

ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE NO. 5

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

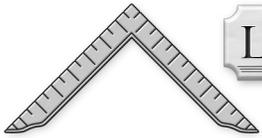


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LOOK TO THE EAST

Strangers

It is an old theme in literature that how we treat strangers says a lot about our character. The Ancient Greeks especially thought it was very important and went so far as to set out stern rules for how to behave, both for guests and hosts. The Greeks believed that the gods walked the Earth mingling with mortals and would occasionally stop in for a visit. Woe to the host who mistreated their guests.

The Greeks especially liked to illustrate how not to behave toward strangers. One memorable example was that of Procrustes, who lived along a well-traveled road between Athens and Eleusis. He would invite weary travelers to a meal and a bed for the night. He had only one requirement: that the traveler precisely fit the guest bed. This is the memorable part: it was Procrustes' design that the bed never actually fit any of the travelers. You see, Procrustes was really a highway robber. When the bed was too long for the traveler, Procrustes would stretch them to fit the bed. Conversely, if the bed was too short, then Procrustes would "shorten" the traveler via amputation. You can see how this always ended badly for the traveler. In the end, Procrustes got a taste of his own medicine when Theseus captured him and brought him back to Athens, there to be fitted onto his own "bed." In modern times, we still use the term "Procrustean bed" to indicate forcing something into an arbitrary standard by any means necessary.

The other story involves the Odyssey, which is full of references to the guest/host relationship. You might even say this is a major theme of the work. In one part of the story, Odysseus visits a Cyclops on an island. Odysseus reminds the Cyclops that, as a guest, he should be offered a meal and a place to sleep for the night. Instead, the Cyclops eats some of Odysseus' crewmates. How rude! Odysseus and his (remaining) men eventually poke out the Cyclops' only eye, leaving him literally blind (you see, he was "blind" to the norms of proper social behavior to begin with).

I recently had a chance to see the guest/host relationship in action. My daughter is learning how to drive, so after getting her permit, she and I have been taking trips here and there to get her some practice. On one such trip, we ended up just over the state line into Iowa.

After a while, I took over the driving duties and decided to tour some of the back roads a bit, just to see what was around. At one point, I saw an interesting old building that I wanted to take a closer look at so I pulled over to the side of the road. Well, this was February or March and there was a still lot of snow on the ground. As I got back into the van to leave, I realized that I had parked too close to the shoulder, which wasn't really a shoulder a shoulder at all (it was a steep drop off that had been disguised with lots of plowed snow). We were stuck! Courtney and I got out to assess the situation and, after a while, I decided to try again. As I tried to get back in the van, I realized that we had locked the only key we had in the (still running) van! So there we were, a long way from home along a dirt road in Iowa in a bit of a bad situation. I honestly thought we would have to walk to the nearest town, which was about 8 or 9 miles away. However, the very first car that came along stopped and offered to help. The young gentleman didn't have a chain with him, but he had a relative nearby who did, so he left to grab it. While he was gone, another gentleman drove up and also offered to help. He didn't have a chain either, but he and I started looking for some wire to get into the van. After a few more minutes, yet another young man drove up to help! Within a half an hour, we had the van open and pulled out of the ditch. I was simply amazed at the hospitality these people showed to a complete stranger who found himself in a bad situation from his own doing. Not once did a car pass by without stopping to offer help. Not once did anyone mention my stupidity for sliding off into a ditch and locking myself out of the van. I offered to pay the people for their help, but everyone politely refused my offers. This truly was an uplifting example of the generosity and I am eternally grateful. It certainly renewed my faith in the goodness of humanity.

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NEXT STATED MEETING

June 13th

6:00pm Dinner

7:00pm Meeting

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday, June 4 - Special Communication

6:30pm Fellowcraft Prove-Up Exam

Saturday, June 8 - Master Mason Degree

8:00am Coffee & Donuts, 9:00am Degree

Wednesday, June 12 - St. Paul Saints Game

5:30pm Tailgating, 7:05pm First Pitch

Thursday, June 13 - Stated Meeting

6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm Meeting

Wednesday, June 19 - School of Instruction (EA)

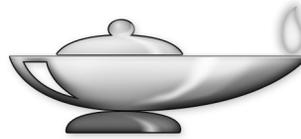
6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm Instruction

Saturday, August 17 - Lodge Golf Tournament

2:00pm Registration, 3:00pm Shotgun Start

Thursday, September 12 - Stated Meeting

6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm Meeting



LODGE EDUCATION OFFICER

What Come You Here To Do?

A few months ago in a LEO report to the Lodge I spoke on the subject of the “Lodge of the Holy Saint John at Jerusalem” It is the first question of the Master to the Senior Warden in the opening of a Lodge of Entered Apprentices. It is also the opening question to an Entered Apprentice in the prove up on the First Degree. This report originated from an earlier paper I had written regarding the second question in both the Lodge opening of the Entered Apprentice degree and in the prove-up.

“What come you here to do?” In my mind this is what Freemasonry is about and it is the most difficult to try to get your mind around. The answer to this is “to learn to subdue my passions and improve myself in Masonry.” In short, why are you here? In one way or another we have been asked that question at least once and most likely several times. Why do you want to become a member of Freemasonry? There are of course several answers and as the secretary for the Lodge for four years I’ve heard most of them. “I want to help in my community.” “I want to get more involved with charity”. “I have a friend...” and without fail somewhere in the conversion, “I looking for fellowship”, or something like that. Last month in my LEO report to the Lodge I presented Ill. Brother Carl H. Claudy’s composition, “Understanding” in which he stated that “charity is the least of things which Masonry does and the fellowship we enjoy in Lodge is not much more than one can get in any good organization”. The challenge of Freemasonry to its members is “why are you here?” This is personal.

I can’t think of the number of times I’ve heard someone say, “well you know nobody’s perfect”, or “There’s always room for improvement”, convenient sayings to focus attention on someone or something other than yourself. Nobody likes to be the focus of attention. It can certainly be implied that I am part of the “nobody’s perfect” statement because it’s about everybody not just me and I am part of everybody. And of course “there’s always room for improvement” isn’t about anyone certainly not about me. We are experts at dodging the issue and removing ourselves from personal confrontation but that is exactly what Freemasonry is challenging us with. “What come you here to do?” This is a personal “one to one” challenge from Freemasonry to YOU and nobody else! You are the focus here.

Anyone who has honestly considered this has felt just a little uneasy.



On Thursday, May 9th, WB Al Bohne received an award celebrating his 65 years as a Mason.

Congratulations WB Al!



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Old Glory

The Masonic Fraternity is involved in the birth of Old Glory, our national flag. The Revolutionary War, which granted us our freedom, was begun, I suggest, by our Masonic brothers of that period. At that time, there was no independent state, as such; rather, those defined areas were considered, independent colonies. The Declaration of Independence refers to these colonies as the united States, but “united” is not capitalized, and the word, AMERICA, is not included.

The rag-tag Continental Army went to war without an official battle flag, but rather than flying the banner (the Crown called them, “rags”) of each colony’s own militia, W.B. George Washington designed a banner, or flag, at the insistence of the Continental Congress, indicating a united effort. The new flag had the British Union Jack (official British flag) in union (support) in the staff corner (upper corner adjacent to the staff) on a field of 13 red and white stripes representing the 13 united states. While this irritated a great many patriots, due to the Union Jack, W.B. Washington had a better purpose (which is another story for another day). This new flag, also known as the Cambridge Flag, was a near copy of the banner flown by the British East India Company, a great supporter of the Crown. To the Crown and to the British East India Company, it was considered an appeasement by the colonies that they were not taking the declaration seriously and there were Crown-supporting citizens. However natural this supposition of appeasement was, yet it was erroneous. Besides, no true Englishman would want to fire on the Union Jack. Following the war, the flag was quickly changed. Just prior to the Declaration of Independence, George Washington, George Ross, and Robert Morris, all Masons, met with an “expert needle woman,” Betsy Ross, who ran an upholstery shop, apparently to discuss a national flag.

What was Masonry’s involvement in Old Glory besides George Washington? Freemasons were greatly involved in the revolution. I am, as well are most other Americans, particularly military members, veterans and Masons, fiercely proud of our nation; our bosoms swelling with pride and respect in the presence of Old Glory. I can attach much Masonry to that beautiful American icon, so fiercely admired and respected by freedom loving people and so desperately feared and hated by despots’ worldwide.

On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress officially noted, in only thirty words, our nation’s emblem: “Resolved, that the flag of the United States be 13 stripes alternate red and white, that the Union be 13 stars white in a blue field representing a new constellation.”

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DUE NOTICE

Special Communication - FC Prove-Up

There will be a special communication of Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 5 on Tuesday, June 4th at 6:30pm for the purpose of proving up our new Brothers on the Fellowcraft degree. The Lodge will be opened on the second degree promptly at 6:30pm and closed immediately following the prove-up exam. No refreshments will be served. Contact the Lodge Secretary (secretary@ancientlandmark5.com) with any questions.

Master Mason Degree

On Saturday, June 8, 2013, we will be putting on the Master Mason degree for our newest candidates. Please come down and show your support. Coffee and doughnuts will begin at 8:00 a.m. with the degree starting at 9:00 a.m. Summer dress (i.e., white polo shirt) is allowed.

St. Paul Saints Baseball

Wednesday, June 12, 2013, in conjunction with MacAlester Lodge #290, we will be attending at St. Paul Saints baseball game against the Fargo-Moorhead Redhawks at Midway Stadium. Cost is \$20 per person for both the tailgating and game. As is usually the case, the Saints have many promotions and June 12th is no different. As Ronald Reagan said “Tear down that wall!” That night will be a celebration of exciting demolitions! Bring the whole family and don’t forget to RSVP.

Golf Tournament

On Saturday, August 17, 2013 at 3:00 p.m., Ancient Landmark will be hosting its annual Golf Tournament at the Tartan Park Golf Course. Cost is \$35 per person and includes cart and time on the driving range to warm up (especially useful for those of us who haven’t hit the links in a while). Shotgun start.

Canadian Visitation

Don’t forget that this is the year we pay a visit to our sister lodge, Ancient Landmark #3, in Winnipeg, Manitoba over the Labor Day weekend. Since we only get to visit once every four years, take the opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones. Please RSVP so we can make arrangements for the travel and don’t forget to get your passports in order!



Look to the East... cont. from page 1

It is interesting that we have inherited the guest/host relationship in Freemasonry. This concept is embodied in every Mason's right to travel and be accepted as a brother in any lodge and in offering the highest respect and courtesy in our own lodge to visiting Brethren. Our own lodge in particular offers the chance to practice this concept every two years with the Canadian Visitation to Ancient Landmark #3 in Winnipeg. This year we will be making the trip up to Winnipeg to enjoy the fantastic hospitality that we always receive from our Canadian Brethren. If you haven't had the opportunity to do so, please consider making the trip. You will not be disappointed.

Finally, don't be a stranger. Come on down and see us. While we don't have a bed, Procrustean or otherwise, we do have a place for you. Until next time...

Joe Amos
Worshipful Master

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

(We are introducing a new Newsletter section encouraging the Lodge to participate in the activities of the Sunshine Committee, those activities that are central to the vows we made in lodge to our fraternity. Please alert the Lodge Secretary whenever you learn a Brother is in distress)

When we learn a brother is in distress, along with the traditional Card and Cheering gift from the Sunshine Committee on behalf of the lodge, we will be alerting and encouraging the Brethren to help, aid, and assist him with their calls and encouragement.

Brother Robert Beuc was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in 1957 and is a long time Shriner; participating in both the Osman Drum and Bugle Corps as well as a 2004 charter member of the Mighty Mites. Brother Bob is also a member of Eastern Star along with his wife Joann. He is in distress, please contact the lodge for information on how to reach him with your calls of encouragement.



LEO... cont. from page 2

Consider the answer, “to learn to subdue my passions and improve myself in Masonry”. If you’re going to improve something then there’s something or someone that needs improving and because this is a personal challenge to you directly the implication is that you are the one who need improving. I don’t believe I’ve ever heard anyone say with sincerity they could be a better man than they are. I have heard it said many times but not with any real sincerity and generally it’s said only as a matter of minor importance to the conversion at hand. You have to first admit you have some characteristic about yourself that needs improving and that’s not an easy thing to admit. None of us want to think of ourselves as flawed in any way but that is the first step in fulfilling the greatest challenge of Freemasonry and the interesting thing about this is it is also very private. It is not for anyone else but you and the guy in the mirror.

So, the next time you’re standing in front of the mirror scraping the fuzz of you face, listen to that guy looking back at you. He’s not telling you that you can be a better person, he’s not is he telling you that you’re doing anything wrong. He’s simple asking you to see if you can find some way to be a little better person today than you were yesterday and perhaps the best way to start is to realize that even though the card in your wallet says you’re a Master Mason you have a long journey to fulfill the true meaning of that statement.

I once read an essay written by a Hindu priest who was also a Master Mason. In it he said he would never consider himself more than a fairly well educated Entered Apprentice. He would consider himself lucky if he should ever meet a true Fellow-craft and it would be an honor beyond his dreams if he were ever to meet a true Master Mason in his lifetime.

What come you here to do?

Bruce Sherman, PM
LEO

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Letters... cont. from page 3

A new star, representing a new state may be added to the Union only on July 4th.

Old Glory: Why and how, that name? In Salem, Massachusetts, the Essex Institute displays a particular flag that is well looked after. Captain William Driver commanded the ship, Charles Doggett in the South pacific in 1831. To reward his gallant service on a particular occasion there, he was awarded the ship’s flag. Along side the flag hands a framed letter and picture and are endorsed as follows: “My ship, my country and my flag, Old Glory.” That flag followed Captain Driver in to retirement in Tennessee, where he would oft’ times display it on his house. When the Civil Ware began in 1861, the Confederates made many attempts to capture this flag, but the eccentric Captain Driver, who always carried a calico-colored quilt on his arm, could not be caused to surrender HIS flag. When the Union General Nelson captured Nashville, he was approached by Captain Driver, and after reassuring the Captain that he was in command, Driver slit open the quilt with a pocket knife and presented OLD GLORY to the Union forces.

Consider some Masonic symbolism within our stars & stripes. Masonry is driven and taught by symbolism and analogies, so let’s inspect some of those concerning Old Glory. Our flag, symbolic of our new nation, made its entrance, blind, not knowing what the future held, but having a trust in God to guide it. Our forefathers never approached any good or great work without first invoking the blessings of Deity. They feared no danger. How many times was Old Glory’s bosom pierced by sharp instruments - shell, cannon, searing phosphorous, or slander? During its many perambulations around our earth, how many times has it been tried, denied and offered up to be tried again? How many times has it helped a brother nation in distress? How many of its patriots have given their lives to protect its integrity?

FLAG DAY, June 14th, annually

“A ray of bright glory now beams from afar,
The American ensign now sparkles a star
Which shortly shall flame wide through the skies”

-*The Massachusetts Spy*
March 20, 1774

Respectfully submitted,
Al Bohne, PM



LODGE of SORROW 2013



And we shall become immortal by our deeds which will live on after us.

Name	Birth	Initiated	Passed	Raised	Celestial Lodge
Joseph Ditschler	04/29/1934			06/21/1966	01/24/2013



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