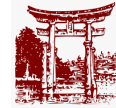




NIPPON LODGE No. 9



GAZETTE



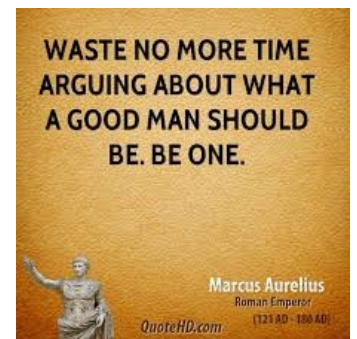
Free and Accepted Masons



MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF JAPAN

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

May 08, 2020



Finding Your Purpose in Masonic Life

I do remember during my childhood years that I always had a grin on my face when we visit our grandparents from my father's side. I once asked my great mentor (my dad) why is my grandpa wearing a white apron and a bandana on his head with a bunch of men with the same attire? He uttered to me that my grandpa belongs to a society of righteous men whom he dearly loves. I did notice the dedication that my grandpa when it comes to charity, good deeds and the numerous friends that he had anywhere we went. It was admirable. He was always sought after for his mentorship and forward leaning wisdom. Those moments registered in my mind and made a big impact in my upbringing as my father emulated my grandpa. We all need a role model in life who will serve as our inspiration.

So, why did you join Masonry? What is your purpose in doing so? I did

ran across Masonry again during my early years in the Navy. I then realized how universal and widespread the Fraternity is. I made a lot of Mason friends during my entire time in the Service and decided to join the Craft.

While my perception of the Craft was only based from the people that I met back then, I always thought that Masonry has greater and better things to offer than what I experienced then or what I saw from my grandpa. Before I joined, I told myself that it will be a purpose-driven adventure. I should cast away my doubts that people joined the Craft to get promoted, to get a job after retirement, to be in a clique or any other personal gain. If I will look back to those attributes, I will not be in because I was discouraged by those people who used Masonry as a status quo or a sense of belonging with their aimless and insidious

participation. I am still glad to meet a lot of true Masons before I became one, but my grandpa's influence prepared me to be one.

In conclusion, let me leave you with my personal thoughts about my travel. It is not a perfect organization, but most of its members are trying to make it perfect. We must always remember that we were initially prepared from our hearts. The real essence of the three degrees is a representation of the progressive science that shall serve as a reminder of our rebirth in Masonry and all its metaphors and teachings shall be the foundation of our worthy travel as a Mason. As I said before, focus not on the "selected few" who differentiate their understanding of our Craft and have personal agenda, but emulate those "important many" who continue to live an honorable and purposeful Masonic life. Think of — my legacy in my Lodge and in my life.

BROTHERLY LOVE



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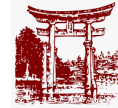
TRUTH



NIPPON LODGE No. 9



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Worshipful Master's Corner



Fraternal greetings from the East! I hope this monthly gazette finds you and families doing well as we continue with the challenges of this pandemic. From a Masonic standpoint, this contagion has tested the virtues that were taught to us when we first stepped into our Lodge. The same five virtues that distinguished us to be that type of person who can withstand the test of this lingering wickedness of this insidious virus. In harmony, the great minds of the intellectuals shall prevail and eliminate this problem.

Please let me thank everyone for your continued support to our ideals even during this unprecedented times of not having LOIs, absence of our fellowships and not being able to conduct our monthly Stated Meetings and all the usual businesses included in it. Please hang in there. The very first opportunity that comes for us to meet, we will do so and catch up with the activities that we missed. Please keep any initiatives you have in mind until we meet again, and do what we do best in the name of charity.

Leaning forward with this ensuing Masonic Year, I will be touching base particularly with our elected officers for the following:

- A. Financial audit of our Treasurer's records around the summer
- B. Membership audit with the Secretary to determine our current members and prepare to reach out to all members whether in good standing or not to maximize our dues collections in support of the next Masonic Year.
- C. I just did a follow up with E.J. King on the submission of the Nippon Lodge 9 Scholarship packages. We will send those packages to our selected judges to pick the best candidates for the scholarship.
- D. We are planning to make financial donations to Seifuen and Wakatake Ryo Orphanages. Being verified, I will use the authorized provisions of the Lodge by-laws to maximize the amount and legalize this action without the vote of the brethren. I will keep you updated on this.

We have been dark for a while, and we are trying our best to keep everyone informed through our bulletins and gazette. As I have passed along before, the ANCOM for this year has been cancelled and to be convened for next year. That means our current Grandmaster will remain until the next ANCOM. ***The Grand Lodge has reopened with restrictions imposed. More updates to follow on that.***

Thanks to the brethren who supported and contributed their wisdom and thoughts in completing this Gazette. Hats off to you all!

Please continue to be vigilant and cautious in all your actions to maintain your utmost safety and health as well as your families including the other people around us. By following the pertinent rules and regulations imposed by the proper authorities, we are showing respect to protect everyone. Stay safe and stay home. Time to break out those old pics and cook those delectable dishes. For some intellectual reading, I would suggest that you read the book of Marcus Aurelius titled MEDITATIONS. Inspiring reading.

Lastly and most important of all, let us ask for the guidance and wisdom of the GAOTU to keep us safe as well as the frontliners and those who are working hard to find the solutions to this pandemic. PEACE and HARMONY!

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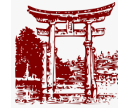
TRUTH



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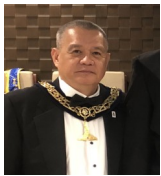
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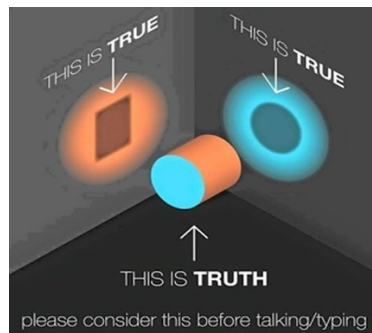
Senior Warden's Corner



WBro Manny Manipula
Past Master NL #9

MASONIC VIRTUE OF TRUTH

I ran across an article written by a brother (name unknown) while researching Masonic editorials for our Gazette. I found this an interesting read and educational, and I would like to share to the brethren in my own words. It is about "Truth". This reminds me that what we might see (and hear), we might not comprehend and may be misinterpreted. In today's era of "Social Media", proliferation of misinformation are rampant, like "VIRUS" spreading uncontrollably, infecting many of the minds resulting in chaotic destruction. Many have fallen victims to "Fake News" without even knowing it. He spoke about "Plato's Cave" and the mystery of truth: Plato's "Allegory of the Cave" appearing in his book The Republic. The Republic is a Socratic dialogue, written by Plato around 380 BC, concerning justice, the order and character of the just city-state, and the just man. It is Plato's best-known work, and has proven to be one of the world's most influential works of philosophy and political theory, both intellectually and historically. Its ideas are still lively discussed and the image below gives you the central message in the Cave Allegory. In The Republic, truth has even more levels than those shown in the image on this page. Let us again look at the picture below, often opinions are formed and held all too strongly around the shadows on the wall rather than trying to get to the "TRUTH". Truth is one of the three great principles that Freemasonry is founded on. As the picture shown below, we might see facts, but the "truth" can sometimes be hard to see. We often hold onto our facts, what we believe to be "True" without finding "Truth", as the shadows below show.



Brethren, we have to look from within and discern. To be good and true is the first lesson we are taught in Masonry. On this theme, we contemplate, and by its dictates endeavor to regulate our conduct. Hence, while influenced by this principle, hypocrisy and deceit are unknown among us; sincerity and plain dealing distinguish us; and with heart and tongue, we join in promoting each other's welfare and rejoicing in each other's prosperity. Freemasons strive for truth, requiring high moral standards and aiming to achieve them in their own lives. As one of the Three Great Principles of Freemasonry, we believe that these principles represent a way of achieving higher standards in life.

BROTHERLY LOVE



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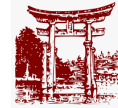
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Junior Warden's Corner



Bro. Carl Caluya

MASONIC EDUCATION

CHAPTER XIV

Of Arrest Of Jewel

We have emphasized the importance of rules of order in the Lodge (Chapter XXVIII of Code of Builders) in our prior Gazette (Feb 2020). Now, we will discuss the authority of the Grandmaster as well as the Master of a Constituent Lodge to ensure that order and discipline of the Lodge officers are within the proper performance of their sworn duties and in abeyance with their duties delineated in the Lodge by-laws and the Constitution. The below provisions apply:

Sec. 87. Who May. - The Grand Master may, during the communication of the Grand Lodge or during the recess thereof, arrest the jewel of any officer of the Grand lodge for such misconduct as would bring reproach upon the office or the Craft. He may also arrest the warrant of any Lodge or the jewel of its Master for like reasons, when in his judgment- the good of Freemasonry shall require it. (See Constitution Articles 23, 32 & 33.)

Sec. 88. Same. - The Master of a Constituent Lodge may arrest the jewel of any officer of his Lodge for such misconduct as in his judgment would bring reproach upon the Lodge or the Craft; and he must make such arrest at any time by order of the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master, and In all cases shall forthwith report such action to the Grand Master.

Sec. 89. Review. - in every case where the jewel of an officer is arrested, either in the Grand or in a Constituent Lodge, the officer thus deposed shall have the right to have his case heard upon its merits in the Grand Lodge; and to that end he may petition the Grand Lodge therefor, setting forth in his petition the particulars of his grievance. The Grand Lodge shall thereupon have jurisdiction, and may proceed to the investigation in a summary way and at its discretion, keeping in view the attainment of Masonic justice.

Sec. 90. Restoration. - it is competent for the officer on whose authority a jewel is arrested to restore the same whenever in his judgment justice and, the good of the Craft require it.

Sec. 91. Effect Of Arrest. -The effect of arresting a jewel shall be to suspend the officer from all the functions of his office; and its restoration shall fully restore him thereto; but such arrest shall not otherwise affect his standing as a Mason.

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May 08, 2020



Treasurer's Corner



HWBro. Bill Cloonan

As Freemasons we all know that the Lodge is not a business as such. However, the Lodge does have financial obligations just like any Association. The elected Treasurer of your Mother Lodge can be likened to the CFO of any large company, coupled with that are the commensurate responsibilities of accurate accounting. Your Mother Lodge has essential financial obligations which the membership dues contribute to in a large way. Your Mother Lodge sincerely and always appreciates the continued support of your Lodge, Freemasonry, and in remembering your obligations.

I will end my short column with a quote from a famous Freemason that hopefully will stir your thoughts.

“Freemasonry has promoted fellowship, it has nurtured brotherhood, it has practiced charity. It has education, it has been founded on truth and the cardinal virtues. But what is Masonry’s greatest mission in life today? What should be the thrust of modern Masonry? Those are the answers we are presently seeking, and on our success in finding the answer depends the future of our Fraternity.” – L. L. Williams

As an afterthought, I felt it appropriate to add the following photograph.



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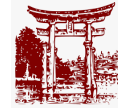
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Words of Wisdom

(WBro. Ron Deguzman– Past Master Aomori Lodge #10)

THE SQUARE

THIS is one of the most important and significant symbols in Freemasonry. As such, it is proper that its true form should be preserved.

The French Masons have almost universally given it with one leg longer than the other, thus making it a carpenter's square. The American Masons, following the incorrect delineations of Jeremy L. Cross, have, while generally preserving the equality of length in the legs, unnecessarily marked its surface with inches; thus, making it an instrument for measuring length and breadth, which it is not. It is simply the "trying square" of a stonemason, and has a plain surface: the sides or legs embracing an angle of ninety degrees, and is intended only to test the accuracy of the sides of a stone, and to see that its edges subtend the same angle.

In Freemasonry, it is a symbol of morality. This is its general signification and is applied in various ways:

1. It presents itself to the neophyte as one of the three great lights;
2. To the Fellow-Craft as one of his working tools;
3. To the Master Mason as the official emblem of the Master of the Lodge.

Everywhere, however, it inculcates the same lesson of morality, of truthfulness, of honesty. So universally accepted is this symbolism that it has gone outside of the Order, and has been found in colloquial language communicating the same idea. Square, says Halliwell (Dictionary of Archaisms), means honest, equitable, as in "square dealing." To "play upon the square" is proverbial for "to play honestly." In this sense the word is found in the works of the old writers. As a Masonic symbol, it is of very ancient date, and was familiar to the Operative Masons.

In 1830, the architect, in rebuilding a very ancient bridge called Baal Bridge, near Limerick, in Ireland, found under the foundation-stone an old brass square, much eaten away, containing on its two surfaces the following inscription: I WILL STRIVE TO LIVE – WITH LOVE & CARE – UPON THE LEVEL – BY THE SQUARE," and the date "1517." The modern Speculative Mason will recognize the idea of "living on the level and by the square." This discovery proves, if proof were necessary, that the familiar idea was borrowed from our Operative brethren of former days.

The square, as a symbol in Speculative Masonry, has therefore presented itself from the very beginning of the revival period. In the very earliest catechism of the last century, in 1725, we find the answer to the question, "How many make a Lodge?" is "God and the Square, with five or seven right or perfect Masons." God and the Square, religion and morality, must be present in every Lodge as governing principles. Signs at that early period were to be made by squares, and the furniture of the Lodge was declared to be the Bible, Compasses, and Square. In all rites and in all languages where Masonry has penetrated, the square has preserved its primitive signification as a symbol of morality.

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May 08, 2020



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NIPPON LODGE No. 9

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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