

The Masonic Journey

November 18, 2015

The Electric Lodge No. 495

Brethren, my Masonic year thus far has been filled with a rigorous, yet exciting, series of events, comprised primarily of Lodge nights, just like this evening - yet different. Each Lodge I have visited, particularly on Fraternal visits, has produced a little different atmosphere, a slightly different culture, and a unique experience.

My professional life, as many of you know, is very fast paced, filled with quick and critical decisions, and a lot of technology. Like many others, I have always looked to Lodge as a comfort and an opportunity to disconnect - and reflect.

Bro. Michael Yaxley, the President of the Board of General Purposes of the Grand Lodge of Tasmania is quoted as saying, "Society does have a need for a body such as Freemasonry. I believe that this need will increase rather than decrease. In the next century, the workplace will not offer fellowship and camaraderie sufficient to satisfy the social instincts that people have. Many will work at home, linked to the office. Others will be in an office with complex but nevertheless inanimate equipment. The irony of the age of communication is that people will spend more and more time by themselves."

Brethren, may our Lodges be that safe haven - providing a time of reflection, careful contemplation, and the opportunity to engage in social intercourse.

As I have travelled around our area, I have been particularly surprised on my fraternal visits by the content of our meeting nights. Many Lodges post only degree work in their summons with very little additional to detail; though upon visiting, I have found that these evenings, are comprised of far more. It goes without saying that we need to do a better job of promoting our lodge activities, though beyond our activities, the evening usually comes down to a few select and unexpected though memorable discussions that I have had with brethren of the Lodge.

It was on a recent Fraternal visit, such as I am describing, where I came upon a particularly memorable discussion with one of the brethren. I had not had the opportunity to speak with this brother in the past, though he greeted me warmly and we quickly began talking as Masons are apt to do. We were reflecting upon having children and the benefits of children having siblings. It was at this moment that this man turned to me and with a sparkle in his eye, said that his children were his greatest gift, but that he has always considered his second greatest blessing in life to be that of his own brother. He then went on to say that the benefit of having a sibling throughout life is that at any time he can reflect back to his childhood and say “remember when this happened and I did that? Did that really happen?” at which point his brother could respond, “yes, that really happened just the way you remember it, and I know because I was there with you.”

That short exchange stayed with me after that night because the same can be said about the whole of our Fraternity and the brethren here in this room tonight.

Brethren, I invite you to reflect upon your own Masonic journey thus far, however long it may be. The discussions with fellow brethren, the events witnessed, the speeches heard, and the proceedings encountered all sum up to that journey.

Without our members, our lodges are naught but dormant and lifeless buildings. It is the lives lived within these walls that lend them their stories and their memories. It is these experiences and exchanges between our members which form the bonds of mutual defense and support and further strengthen the fabric of our gentle Craft.

Brethren, as you reflect upon this evening, I encourage you to take solace in the opportunity to disconnect from the rush of the outside world, but I also encourage you to take the time to get to know your Brother next to you.

Thank you,

R.W. Bro. Devin L. Tuinstra
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