



# NUGGET

## Ya-buts

**Summary:** An amusing look at the 'Ya-buts', who spread doom and gloom and inhibit progress.

'Ya-buts' are monstrous beasts that inhabit the meetings and conversations that take place all over our fraternity. A Ya-buts life is spent sapping the team of its strength and killing-off any new ideas or creative approaches as soon as they are suggested.

They do this by saying things like:

**YA-BUT...** *we tried that three years ago.*

**YA-BUT...** *we've never done it like that before.*

**YA-BUT...** *it probably won't work.*

**YA-BUT...** *it won't work here.*

**YA-BUT...** *the Brethren would never buy into that!*

**YA-BUT...** *province would never go along with it!*

**YA-BUT...** *they (the ubiquitous 'they' who control the World & Masonry) won't let us.*

Be aware that when 'Ya-buts' creep into a discussion during a meeting, swoop-down into a Lodge room conversation, or pop-up at the festive board. They don't look monstrous, and often, they take the form of a charming and friendly being. There to make a capable, perfectly acceptable, and helpful contribution to the discussion. But if not recognised and neutralised right away, they are liable to succeed in their deadly, negative missions.

Their interventions change the flow of ideas, from;

*'This is how we can make it work', to become 'How can we make this work?'*

Followed by incorporating all the reasons;

*'Why it won't work', and in the end convincing everyone, 'It's not worth trying'.*

Masonry has always adapted to accommodate new ideas and changes in society; take on-board the challenges of modern life; embrace technology and employ it to good effect; make our Ceremonies relevant and our social functions family-friendly.

This does not mean throwing out the basic tenets that have stood the test of time, far from it. We just need to evolve and change to reflect the world we live in, and to be meaningful to a new generation of men. However, in so doing, we must understand there is a natural aversion to change, and strive to maintain harmony.

Masonry is no mere luxury of reminiscence. It has grown out of the past, but it transforms the present and opens up the future. Remember what happened to the Dodo!





## 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.

\*Note: All biblical passages are taken from the Authorized King James version and any reference to ritual will be from Emulation unless otherwise specified.

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