

Our Journey up the Winding Stairs

Last month I shared some thoughts about the pillar of beauty in a different light by recognizing the beauty of being an active participant and member of the Lodge. We now “step off” to the next level of Masonry. The second step of the winding staircase is marked with a level, and indicates the station of the Senior Warden in the West who represents strength.

There is an idiomatic phrase we’ve all heard... ‘on the level’. While it is not definitively of Masonic origin, we can easily draw a correlation to attending Lodge since the phrase indicates that everyone is equal and implies that there should be no dishonesty among those present. The word ‘level’ has many definitions whether it is the physical device used to prove horizontal surfaces, or the surfaces themselves (such as the steps in our staircase) or it could be the action of actually using the tool to make the surfaces that way. From this we see that one simple word, or tool, can be quite versatile.

Another interesting fact is the word ‘level’ is a palindrome, which means it reads the same in either direction. This makes it ideal for us as Masons to view everyone the same way from all directions, and see them as those who do have a claim upon our kindness as mentioned in the closing charge of the Lodge.

If we apply the principles taught by the level, this gives us the strength to continue climbing the stairs in our journey, and to support others as liberally as we possibly can. This strength can expand further than our Lodge brethren. If we start by being strong individuals and strong in the Lodge, we can expand to being a stronger part of our community and our community can grow in strength to support our nation along with others. As Confucius said: The strength of a Nation is derived from the integrity of the home.

Now, let us take our strength to the next level!

Living Stones - Masonic Thoughts for Today's Mason
Douglas M. Messimer, LEO
Fraternal Lodge No. 53 3-21