



The Discoverer

The Monthly Newsletter of The Lodge of Discovery

In this Issue	
Am I a Master Mason	2
Wind beneath your wings	4
Old Tyler Talk	7
Christmas	9
Did you know?	10
Humour	12

Greetings Brethren,

Where has this last year gone? Here we are at almost year-end again. Wherever you are, and whatever you are doing I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas.

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Am I a Master Mason?

By C. Hull, Jr., MPS (Membership or Location not known)

Have you, at any time, been inclined to ask yourself these questions, "Am I a Master Mason?" "Dare I call myself a Master Mason?" – Did you question your conscience in this respect? And if you did, "What were your answers?" Only you can answer such questions in true response to your heart and soul.

Just what is a Master Mason? The answer can only be found where true Masonry is at work, where there is activity in the Mason quarries and where there is a manifestation of a true adherence to the teachings and principles of our great fraternity. Brethren, we all know the questions, but do we have the answers?

Possibly, the first qualifications we should find out about ourselves are, "Are we paying a proper reverence to the Supreme Grand Master of all people?" "Are we following the blue prints so completely drawn by the number one Foreman in Masonic Quarries?" "Is the Letter G the first letter of the Masonic alphabet and is it shining forth within us with a pure golden brilliance?"

The symbolic teachings pertaining to the Masonic Square are forcefully recommended to us in all our deliberations, "Are we squaring our actions by the square of virtue towards all mankind?" "Are we following the blue prints pertaining to the Masonic square in the erection of our Moral and Masonic edifice?" We are admonished to live respected and die regretted. This goal may be attained by following the lessons as taught the Masonic compasses – limiting our passions in every station and rising to eminence by our own merits.

In Masonry, we speak of the immortality of the soul and are taught to plan for immortality -by following the lessons pertaining to the Masonic Line. This symbolic emblem directs our pathway to immortality, to eternity, hence into infinity. What more is there?

We learn that the V.O.S.L will guide us to all truth – ALL TRUTH – there is no more. There is no other guide, truth is its fullest. We hear that this Book will direct our steps to the temple of happiness, pointing out to us the whole duty of man. Such guidelines to conduct our lives as men, as Masons, cannot be more complete. The manner in which we follow these guidelines will enable us -to truthfully answer the question, "Am I, a Master Mason?"

There is no doubt, all of us had an impressive experience at the time we received the Sublime Degree in Masonry. Immediately, we realized that we had a new road upon which to travel. Within our hearts we were firmly convinced that we should not sway from the middle of the Masonic highway. We all know that we are creatures of human nature and meet with many temptations along the way. After we were made Master Masons, it proved less difficult to travel in the middle of this pathway, neither swaying right nor left. Is this not true?

Brotherly Love is one of the principal tenets of our profession, closely followed by Relief and Truth. We meet as Masons, we experience a true feeling of fellowship and Brotherly Love. This is innermost manifestation of respect for our brother Mason; our fellow man is a feeling that we find in true Masonry at work. How can we temper ourselves so that we may experience such evidence of Brotherly Love?

We can do this by working off the rough edges that disqualify us as a living stone for the temple, the temple of happiness within us, using the common gavel, the first tool of a Mason.

When do we not manifest this feeling, then it is time for us to ask the important question, "Am I a Master Mason?" Ask, "Am I one to whom the world may pour out its sorrow? To whom distress may prefer its suit?" Ask, "Is my hand guided by justice and is my heart expanded by benevolence?" May we always be deeply concerned by distresses, be forever benevolent, and endeavor to the fullest extent, to ease the sorrows and misfortunes of our fellow man.

We are fortunate to be a part of a Masonic Fraternity which stresses such a manifestation of brotherly love as these tenets which are so sincerely inculcated in all of our communications. We must strive to plant these principles in our hearts, in our thoughts, in our actions and let them grow and blossom each day of our lives.

Let us establish our connections by adhering to the tenet of relief of our fellow Mason, of our fellow man, our Masonic widows and orphans.

In Masonry, we do contribute to just and realistic charity. In our consciences we feel this to be a Masonic obligation. Many outstanding and worthy organizations receive bountiful contributions from our brotherhood. It is also in our hearts and minds to remember our fellow man in his distresses when we are at a throne of grace with our Supreme Grand Master. When we follow these guidelines, there is no doubt as to the answer of the question, "Am I a Master Mason?"

Freemasonry is based on the most fundamental and just principles found in any organization or group of people on the face of the earth. As Freemasons, we are obligated to follow the lessons of such teachings, free to perform the duties of being a Freemason, being a just and upright man, With such firm fundamentals upon which to rear our Moral and Masonic edifice, our temples will become and always remain monumental of what is good and true. When we sight down the Masonic plumb line, we find ourselves a destiny among the stars which will shine forth forever and forever.

We must adhere to these principles because it is who we are. I want to be my brother's keeper, aid him in his reformation, practice benevolence, relieve the distressed, soothe and sorrow, support the laws of our land, strive to encourage the administration of Justice. May the V.O.S.L. guide me to all - truth and finally, may I say, "**In God I trust.**" Then when asked the question, "Are you a Master Mason?" I can, in all sincerity answer, "I am!"

With acknowledgement to The Educator

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The Wind Beneath Your Wings

From 'Soaring With Eagles' by Bill Newman. Today we are going to venture into the realm of the eagle – one of the most magnificent and awesome creatures of God's creation.

Few creatures have inspired man to the same extent as the eagle. The bird rarely fails to stir the adrenaline of anyone who has observed it soaring aloft with its awesome profile, its huge wingspan, its legendary boldness, its mastery of flight, its fierce staring eyes and, above all, its apparent command of the thermal currents. Throughout the world the eagle has long been accepted as a symbol of valour, boldness, majesty, nobility and invincibility. Even among its opponents, the eagle is accepted as an exciting bird. In fact it would be fair to state that the eagle has no peer in the animal kingdom except, perhaps, the lion – the king of beasts. As we observe the eagle with its ability to soar effortlessly on thermal currents higher than any other bird, even in the face of a fierce storm, as we observe its strength, boldness, courage, endurance, determination and patience combined with tenderness and faithfulness we can learn much about life – how it can be fulfilling, rewarding and exciting.

Learn to soar. The eagle is an aerodynamic marvel, a perfect flying machine, well able to maintain flight for lengthy periods without undue exertion. In fact it can remain completely motionless except for an occasional flip of the wing tips to counter wind currents. In conditions in which it would be difficult for a man to stand, an eagle can hover as steady as a rock, the wing-tips moving constantly and automatically to make adjustments for the air currents. Early in the morning in the Australian outback, while most birds get in a flap about flying, the eagle waits patiently for the sun to warm the earth sufficiently for the thermal currents to rise. On these thermals the eagle will soar effortlessly into the sky and remain there for hours on end. The eagle instinctively understands and has developed its own strengths and has learned to adapt to the conditions in order to use the laws of nature to its advantage. By doing this it can fly higher than any other bird. We too need to recognize our natural abilities, talents, strengths (and limitations), develop these and use them to gain success in our endeavours. But we also need to have an honest appraisal of our abilities and potential – be true to ourselves. *Rise above adversity.* The eagle has learned to rise above its circumstances. In the face of a fierce storm, when other birds head for shelter, the eagle will brace itself against the wind and use the force of the storm to soar even higher than ever. How do you react in adverse circumstances? Disappointment, failure, loss or grief, do you get in a flap, squawk and complain, bury your head in the sand?

Do you run for cover or do you face your circumstances with courage, integrity and allow them to strengthen and develop your character? Strive for excellence. Eagles are birds of the light. They hunt, feed and fly by day. They are remarkably clean birds, preferring to kill their own prey rather than feed on the decaying and rotting flesh that attracts crows, vultures and other scavengers. Eagles want the best in life, not the rubbish. They have high personal standards.

Do you? Do you have high standards of honesty, integrity, trust? Do you strive for excellence in everything that you do, or do you settle for second best? Have you the vision of an eagle? Eagles have two sets of eyelids to protect their extremely keen sight. One set is used while the bird is stationary, the second set of translucent membranes drops over the eyes in flight. These not only protect the eyes from the on-rushing air, but also from trees, bushes, and even its prey.

Eagles have remarkably developed eyesight which includes both sideways and binocular vision. An eagle soaring hundreds of metres above the ground can detect the movement of a tiny field mouse. Its eyes adjust quickly and accurately with depth of field and focus.

Its scope of vision is 275 degrees, enabling the bird to observe either side and gain perspective of anything approaching from the rear as well. Eagles possess the ability to distinguish colours (unusual in the animal kingdom) with far greater clarity than humans, which makes them much more aware of the beauty of the earth. An eagle's eyes are set far apart on each side of its head, allowing depth perception – highly advantageous when judging heights and distances. However, the eagle's eyes are not fully developed at birth, but develop with maturity. How's your vision? Do you have a vision for the person that you can become or what you can achieve in life or are you short sighted? Are you learning to view things from a variety of perspectives, to see beyond the superficial to the deeper issues, to see the inner beauty of people and life? We need to develop a clear vision of who we are and where we are going. The eagle shows how to focus. Once the eagle locates its prey the bird develops single-mindedness of mind and purpose. From that moment on every part of its powerful body is locked into line with the focus of those keen eyes. Once locked onto that quarry, the eagle will use everything it possesses to achieve its goal, giving all in the pursuit. Nothing will cause it to deviate from its course. Do you have that kind of focus in achieving your goals? Don't let anything – obstacles, criticism, circumstances or other people – distract you from pursuing your dreams.

Keep focused on your goals in life. An eagle has goals and perseverance. An eagle's nest is an engineering feat. Usually perched high in the mountains, on the face of a sheer cliff or rock wall or the highest tree around, the nest is located in the most remote, unattainable spot the bird can find. The nest can be so huge that it will support two grown men. The nest itself can weigh in excess of two tonnes. Each stick, piece of cloth, clothing or paper has to be carried to this remote building site – a monumental task. The bird has a blueprint for the nest and nothing deters it from bringing that blueprint into reality. In the face of storms, fires, blizzards – no matter how many times the nest is destroyed, the eagle continues. He presses on towards the mark, never looking back to past failures. You will never see a partly completed eagle's nest. He always finishes the job. The eagle always succeeds because he has that inner picture, that goal, imprinted deeply within him, and so he presses on again and again with perseverance and patience until that picture becomes a reality. We need that vision, that picture of the person we want to be or what we want to achieve, and then the perseverance to continue on until we accomplish our goal.

Enjoy life. Eagles indulge themselves in the very joy and thrill of living. They often soar and wheel about in the sky, diving and zooming through the clouds for the sheer joy and pleasure of flying. There needs to be balance in life. In the midst of learning to soar, rising above adversity, striving for excellence, developing a vision for our lives, remaining focused and persevering towards reaching our goals, we must maintain a sense of humour and regularly set aside times to relax and enjoy life. Our world today is on an endless search for real joy and happiness. Ask anyone what they want most in life and most will reply – *"I want to be happy"*. But happiness is not a station you arrive at, but the way you travel.

King George V of England said, "The secret of happiness is not doing what one likes, but in liking what one has to do."

Here are a few practical ways to help you maintain real joy and happiness.

1. Count your blessings. We live in a country with so many advantages over most other places – rich in natural beauty, resources, freedom, peace, security, political stability and the tremendous opportunities that all these things bring. Be grateful, thankful for these blessings and be willing to share your 'wealth' with those who are in genuine need. Be generous to others.
2. Learn to live in the 'now'. Don't be so obsessed with the future that you forget to live now. Enjoy your family, friends. Make the most of opportunities to develop meaningful, lasting relationships with your family. Do things together that will provide pleasant lifetime memories.

3. Learn to serve others, help others. Be willing to share your 'wealth' with those who are in genuine need. Be generous to others.
4. Joy and happiness are a choice. We can choose to be miserable, we can choose to allow worry and fear to dominate our lives, or we can make a deliberate choice for joy and happiness. Life is a challenge. Tackle it with joy. That joy will be the secret of your strength.

As you can see, the eagle is a magnificent, inspiring bird. I hope that in some way, what I have shared with you today about the eagle and about life has been helpful and encouraging.

With acknowledgement to The Educator

LODGE

The term 'lodge' refers to several things, namely, to the room in which a regularly constituted body of Freemasons assemble for purposes connected with the institution, to the actual body or society of Freemasons who meet there, as well as to the gathering of individual Masons at a meeting.

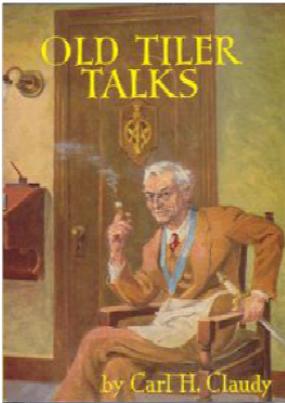
It is generally accepted that the word 'lodge' derives from *loge* which is to be found in French and other Latin languages. It was applied in operative masonry to the room set aside on each building site for the use of working masons.

Every lodge must be legally constituted according to the rules and regulations of its Masonic jurisdiction and be issued, at an official consecration, with a warrant of constitution from the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge. Every lodge room must be dedicated in prescribed form.

Individual lodges are required to function under their own set of by-laws approved by the Grand Master of the constitution involved.

It is required that every lodge must hold an annual meeting at which a Master is installed and his properly appointed and elected officers invested for the ensuing twelve months.

It is necessary that all candidates be initiated into the order in what is described as 'the body of a lodge, just, perfect and regular'.



Old Tiler Talks— PROMOTION

The New Brother's face showed a bad case of peeve, and his voice reflected it as he greeted the Old Tiler in the anteroom.

"S'matter, son?" inquired the Old Tiler. "You look like a cross between a thunder cloud and the Black Hole of Calcutta!"

"Politics!" snapped the New Brother. "I thought it was bad form, undignified, un-Masonic to electioneer for officers. It's bad enough any time, but when they electioneer for one who isn't in line for promotion and to throw out one who has served years in the chairs, I think it's terrible!"

"Yes, yes, go on," encouraged the Old Tiler. "Get it all out of your system."

"Tonight they elected Bill Jones Junior Warden. He doesn't attend regularly, does he? And Smith, who was in line for promotion, was dropped. Smith never missed a night last year and did his best as Senior Deacon. Jones is more popular than Smith, and may make a better officer, but the point is that Smith worked and Jones never has. So I'm peeved!"

"Wiser heads than yours have been peeved at politics in a lodge," answered the Old Tiler. "It's a difficult question. By Masonic usage any electioneering is taboo. The unwritten law and the theory contend for a free choice of officers by unbiased votes. But men are men first and Masons afterwards, and politics always have been played. I know of no way to stop a brother from telling another brother how he ought to vote!"

"That doesn't dispose of the injustice of Smith," answered the New Brother. "It isn't right."

"The majority thought it was right," countered the Old Tiler. "Now that Jones has the job, I'll tell you that I knew Smith wouldn't get it. He has been faithful to his work, never missed a night, done his best. But his best just wasn't good enough. You speak of Jones being more popular than Smith. There must be a reason, and if he is better liked he'll make a better officer."

"But it is still an injustice." The New Brother was stubborn.

"You argue from the standpoint of the man who believes that a man elected or appointed to be junior Steward has a neck-hold on the job ahead of him," answered the Old Tiler. "According to your idea any junior Steward who attends lodge and does his work ought to be elected to the succeeding position each year as a reward of merit. Actually the job, not the man, is important. The good of the lodge is more important than reward for the man."

"You don't realize that Masonry is bigger than the individual, that the lodge is bigger than its officers, that the positions in line are greater than the men who fill them."

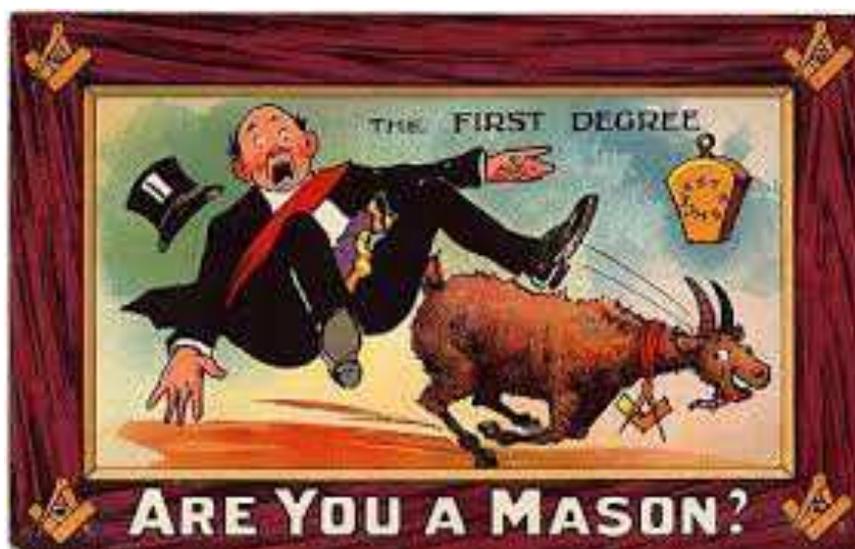
"A Master may make or mar a lodge. If he is a good Master, well-liked, popular, able, attentive to his duties and enthusiastic in his work, the lodge goes forward. If only enthusiasm and faithfulness recommend him and he lacks ability, and the respect and liking of his fellows, and he has not the equipment to rule, the lodge will go backwards. Smith is a nice fellow faithful, enthusiastic. But he has more from the neck down than from the ears up. Jones hasn't attended lodge much, but he is a brainy man, accustomed to preside, knows men and affairs, and, if he bears out the judgment of the brethren, will carry this lodge to new heights.

"Smith was given his chance for four years. In that time he could not demonstrate to the satisfaction of his brethren that he would make a good Master. It was a kindness to drop him now and not let him serve two more years. It is hard to be told 'we don't want you,' but the lodge showed wisdom in choosing as Junior Warden a man in whom it believes, rather than merely rewarding faithful effort.

"I am sure the Master made a nice speech to Smith and thanked him for his work. His brethren will show him they like him as a brother if not as a Junior Warden. Smith will not be as peevish about it as are you. He has been a Mason long enough to know that the majority rule is the only rule on which a Masonic lodge can be conducted. He won't understand his own limitations, or believe he couldn't be as good an officer as Jones, but he will bow to the decision of his fellows and keep on doing the best he can. That is Masonry at its best. Politics is often Masonry at its worst, but in the long run the right men get chosen to do the right work. Sometimes it's a bit hard on the man, but the good Mason is willing to suffer for the love he bears his mother lodge."

"As a peeve-remover you are a wonder!" smiled the New Brother. "But I wonder how you'd like to be supplanted by another Tiler?"

"When the lodge can find a better servant, I shall be glad to go," answered the Old Tiler simply. "I try to be a Mason first, and an Old Tiler afterwards!"



Correction to an article last month on English Royal Freemasons—my learned Brother, Tom Stirling, reminds me that King George VI was the Grand Master of Scotland 1936/7 when he was Duke of York.

CHRISTMAS

Did you know that Bro. S. Claus was initiated a long time ago in Lodge of Peace No. 1 on the register of the United Grand Lodge of the Arctic Circle.

He is also a Royal Arch Mason as the colour of his regalia indicates.

In another Order he certainly raised some eyebrows when he added a white pom pom to his red hat.

Each December, Bro. Claus takes the Chair and assisted by his Wardens, Bros. Dancer and Prancer, and in the presence of Bro. Rudolph, he puts the principals of Freemasonry into practice.

The Password, 'Ho, Ho, Ho, enables him to gain admission all over the world and he even avoids an examination by going down chimneys, and those brethren who assist with the work may eventually attain the rank of Past Grand Santa's Helper.

He visits numerous Souths in the course of his work and often partakes of the light refreshments left for him. Sometimes this includes alcoholic liquor hence the large red nose on Bro. Rudolph.

In some places he finds difficulty being recognised because Bro. Claus uses a red sack instead of a little black case!

"Glory to God in the Highest
On Earth Peace
Goodwill to Men".



Lodge Birthdays

Alan Churchill	34
Peter Wilson	33
Brendan Toner	1

News from the South

In November we had a lively discussion on "What is Free masonry?".

We are now thinking ahead to the Tercentenary of UGLE and what the Lodge of Discovery can contribute to the celebrations—more of that early in the New Year.

Did You Know?

Who are the patron saints Freemasons?

St. John's Day, Masonic feast

Freemasons historically celebrate two feasts of Saint John. The feast of [John the Baptist](#) falls on 24 June, and that of [John the Evangelist](#) on 27 December, roughly marking mid-summer and mid-winter. During the Eighteenth Century, the [Premier Grand Lodge of England](#) and the [Grand Lodge of Ireland](#) favoured the day of John the Baptist, while the [Grand Lodge of Scotland](#), the [Antient Grand Lodge of England](#) and the [Grand Lodge of All England at York](#) installed their Grand Masters on the feast day of John the Evangelist. The [United Grand Lodge of England](#) was formed on 27 December 1813.

John the Baptist

The first Grand Lodge was formed on 24 June the feast day of John the Baptist in 1717. This may arise from a very old tradition, since the Baptist appears to have been regarded as the patron of stonemasons in continental Europe during the Middle Ages. The guild of masons and carpenters attached to Cologne Cathedral was known as the *Fraternity of St. John the Baptist*. The earliest surviving record of Grand Lodge of Ireland installing a Grand Master is dated to 24 June 1725. As records of individual lodges appear in Ireland and in the Antients' in England, it seems many of them met to install a new master twice a year, on the feast days of both the Baptist and the Evangelist.

John the Evangelist

The Evangelist is particularly associated with Scottish lodges. The Lodge of Edinburgh was associated with the aisle of St. John the Evangelist in St. Giles Cathedral from the 15th century. The Grand Lodge of All England, and its predecessor, the *Ancient Society of Freemasons in the City of York*, elected and installed their President, then from 1725 their Grand Master on the day of the Evangelist, and in London the Antient Grand Lodge of England elected their new Grand Masters on the same day. When the Antients and the Moderns (the Premier Grand Lodge) eventually came together in the United Grand Lodge of England, it was on the Feast of the Evangelist in 1813.

Great leader's do not create followers,
They create more leader's.



A Thought

No matter how big your house is,
How recent your car is,
How big your bank account is,
Our graves will be the same size.
Stay Humble.

The Builder

An old man, going a lone highway,
Came in the evening, cold and gray
To a chasm, vast and deep and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream had no fears for him
But he turned when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man, said a fellow pilgrim near,
You are wasting your time with building here.
You never again will pass this way.
Your journey will end with the closing day.
You have crossed the chasm deep and wide.

The builder lifted his old, gray head.
"Good friend, in the way that I have come," he said,
"There followeth after me today
A youth, whose feet must pass this way.
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim.
Good friend, I am building the bridge for him."



Humour

I was having a wonderful round of golf when one of my golfing buddies asked me if I'd ever seen Stevie Wonder's wife. "No," I replied. "Neither has he!" Couldn't hit the ball or putt straight after that.

After retiring, I went to the Social Security office to apply for Social Security. The woman behind the counter asked me for my driver's license to verify my age. I looked in my pockets and realized I had left my wallet at home. I told the woman that I was very sorry, but I would have to go home and come back later. The woman said, 'Unbutton your shirt'.

So I opened my shirt revealing my curly silver hair. She said, 'That silver hair on your chest is proof enough for me' and she processed my Social Security application. When I got home, I excitedly told my wife about my experience at the Social Security office. She said, 'You should have dropped your pants. You might have gotten disability, too'.

Amy, a blonde city girl, marries a Texas rancher. One morning, on his way out to check on the cows the rancher says to Amy, "The artificial insemination man is coming over to impregnate one of our cows today. I drove a nail into the two-by-four just above the cow's stall in the barn. Please show him where the cow is when he gets here, okay?" So, the rancher leaves for the fields. After a while the artificial insemination man arrives and knocks on the front door. Amy takes him down to the barn. They walk along a long row of cows and when she sees the nail, she tells him, "This is the one.... right here." Terribly impressed by what he seemed to think just might be another dizzy blonde, the man asks, "Tell me little lady, how did you know this is the cow to be bred?" "That's simple. By the nail over its stall", Amy explains very confidently. Then the man asks, "What's the nail for?" She turns to walk away, and with complete confidence says, "I guess it's to hang your pants on."

A Friend of mine who is a Chemist was telling me the other day that on returning from his lunch break, he saw a very nervous sweaty looking character in the corner of his shop. He asked his assistant what was wrong with him, the assistant said "he came in for some cough mixture, I couldn't find any, so I gave him some strong Laxative". My chemist mate went berserk and said "you can't treat a cough with Laxative." The Assistant calmly said "of course you can, look he's too scared to cough now!"

A husband had just finished reading a new book entitled, 'You Can Be THE Man of Your House.' He stormed to his wife in the kitchen and announced, 'From now on, you need to know that I am the man of this house and my word is Law. You will prepare me a gourmet meal tonight, and when I'm finished eating my meal, you will serve me a sumptuous dessert. After dinner, you are going to go upstairs with me and we will have the kind of gender that I want. Afterwards, you are going to draw me a bath so I can relax. You will wash my back and towel me dry and bring me my robe. Then, you will massage my feet and hands. Then tomorrow, guess who's going to dress me and comb my hair?' The wife replied, 'The f*ckin' funeral director would be my first guess.'