

What Came Ye Here to Do?



It's an honest and simple question that each one of us must answer. We all have our own reasons why we petitioned the Lodge, and as we grew in Masonry hopefully we expanded our reasons and desires for traveling this path in life. I believe there are three important things that we should always keep in mind, and endeavor to do as we travel from the West to the East in search of more light. We must strive to conduct proper ritualistic work, care for our widows and fallen Brethren, and improve ourselves in Masonry.

The first one really hits home because when we perform our degree work is when the candidate gets his first impression of the Lodge and its members. A well-presented degree gives them a good impression and a strong foundation of a great organization. But, once we do that great ritual work our job is just beginning. We have to be ready to follow-up and mentor the new Mason. To help him find how he fits into Masonry, and what it can do for his life.

Secondly, our Widows are an important part of our Lodge; we offer support to and acknowledge them regularly. They supported our deceased Brothers during their time on earth. In Masonry we care for one another and our families, we take an obligation stating we will watch over our widows and orphans, so let's continue to live up to it. Ask yourself how would you like your Lodge to treat your family after you pass on? So let's pay it forward! Traditionally in Tuckahoe when we put a Brother to rest it is consistently our best effort at performing the ceremony, and we are there in good numbers. We are showing the family and friends how much we loved him and are giving him our best. It's the one time we are truly under the watchful eyes of our community.

Third, on the list of things to do is, improving ourselves in Masonry. Now that's a tall order! This really hits at the heart of 'Masonic Education'. In the past I have had the high honor to serve as your DEO and as Division Provost for Education. Both jobs were great experiences for me. It is a matter of great personal satisfaction for me to work in the quarries of our craft. But, I believe this to be my real calling, researching and writing some thought provoking 'nuggets from the quarry', and advancing Masonic Education.

Many of my presentations are, I hope, just plain good ol' learning experiences, some are written to be lighthearted, and some are rather deep and esoteric in nature, as I am quite often reminded after we close Lodge. But, all of my presentations are designed with something to take with you..... to reflect upon, about your lodge and what masonry means to you...deep down in your heart. If you apply it to your life or not, is your decision, but it's my job to put it out there for you to think about. As you've heard me say many times before...Masonic education is a journey that takes a lifetime.

I may have attained the degree of Master Mason in our ancient Fraternity; but I know I'm but an Entered Apprentice (or perhaps, at best, a Fellowcraft) in this adventure we call life. I must be prepared to engage in "work". For only through hard work in my Craft can any of us ever hope to become a Master. That should be our goal, and as with so many things in life, one of the first steps to attaining any goal is....education.

So, don't just carry a dues card, wear the emblems and talk a good game. Take an active role in being a true and loyal Mason. I urge you to every day, read about Masonry, ask questions of well informed brethren, and enroll in the correspondence course, if you haven't already. Simple things we all can do to improve ourselves. Roll up your sleeves, bend your back and let's get to work in the Quarry, uplifting our ancient fraternity. So, I leave you with these words from an unknown author, with a question to ponder.....

Answer me this, my Brother,

What came ye here to do?

When you first joined this mystic circle,

Had you the right purpose in your heart,

To be of service to your fellow man

And do your allotted part?

Or came you just out of curiosity

With personal motive in view?

Tell me, my Brother, on the Square,

What came ye here to do?

Since then have you studied well the real meaning

Of the symbols on our chart?

And really learned to subdue your passions

And make improvements in your art?

Do you uphold the age-old trusts

On which we firmly stand,

Teaching the fatherhood of God

With the brotherhood of man?

Have you willingly aided a brother,

When life's surges were fierce and wild?

Have you offered cheer and comfort

To the Mason's wife, or widow and child?

If you have done so, my brother, then

You are a Mason good and true,

And you can give the right answer to my question,

“What came ye here to do?”

Author Unknown