



Nugget

Trust

Index

Trust and Freemasonry.

Summary

A homily on the importance of trust to Freemasonry, with reference to key pieces of ritual.

Keywords

Love, Harmony, Trust, Others

Trust

Trust is such a simple word, but it has the strength to hold personal relationships together or to command the loyalty of a nation's people.

We learn to trust our lives to our parents as children and as we get older we add complete strangers whether they are doctors, solicitors, military officers, police, airline pilots, or the engineers who design our bridges and skyscrapers. When we trust, we are saying that we believe the 'trusted' individual to be honest, forthright, reliable, and that they will not cheat or betray us. Sometimes trust must be earned but more often than not we implicitly trust people simply because that's what we have been taught at home and are used to.

Funny thing about trust, though, once it has been betrayed it is virtually impossible to fully gain it back. We can try to forget but there will always be at least that sliver of doubt and what a traumatic and emotionally painful event that can be. Thus we must make sure to closely guard the trust bestowed on us by others and hope that others will know us and deem us to be trustworthy.

We know that there are those who prey on the trust of others. The businessman who deceives trusting clients, those who fabricate the trust for personal gain, the cheater who betrays a partner, and maybe, the Mason who speaks ill of a Brother. These are all people who take advantage of the trust others have placed in them. They break that trust for personal or financial interests, through personal prejudice or, even, for temporary satisfaction. They have sold a piece of their soul to get what they want, or where they want to be!

This is not what Freemasons do. A man cannot be a true Freemason if he behaves like this toward others, particularly towards Brother Freemasons. Trust is ultimately the reason we take the Obligations we do and commit to a life of spiritual living and growth. It is part of 'standing upright' as a Freemason, something we swore to do when we took our Obligation as an Entered Apprentice.

When we are recognised by our fellow Brothers as Freemasons, they must know that we understand and appreciate the promises that we made and that we are living by the valuable tenets of our Institution and, therefore, can be trusted fully. And as long as we live by those tenets, we can never find ourselves to be proven untrustworthy. Rather we will be trusted and respected, as a good Freemason.

Brethren, from time to time, we need to remind ourselves as to how we should act towards each other. The clue of course is written in the Craft Ritual, and I am sure we are all familiar with those precepts that should define a Mason.

In the First-Degree we learn, *'to enter the Lodge and work with that love and harmony which should at all times characterise Freemasons'*. Likewise, there is a passage in the 'First-Degree Charge' concerning our fellow Brethren, and the world in general, *'by rendering him every kind office which justice or mercy may require. By relieving his necessities and soothing his afflictions and by doing to him as in similar cases you would wish he would do to you'*. There is a similar passage communicated in the 'secrets' of the Third-Degree, concerning supporting a Brother, keeping his lawful secrets, and defending his good-name.

It can't really be made much clearer than that as to how we should support each other, and it doesn't hurt to be reminded, from time to time, to practice courtesy, good manners, tolerance and charity of the heart, towards our fellow Masons. Remember: *'To err is human, to forgive takes restraint, but to forget you forgave is the mark of a saint!'*.

##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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