

District Deputy Grand Master's Official Visit

Ionic Lodge No. 549

Accompanying Lodge - Corinthian Lodge No. 513

Masonic Centre of Hamilton

Wednesday October 1, 2008

Brethren, for those who were at the District Meeting at the Royal York in Toronto, you may recall that I used this quote:

**“Life may lead you where you least expect, but
remember you are exactly where you are meant to be”**

I strongly believe that everything happens for a reason, every action has a reaction, and that what is meant to be will always find a way to come true. One might think it is almost like a self-fulfilling prophecy. Well, I'm not sure what happened to me is that, but I know as a young child I would never have thought that someday I would be standing here tonight and talking in front of a distinguish group of men. What happened to my dream of growing up and becoming a professional athlete, maybe a hockey, baseball, or even a football player? Well that dream didn't come true. I might think I wasn't in the right place at the right time; whereas others, including some of my high school teachers (in the room tonight) would tell you it was more my ability and talent or lack of, that was the determining factor. Well when I look around the room, this wasn't such a bad trade off. There are also those people who will tell you that what happens is in the cards or it is all about the numbers. For example, there are people that will take your personal details

(name, date of birth, etc), translate and break this data down into numbers, and then use this to explain why things happen to you the way they do. They will tell you that you have lessons to learn in life and if you do not learn them the first time through then you will come back again and again until you learn them. A friend of both my wife and I studies this topic and although we don't necessarily believe and understand everything she says, she is a fascinating person to have conversation with. She does not make a habit of telling you about the future, but rather explains or suggests to you why things may have happened the way they do. It was several years ago that I last spoke to her so there was no conversation about my role in the Masons and this position in particular wasn't on the horizon, at least I didn't know it was. She did however, explain why I do some of the things I do and why I am the way I am. If nothing more, at least my wife now understands me better. So maybe this Masonic path was in the stars for me? I'm not sure, but it does make me wonder why and how I got to this point in my life.

Looking around this room, I notice that many of us are wearing the Lewis Jewel, indicating we have Masonic history in our family. In my case, not only was my father a Mason, but also his six (6) brothers (my uncles). My father passed away in the 50's why I was still young so I didn't grow up in a house wondering why and where my father was going once a month, dressed in his suit, and carrying his little black bag. However, even though I probably didn't realize it, that Masonic influence was still there, obviously not as blatant as it would have been if my father was there, but never the less, still there with my uncles presence. Then in the early 80's my brother and I decided to fill out an application for initiation into Seymour Lodge. I'm probably not exactly sure why I did this, but at the time, this didn't appear to be a significant event in my life. I was married

with two (2) young children, my wife didn't work, we had one car, and I was taking additional educational courses at night school. To me I was joining a group of men called Masons that met once a month at Seymour Lodge in Ancaster. I knew my Dad and my uncles had been or still were members of Seymour, so this was no big thing. Well, that couldn't have been further from the truth. They say that sometimes it is the smallest decisions that can change your life forever. In my case, when I look back, it was this decision that paved the way for where and who I am today. Joining this wonderful fraternity has brought me together with a group of men whom I refer to as my lodge brothers. This brotherhood has now developed into friendships and in many cases these friendships have expanded to include their spouses and families.

We all get to different points in our lives via many paths. For me, I believe that path may have been right in front of me. There is an area of my family room where my Masonic memorabilia is visible, and hanging on the wall is a picture of my father and his brothers. If the truth be known, maybe it was these seven (7) Seymour brethren that were watching over me and providing the impetus for me to reach out and travel this path.

Finally brethren, whatever the reason may be that I'm here, whether it was my turn, the stars aligned correctly, I'm here to learn the balance of my life's lessons, or it was destiny, I strongly believe everything happens for a reason. In closing brethren I will leave you with saying - **The past is behind me and I will learn from it. I will not look back and grieve over the past for it is gone. The future is ahead for me and I will prepare for it and not be troubled by it for it has not come. The present is here and I will live in the present and make it so beautiful it will be worth remembering.**

Thank you