



Nugget

Bread, Golf & Parenting

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Bread, Golf and Parenting and its lessons for Freemasonry.

Summary

Bread, Golf and Parenting and its lessons and relationship to Freemasonry in the 21st century.

Keywords

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On the face of it, this short talk is about what may appear to be three unrelated topics. However, here they have been woven together to convey a single, and topical, message.

Bread. You have all heard the expression *'It's the greatest thing since sliced bread'*. Where we once had white and brown bread, now when we go shopping we are confronted with a multitude of choices such as, Coburg, Farmhouse, Whole Wheat, Soda, Brioche, and even exotic choices, such as Beer, Banana and Tiger! So, bread is bread, or is it? Same core ingredients, different loaf! The point is, we still use the expression, *'It's the greatest thing since sliced bread'*, but sliced bread has changed. If Masonry is, 'the greatest thing since sliced bread', maybe with the core ingredients remaining the same, Masonry needs to change too.

Golf. A ball, a stick, a flag, a hole and a set of gentlemen's rules. Golf is defined in the 'Rules of Golf' as, *'Playing a ball with a club from the teeing ground into the hole by a stroke or successive strokes in accordance with the rules.'* Golf's rules derive from the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews founded in 1754, not that long after the start of modern Freemasonry in England in 1717. The underlying principle of the rules of golf is fairness, as stated on the back cover of the official rule book, *'Play the ball as it lies, play the course as you find it, and if you cannot do either, do what is fair'*. There may not be any other sporting event where the participants themselves identify infractions of the rules: the officials are there just to apply the penalties. Has golf changed since the early 1900's? The object, the rules, the penalties haven't changed much, but modern-day players have taken golf to another level in terms of physical fitness and endurance such that courses have had to be re-engineered to accommodate the longer drives. We could say that Golf hasn't changed much in a hundred years; the same core values and fundamental principles but what a change in the players! Masonry retains the same core values and principles on which it was founded but look around Brethren, the players have changed!

The art of raising children. Finally let's take a quick look at the process of raising children. By and large it's the same as it was when our great grandparents, our grandparents and we did it. We all read the current books, remember Dr. Spock? Remember all the rules about what age they are supposed to be crawling, teething, walking, and speaking, and what about car seats? Remember chucking the children in the back seat untethered until they would fit the seat belt? How many of us have bitten our tongues when our sons and daughters weren't doing what you would have done in a given situation? But our grandparents survived, our parents survived, we survived, our children survived and I expect our grandchildren will eventually survive despite their grandparents! Raising children, same basic principles, same core values throughout the decades, but parents adapt to the times, the situation and the culture. Masonry retains the same core values and principles but we need to adapt to the times, the situation and today's culture.

Well, there we have it, bread, golf and parenting. Three separate and distinct topics woven together by a common theme, Change.

In summary, Freemasonry is indeed as good as sliced bread, Freemasonry can be enjoyed like a good round of golf and, Freemasonry, while never a match for the joy of watching our children and grandchildren grow, can be rewarding in its own way as we mentor our new Masons.

The common message is that in order to be all of these Freemasonry must change, not the core values and the principles on which it is founded, but in the way it is practiced in today's world. Masonry is as relevant today as it ever was, but to become current in the 21st century, the practice of Masonry must change.

The catalysts for such change are among us like hidden gemstones. They are the progressive Worshipful Masters, they are the venerable Past Masters who see the promise of the future and know that they must pass the torch, they are the members in our Lodges that will return in force if interest is shown in them; and maybe it is as simple as ensuring that our current generation know that they have a voice and are being heard and as a consequence will stay.

##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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