

The joke before the lecture: “The reopening of all the Lego stores after the pandemic is really making the news, apparently people are lining up for **blocks** to get in”

## **Elements of Justice**

Good evening my brethren, tonight I have been asked to speak briefly on the cardinal virtue of Justice. The dictionary defines this as the quality of being just, righteous, equitable and morally right, or as the moral principle that defines and determines our conduct. As masons we live this virtue by focusing on the internal and not the external of all people. Socially however, outside of our lodges, not everyone has this same focus or interpretation. There have been many recent events in the world that shows that everyone sees justice differently. While I am sure as with politics and religion, some elements of justice or the lack thereof may be seen differently even among members of our fraternity and within our lodge, we must always strive to continue to live those ideals even when it is hard. Remember when you agreed to be an upstanding citizen of your government, keep that in mind as you watch and read the actions on both sides of the protests and social interactions occurring in the world today.

Masonically we are taught to apply justice and render every man his just due without distinction. So for us as Masons, Justice is representative of equality among all men. This allows us to be the support and cement of civil society when others may not be doing so. Engage in causes if you feel inclined but ever remember that we can set the example of how to be and be part of the solution instead of contributing to the problem. Your actions outside the lodge are still the actions of a Mason and should reflect as such. I understand that we are all men as well as masons, but do not become intemperate with displaying your thoughts in a public manner. In this time of the internet, social media, and instant visibility, it is vital to remember that perception is reality and words can be misunderstood. The concept of social justice should already be a part of your rough stone since it promotes fair and just relations between individuals and society.

Continue to apply the tools and smooth out any rough spots in yourself and aid a reformation to your brothers if needed. Leaning back to operative masons, we are builders of things, not those who tear down or destroy. I personally take the approach of my interactions by measuring against the plumb and if the statement isn't one I would feel making in lodge or in person, I don't say it on any of those electronic forums. Let us continue to shine our lights when others are seeing darkness in these trying times and continue to focus on Friendship, Morality and Brotherly love in our daily interactions.



***'The Winding Staircase - Steps to improving yourself in Masonry'***

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