

Second Masonic District

January, 2006

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From The District

Brethren,

May we all have a Healthy and Happy New Year!

We will have the Written Ritual on **January 3rd** at Mystic Lodge #405 (location at DMC) at 7:00 PM.

On **January 28th** the Valley of Dayton will host the WM Recognition Night with a free dinner for all masons and a guest. Please call the DMC (937-224-9795) for reservations.

The next D.O.A. meeting will be held at Lincoln Lodge #693 on **January 31st** at 7 PM.

January's Quote

“It was character that got us out of bed, commitment that moved us into action, and discipline that enabled us to follow through”.

Zig Ziglar

Check Lodge announcements on the web page for more events.

If you have event announcements you would like to have listed in this Letter, please email Walt Barner at wbarner@woh.rr.com

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District Advisor

May you all have a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Terry W. Posey
Grand Orator
Grand Lodge of Ohio

District Deputy Grand Masters

WHY MEN LOVE FREE MASONRY
William C. Bell PM, Youngstown Lodge No. 615
Youngstown, Ohio

The New Brother sat near the Old Tiler in the anteroom, crossed his legs and took out his cigar case. "Have a smoke and unpuzzle me." The Old Tiler accepted the proffered cigar with a smile. "I am often puzzled, too," he sympathized.

"Tell me." "I am crazy about Masonry. I love it. So do a lot of other men. And I don't know why. I can't find anyone who will tell me why. Old Tiler, why do men love Masonry?"

The Old Tiler got up and crossed the room to a book case, extracted a volume and returned. "I read that question in this little book, 'The Magic of Freemasonry,' by Arthur E. Powell. Let me read to you--" The Old Tiler fluttered the pages. Finding his place he sat and began: "'Why do men love Masonry? What lure leads them to it? What spell holds them through the long years? What strand is it that tugs at our hearts, taut when so many threads are broken by the rough ways of the world? And what is it in the wild that calls to the little wild things? What sacred secret things do the mountains whisper to the hill man, so silently yet so surely that they can be heard above the din and clatter of the world? What mystery does the sea tell the sailor; the desert to the Arab; the arctic ice to the explorer; the stars to the astronomer? When we have answered these questions mayhap we may divine the magic of Masonry. Who knows what it is, or how or why, unless it be the long cabletow of God, running from heart to heart...'"

The Old Tiler closed the book and waited. "The cabletow of God," repeated the New Mason. "That's a beautiful phrase."

"It's more than a phrase, I think," the Old Tiler answered. "As I see it, the heart of Freemasonry by which all manner of men are attracted

and held, is just that- the longing for communion with the Most High."

Oh, you must be mistaken. Men who want God go to church."

"Do you go to church?"

"Er, oh, well, sometimes

"Yet you never miss coming to lodge?"

"No, I don't, but--"

"Never mind the 'but.'" The Old Tiler smiled. "A lot of men come to the Lodge who do not find heart's ease in the church. The Lodge is not a substitute for church. Masonry is not a religion, although it has religion. If the church fails, occasionally, it is because all human institutions must fail at times. No minister or church can satisfy all men. Some men find communion with the Most High in Masonry a greater satisfaction than in a church. I think that is the real reason some men love Freemasonry so much."

"You give me credit with being a lot more religious than I do," retorted the New Mason.

"Men are incurably religious," asserted the Old Tiler. "Many don't know it and refuse to call it by that name, like you, for instance! In a church men are told various things about God. In a Lodge they are allowed to tell themselves what they will. In a church you are taught a creed, a dogma. In a Lodge there is neither. In a church you are quiet and respectful and whisper if you speak at all. It is kept high, unspotted from the world. A Lodge is more intimate, personal. You can be jolly in a lodge, except during a degree. Here are just other men, brothers. They think as we do; they believe in the one God, as we do. They repeat the same words, think the same Masonic thoughts, do the same Masonic acts, as we do. We feel at home with them in consequence. "Through years of simple, profound degrees, we weave the Mystic Tie. We cannot say of what it is composed. We cannot put a name to it. St. Augustine, asked of God, answered, 'I know until you ask me- when you ask me, I do not know.' In your heart you know, and I know, what the Mystic tie is- what Freemasonry is. But you cannot say it, nor can I. It is too deep for words. It is the reason we use symbols, for words cannot express it. "Deep in us is something which understands what our brains cannot think; something which knows what our minds cannot comprehend. Masonry speaks to that something in its own language. If we must put it into words, God is the only syllable which seems to fit. But when we say God we mean no special deity, but all that is beautiful in life, in friendship, in charity, in brotherhood. "So, my brother, there is no reason for you to be puzzled; no man can answer your puzzle.

Freemasonry is loved by men because it strikes deep into the human heart, and supplies the answer to the question, the food for the hunger, which the tongue cannot express."

"Unless it is the tongue of a wise, wise Old Tiler," finished the New Brother thoughtfully. "And thank you, I am not puzzled now."

Submitted by:

Cliff Koss

DDGM Second Masonic District

So Mote It Be!

Written by Ron Merk Education Officer: Vancouver & Quadra #3 Victoria, BC Canada

No Lodge is ever opened or closed with out using "So Mote It Be!" and no Mason would embark on any great or important undertaking with out invoking the aid of the Deity. That request for aid would be concluded with "So Mote It Be!"

It's easy to define "So Mote It Be", much harder to tell you why Masons prefer it.

I suppose it could be as simple as tradition. "Amen, So Mote It Be" is the final phrase in our oldest known written document. (Regius Poem circa 1300s) Certainly tradition is important and for this reason alone the phrase deserves usage in our Lodges but the phrase is given more reverence and use than mere tradition dictates. There seems to be a much deeper meaning and force driving its use by the Brethren.

In simple terms "So Mote It Be!" can be described as the Masonic version of Amen! We use it in that sense to close prayer within the Lodge. In order to appreciate the significance of "So Mote It Be!", I found it necessary to more fully understand Amen.

Amen can be literally interpreted to mean "so be it". The Ancient Hebrews ended their prayer with a affirmative exclamation of " So Be It! So Be It! So May It Be!" Literally translated in our not so distance Anglo-Saxon past this phrase would have been delivered as "Amen! Amen! So Mote It Be!" We've further shortened it depending on who you're with as either "Amen" or "So Mote It Be".

To me, Amen seems to have become a word that suggests a passive acceptance of God's will. "Mote" on the other hand comes from the Anglo-Saxon verb "motan" meaning will or may. My belief is that the use of an action verb is significant in the understanding of why Masons prefer "So Mote It Be!" Using "So Mote It Be!" delivers an active assent of man to God's purpose. It is not meant to be a dumb resignation or blind submission, but rather a wise reconciliation to the will of the G.A.O.T.U. Masons using it are continuing the original intent of express a dynamic acceptance of this relationship with God. Is it any wonder we opt for it's use in our Lodges.

Submitted by:

Walt Barner
1st VP Second Masonic District

Lodge Announcements

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

Inspections

Day	Date	Lodge	Deg	Meal	Open
Thurs.	Jan 5	Dayton 147*	FC	No	7PM
Tues.	Jan 10	Eastern Star 55	FC	6PM	7PM
Thurs.	Jan 12	Libanus 80	EA	6PM	7PM
Tues.	Jan. 17	Hugh L. Bates 686	FC	No	7PM
Thurs.	Jan. 19	Minerva 98	EA	No	7PM
Fri.	Jan. 20	St. Johns 13	EA	No	7PM
Fri.	Jan. 27	John W. Durst 716	EA	No	7PM
Mon.	Jan. 30	Jefferson 90*	EA	6PM	7PM
Wed.	Feb. 1	Farmersville 482	FC	6PM	7PM
Tues.	Feb. 7	Mystic 405	FC	6PM	7PM
Sat.	Feb. 11	King Hiram 88	FC	8AM	9AM

*Indicates Lucky 7 Trophy Lodge

