



Nugget

All the brethren have had their due

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The symbolic explanation of the phrase, *'All the brethren have had their due'*.

Summary

The symbolic explanation of the phrase, *'All the brethren have had their due'* and why they did so, *'Without scruple or diffidence'*.

Keywords

Second-Degree, Wages, Scruple, Diffidence

All the brethren have had their due

'As the Sun sets in the West to close the day, so the Senior Warden is placed in the West to close the Lodge, after seeing that every brother has had his due'. What is due to a freemason? To answer this, we need to go back to the Closing of the Lodge, where the Worshipful Master or Chaplain offers the prayer, *'Let us with all reverence and humility express our gratitude to the Great Architect of the Universe for favours already received; may He continue to preserve the Order by cementing and adorning it with every moral and social virtue'*. From this you might reasonably assume that the wage of a speculative mason is enlightenment, or to put it another way, he is coming closer to the divine presence where he might aspire to dwell in enlightenment.

In the Second-Degree Tracing Board, we learn that the Entered Apprentices receive a weekly allowance of corn, wine and oil in lieu of wages. Corn is the symbol of plenty and abundance; wine is the symbol of joy and cheerfulness; and oil of peace and unanimity. All are applied to a Lodge during its consecration. In this speculative sense, the wages of an Entered Apprentice are a reward for his efforts at improving himself: he will have plenty, be happy and live in peace and unanimity.

A Fellowcraft must ascend the winding staircase to receive his wages in specie; that would normally mean in coin, but we are not dealing in material matters, so it is a reward for the soul. To receive them, he enters the middle-chamber where he finds a sacred symbol representing God.

We are told that the Fellowcrafts receive their wages, *'Without scruple or diffidence: without scruple, well knowing they were justly entitled to them, and without diffidence, from the great reliance they placed on the integrity of their employers in those days'*. This is a strange passage; what does it mean? He has put in his labour, so he knows he is entitled to his reward. The labour is one of learning and developing the mind and he has made such an advancement as will earn him his reward from the Grand Geometrician of the Universe. Without diffidence as he has nothing to be ashamed of, having done his duty treading the path to enlightenment. The employers of those days must surely be the three Grand Masters, who were working on God's house.

When this is turned so that we consider that our labour is the construction of a Lodge within us, the employer must surely be the Supreme Being himself, in whose service we are acting.

##END##

Recommended use of Nuggets

Nuggets offer a short, simple and readily absorbed means of progressing Masonic knowledge and an easy way to introduce learning to Lodges and Chapters. It is hoped that they will become a regular feature of Lodge and Chapter meetings as well as a source for private-study.

Nuggets can be included as an item in the summons and read at most Lodge/Chapter meetings. They can be:

- Read by either a new or an experienced Mason with the minimum of preparation and practice; *though ideally, they need to be read a few times beforehand.*
- Themed with the meeting or activity.
- Used to initiate a discussion within a Lodge/Chapter, LOI/COI, or group.
- Read at home and shared as a topic for a future discussion.
- Used as a focus for an unplanned, informal discussion.

For further nuggets and other learning materials visit 'Solomon' at <http://solomon.ugle.org.uk>

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