THE INVESTIGATOR

(Based on the premise that life is a continuous search for knowledge)

Presented by REC. Norman McEvoy September 2010 Edition

Fraternal Greetings Companions:

Welcome to my most recent effort to share "Masonic Education" with you all, remembering to keep the Holy Royal Arch foremost in my endeavours.

As some of you are aware, I have been sharing a paper which is called **"The Educator"** with interested Craft Masons for over 7 years, with the primary focus being on sharing papers &/or matters which I have found to be of interest and hopefully others may feel likewise.

This month in **"The Educator"** I shared a personal paper on the topic of **"Agreeing to Disagree"** and recognizing that it is mandatory for Companions of the Holy Royal Arch to first be Craft Masons, I have decided to share it with the Companions on this particular distribution list.

It is very probable that some of you may be receiving this for the second time, however, my computer skills are not sophisticated enough for me to avoid that, so I must of necessity apologize for the duplication.

The Right to Agree to Disagree

For some time I have been grappling with the interpretation, and action taken, by fellow Brethren regarding the "Apron Charge" given in the Entered Apprentice Degree, which, in my ritual book, reads as follow:-

"Let me add to the observations of the Senior Warden., that you are never to put on that badge should you be about to visit a Lodge in which there is a brother with whom you are at variance, or against whom you entertain animosity; in such cases it is expected that you will invite him to withdraw, in order amicably settle your differences, which having been happily effected, you may then clothe yourselves, enter the Lodge, and work with that love and harmony which should at all times characterize Freemasons.
But, if unfortunately, be of such a nature as to be not easily adjusted, it were better that one or both of you retire, than that the harmony of the Lodge should be disturbed by your presence"

In attempting to come to grips with the impact of the **"Charge"** quoted, I have searched my Masonic library & resources available to me and cannot find anything wherein this subject is discussed.
This is possibly because it is a truly sensitive issue and subject to personal interpretation, however, I do believe that this is a subject that needs airing and have decided to give that a try.

The first word that caught my attention is **"Variance"** which "Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary" defines as
"The fact or state of being in disagreement"

The next word to catch my eye is **"Animosity"** defined as
"ill will or resentment tending toward active hostility"

This now seems to make it all very clear. If a Brother has said or done something that you are not in agreement with, don't go to Lodge, because he might be there.

But is that really what this is all about, and if so, does it apply to us as brothers and Freemasons?????

Now let me go to the Senior Wardens Charge in the Fellowcraft Degree which, in part, states the following:

"You are not to palliate or aggravate the offences of your Brethren; but in the decision of every trespass against our rules; judge with candor; admonish with friendship and reprehend with mercy"

The words that catch my attention are as follows:

Palliate defined as *"to cloak or conceal"*

Candor defined as *"freedom from prejudice or malice. Unreserved, honest or sincere expression*"

Aggravate defined as *"to make worse, more serious or more severe"*

Admonish defined as "*to express warning or disapproval in a gentle earnest manner" OR "to give friendly earnest advice or encouragement".*

Reprehend defined as *"to voice disapproval"*

It seems the more I read and re-read these **"Charges"** the more I come to appreciate what **"Freemasonry"** is attempting to trying to teach us,
Which in my opinion, is that it is **NOT** necessary that we all agree (how boring that would be) but that we respect each others views and our right to **"agree to disagree"**

The annals of Freemasonry are chock full of situations where we know Brethren of all Faiths & Political views were able to come together as **"Freemasons"** and in many cases not only changed the course of history but proved that the **"Universality of Man"** is more than just a dream.

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, military officers, police, airline pilots, or the engineers who design our bridges and skyscrapers for example.

When we trust, we are saying that we believe the "**trusted**" individual to be being honest, forthright, reliable, and will not cheat or betray us.

Sometimes trust must be earned, but more often or 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 gain it back 100%.

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 business man who deceives trusting clients, those who fabricate the trust for personal gain and , the cheater who betrays a lover; these are all people who take advantage of the trust others put into them and brake that trust for personal financial interests or temporary satisfaction.

They have sold a piece of their soul to get there.

This is not what Freemasons do. One cannot be a true Freemason if he behaves like this toward others, particularly toward Brother Freemasons.

Being Freemasons, trust is ultimately the reason we take the obligations we do, and commit to a life of spiritual living & growth.

It is part of standing uprightly as a Freemason, something we swore to do when we took our obligation as an Entered Apprentice.

When we are recognized by our fellow Brothers as Freemasons, they must know that we understand and appreciate the promises that we made and we are living by those valuable tenets of our Institution (the same ones they made) and so we can be fully trusted. And as long as we live by those tenets, we can never find ourselves to be proven untrustworthy.

Taken in part from an article titled. **Trustworthy**
By Wor. John L. Ciccotelli,
Master of Blue Hill Lodge
Canton MA
August 2010

View for the Day Sept 11,2010

Start viewing the World by focusing on potentially optimistic viewpoints rather than on the negative prognostications of pessimists and "Victims" Dr. Wayne Dyer

Final Comment

I am frequently asked **WHAT** I get out of presenting "The Educator" and "The Investigator" and my answer is always the pleasure of feeling that **"EVEN ONE"** person may appreciate what is being shared and benefit from having received same.

My hope, with this issue, is that even one Brother will pick up the phone and attempt to heal a difference of opinion with a fellow Brother. Thank you again for allowing me to share with you all.

Have a wonderful day & God Bless
Norm