



NIPPON LODGE No. 9



GAZETTE



Free and Accepted Masons



MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF JAPAN

The Official Trestle Board of The Brethren of Nippon Lodge No. 9, Sasebo, Japan

July 21, 2020



Brethren please



Be safe

Be Well

WEAR mask

The Four Cardinal Virtues of Masonry

Freemasonry has four cardinal virtues - Temperance, Prudence, Fortitude and Justice.

Throughout masonic ritual we are taught the concepts of brotherly love and affection. The idea that we give our brothers respect for their ideas even when we don't agree with them is represented by the symbolism of the Level. When we restrain ourselves from making a negative comment or from interrupting because we feel we 'know better' than another person we may be exhibiting Temperance, Prudence and Fortitude, depending on how strongly we disagree.

All of this boils down to one word, which we rarely use in masonic ritual, Tolerance. The word Tolerance embodies much of what we talk about in our masonic ritual. Whether we agree or disagree with those within or outside our fraternity from time to time, the principles of Freemasonry teach us to be tolerant of those other beliefs or ideas. Unfortunately in the modern world, Tolerance sometimes takes on an odd new meaning, that of inaction. Often out of an abundance of Tolerance we sit back and are inactive in the face of vicious intolerance. Or, even worse, in the face of intolerance, we ourselves become intolerant.

In all of the known history of mankind, intolerance has never defeated intolerance, hate has never defeated hate. Generally one form of intolerance or hate just replaces another. At times in the history of our planet we have seen the cycle of hate, intolerance and associated violence, happen over and over again. Only when true Tolerance is brought out that the cycle of hate, intolerance and associated violence is broken.

Human beings are hard wired, for whatever reason, that hate is an easier emotion. Perhaps it is fight or flight, or perhaps some other reason. The fact is that hate can easily be brought out in us, it can then be misguided by ourselves or by outside influences to cause us to act on that hate. It is no wonder that when you look at the dictators around the world in the past and today that you see they give the people following them a villain, someone or something, to hate so the people following them can be more easily manipulated into the violence that comes with hate and intolerance.

Standing up to intolerance and seeking Justice for all is the only way to truly triumph over hate and tolerance. Unfortunately too often we as human beings try to group people, which leads to further

intolerance. Seeking Justice means that the specific individuals to blame for the injustice are found and punished accordingly. Making a generalization based on what or who the perpetrator of the injustice is, is just another form of intolerance. The fact is Justice needs Tolerance in its verdicts and without Justice there is no Tolerance.

It is so easy to turn to hate and intolerance in the face of the events going on in our World today. Possibly at no other time has the ideas of Temperance, Prudence, Fortitude, Justice and Tolerance been so important, not just for Freemasonry, for the entire World. In the face of the vicious killing of innocent lives, whether it be a man in a truck, a gunman who decides to punish others for the life they live, someone who guns people down for the uniform they wear, or someone who is unjustly killed while living their lives under the laws of a free society, it is so easy to turn to hate and intolerance. As Freemasons we need to rise above that and set an example as we stand as upright citizens by the virtues that we should hold dear.

Article was taken from the www.masonstudies.com and shared by RR J.P. Pevon, PhD, Yokosuka Lodge #30

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Worshipful Master's Corner



Fraternal and warmest greetings from the East! I hope that everyone is staying well and safely in your jobs and daily chores. We should all be glad, as I have said in one of our ZOOM gathering that we are still lucky that nobody amongst us got sick. Let us keep that trend going and ensure that we as well as our families are taking all the precautionary measures to proactively abide by all the guidance that will keep us safe and virus-free. It is quite noticeable that in the recent changes in situation that the number of affected people are spiking again in the entire world. Let us be vigilant.

Please accept my deepest gratitude to all the brethren. You continue to support our quest in keeping our brethren informed through your inputs to our monthly gazette, bulletins and ZOOM fellowships. This pandemic definitely changed the way we conduct our lives as well as the traditional way of conducting Masonic business in and out of the Lodge. I am receiving emails from brethren reminiscing the summer events that we usually do. The fellowships that include our families and friends. Just be reminded that those activities are not gone, and we will seize the day that everything normalizes to do our community services and family events.

I also would like to give KUDOS to the brethren that spent some of their valuable time to conduct our mid-year audit. They have to allocate some of their weekend family time to keep our records updated and accurate. That's very important as we go along with our Lodge business. In the same token, our Lodge Secretary will reach out to the brethren who are delinquent in paying their dues this Masonic year as well as the past years. So, please let us help the Lodge in reminding everyone to pay their dues. The payment of our yearly dues is very vital to the sustainment of our Lodge. So, let me plead to you to keep your passion in paying your dues (grin). Let us support our Mother the way we should. 70% dues collection might be overachieving, but setting up a goal will keep us focused in our dues collection.

Now, let me clarify one of the topics we discussed this past week regarding the sharing of our Lodge with our Prince Hall brothers. As we are bound by the subletting law of Japan, and we nor the Masonic Foundation of Japan does not own our Lodge building, we cannot fully share our Lodge to our Prince Hall brothers. We will allow them to use it for their degree work or meetings, but we cannot give them full and permanent access as a collocated lessee of the Lodge due to the reasons I stated herein. We can still share the Lodge with them, and during that time, one of us will be present during their temporary usage of the Lodge. To facilitate this venture, we will provide house rules to ensure that a smoother way of sharing will be for the benefit our both parties.

For degree work guidance, I am still awaiting further instructions from the GL. I am sure with our Corpsman brethren as well as the periodic guidance we get from the military commanders around Japan, we can formulate our own in addition to the GL guidance. We will ensure that the brethren are well-protected whenever we conduct the next degree work.

Again, appreciate all your efforts and diligence in participating in our events in the Lodge may it be through ZOOM or being assigned to a task for the Lodge. It personifies one of our ideals of who can best work and best agree to keep the Light of the Lodge to glow brightly while reaching the brethren withersoever dispersed.

Keep it ON THE LEVEL and be the strongest advocate of PEACE AND HARMONY! Be well and be safe.

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WBro Manny Manipula
Past Master NL #9



Senior Warden's Corner



The Perfect Ashlar

From a block of fine white marble, a wise sculptor created an elephant. Its beauty had an inner strength which radiated the culture of the East. When asked how he had created such a masterpiece, the sculptor replied that he had merely chipped away all that was not the elephant.

Throughout the history of World Culture, there have been many sculptors, yet few of these had the insight and the focus to create masterpiece elephants. The quality of what remains after "chipping away" depends upon how discerning the sculptor was.

Numerous factors affect this level of discernment. Was he mentally bogged down with money worries? Was he emotionally polarized with family matters? Was he overwhelmed by his glimpse into the human condition? Did he simply have a common cold? Was he having a bad day? All these and many more affect the quality of the finished product. (Is this an elephant that you would want in your living room?)

It is, of course, no laughing matter to the disappointed sculptor who sees all too well that his finished product is far from the wisdom, strength and beauty of his original concept. What went wrong? Who will be blame for his foolish, weak and ugly elephant? Who will be blame for his lack of discernment in wielding his working tools?

The ancients Taoists taught that a beginner stepping onto the Path of Enlightenment blames others. One that is traveling the Path of Enlightenment blames only himself; however, one that has completed the Path of enlightenment blames no one.

As brothers in Masonry, each of us have been given a concept of imperfection in the symbol of the Rough Ashlar, (that rough stone just taken from the quarry). We have also been given the concept of perfection in the symbol of the Perfect Ashlar or smooth stone. We were admonished to change the present state of our character, (which we were to consider as our Rough Ashlar), into a perfected character symbolized by the Perfect Ashlar.

Not only were we gently challenged to attain this goal, but also we were given the means by which we could achieve it. Thus we were gradually introduced to the symbolism of our Masonic working tools one of which is our common gavel. The common gavel looks like a small wooden ax head and is used to chip away the unnecessary parts of the Rough Ashlar. We use it symbolically to chip, shape and smooth our Rough Ashlar, (our present character), into a perfect Ashlar, (our concept of the perfect character). In other words, to chip away all that is not the elephant.

After being presented with our common gavel and other working tools and given an explanation of their function, we were then set upon a rough and rugged road. During our travels on this road, we would have many opportunities to use all of our working tools, especially, our common gavel.

It is highly significant for all Masons to reflect, every once in a while, upon arealistic evaluation of the present condition of our individual characters in order to truly see where we stand in this magnificent on-going process of perfection.

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Senior Warden's Corner



WBro Manny Manipula
Past Master NL #9

The Perfect Ashlar (continued)

Where we find obvious or subtle degrees of foolishness, weakness or ugliness of character, that is where we will be focusing our future efforts with our common gavel in order to bring our present character, (our Rough Ashlar), more in line with our Masonic concept of perfection-- The Perfect Ashlar.

In this process of perfection we can, (and should), invoke the blessings of God so that we may have the wisdom to contrive, the strength to support, and the beauty to adorn all great and important undertakings. Brothers, let there be no doubt about it, the perfection of our character is, according to all Masonic tradition, a great and important undertaking which we, as Masons, are honor bound to ever strive for and achieve.

Most of us are finding that the more we use our common gavel to chip away all that is not our concept of perfection in character, the more we can contemplate and use our other working tools such as the plumb, level, and square. This is simply due to the fact that our character flaws are distractions from perfection and take up much of our mental and emotional energy. As we consciously remove our character flaws we can then use that freed-up energy to more skillfully and energetically use our other working tools.

On this road toward a more perfect concept and practice of Masonry, each of us will encounter situations and conditions which will cause us to sit back and reflect upon our efforts with our working tools. We ask ourselves some vital questions such as, "How much of an increase in the skillful use of my working tools has my experience on this Masonic road of life produced?" What is the quality of my Ashlar to date? Is it perfect yet? (We're good, but not that good!). Does my Ashlar, (my character) exhibit wisdom for all the world to see, or does it exhibit foolishness for all the world to see? Does my Ashlar, (my character), exhibit strength for all the world to draw hope from, or does it exhibit obvious weaknesses for all the world to avoid? Does my Ashlar, (my character), exhibit beauty for all the world to rejoice with, or does it exhibit varying degrees of ugliness for all the world to shrink from.

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Bro. Carl Caluya



Junior Warden's Corner



Masonic Education

THE ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE

THE CANDIDATE'S FIRST STEP

After taking the Entered Apprentice Degree, the Candidate should have impressed upon his mind the three qualities which every Entered apprentice should possess if he is to attain full benefit and enjoyment of Freemasonry. These are Obedience, Humility and Industriousness. The Entered Apprentice should obey those appointed to teach him so he can learn what is required of him before progressing further. He must have a sense of humility so he will not develop a belief that he knows more than those who are assigned to teach him. Finally, he must also develop a spirit of industry, because Freemasonry requires those who want to know more about Masonry to spend time learning by studying the material available.

THE CANDIDATE MUST FIRST BE PREPARED IN HIS HEART

As a man thinketh, so is he; but as he purposes in his heart, so will his life be. The heart is the center of man's affections and desires. If clean within, his life will reflect that condition; but, the reverse is also true. We are concerned with the building of your character in your life. Work toward this goal must begin within your heart. For, if your heart is not ready, we cannot expect to make an impression on your mind. Therefore, a Candidate who comes seeking light must be prepared in his heart.

DULY AND TRULY PREPARED

Being duly and truly prepared refers to the wearing of special garments furnished by the Lodge in order to emphasize our concern with man's intellectual qualities rather than his worldly wealth or honors. By wearing garments of humility the Candidate signifies the sincerity of his intentions.

SYMBOLS OF MASONRY

Most of the great lessons of Freemasonry are imparted by symbols which were carefully selected by our Masonic forefathers. These symbols with their lessons are many and varied and require long and continuous study by all Masons.

THE HOODWINK

The first symbol is the Hoodwink. It is a symbol of darkness where the uninitiated dwells. It is also a symbol of secrecy and is practiced for spiritual rather than physical reasons. The darkness of the Hoodwink is replaced by the light of understanding when the Candidate begins to discover the mysteries of Freemasonry.

THE CABLE-TOW

The Cable-Tow is a symbol of the external restraints which are placed upon the life of man. It is also generally regarded to mean the scope of one's ability to perform his obligations to his Brethren.

THE ENTRANCE

The entrance into the Lodge includes everything that happens at the Inner Door and is intended to teach the significance of initiation as the symbolic birth of the Candidate into the world of Freemasonry.

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Treasurer's Corner



H.W. Bro. Bill Cloonan
Hon. Past Master NL#9



As we enter the halfway mark of CY 2020 at Nippon Lodge No 9, it is time for your Secretary and Treasurer to complete our semi-annual audit. With this in Mind if you have not paid your yearly dues to the Lodge, I ask for your assistance in the continued support of your Lodge. We are currently in our 63rd year of providing Light to Brethren who so desire to receive that light.

As Free Masons, we have obligated ourselves at the Altar to support all of the rules/regulations and By-laws of our beloved Lodge of which we have become a member and are beholden. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your Lodge Treasurer for the information you may need to pay your dues either by check/money order or a direct bank transfer to NFCU. Our website. Located here: www.nipponlodge9.com provides all of the information necessary to effect a direct transfer of funds to NFCU. The front page of the website displays a link entitled Special Announcements. As you know our yearly dues are \$120.00. We found it necessary in 2018 to raise the dues from \$70.00 to \$120.00 due to inflation and additional obligations that we owe to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Japan.

Again, thank you for the continued support of your Lodge.

With continued Fraternal embrace,

Bro William (Bill) Cloonan, HPM, Nippon Lodge No. 9
Sasebo, Japan

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WB Henry J. Staggs
Past Master NL#9



Secretary's Corner



Important Reminder : [PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES & SUPPORT OUR CAMPAIGN FOR THE MAXIMUM COLLECTION OF DUES FOR THE INCOMING MASONIC YEAR 2021.](#) For those who have not paid for this year, you can still send your payment to the Lodge or by bank transfer to our NEFCU account.

Please join me in giving thanks and accolades to the audit team particularly WB Benny Delarosa, WB Hirota Ito, WB Mike Velarmino, HWB Earl Epperson and WB Ron Deguzman for their dedication and diligence. We have completed our audit for the Treasurer's and Secretary's records. Through this audits, we were able to identify the deficiencies that we have in our dues collection, contact information and improving our recordskeeping procedures.

While I am still working on the personal contact information of all our Lodge members, please feel free to inform me if you know of any brethren that we need to include in our Lodge correspondence. Let us support the Lodge by campaigning for the maximum dues collection. This pandemic significantly improved our opportunities to generate extra funds through our fundraising events. We will double our efforts as soon as the first opportunity knocks to do so.

Please be reminded that our new official Lodge email address is:

nipponlodge9sasebo@gmail.com

You can send any inquiries or matters concerning your membership as well as any correspondence you want the Lodge to address. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.



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Points of Contact:

WEB: www.nipponlodge9.com

FB: NL9 Officers and Members

Nippon::9 (Non-Tiled)

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MASONIC YEAR 6020 (A.L.) OFFICERS

Worshipful Master	WB Ace R. Asuncion
Senior Warden	WB Manny Manipula (PM Nippon Lodge #9)
Junior Warden	Bro. Carl Caluya
Secretary	WB Ed Burdios (PM Harry S. Truman Lodge #694)
Treasurer	HWM Bill Cloonan (Honorary PM Nippon Lodge #9)
Chaplain	WB Ron Deguzman (PM Aomori Lodge #10)
Marshall	WB Mike Velarmino (PM Nippon Lodge #9)
Senior Deacon	Bro. Will Dispolo
Junior Deacon	Bro. Joseph Delacruz
Senior Steward	Bro. Nathan Wade
Junior Steward	Bro. Hero Jambalos
Tiler	Bro. Orlan Blanco

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