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# Palm Springs 693

## Trestleboard April 2018

### Thoughts from the East – April 2018

The Lodge is a symbol of many things to many people but one interpretation of what a Lodge represents really caught my attention. In this interpretation the lodge is a symbol of man and when the prospect or candidate walk into the lodge they are looking at the representation of themselves. All the Officers are different aspects of himself which he has to get to know hence the saying “Know thyself” I always wondered why we don’t put up a sign at the entrance to every lodge that has that saying so that every time we enter it we can’t help but look at that saying and remember that the only way to get to know ourselves is to become observant, patient, contemplative and studious. Some men might say “but where is that in the ritual?” and I will tell them that it is repeated to us every time we open a lodge of Entered Apprentice Masons. When the Master asks the SW: “what came you here to do? What does the SW say? If you guessed the answer then you know that in order to do that very thing takes time, observance, contemplation and perseverance. But that is not all. We also need Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice. With these you may say that that completes what we need in order to get to know thyself but I would say no to that. I believe we also need to learn to exemplify Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

Like I said above, the Lodge is many things to many people and if one just begins to delve into the ritual and all the related materials of the Constitutions and By-Laws, the 25 Ancient Landmarks and so forth you may see that some of what I’m saying has Merit.

This month stated meeting topic of discussion will be The Eight Steps to Excellence. The Trivium Discussion Group meets on the 10<sup>th</sup> and they will be reviewing Ch.3 of The Trivium.

On April 17<sup>th</sup> we will be practicing the Second Degree Second Section in preparation of OSI in May here in Palm Springs Lodge – Topic of Discussion will be the Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences

April 19<sup>th</sup> is OSI at Yucca Valley Lodge

April 24<sup>th</sup> is our Executive Committee Meeting #3 beginning at 6pm. Masonic Exploration will be The Apron.

See you all there

Cesar Rubio – Master



### **Hall Association Report:**

**Brethren, of Palm Springs Masonic Lodge 693**  
The repairs are now complete in the dinning hall.  
The following repairs were made; new roof on the lodge, all electrical now meets code, drywall, insulation, paint inside and outside of building, new efficient lighting that can be dimmed, masonry patched on building inside and outside and new office and storage space. Still underway are the following; hanging pictures, flat screen tv, furniture for lounge area, building lighting and landscaping. We are almost done, thank you to all the brethren for their help during this process and a special thank you to the Scottish Rite and Peace and Freedom Church for their patience during the repair work. The hall association hopes that all the brethren enjoy the new look of the lodge.



**Brotherly Love!**

### **Notice of By-Law's Change:**

As required by the California Masonic Code 802.020 Article III & IV This is notice that a motion has been made at the March 6, 2018 stated meeting for the following by-law amendment. A Motion to raise the application fee for all three degrees at Palm Springs Masonic Lodge 693 from there currant cost of \$300.00 to the amount of \$975.00 The motion was made and seconded and will be heard and voted on at the May 1, 2018 stated meeting. The motion will pass with 2/3 of the members present on May 1, 2018 voting yes.

The following is the fee schedule:

Entered Apprentice \$450.00

Fellowcraft \$325.00

Master Mason \$200.00



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# Masonic Questions

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Last year circumstances led to me asking a brother Mason “What do you mean when you use the word Loyalty?” I never received an answer, and I understand now that it might not have been the easiest question to answer. Though, it is a question we all, as Masons, should try and answer for ourselves.

Stop for a moment and contemplate the word Loyalty.

Loyalty: ety. c. 1400, from Old French loialte, leaute "loyalty, fidelity; legitimacy; honesty; good quality Masonry clearly informs each of us that we first have a Duty to God, our neighbor, and to our self.

I’ve come to understand that without defining it as a duty, I understand that I had a duty, and that led me to Masonry. A personal Honor led each of us to Masonry. We were aligned with Masonry before we were made a Mason. It was already in our hearts. As with all my Masonic research I go directly to our Ritual so let’s see what we find. There are many prominent words or can I say are Foundational Words in Masonry, words like Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty; Brotherly love, Relief, and Truth; Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice; Faith, Hope, and Charity. These words are, as previously mentioned, words that make up the very Foundation of our Craft, and are well defined in our ritual.

The one word that I can’t find in the Ritual is the word Loyalty. That’s when I started to understand that it’s not an easy word to use. Why you ask, let me give you an example. As a brother rightly pointed out last year, the second section of the Third Degree to my understanding gives us examples of Loyalty two different ways.

The first example of Loyalty:

Two men, show one man personal Loyalty, and hatch I dishonorable, despicable, emotional, and murderous plot.

The second example of Loyalty:

A man would rather die than dishonor his obligation. Telling the brutes “I cannot, I shall not, I will not.”

Could it be possible that this lesson is teaching us that we are accosted every day by Fear, Emotion, and Ego demanding our loyalty? Could Masonry be trying to show us that giving our loyalty to Fear, Emotion, and Ego only results in evil deeds? Instead our loyalty should be to the principles, tenets, and obligations of Masonry

Loyalty is Synonyms with the words: Honor, Duty, Truth, Constancy, and Uprightness. That means the word Loyalty is synonyms with the three pillar symbols of Masonry. The Plumb, Level, and Square.

**Uprightness = the Plumb**

**Constancy, Uniformity, and Equality = the Level**  
**Truth = the Square.**

In summary, the word loyalty is a wonderfully, powerful, broad, but misleading word? Maybe the only loyalty we should have is to our true self, that divine spark within each of us, the divine that led us to Masonry. Not giving it to our self-centeredness, the Ego, possibly our first and greatest Deceiver. Can it be said, Masonry knows the deeds that comprise manhood, and is telling us to do those deeds until mere males become genuine men, like our G.M.H.A.

This Article was sent in by Brother Dave Mathews.  
Thank you, Brother Dave,

## **MASONIC MANLY MAXIM OF THE MONTH**

“Every moment and every event of every man’s life on earth plants something in his soul.” —Thomas Merton, from *New Seeds of Contemplation* (1961)

“I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. . . . The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.” —Nelson Mandela, from *Long Walk to Freedom* (1995)

“Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness.” —Martin Luther King Jr., recorded in *The Words of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, by Coretta Scott King (1983)

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” —Martin Luther King Jr., from *Strength to Love* (1963)

“We live in a feminist and effeminate culture. Because of this, at best, as a people we are uneasy with masculinity, and with increasing regularity, whenever it manages to appear somehow, we call for someone to do something about it.” —Douglas Wilson, from *Future Men* (2001)

Mansfield, Stephen. *Mansfield's Book of Manly Men: An Utterly Invigorating Guide to Being Your Most Masculine Self* (pp. 249-250). Thomas Nelson. Kindle Edition.

“The central problem of every society is to define appropriate roles for the men.” —Margaret Mead, from *Male and Female: A Study of the Sexes in a Changing World* (1968)

“You can fake virtue for an audience. You can’t fake it in your own eyes.” —Ayn Rand, from *The Fountainhead* (1943)

“Happiness does not consist in amusement. In fact, it would be strange if our end were amusement, and if we were to labor and suffer hardships all our life long merely to amuse ourselves. . . . The happy life is regarded as a life in conformity with virtue. It is a life which involves effort and is not spent in amusement.” —Aristotle, from *The Nicomachean Ethics*

Mansfield, Stephen. *Mansfield's Book of Manly Men: An Utterly Invigorating Guide to Being Your Most Masculine Self* (pp. 250-251). Thomas Nelson. Kindle Edition.



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**If any Brother would like to submit an article for publication in the Trestleboard, please send to [jrg28@hotmail.com](mailto:jrg28@hotmail.com)**

**As always please forgive any errors and omissions  
Fraternally,  
Jeff Gibson**

**Happy Birthday:**

**William Roose  
Mark Hunter  
Jerry Myers  
De Mell Skelton  
Philip Tyrrell  
Dennis Williams  
Nicholas Warholic  
Ruben Bam Bam Leija Jr.  
Richard Knowles  
Charles Abraria**  
All the brethren wishing you the best on  
your special day!

**Raised to the Sublime Degree:**

**Kenneth Agee 1987  
Gary Krier 1989  
Michael Kwait 1960  
Donald Oehmler 1955  
James Robinson 1998  
Donald Ryals 1996  
Bernard Shannon 2012  
Michael Shively  
William Sullivan PM 1969  
Philip Tyrrell 1990**  
Stop in we are here most Tuesday's We  
would love to see you.

**Calendar:**

**April 4<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting 7:30 pm Social and Dinner 6:00pm  
April 10<sup>th</sup> Hall Association Meeting 6:00 pm Trivium 7:00 pm  
April 17<sup>th</sup> Practice Second Degree both Sections  
April 19<sup>th</sup> OSI Yucca Valley 6:00 pm  
April 24<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting 6:00 pm**

**April's Dinner Menu:**

**Yes, the chef is back! We will have a special menu in April from Hector,**

**Crab, Stuffed Mushrooms  
Spinach Salad, Citrus Vinaigrette  
Grilled London Broil, Béarnaise Sauce, Baked Potato and Fresh Vegetables  
Homemade Peach Cobbler**

**Beverage**

**\$15.00**

**Reservations Required**

**Please make your reservations with Brother Gibson at;  
jrg28@hotmail.com**