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Winning Article

Category: Masonic Short Story

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One Man's Journey

Jeremy took a passing glance in the hall mirror, he thought, I quite like what I see, a handsome young man, but a little short of something, not quite sure what, characterless possibly, a little empty perhaps, musing for a while he came to the conclusion that he needed a purpose, a reason for being, something to put a little character into that face. He chose the following: A very close friend who seemed to have all the qualities he himself was seeking, promised to introduce him to a group of people who would take him under their wing and give him just the sort of thing he was looking for. On an appointed evening he was introduced to a young man who insisted on keeping him in the dark as to the intended details. After introducing him to another who was told Jeremy had been well and worthily recommended, still in the dark, he was asked to kneel while the blessing of heaven was invoked on the proceedings. At this early stage he was already feeling that he was on the path to whatever it was he had been seeking. A certain fulfilment was already bringing a serene feeling of well being.

He was then introduced to various other people who appeared satisfied with his character. At this stage he was asked to take vows of fidelity which were to be binding for as long as he lived, to this he agreed wholeheartedly. He was then asked to take an obligation as to his future conduct, never to betray any confidences which might come his way, always to be true to his friends to protect them in their absence as well as in their presence. He already knew that he was about to begin a journey that was always intended for him. He never felt more sure of his future.

Eventually, having seen the light he was reminded of his duty to God, his neighbour and himself, his responsibilities to any authority which offered him its protection, but always to be true to the sovereign of his native land.

Looking around the room where this action had taken place he could see that there were future stages to pass through on the journeys ahead, there was still so much to learn, so much to absorb. For the first time Jeremy realised that what he had thought had been a small group of friends was in fact a part of a much larger gathering, spreading across the 4 quarters of the globe, with means of identifying themselves to one another. It was stressed that to stop imposters infiltrating the group, certain passwords would be communicated to him as he passed through the various stages, these passwords would enable him to travel to the furthest parts of the globe and meet total strangers who had the same sense of values as himself, he quickly realised the importance of this safeguard and promising wholeheartedly that he would never divulge any of these means of identification to anyone in the world until proof of character was established.

Before he left this first gathering he was given a set of answers to questions he would be asked at their next meeting, the questions would be relative to the proceedings he had already experienced, they were designed to test his commitment to the group he had just joined, it only increased his respect and his determination to prove his worth.

The second meeting, just a few weeks later persuaded Jeremy to extend his researches into the hidden mysteries of nature and science to add to the principles of moral truth and virtue which were so emphatically suggested in the first meeting. He was then led to an explanation of the influence that history had on our present beliefs, suggesting that as far back as the reign of David and the building of King Solomon's temple, religion was to play a large part in our lives, emphasising that

there is only one God and all beliefs are to be tolerated and accepted in our society.

The third meeting that Jeremy attended was arranged several weeks after the second one, he had been encouraged to have learned and digested a little more from the the first two meetings to be able to answer certain questions which dealt with what he had been taught, and what he had experienced. After satisfying the group that he had remembered and absorbed the principles of this organisation he was then reminded how he was admitted in a state of helpless indigence, as a representation of the entrance of all men on this, their mortal existence. It encouraged him in the principles of universal beneficence, to extend relief and consolation to his fellow man in their hour of need. By following the principles of nature, Jeremy was able to contemplate the closing hours of his existence. He was told that for the just and virtuous man death has no terrors equal to the stain of falsehood and dishonour. As a result of this he quite suddenly had no fear of his closing moments. He could hardly believe that his journey so far had given him that sense of maturity that he had been seeking. He was sure that when he passed that mirror again he would see a very different Jeremy.

As a result of his three meetings, for the first time Jeremy realised that he was not alone in this world, out there were people, strangers as well as friends who would be available in any hour of need, just as assuredly as he would be available to help a fellow of any creed or denomination in their hour of need.

As a bonus, Jeremy was awarded a token to commemorate his progress so far, it wasn't a diploma to hang on the wall, it wasn't a medal . Gold, nor silver, nor bronze, it was an apron, in many ways similar to those worn to protect, but in this case it was one that he would never soil.

His journey had only just begun.