

"any knowledge of the science and philosophy of Freemasonry." He cannot be sure it is what he wants until the Third Degree and some knowledge of our work is his. Then, the kind of a man we accept as a candidate will determine whether or not Freemasonry has won another disciple and a credit to the Fraternity or the Symbolic Lodge another member—one who will drop in occasionally when time permits, or stops coming entirely after a few meetings.

**DUTY TO ONE'S SELF**  
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One has a duty to one's self whether he realizes it or not. As one goes about his daily tasks he is reminded continually about such obligations as his duty to his country, duty to his fellow citizens, duty to society and prosperity. These are all commendable in themselves but seldom does one hear about duty to one's self. Nevertheless, one does have a duty to himself if he wants to live a rich, full life and add treasures to his soul. On the surface, duty to oneself seems rather selfish but, on critical analysis, it will be a selfishness that does nothing but good.

Your duty to yourself is genuine. The ideal reformer has his eyes turned toward himself. By building and developing his own character and intelligence, he will be doing the only kind of reforming that will eventually build a better world. He who meddles with the minds and souls of others dims the light in his own soul. He who tries to reform others without looking into the dark recesses of his own soul becomes nothing but a social nuisance.

Cease worrying about the faults and shortcomings of your neighbor. Instead take an inventory of your own failings and derelictions. Ask yourself these searching questions: Have I been keeping abreast of the new knowledge that comes my way every day? Have I been absorbing fresh viewpoints? Have I curiosity about the great ideals and philosophies of the past? Have I the moral intelligence to understand the stresses and strains underlying the ills that beset mankind today? Am I becoming more tolerant of the opinions and beliefs of my neighbors and associates? Have I stopped thinking and closed the doors of my mind for the duration? Am I making an effort to divest myself of many prejudices that have accumulated over the years? These are the things that show how clear and obvious is our duty to ourselves.

In the final analysis, duty to oneself really means the performance of a greater duty to one's fellow man. It is the duty of every man to make himself more civilized, more tolerant of the ideas of others, more

open-minded, more curious about life and more receptive to beauty and thought. He serves the world best who serves himself intelligently. Finally, let us all heed Albert Pike's suggestion that the only question to ask, as true men and Masons, is: What does duty require? and not, What will be the result and reward if we do our duty?

## WAITING FOR OPPORTUNITY

*The Freemason (Canada)*

Freemasonry, with its regulation ritual and formal ceremonial does not seem to present the same scope for the active display of genius that is to be met with in many other spheres of life, but all the same there are many other ways in which the man of busy temperament may find occasion for the display of his particular ability, provided he seizes the opportunity when it presents itself, and is really in earnest in looking around for it.

It is notorious that some men spend the greater part of their life professing a determination to make an impression in the world, and always craving for some special occasion for the display of the skill they believe themselves to possess; but the opportunity does not appear to pass their way, and they have to content themselves by recounting what they would do if they had the chance, while other men, with just the same scope for their abilities—and no more—make much of their opportunities, and rise to the eminence the other craves for. In fact, the one spends his life waiting for the opportunity, the other seems to make the opportunity for himself, and is credited with luck or special good fortune rather than what he really displays—energy.

There are many brethren of the present day who are continually expressing a desire to do something special for Freemasonry, and crave for the opportunity of distinguishing themselves on behalf of the Craft, but somehow or other they do not seem to be appreciated and they never rise beyond the ordinary level, ultimately severing their connection with their lodge, either from disappointment or disgust at not being made much of. They appear to overlook the fact that there is always a field for the display of Masonic energy open to them in the form of work done for one or other of the charitable institutions of the Order, and we venture to think the field is not only an inexhaustible one, but is also one in which the most brilliant results may be achieved, and the one in which activity and energy is sure to make itself apparent. A member of a lodge may be a most painstaking student of the ritual, and may serve through the several offices with credit, and pass through the master's chair without fault, and yet fail to make any particular impression in the Craft, or secure any special recognition for his lodge; but the brother who takes up a stewardship for one of the charities,

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