



Nugget

Whence come you?

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An exploration of the phrase, 'Whence come you?'

Summary

An exploration of the phrase, 'Whence come you?' as related to 'the centre is the point from which a Master Mason cannot err'.

Keywords

Third-Degree, Centre, Masonic-Journey, Self-Knowledge

Whence come you?

When a Lodge is opened in the Third-Degree, all those present are Master Masons; all qualified and fully fledged; their training is over and it is now time for them to return to the everyday world, to put their acquired skills into practice and to transmit their knowledge to others. In the final line of the opening catechism, the Worshipful Master relinquishes his leading role and, instead, offers his assistance and mutual cooperation, *'we will assist you to repair that loss and may Heaven aid our united endeavours'*.

There is another sense in which Master Masons now travel from East to West. We are returning home! In the olden days the Fellow Craft, or Journeyman as he was known, would also travel widely in search of experience before returning to his roots to ply his trade. We are taught that *'the centre is the point from which a Master Mason cannot err'*, implying that this is the place of truth and perfection. The long explanation of the working tools of the Second-Degree reminds us *'that a time will come, and the wisest of us knows not how soon, when all distinctions, save those of goodness and virtue, shall cease, and death, the grand leveller of all human greatness, reduce us to the same state'*.

The wise man comes to know himself and his true nature simply by being himself; he has nothing to gain because he already has everything. He has been able to *'lay up a crown of Joy and Rejoicing'*, which will continue when he has stepped from this temporal, transient and ephemeral life into eternity; By the practice of Masonic Art he will be known as *'one to whom the burdened heart may pour forth. Its sorrow, to whom the distressed may prefer their suit, whose hand is guided by justice and whose heart is expanded by benevolence'*.

##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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