

The District Light

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'Tis the Season

December tends to be a time of introspection. Festivities cause us to remember why we like the people we do.

We question ourselves, 'What shall I give?', 'What do I want?', 'What do I have that is precious to me?', 'How can I be happy?'

Happiness or contentment is elusive. Some strive to achieve it, but it can't be 'found'. You are either happy or not.

Do you know people that just seem to be happier in general? Do you say to yourself, "I want to be more like them?"



Allegory Time

An allegory is a story which presents us with an insight or lesson.

Allegories are common. If in the Bible, they are called parables. If they involve animals, they are called fables.

Here are a few stories to stimulate thought.

Life is like Coffee

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. Conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life.

Offering his guests coffee, the professor brought a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups – porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite - telling them to help themselves to the coffee.



When all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said: "If you noticed, all the nice looking expensive cups have been taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress.

"Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases it is just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink. What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups... And then you began eyeing each other's cups.

"Now consider this: Life is the coffee; the jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain Life, and the type of cup we have does not define, nor change the quality of life we live.

"Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee. Savor the coffee, not the cups!

"The happiest people don't have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything.

Through the Window

A couple had moved into their new home.

While at breakfast with her husband one morning, the wife looked out the window and saw the neighbour putting out her wash to dry.

"Oh, that laundry looks dingy. I wonder what detergent she is using. Maybe somebody should talk to her about it."



A few days later, again the wife watched the laundry go onto the line. "The wash is still unclean. It's a shame that the lady has put out the effort but not gotten good results. Doesn't she have any friends to give her advice?"

Then, one morning the wife was surprised by what she saw, "Look, the laundry is clean today. It's good to see that our neighbour has changed her ways. I wonder what happened to make the difference."

The husband replied, "I got up earlier this morning and washed our windows."

The Donkey

One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do.

Finally, he decided that since the animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway; it just wasn't worth while to retrieve the donkey. He invited all his neighbors to come over to help him. They each grabbed a shovel and began to throw dirt into the well.

At first, the donkey reacted with fear. Then, to everyone's amazement he quieted down.

A few shovel loads later, the farmer looked down the well. He was astonished at what he saw. With each shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey shook off the dirt and took a step up.

Pretty soon, the hole was almost filled and the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and happily trotted off!



Life is going to shovel dirt on you; all kinds of dirt.

The trick to getting out of your well is to shake off the dirt and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a stepping stone. We can get out of the deepest wells by not stopping; never giving up!

Shake it off and take a step up.

However, the story continues. The donkey later came back and bit the farmer who had tried to bury him. The gash from the bite got infected and the farmer died.

The second moral from today's story: When you do something wrong, and try to cover your ass, it always comes back to bite you.

Happy to Meet

One of our goals is to be happy ourselves, and to spread that happiness to others.

Masonry is a lot of things: a gathering place, an encounter group, a refuge, a source of guidance and instruction.

It is a place to expand our consciousness.

Mysticism in Masonry

“Masonry is mystical as music is musical – like poetry, love, faith, prayer, and all else that makes it worth our time to live; but its mysticism is sweet, sane, and natural, far from fantastic, and in nowise eerie, unreal, or unbalanced.

“Of course, words fail to describe what it is, and it is therefore that Masonry uses parables, pictures, and symbols.”

Joseph Ford Newton

Religion in Masonry

Freedom of religion, of conscience, and of thought are Freemasonry's highest goal.

Freemasonry accepts without religious, racial, national, or political prejudice, or without regard to station in life, upright and moral men as Brothers.

The first condition of admission into, and membership of, the Order is the belief in the Supreme Being. This is essential and admits of no compromise.

The Bible, referred to by Freemasons as the Volume of the Sacred Law [VSL], is always open in Lodges. Every Candidate is required to take his Obligation on that book or on the Volume which is held by his particular creed to impart sanctity of oath or promise taken upon it.

An article in the Ancient Charges said, “Let a man's religion or mode of worship be what it may; he is not excluded from the order, provided he believe in the glorious architect of heaven and earth, and practices the sacred duties of morality”.

Other Volumes on which the Candidate may take his obligation, such as the Bhagavad Gita, the Quran or the Sacred Books of other faiths, should be regarded as the Volumes of the Sacred Law.

