

MOST WORSHIPFUL
United Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M.

(PRINCE HALL AFFILIATION)

FOR IOWA AND JURISDICTION

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204 SECURITY BUILDING
DUBUQUE, IOWA

January 24, 1936

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The Worshipful Masters, Wardens, and Brothers

Of..... LodgeA. F. & A. M.

....., Iowa

Brethren:

Another year has passed and each of us are nearer to the day we must face the Supreme Master and give an account of our work upon the Trestle board of Life. The questions we should be able to answer in the affirmative are:

1. Have you done the best you could?
2. Have you considered your duty to your God and Your Masonic brother?
3. Are you mindful of your duty to your Lodge and your Race?
4. Do you admit that Charity is one of the greatest of Masonic virtues?

If you have done the best you could, you are praiseworthy, for you have left footprints on the sands of time. You have made some happy. You have made some sorrowing hearts glad and you are at peace with yourself and your Maker.

If you have carefully considered your duty to your God and your Masonic brother, you have stretched out your hand and assisted weak brethren to stand up-right again, placed an arm around him, whispered good counsel to him, and administered relief to his needs. You can do these things successfully if your faith is in God and with your hopes grounded in the belief that your hereafter will be spent in the land where there will be no parting and dwell in that House not made with hands eternal in the Heavens.

Your duties to your lodge and your Race are many and varied. You must agree that your lodge cannot thrive and prosper without your attendance at its meetings, by payment of your dues, by your study of the code of laws and the Constitution of the Grand Lodge, by the practice in lodge of its ritualistic ceremonies, also your Lodge, for the benefit of your lodge and your Race. I am begging this of you that you may be enabled to teach young Brother Masons to be a credit to the organization.

Ana Charity, one of the chief virtues of our Order, is the brightest gem that can adorn our Masonic profession. Let us discuss charity. Place yourself in any of the positions that I will enumerate. (1) A Brother who has paid his lodge dues and assessments for years suddenly finds himself out of employment and no income with a family dependent on him, and no funds or savings. It would be an act of charity for the lodge to carry this brother's dues and assessments remitted by the lodge.

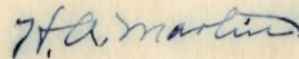
(2) Sickness and death or a calamity such as a fire or flood destroying all he had. It would be an act of Charity if the lodge could assist him, if only by keeping him in good standing in his lodge. (3) Old age, unavoidable accidents causing loss of limbs or eyesight, depriving him of the ability to earn a living. It would be charitable to come to the relief of such a brother, but your income as a general rule is not sufficient for you to put your hand in your pocket and give enough to keep one or more of your brothers who are in want and need. We are so shortsighted we fail to make provisions for these emergencies. But; we can build our treasuries to the point where we can dispense Charity when needed by a little concerted action.

I have outlined to you in previous letters and addresses the manner in which your duties could be made easy of accomplishment. Masters appoint entertainment committees, and you brethren who are appointed be active, furnish all kinds of decent entertainments, dinners, dances, programs, and what not to raise moneys for emergencies and keep the social side of your city or community alive. The result will be: Your lodge will prosper, harmony and strength will be your portion, and you will be able to meet all Grand Lodge assessments in due season without strain, and dispense your Charity, the Keystone of our Mystic Institution, with pleasure.

Another duty you are neglecting is caring for our young men and boys through the means of the Circle of Constantine, which this Grand Jurisdiction adopted in 1934, as a means to train our Young folks to think seriously of Masonry and inculcate Chivalry and to think seriously of Fraternalism.

And in conclusion, I will tell you a story that is applicable to the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa. "A man passing by an excavation heard a call for help. On looking down in the hole he saw a friend who implored him to assist him out, stating that he had tried every means at his command to climb out, but had failed. This man hurried away to get a ladder, and on his return found his friend sitting at the top of the hole, and questioned about his ability to get out so quickly. He replied, ' I discovered a snake in that hole'." Result: he found a way. Now I hope my dear Brethren of this Jurisdiction will see the snake in the hole we are in.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,



Grand Master