



Gaining From a Loss

An optimist will always try to find something good, something worthwhile from even the worst situations, and I, being an optimist, will try to find something worthwhile from a situation that happened during our past Stated Meeting for the month of August.

At this meeting, a brother Mason of some eleven years, made an official announcement that he was leaving Freemasonry, renouncing the Brotherhood, his vows, and his promises. The reasons why are not important to discuss in this context. At the time he was a member of the Lodge in good standing, a pedestal officer, and had attained the highest level of ritual work recognition being a Master Ritualist and a Master Lecturer. He was also a former DDGL. The man was impressive in memory work to say the least. So, you might say: What good could come from the loss of such a man, not only for Peoria Lodge #31 but also for Arizona Masonry in general?

The answer is simply this: The situation teaches Masons wherever found, that a true Mason must put into practice the principals taught by the rituals of Freemasonry to actually BE a Mason, that the truths found in Masonry must become a part of your character, become ingrained into your being, not just memorized and repeated. If Masonry wanted only to have the correct verbiage of ritual repeated for our degree work, then the Craft would only have to make a recording for playback at the appropriate time. No brothers, this man had not learned anything about Freemasonry in eleven years. If he had, he would have tried to apply the lessons taught in the Four Cardinal Virtues to whatever his concerns were which induced him to turn his back. What of these virtues? Are they not given to us to help us achieve moral excellence, right action and thinking, the goodness of character to which we all should be striving to achieve and thus improve our lives?

What of Temperance - the restraint on passions, which renders the man tame and governable and should be the constant practice of every Mason. This man allowed his passions to exceed due bounds and failed on the first perfect point of entrance.

What of Fortitude - the steady purpose of mind to undergo any pain when prudentially deemed expedient, which is distant from rashness and should also be a Mason's constant practice. This man had, in effect, a childish, rash, and indiscrete temper-tantrum. Children are not mindful and cannot endure pain, and thus he has failed on the second perfect point of entrance.

What of Prudence - the regulation of life and action to the dictates of reason, to judge wisely and prudently ensuring happiness. This man knows not of reasonable and prudent actions and by refusing to listen to good council thus fails on the third perfect point of entrance.

What of Justice - the standard of right, rendering every man his just due, which is consistent with laws and constitutes the really good man. This man, by purposefully ignoring the laws of our institution has, again, failed on the fourth perfect point of entrance.

What of a brother's welfare, gently admonishing errors, and reforming in a most friendly manner? Fail, fail, and fail.

No brothers, this man subscribed to some other form of teaching while masquerading as a Mason. The horrid deed he perpetrated is a tragedy heaped upon his own head. It is a shame, one with such God given talent, ability, and promise should ignore the teachings of Masonry and consciously fall to such depths of treason, arrogance, and rogue contempt of our fraternity. However, I believe it is for the betterment of Freemasonry that he is no longer a part of our great institution. Our Lodge, I have faith, will rise to the task of replacing this man with a true and lawful brother of the Craft.

I hope those of you reading this will learn from this man's errors and work diligently to apply Masonic teachings into your own lives. No man is perfect, but we should all strive to become better men, which is, after all, what Freemasonry is all about.

Wayne De Vliegher – Master, Peoria Lodge #31



Greetings Brethren,

As most of you may know this spring and summer has been a very confusing time for the Lodge and particularly upon the officers. With the recent resignation of both Pedestal officers it has created a certain degree of uncertainty for the immediate future for our Lodge. No matter how the November vote plays out, always remember that our Lodge has gone through difficult times before and has come through with our banner flying high. As it will again. So, as it says in the third degree charge given by the Master to the candidate at the end of the evening “be faithful, be true, be just and convince the whole world that on becoming a MM, you have become a better man”. So, stay true to the Lodge during our time of uncertainty.

Also remember that October is approaching quickly, which means our Pit Roast is on the near horizon. The date for it is Saturday, Oct. 8th. October seems to be a month for our other fraternal organizations to plan events as well. We will make the best of it and try to have a very good effort with our ticket sales. We now have tickets available and will offer them to our brothers at each Tuesday degree and stated meeting during September and

October. Try and remember that this is for the good of our Lodge as the money is used to help with expenses.

Here is my question for you to dwell on for this month. What is the first lesson we are taught in Masonry? For those who may not know and are curious as to what it may be, the answer will be found in the first degree lecture. For those brothers who may not yet have access to a Ritual Book, ask your mentor or another brother who does. The answer will be revealed next month.

So, until next time, take care and God Bless.

Dale Justus – Acting Senior Warden, Peoria Lodge #31