

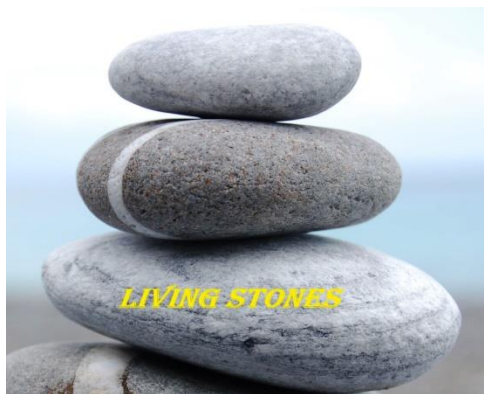
The Purpose of Masonry?

To begin this 'Living Stone', I ask that you think back to one of the first questions asked of you when you began your journey in Masonry...it was, of course... 'What came ye here to do?' Your answer was... 'to learn, to subdue my passions, and improve myself in Masonry'. Now I pose this query...if a man is morally qualified to become a Mason, then what does the Craft have to offer him? We all agree that one of the purposes of Masonry is to 'improve oneself'. It's a system of morality. Therefore, from that we can deduce that it would mean nothing to those who lack the desire to grow spiritually.

'Goodness' is not a fixed element which a man works at today and takes a rest from tomorrow. Masonry is the force that leads men on in adventures of the heart, keeping a man properly aligned between the two columns in life - The Pillar of God's Creation, and the Pillar of Man's Creation. As we all have probably discovered, there is forever a struggle between 'life'....and the 'things' of life. The victory in life is not in waiting for the destruction of those adverse conditions that might surround you, but in making your life happen right in middle of all those adverse conditions.

Men, therefore, may be morally qualified to become Masons, and yet still fail to improve themselves in the art of Masonry. The failures are those who believe that the ultimate attainment of some degree of spiritual improvement is not worth the steady and hard work that is required to achieve it.

It is essentially necessary that our officers make a thorough study of Masonry in order to hold up before the members the real purpose of our Gentle Craft. The proper discharge of the duty of the Worshipful Master is to see that the lodge is set to labor under good and wholesome instruction, and that, my brethren, can largely determine the success of a lodge. But listen closely.....the success of a Lodge of Freemasons can't be computed in sheer numbers, in the number of degrees we confer, or in proficiency in the ritualistic work. Oh, they are indeed good milestones on the road to success, but Masonry can't offer something that must first be found in the heart. It begins there and when properly explored and expanded will indeed take us, and our Lodge, to paths of undreamed of success. I believe we, as a Lodge are traveling the right path, but now ask yourself...are you ready?...What came ye here to do?



Living Stones - Masonic Thoughts for Today's Mason
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