

The Discoverer

The Monthly Newsletter of The Lodge of Discovery

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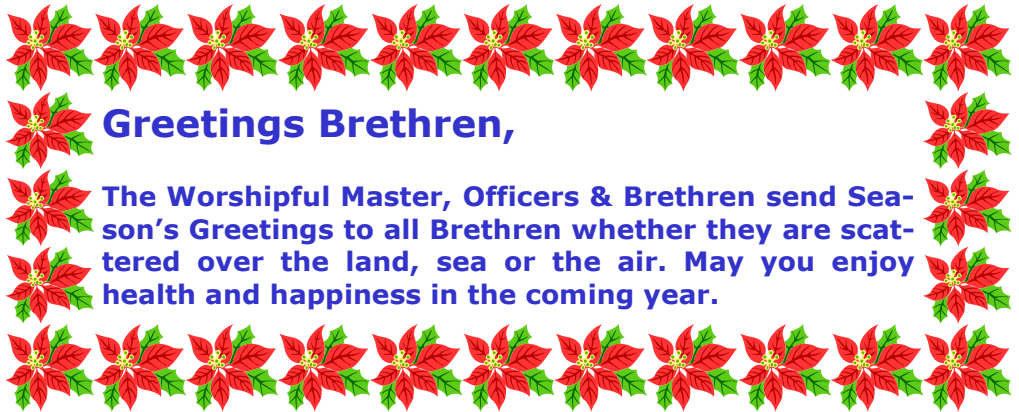
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Greetings Brethren,

The Worshipful Master, Officers & Brethren send Season's Greetings to all Brethren whether they are scattered over the land, sea or the air. May you enjoy health and happiness in the coming year.

Q. What is a Cable Tow?

A. A cable tow is a measurement of distance (a distance between high water mark and low tide), a distance from Lodge (used to be 3 miles). Later was changed as a distance between 5 to 50 miles.

VISITING OTHER LODGES

This is one of the most enjoyable parts of Freemasonry and, if invited, you should certainly accept if you are able to do so. It provides an opportunity to make new friends and see how other Lodges conduct their ceremonies. It is fair to say that no two Lodges are exactly alike!

If you are in any doubt about the 'Regularity' of the Lodge to which you have been invited, you should ask your Lodge Secretary to confirm that it is recognised, something which is mandatory if the Lodge is located overseas.

Whilst visiting is extremely enjoyable, you should not engage in it to the extent that it becomes detrimental to your family or working life. The same common sense rule applies to every part of your Masonic activities.

Membership e-mail address list

A list of current members and their e-mail addresses is available on request.

In our ceremonial the word HELE is used, what does the word describe?

To cover up. To put on a roof by tiles, slabs, etc. called "healing". A worker carrying out the work is called a "healer" or "hillier". This is the origin of the surname Hillier.

Are you a Master Mason?

"I have been a Mason for a year now," remarked the Young Brother to the Old Past Master. "While I find a great deal in Masonry to enjoy and like the fellows and all that, I am more or less in the dark as to what effect & good Masonry really has in the world. I don't mean I can't appreciate its charity or its fellowship, but it seems to me that I don't get much out of it. I can't really see where it has any function outside of the relationship we enjoy in the Lodge and the charitable acts we do." "I think I could win an argument about you," smiled the Past Master. "An argument about me?"

"Yes. You say you have been a Master Mason for a year. I think I could prove to the satisfaction of a jury of your peers, who would not need to be Master Masons, that while you are a Lodge member in good standing, you are not a Master Mason." "I don't think I quite understand," puzzled the Young Mason. "I was quite surely initiated, passed, and raised. I have my certificate and my good standing card. I attend Lodge regularly. I do what work I am assigned. If that isn't being a Master Mason, what is?"

"You have the body but not the spirit," retorted the Old Past Master. "You eat the husks and disregard the kernel. You know the ritual and fail to understand its meaning. You carry the documents, but for you they attest but an empty form. You do not understand the first underlying principle, which makes Masonry the great force she is. And yet, in spite of it, you enjoy her blessings, which is one of her miracles. A man may love and profit by what he does not comprehend." "I just don't understand you at all. I am sure I am a good Mason."

No man is a good Mason who thinks the Fraternity has no function beyond the pleasant association in the Lodge and charity. There are thousands of Masons who seldom see the inside of a Lodge and, therefore, miss the fellowship. There are thousands who never need or support her charity and so never come in contact with one of its many features. Yet these may take freely and largely from the treasure house which is Masonry.

"Masonry, my young friend, is an opportunity. It gives a man a chance to do and to be, among the world of men, something he otherwise could not attain. No man kneels at the altar of Masonry and rises again the same man. At the altar something is taken from him never to return. His feelings of living for himself alone. Be he ever so selfish, ever so self-centred, ever so much an individualist, at the altar he leaves behind him some of the dross of his purely profane make-up.

"No man kneels at the altar of Masonry and rises the same man because, in the place where the dross and selfish were, is put a little of the most Divine spark which men may see. Where the self-interest was, is put an interest in others. Where the egotism was, is put love for one's fellow man. You say that the 'Fraternity has no function.' Man, the Fraternity performs the greatest function of any institution at work among men in that it provides a common meeting ground where all of us "be our creed, our social position, our wealth, our ideas, our station in life what they may" may meet and understand one another.

"What caused the Civil War? Failure of one people to understand another and an inequality of men which this country could not endure. What caused the Great War? Class hatred.

What is the greatest leveller of class in the world? Masonry. Where is the only place in which a capitalist and labourer, socialist and democrat, fundamentalist and modernist, Jew and Gentile, sophisticated and simple alike meet and forget their differences? In a Masonic Lodge, through the influence of Masonry.

"Masonry, which opens her portals to men because they are men, not because they are wealthy or wise or foolish or great or small but because they seek the brotherhood which only she can give.

"Masonry has no function? Why, son, the function of charity, great as it is, is the least of the things Masonry does. The fellowship in the Lodge, beautiful as it is, is at best not much more than one can get in any good club, association, or organization. These are the beauties of Masonry, but they are also beauties of other organizations.

The great fundamental beauty of Masonry is all her own. She, and only she, stretches a kindly and loving hand around the world, uniting millions in a bond too strong for breaking. Time has demonstrated that Masonry is too strong for war, too strong for hate, too strong for jealousy and fear. The worst of men have used the strongest of means and have but pushed Masonry to one side for the moment; not all their efforts have broken her, or ever will!

"Masonry gives us all a chance to do and to be; to do a little, however humble the part, in making the world better; to be a little larger, a little fuller in our lives, a little nearer to the G.A.O.T.U.

And unless a man understands this, believes it, takes it to his heart, and lives it in his daily life, and strives to show it forth to others in his every act unless he live and love and labour in his Masonry "I say he is no Master Mason;

Aye, though he belongs to all Rites and carries all cards, though he is hung like a Christmas tree with jewels and pins, though he is an officer in all Bodies.

But the man who has it in his heart and sees in Masonry the chance to be in reality what he has sworn he would be, a brother to his fellow Masons, is a Master Mason though he be raised but tonight, belongs to no body but his Craft Lodge, and be too poor to buy and wear a single pin."

The Young Brother, looking down, unfastened the emblem from his coat lapel and handed it to the Old Past Master. "Of course, you are right," he said, lowly. "Here is my pin. Don't give it back to me until you think I am worthy to wear it."

The Old Past Master smiled. "I think you would better put it back now," he answered gently. "None are fit to wear the Square and Compasses than those who know themselves unworthy, for they are those who strive to be real Masons.

Brother James Tekton (date unknown). I have no knowledge of who Bro. Tekton was or is, however, the scenario he has portrayed for us is beautiful in its simplicity, and points directly to the need for each and every Freemason to accept total responsibility for his own **"Personal Spiritual Growth"**.

The Educator—October 2011

The words JUST, PERFECT and REGULAR are used in our Lodge, what do they relate to?

JUST – when the 3 Great Emblematical Lights are present.

PERFECT – when the constitutional number of Members are present

REGULAR – when the Lodge is working under a Charter, granted by a legal Masonic authority

Planting your seed

A successful business man was growing old and knew it was time to choose a successor to take over the business.

Instead of choosing one of his Directors or his children, he decided to do something different. He called all the young executives in his company together. He said, "It is time for me to step down and choose the next CEO. I have decided to choose one of you." The young executives were Shocked, but the boss continued.

"I am going to give each one of you a SEED today – one very special SEED. I want you to plant the seed, water it, and come back here one year from today with what you have grown from the seed I have given you. I will then judge the plants that you bring, and the one I choose will be the next CEO."

One man, named Jim, was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed. He went home and excitedly, told his wife the story. She helped him get a pot, soil and compost and he planted the seed. Everyday, he would water it and watch to see if it had grown. After about three weeks, some of the other executives began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow.

Jim kept checking his seed, but nothing ever grew. Three weeks, four weeks, five weeks went by, still nothing. By now, others were talking about their plants, but Jim didn't have a plant and he felt like a failure. Six months went by — still nothing in Jim's pot. He just knew he had killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. Jim didn't say anything to his colleagues, however, he just kept watering and fertilizing the soil – He so wanted the seed to grow.

A year finally went by and all the young executives of the company brought their plants to the CEO for inspection. Jim told his wife that he wasn't going to take an empty pot. But she asked him to be honest about what happened. Jim felt sick to his stomach, it was going to be the most embarrassing moment of his life, but he knew his wife was right. He took his empty pot to the board room.

When Jim arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by the other executives. They were beautiful — in all shapes and sizes. Jim put his empty pot on the floor and many of his colleagues laughed, a few felt sorry for him! When the CEO arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted his young executives.

Jim just tried to hide in the back. "My, what great plants, trees and flowers you have grown," said the CEO. "Today one of you will be appointed the next CEO!" All of a sudden, the CEO spotted Jim at the back of the room with his empty pot. He ordered the Financial Director to bring him to the front. Jim was terrified. He thought, *"The CEO knows I'm a failure! Maybe he will have me fired!"*

When Jim got to the front, the CEO asked him what had happened to his seed – Jim told him the story. The CEO asked everyone to sit down except Jim. He looked at Jim, and then announced to the young executives, *"Behold your next Chief Executive Officer! His name is Jim!"* Jim couldn't believe it. Jim couldn't even grow his seed. *"How could he be the new CEO?"* the others said. Then the CEO said, *"One year ago today, I gave everyone in this room a seed."*

I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all boiled seeds; they were dead – it was not possible for them to grow”. All of you, except Jim, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you.

Jim was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new Chief Executive Officer!”

The Moral of the Story

- * If you plant honesty, you will reap trust
- * If you plant goodness, you will reap friends
- * If you plant humility, you will reap greatness
- * If you plant perseverance, you will reap contentment
- * If you plant consideration, you will reap perspective
- * If you plant hard work, you will reap success
- * If you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation

So, be careful what you plant now; it will determine what you will reap later.

The Educator—October 2011

What is a Cowan?

- One who builds dry walls – a “dry-diker”
- An unqualified Mason
- A Mason without the “word”
- An intruder or eavesdropper

In today’s measurements what was the actual length and width of King Solomon’s Temple?

29 metres in length and 10 metres wide. The Temple was not a stand-alone structure, it formed part of the total complex, consisting of Solomon’s Palace, the Hall of Justice and the residence of his wife.

EXAMINATION OF VISITORS: Who does it and how?

Rule 125 of the Book of Constitutions requires that visitors to a Lodge must be vouched for, by one of the Brethren present. However, if a visitor is unaccompanied, or no Brother is able to vouch for him, the rule requires that:-

'He shall be well vouched for after due examination'

The phrase 'due examination' has not been defined by Grand Lodge and its interpretation therefore, is left to the discretion of the Brethren who conduct 'examinations'. In the great majority of Lodges, visitors are vouched for by their hosts and only rarely is an 'examination' required. However, this does happen and can produce uncertainty and confusion. So, WHO SHOULD DO IT and WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

Firstly, the answer is to use Caution and Common Sense!

WHO SHOULD DO IT?

Whilst the Worshipful Master is ultimately responsible, it is the Junior Warden's duty to 'examine' a visitor who is not known or vouched for. The Worshipful Master can of course delegate the task to the D of C, or a Past Master if the Junior Warden is not immediately available. Obviously the 'examination' should be carried out in private so as to avoid any unnecessary fuss or embarrassment.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

Firstly, remember that the visitor cannot be allowed to enter the Lodge Room unless the examiner is fully satisfied he is truly a Brother (it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that a newspaper reporter might on some occasion endeavour to gain entry to a Lodge by such a method.)

Ask to see the visitor's Grand Lodge Certificate. Ask him to sign his name on a piece of paper so it can be compared with that on the certificate (of course it is not essential for the visitor to have his certificate to gain entry, but it is desirable). Here are some suggestions -

Ask for the Signs, Tokens and Words of all the Craft Degrees the visitor claims to hold. (He may be a little hesitant and not wholly correct, which could be quite natural)

Ask him the name and number of his own Lodge and its meeting days and check the same in the latest Grand Lodge Masonic Year Book, if it is to hand.

If the examiner believes it is necessary to do so, some questions can be asked about procedure and or about specific details occurring in our Ceremonies. Of course the examiner may well be fully satisfied without having to make all of the above enquiries. On the other hand, we should all remember that we have been 'taught to be cautious' and any genuine visitor would expect to be proved before being admitted, knowing full well that the warmest of welcomes would immediately follow.

Why do we have a signing in or attendance book?



The surviving (operative) minutes, from 1598 to circa.1700, show that Masons in Lodge usually signed their names, or marks, in the minute book, or their presence was recorded there by the Secretary. Often he gave only the name of the Master or presiding officer. There was no Grand Lodge and no rule on the subject.

Soon after the formation of the first Grand Lodge in 1717, the Craft was troubled with clandestine 'makings' of Masons, some being initiated for 'half a crown' (about 12 pence). Some men were trying to spy on what Masons did and gained entry with the intention of writing 'Exposures' and publishing them. In order to prevent the Lodges being infiltrated by false Brethren or Impostors, it was proposed that until otherwise ordered by the Grand Lodge, that no person whatsoever should be admitted into Lodges unless some Member of the Lodge then present would vouch for such visiting Brothers being regular Masons, and that the Member's Name must be entered against the Visitor's Name in the Lodge Book (now our signing in Book or Signature Book). This was unanimously agreed to.

Famous Freemasons – Part 4

William Joseph “Joey” Dunlop - Irish world champion motorcyclist, best known for road racing. In 2005 he was voted the fifth greatest motorcycling icon ever by Motorcycle News. Awarded the Order of the British Empire for his humanitarian work with children in Romanian orphanages. Joey was a dedicated Mason, and visited Lodges throughout the world when he was on his travels, be it races or charity work.

King Edward VII - Prince of Wales and subsequently King of England. Grand Master of the UGLE 1875-1901. Also Provincial Grand Master for Lower Canada.

King Edward VIII - King of England who abdicated the throne in less than 1 year in order to marry the woman he loved. Household Brigade Lodge No. 2614. Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England in 1936.

Lord Elgin - In addition to being the Chief of the Name of Bruce, he is the Convener of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, retired Brigadier General in the Scots Guard Reserve, and is a Knight of the Thistle. He is a former Grand Master Mason of Scotland (the Grand Master as styled in Scotland) and has been head of the Royal Arch Chapter in Scotland for many years. Additionally he is the worldwide head of the Royal Order of Scotland.

Duke Ellington - American jazz composer, orchestrator, bandleader, and pianist, considered the greatest composer in the history of jazz music and one of the greatest musicians of the 20th Century. Social Lodge No. 1 PHA, Washington DC.

Eberhard Faber - CEO of the famous Eberhard Faber Pencil Company. Chancellor Walworth Lodge No. 271, NY City.

Douglas Fairbanks Sr. - American silent film actor known for his performance in swashbuckling adventures such as 'Robin Hood'. Beverly Hills Lodge No. 528, California.

W. C. Fields - American entertainer known for his raspy voice, bulbous nose, and sardonic disposition. His films include My Little Chickadee (1940) and Never Give a Sucker an Even Break (1941).

Geoffrey Fisher - English churchman, the 99th Archbishop of Canterbury. He became Bishop of London in 1939 and archbishop of Canterbury in 1945. Fisher was a distinguished pastor and administrator, helping to reorganize the work of the Church of England after World War II. As President of the World Council of Churches (1946-54), he was a vigorous proponent of ecumenism. Old Reptonian Lodge No. 3725 UGLE.

Bud Flanagan - Half of the Flanagan & Allen duo. Wartime singer and entertainer. Chelsea Lodge No.3098 UGLE

Sir Alexander Fleming (1881 - 1955) was a Scottish bacteriologist and pharmacologist. He wrote many articles on bacteriology, immunology, and chemotherapy. His best-known discovery was the discovery of the antibiotic substance penicillin. He held Grand Office in the UGLE.

Humour

An ambitious yuppie finally decided to take a vacation. He booked himself on a Caribbean cruise and proceeded to have the time of his life—at least for a while. A hurricane came unexpectedly. The ship went down and was lost instantly. The man found himself swept up on the shore of an island with no other people, no supplies, nothing. Only bananas and coconuts. Used to four-star hotels, this guy had no idea what to do. So for the next four months he ate bananas, drank coconut juice, longed for his old life and fixed his gaze on the sea, hoping to spot a rescue ship. One day, as he was lying on the beach, he spotted movement out of the corner of his eye. It was a rowboat, and in it was the most gorgeous woman he had ever seen. She rowed up to him. In disbelief, he asked her: "Where did you come from? How did you get here?" "I rowed from the other side of the island," she said. "I landed here when my cruise ship sank."

"Amazing," he said, "I didn't know anyone else had survived. How many of you are there? You were really lucky to have a rowboat wash up with you." "It's only me," she said, "and the rowboat didn't wash up nothing did." "He was confused, "Then how did you get the rowboat?" "Oh, simple," replied the woman. "I made it out of raw material that I found on the island. The oars were whittled from gum tree branches, I wove the bottom from palm branches, and the sides and stern came from a eucalyptus tree." "But, but, that's impossible," stuttered the man. "You had no tools or hardware, how did you manage?" "Oh, that was no problem," the woman said. "On the south side of the island, there is a very unusual stratum of exposed alluvial rock. I found that if I fired it to a certain temperature in my kiln, it melted into forgettable ductile iron. I used that for tools, and used the tools to make the hardware. But enough of that. Where do you live?"

Sheepishly, the man confessed that he had been sleeping on the beach the whole time. "Well, let's row over to my place, then," she said. After a few minutes of rowing, she docked the boat at a small wharf. As the man looked onto shore, he nearly fell out of the boat. Before him was a stone walk leading to an exquisite bungalow painted in blue and white. While the woman tied up the rowboat with an expertly woven hemp rope, the man could only stare ahead, dumbstruck.

As they walked into the house, she said casually, "It's not much, but I call it home. Sit down, please would you like to have a drink?" "No, no, thank you," he said, still dazed. "I can't take any more coconut juice." "It's not coconut juice," the woman replied. "I have a still. How about a pina colada?" Trying to hide his continued amazement, the man accepted, and they sat down on her couch to talk. After they had exchanged their stories, the woman announced, "I'm going to slip into something more comfortable. Would you like to take a shower and shave? There is a razor upstairs in the cabinet in the bathroom."

No longer questioning anything, the man went into the bathroom. There in the cabinet was a razor made from a bone handle. Two shells honed to a hollow ground edge were fastened to its tip, inside a swivel mechanism. "This woman is amazing," he mused. "What next?"

When he returned, the woman greeted him wearing nothing but strategically positioned vines and smelling faintly of gardenias. She beckoned for him to sit down next to her. "Tell me," she began suggestively, slithering closer to him, "We've been out here for a very long time. You've been lonely. There's something I'm sure you really feel like doing right now, something you've been longing for all these months? You know. ..." She stared into his eyes. He couldn't believe what he was hearing: "You mean..." he replied, "I can check my e-mail and the Freemason-List from here?"