

**Official Visit to Lodge of the Ancient Landmarks No. 654,
Incorporating
Doric Lodge No. 382
Established 1879**

February 27, 2007

Lecture

Adapting Masonry to our life

What does Freemasonry do for you? Does it make you wiser? Does it make you better? And does it, ultimately, make you happier? I am sure that many Brethren present here tonight may be able to say that Freemasonry does all of those things for them and even more. But the point is that nowhere in our ritual is wisdom, betterment or happiness promised without the acknowledgement that we are to **give first** and in order to **receive later**.

There is no simple formula in Freemasonry that would make us happier as a result of becoming wiser and better. As it happens in all human endeavours; we get out of Freemasonry what we put into Freemasonry. There is an old saying in education that says: “you can bring the horse to the water, but that does not mean he is going to drink it”. Our ritual may be filled with great tenets and principles; but if we are not in a spiritual and proactive position to do so, we will not be able to see nor practise their wisdom. Freemasonry is a road to wisdom and light, but we need to walk that road ourselves and while we are on the trail, we need to have the courage to practise what we preach.

I must confess to you that in preparation for several of my lectures during my year as District Deputy Grand Master, my research always led me to our book of the ritual.

Reading through the work, many subjects caught my attention. In many occasions the subject was just a word, or a theme. I often thought that a Mason could expend a lifetime studying, interpreting, and adapting to the fullest to the teachings of just one single subject in our book. The thought of a Supreme Being, Ruler and Architect of all things on Earth is a

challenging one for example. In today society, we live our busy lives with little time for meditation or spiritual rejuvenation. We live with the threat of high levels of violent crimes plaguing our cities. We live with the threat of economic uncertainty. We live with the threat of global environment changes. We live with the threat of terrorism, poverty, hunger, disease and war. These are trying times. Our faith in the wisdom and compassion of the Almighty must be strong. Faith is a subject that could lead closer to the light of wisdom. But Brethren, we need to sit down and take the time to understand the full meaning of Faith and adapt that Faith to our daily lives.

Brotherly love is another subject worth talking about so is Charity or the responsibility Freemasons profess to have to search for the Truth.

Finally, my Brethren, happiness can be found in the teachings of the Masonic ritual, but it does not come in a package, nor is it delivered to your front door. Each one of us needs to carefully study it, interpret it and adapt it to our own lives. I believe being members of this ancient and wise society that teaches us and gives the opportunity to apply what we learn is a privilege. A privilege offered only to those who join the Craft and practise its principles and tenets..

I leave you this evening, Brethren with one thought in mind: The light is right in front of our eyes. Let's be brave and see that light.

R.W. Bro. Eduardo J. Cordero
Hamilton Masonic District "C"
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