

**MASTER'S MINUTE, September 02, 2016 “Focusing on Light”**

My Brothers,

Are you a source of light, or of darkness?

We create our own reality. What we expect from life is often what we receive. If we expect and look for the trouble, disagreement, and negativity in situations, that is what we are sure to find. If however, we expect and look for the good, cooperative, and positive outcomes in situations that is what we will experience.

Life cannot, and does not always go smoothly. We cannot appreciate the good times and the joys that life brings without the rough times that must cross our path at times. It is our response to these times that defines who we are. We have overcome a dark cloud that had been hanging over us as a Lodge. Through our trials and tribulations we managed to focus on the positive, and minimize the negative, and we have emerged strong.

Brothers, I must admit, I have been guilty at times of being a source of darkness. That is, in seeing and focusing only on the problems in Lodge that I perceived. During those times I made my best effort to refocus on the positives of the earnest brotherhood generated in this Lodge, and used that as moral courage and strength to carry on.

Yes, there are problems in every organization, and in every Lodge. This has always been, and always will be. But we cannot be negative about these difficulties. Our negative thoughts are like a cancer which spreads and weakens us, and those around us, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. We are an organization that looks for the best in individuals, and we focus on the things that bind us together and make us strong. While many people, especially in the Presidential election season, are focused on things that divide people, we as a group of men remain focused on what we have in common and what binds us together. This is what makes us strong.

It is easy to fall into the trap of negativity or darkness. But, with effort on our part, and the assistance of the G.A.O.T.U., we can instead choose to open our eyes to the light. My Brothers, that light is Brotherly love. Love is being positive and expecting the best life has to offer. Love is knowing that, although our human frailties will result in disagreement and want to focus on division, where there is hope and understanding there can be the peace and harmony to work together towards a common goal.

Many changes are coming to our young Lodge. As we make our way through changes, let us focus on the light, in spite of the darkness. So, for the sake of the Fraternity and your well-being, I urge you to make the commitment to change, to become a source of Masonic Light, that, like the Sun in the heavens, all the world can see.