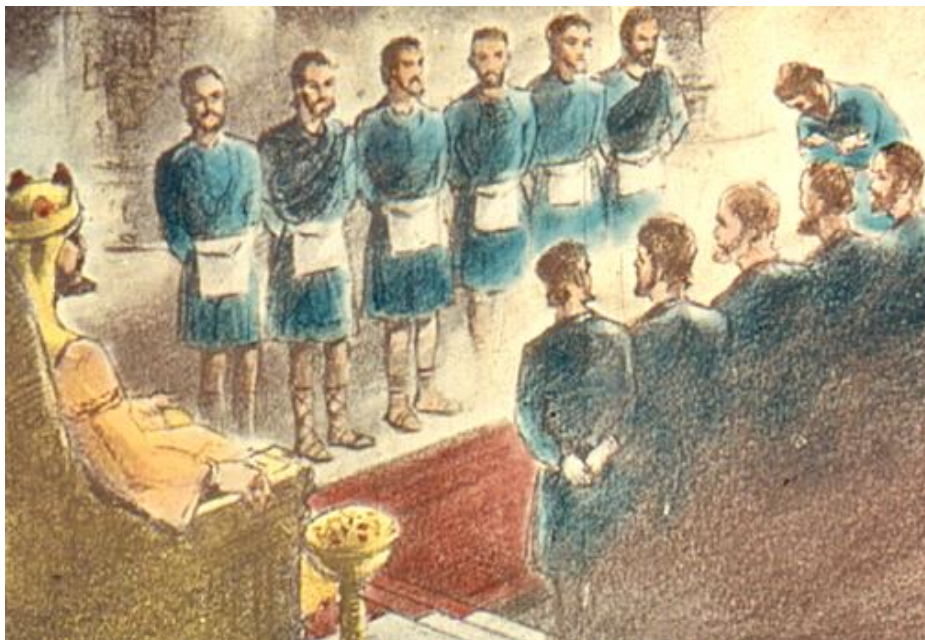


Analysis of the 15 Fellowcraft's

In the Drama of the Master Mason's degree there are 15 Craftsman, three of which become the well-known ruffians. What are the lessons we learn from them? As you listen, reflect on yourself, and events in your life. I suggest that you will find many instances which relate to the character of the Craftsman. In our lives we confront the various personality traits of these Craftsmen on a regular basis. Some are positive, others are negative, and how we interact and respond defines our own character.

From history we learn that of the eighty thousand Fellowcraft's employed in the building of the Temple evidently fifteen were to some extent disgruntled and rather impatient. One of these obviously had leadership qualities, and his closest Brothers were loyal followers. I see Jubalum as the leader, and he solicited the support of his most loyal friends Jubala and Jubalo, and they in turn solicited twelve additional friends. The other twelve were simply followers, or 'hangers-on' among whom there was at least one whose moral character inspired him to leadership in a time of need.

My analysis; I believe that Jubalum was a strong leader with loyal friends who trusted and chose to follow him. However he is also impatient. His two Brothers were loyal and chose to stay with him. The other twelve recognize Jubalum as a leader and simply fall in line with the others.



The 12 Fellowcraft's appear before King Solomon.

At some point along the way at least one of the twelve (perhaps Rueben?) had second thoughts and reminded the others of their obligations. They recanted when they realized the horrid deed had been done, and they gathered the fortitude to come forward and confess their pre-meditated guilt. The three Ruffians meanwhile realizing they have no future whatsoever, are overcome with guilt, are then captured and confess to the crime. The twelve Craftsmen were ashamed that they had initially associated with the ruffians, but show us that they had the moral integrity and honesty to come forward. I venture that their honesty would be respected, and they would in time be forgiven. In the future however they would be much more cautious in their associations and whom they chose to follow.

Leadership; is a strong personal Character, it should be discerning, balanced and honest. Serving the needs of those who have chosen to follow. It should not be self-serving. Some have great leadership qualities others develop them over time. In our Craft we should endeavor to develop these qualities, not only in our lodges but in our communities. Good leaders have strong moral integrity; they share the credit for achievements and take the blame for failures upon themselves.

Loyalty; is admired as a quality by all of us, it is a strength which we can rely on among our friends, brothers, and family. A true, trusted and loyal friend is truly a great asset. In your lifetime you will have many acquaintances...but you will probably be able to count the number of your true and faithful friends on the fingers of one hand. He would cover your six while upholding the moral law. And he would be honest with you, “reminding you in the most-friendly manner”.

Morality; this revolves around the moral integrity of all the characters in our story. As Masons our obligations revolve around the moral law. It’s what our degrees are all about, what our lectures and allegory try to impart. We need to make this a center point of our mentoring programs with our new Brothers. It will strengthen their character, build their self-confidence, and develop their leadership abilities.

So, my Brethren....Be discerning, and choose your leaders wisely. Be discerning in your loyalty to your chosen leaders, be honest with yourself, and serve Masonry to the best of your ability.



..... #90 in a series of nuggets from the Quarry of Freemasonry.SM

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