

Second Masonic District

March, 2007

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From The District

Brethren,

WB Earl Lutz thanks all the lodges that participated in the 2007 Ad program. It was again a huge success because of your participation. All the ads are at the printers and will be ready for the Grand Master's Reception. Please remember to turn in your monies for your purchased ads. Please give WB Lutz special thanks for all his hard work for chairing the ad program. This was his first year as ad chairman and did a wonderful job.

The Grand Masters One Day class is quickly approaching. Remember that all candidates participating in the One Day Class must have had the proper paperwork forwarded to the Grand Lodge no later than March 16th. Remember this is a great opportunity to have our busy friends join our great fraternity.

March is a very busy month for inspections please remember to get out and support our lodges in the District at these inspections.

Please remember the 2nd Masonic District is here to assist you and your lodge. If your lodge is having any type of open function or fund raising event that you would like to be announced please forward it to any of the District Officers. The announcement will be placed on the District Web page and a brief announcement will be made at the inspections as the event date nears.

Submitted by:

WB Larry B Cornett

1st Vice President 2nd Masonic District

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District Advisor

Terry W. Posey
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District Deputy Grand Masters

TIME

As we grow older, we become more conscious that we are being crowded for time. The years seem to pass more quickly and for many of us there seems to be little time left to complete all of our unfinished tasks and projects we had hoped to achieve in life.

Each one here this evening is endowed with a lifetime, which began at our birth and will terminate at our death. It is impossible for us to define time. We all know it is measured in seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years, seasons, ages and centuries. The past is gone and the future has not yet come. The present becomes the past even while we attempt to define it. Yesterday cannot be recalled, tomorrow cannot be assured; *only today is ours*. This, my brothers may also be lost, for if we wait, lose and waste our time, that which is lost is lost forever.

On one occasion, a very prominent Mason was asked, "what of all things in the world is the longest and the shortest, the fastest and the slowest, the most neglected and the most regretted?" His quick reply was "TIME." He said nothing is longer than time since it measures eternity; nothing is shorter since time is insufficient for the accomplishment of our projects. All men neglect it, all regret the loss of it, and nothing can be done without it. Time is mans most precious asset."

We are reminded of the hourglass, defined in Masonry as an emblem of human life. " Behold how swiftly the sands run and how rapid our lives are drawing to a close. We cannot, without astonishment, discern the small particles contained within this machine, how they pass away almost unnoticed, yet, to our surprise, in the short space of an hour they are all exhausted. Thus waste man, today he puts forth the green leaves of hope, tomorrow blossoms and bears his blushing honors thick upon him, the next day comes the frost which nips the chute, and when he thinks his greatness is still aspiring he falls like an autumn leaf to enrich mother earth."

There are three principles stages of life, youth, manhood and age. In youth, we should apply our minds in the attainment of useful knowledge so that in manhood we can apply that knowledge in the discharge of our duties to God, our neighbor and ourselves, so that in old age we may enjoy the happy reflection on a well - spent life and die in the hope of a glorious immortality. We are also reminded of the "Twenty Four Inch Gauge," which we in Masonry are taught is an emblem of time. " It being divided into twenty-four equal parts in emblematical of the twenty-four hours of the day, which we are taught to divide into three equal parts, whereby are found, eight hours for the service to God and a distressed worthy brother, eight for our usual vocation, and eight for refreshment and sleep."

We read in the Book of Proverbs, a striking event that I think covers the situation very clearly for many of us. It says a certain man planted a tree, cultivated it, watered it, and watched it grow. It became huge in size. He then felled the tree and with a part of it built himself a house to place a roof over his head and to shelter him from the inclemency's of the seasons, a part thereof he prepared fuel to burn to warm himself and to cook his meals, thus providing comfort and enjoyment for his physical well being. With the left over pieces he made him a God, or gave to the service of God. Isn't that about what we are doing? We are confusing and misplacing our priorities. We are providing for our physical comfort and convenience and if we have any time left we are offering it to the service of God and our fellowman.

We are told that time, patience and perseverance will accomplish all things if we wisely use our God given talents and properly divide the time allotted to us while traveling through this transitory state of existence. We read in the Book of Ecclesiastes, " To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under Heaven; A time to be born, a time to die; a time to plant, a time to harvest; a time to build up, a time to tear down; a time to weep, a time to laugh; a time to mourn, a time to dance; a time to love, a time to hate; a time to get, a time to lose; a time to keep, a time to cast away; a time to give, a time to sow; a time to speak, a time to keep silent; a time of war, a time of peace. Now is the accepted. Let me urge each of us to take a good look at ourselves and see if we are making the best use of our time so as to bring peace and contentment, for after all is said and done each of us will have to account for his actions and deeds. What I am trying to say is best summed up in the following poem, entitled:

"THE MAN IN THE GLASS"

When you get what you want in your search for wealth
And the world makes you King for a day:
Just go to the mirror and look at yourself
And see what *that man* has to say.

Because it is not your father, your mother or your wife
Whose judgment you must pass:
But the fellow whose verdict counts most in your life,
Is the man staring back at you from the glass.

Some folks may think you are a straight shooting chum,
And may call you a wonderful guy:
But the man in the glass says you are simply a bum
If you can't look him straight in the eye.

He is the one to please, never mind the rest
Because he is with you clear down to the end.

Author Unknown

Submitted by:

RWB Rick Shields
District Deputy Grand Master

Lodge Announcements

Please see the main page on the website. (secondmasonicdistrict.org)

