



## Nugget

### Ducks Quack Eagles Soar

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A homily about Freemasonry.

**Summary**

A homily about Freemasonry, explaining why 'ducks' quack and 'eagles' soar.

**Keywords**

Lodge, Change, Future

## Ducks Quack Eagles Soar

Here is a story about a taxi driver. A man was waiting in line for a taxi at JFK airport, New York, when a cab pulled up. The first thing he noticed was that the taxi was polished to a bright shine. Smartly dressed, in white shirt, black tie, and freshly pressed black trousers, the taxi driver jumped out and opened the passenger door. He handed the man a laminated card and said, *'I'm Bill your driver. While I'm loading your bags in the trunk, I'd like you to read my Mission Statement'*. Taken aback, the man read the card. Headed *'Bill's Mission Statement' it said, 'To get my customers to their destination in the quickest, safest and cheapest way possible in a friendly environment'*. This blew the man away, especially so, as he noticed that the inside of the taxi matched the outside; spotlessly clean!

As he slid behind the wheel, Bill said, *'Would you like a cup of coffee. I have a thermos of regular and one of decaf.'* The man said jokingly, *'I'd prefer a soft drink'*. Bill smiled and said, *'No problem, I have a cooler up front with regular and diet coke, water and orange juice'*. Thanking him, the man took a coke. Handing him his drink, Bill said, *'If you'd like to read, I have The Financial Times, New York Times, or The Washington Post'*. He then informed him that he had the air conditioning on, and asked if the temperature was about-right? As they were pulling away, Bill handed the man another laminated card, saying *'These are the stations I get and the music they play, if you'd like to listen to the radio. Or that if you'd be happy to chat, I'll tell you about some of the sights. Or if you prefer, 'leave you with your own thoughts'*.

*'Tell me'*, the man asked, *'Have you always served customers like this?'* Bill smiled into the rear-view mirror. *'No, not always, in fact it's only been in the last two years. My first five years driving, I spent most of my time complaining like most taxi drivers do. Then I heard this guy on the radio one day. He had just written a book. and he said that if you get up in the morning expecting to have a bad day you will rarely be disappointed. He said, "stop complaining! Differentiate yourself from your competition, don't be a duck be an eagle. Ducks quack and complain, eagles soar above the crowd!" That hit me right between the eyes'*, said Bill. *'This guy was really talking about me. I was always quacking and complaining, so I decided to change my attitude and become an eagle. I looked around at the other taxis and their drivers. The cabs were dirty, the drivers were unfriendly and the customers were unhappy. So, I decided to make some changes and when my customers responded well, I made a few more'. 'I take it that has paid off for you'*, the man said. *'It sure has'*, Bill replied, *'My first year as an eagle I doubled my income. This year I'll probably quadruple it. You were lucky to get me, as I now get appointments on my mobile phone and if I can't pick them up myself, I get a reliable driver friend to do it and I take a percentage'*. Bill continued, *'I've probably told my story to more than fifty cab drivers over the years, and only two ever took up the idea and ran with it. The rest of the drivers quacked like ducks and told me all the reasons they couldn't do any of what I was suggesting'*.

Brethren, like Bill, we have a choice. We can 'quack a lot' and complain about falling membership, lack of commitment, poor ritual, the incessant call for change, or we can choose to do something to make our fraternity attractive to others; take steps to reinvigorate our Lodge, and to accept it's down to us! Bill, the Cab Driver, made a conscious choice to be different and 'soar like an eagle'. 'How about us'? Maybe, like Bill, we can take our future into our own hands and make good things happen in our Lodge. *'Ducks Quack, Eagles Soar'*.

## 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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