent?

- King Solomon
- Hiram King of Tyre, and
- Hiram Abiff

"Hiram" means "father" or "guru" or "teacher of supreme knowledge."

This "triad", in Masonic lore, represents the Holy Trinity, and the number three, an important number in Masonry.

King Solomon was known as a wise ruler because he, and all wise leaders before, and after him, have the necessary ingredients for success--vision--reality--courage. King Solomon supplied the vision and courage, and the two Hiram's supplied the reality.

We learn in the 3rd degree of the "utter confusion" when Hiram Abiff was set upon. He had the reality sought by so many.

Being Master is the highest honour the brethren can bestow upon a Brother. But as we heard tonight in the General Charge there is a price to be paid.

Let me repeat---

"There is no right without a parallel duty.

There is no real greatness without self denial."

The ritual tells us that you are so situated to employ and instruct the brethren.

The general lecture tells us "The lessons of virtue which proceed from the east, like rays of brilliant light from the sun."

The Master is that light. His task is to advance knowledge. In brief, the purpose, and objective, of Freemasonry is to extend knowledge, as the Fellowcraft is admonished to do, in the Second Degree.

As Master you are expected to sail a true course bending neither to the left or the right from the path of virtue. It will not always be smooth sailing. It is during these periods that the skipper proves his leadership qualities.

I have no advice to give you. I can tell you of some proven procedures for

success:

1. Open your Lodge exactly as stated in the summons 2. Conduct your business, and work with dispatch 3. Avoid non-productive discussions (arguments) 4. Close your Lodge in time to permit a reasonable period for socializing, and 5. All of these combined will have a marvelous affect on "visitation" the real strength of our Craft.

My hope is that you will enlighten sponsors of their responsibility to their candidate, and by extension to the craft. Why this is necessary eludes me. But regretfully it appears to be.

I can tell you that sailing a true course will help you to enjoy a feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction, and as a by product improve the lot of this Lodge in particular and the Craft in general.

The Duke of Wellington said, "The strength lies in the sergeants and corporals." Your sergeants and corporals are your officers and, the PM's always available, when called upon, to help you inspire and motivate the "troops" to Fraternal happiness.

Let there be light.

Wages Of a Master Mason

We have heard a great deal about the wages of a Fellowcraft. It is as Master Masons that we labour as Masons. Then why are we taught nothing about the wages of a Master Mason?

The reason we do not find wages of a Master Mason described is undoubtedly the same reason that explains lack of interpretation of our Symbols. As each Brother must find his own interpretation for a Symbol, so must each find for himself his wages of a Master Mason.

One Brother may not be paid the same wages as another. One may receive wages in gratitude of one for whom he has performed an act of charity. Another may receive wages in the joy that comes from having brought cheer into a sick room. Another may receive wages in the appreciation of Brethren to whom he

has imparted something of Masonic knowledge. Another may receive wages in the gratitude of a Brother's family to whom he has been a mainstay during their hour of grief. Another may receive wages in honours conferred upon him by Brethren whom he has faithfully served.

Another may receive wages in the friendships that have come to him through his Masonry. Another may receive wages in the satisfaction he derives from service to others. Another may receive wages that to him seem sufficient when he is privileged to coach someone in the lectures, or when he is given a part in Degree work.

Wages of a Master Mason are not paid in silver or gold, or articles of commerce and trade that may be stolen or may deteriorate and moulder through the passage of the years. They are paid in those things that the Brother may keep within the repository of the faithful breast. They are paid in those things that are secure in the hearts of his Brethren and his friends. The wages of a Master Mason have no intrinsic value. They cannot be measured by any standard by which the value of intrinsic things is measured. Wages of a Master Mason are measured only by the value placed upon them by the one who has received them.