



THE SQUARE & COMPASSES

APR 2019



Congratulations

R.W.Bro. ZWAREH WADIA O.S.M

REGIONAL GRAND LODGE OF NORTHERN INDIA

ANNUAL INVESTITURE MEET, NEW DELHI- 23 & 24 FEBRUARY 2019



Editor's Half Page

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Hello Brethren,

The Square & Compasses is back again. This issue covers the period from 1st February to 30th April 2019. From now on, it will be published quarter yearly.



This is the time for the Annual Investiture Meetings of the four regions and we bring you reports of the meets. At the AIM of Northern India, RW Bro Anish Kumar Sharma, was installed as the Regional Grand Master, and a very worthy brother, Zawareh Wadia, was honoured with the Order of Service to Masonry; and have had the privilege of honouring many of our senior brethren, who have served the fraternity well for many years. Square & Compasses offers its congratulations to these brethren, and wishes them many more years of Masonic service.

We have also added three more Masonic bodies to our order - one Craft Lodge, and two Royal Arch Chapters. But, joy is followed by sorrow. We have lost five of our senior brethren, and we pray for their eternal peace.

I Thank R.W.Bro. Suman Kapur, R W Bro. Ambarish Singh Roy, W.Bro. Ashok Pandit, V W Bro. Tarun Shrivastava, W.Bro. Koustubh Gosavi, E.Comp. M.C.Thakker, E.Comp. P.T.Mohan Babu, W.Bro. Sanjeev Rattan, V.W.Bro. C.P.M.Tripathy and W.Bro. Sudhir Arora for their inputs. Finally, brethren, your feedback, particularly of critical nature, is welcome and necessary for me to evaluate your preferences, and enhance your reading experience. So please do send me your opinions at editor.squareandcompass@gmail.com

Fraternal regards

Madhavan

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SQUARE & COMPASS (News magazine and Journal of the Grand Lodge of India) January 2019 **EDITED** by **R.W.Bro.**

C.S.MADHAVAN, and published by **R.W.Bro. Vishal Bakshi**, the the Grand Secretary of the the Grand Lodge of India.

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GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

My Dear Brethren,

Today we have completed Six months in office after taking over the reins of the Grand Lodge of India and I must say that these days have been very hectic, productive, turbulent and joyous. It was a time when we did lot of productive work, sorted out lots of pending and leftover work, learnt a few lessons, and above all relentlessly pursued the glorious principles and tenets of the Institution. We inherited a laissez faire style of functioning and many Masons and Lodges felt that they could function in any way they wanted, without much concern about the welfare and happiness of the fraternity.

I assure you my brother that all that is now a thing of the Past. I am ably assisted by the Deputy and the Assistant Grand Master in instilling a sense of discipline and belonging to the institution amongst the Brethren and the Lodges. The Grand Wardens, President of the Board, the Registrar and the Treasurer have worked tirelessly to improve the overall working and have devoted many hours in straightening the affairs of the Grand Lodge. My sincere thanks to each one of them, especially R.W. bro. Sanjiv Gandhi for his tireless work. The Grand Secretary of course was required to work the most and R.W. Bro. Vishal Bakshi has put in his best foot forward in tackling some very sensitive and precarious matters. He is a Grand Master's delight in his working and positive approach.

My brethren, the basic concept of Freemasonry is to be Happy and communicate happiness. A candle does not lose anything, when it lights another, so is happiness, which only grows with sharing. Remember my brethren, Life smiles at you, when you are happy, but life salutes you when you make others happy. The time we spent with our brethren whether in the Lodge or outside, should be full of Joy and cheer and Freemasonry has no place for jealousy, back biting or bickering on petty matters. Remember also the 3As of spreading happiness amongst others. They are Attention, Affection and Appreciation. All are free and should be spent by each one of us like a millionaire. You lose nothing



everybody gains a lot. What a win-win situation. Always try to be happy, initially it will become your Looks, gradually your habit and finally your personality.

My visit to Bellary on 19th and 20th January was an eye opener, as to how much work does a single lodge do. They have a huge and wonderful Masonic Building and are doing creditable work. My advice to the Brethren is to create more Charitable Activities and specially a show case project for the lodge. The Brethren from Bangalore and Bellary took very good care of the Grand Lodge delegations and we are thankful to them. The South and West again beckoned us and the 5 days combined trip was very fruitful. The Grand Lodge consecrated Chapter Gomantak at Goa and Lodge Karvir at Kolhapur and were very well

hosted by the Western Region at Sangli for their Annual and Investiture Meeting. The consecration of Lodge Karvir went like absolute precision and I was very impressed by the talent and oration of the Founder WM Bro. Koustubh Gosawi and his dedicated team. We are also thankful to RW. Bro. Abhiman Bhalerao and the other brethren of the neighbouring Southern India for their active help and guidance in the consecration and development of this new entrant within our family. I must also place on record our heartfelt appreciation to the Grand Chaplain for his thought provoking and motivating Oration there. It was a delight to hear him.

On 23rd February Bro. Anish Kumar Sharma was installed as the New Regional Grand Master of the Northern India and he started his inning with a bang. He has envisaged another Show Case project of a fully equipped and modern Eye Hospital at Janpath, which would cater to all sections of the society in equal measures. This will be another feather in the cap of the Northern India and the Grand Lodge will also be a Partner in Service with them. The brethren and other institutions of the Northern India also rose to the occasion and contributed handsomely towards this noble project. We wish R.W. Bro. Anish Sharma a very successful tenure in

office and are confident that under his dynamic stewardship, the Region will grow leaps and bounds. He has lots of lofty plans for the Region and for the Grand Lodge and we would walk every step of the way with him to promote Harmony and Charity in the Region. I will write more about the lodges at Dehradun and Ludhiana and the wonderful work the Brethren are doing there in the next addition. Hats off to them.

My brethren, we had to take some tough decisions recently and the fall out is all there for every mason to see. When Individuals start feeling that they are greater and larger than the Institution, it becomes a warning and warring sign for the Institution. When lodges feel that it would be their way or the highway, the Institution as a whole suffers. We at the Grand Lodge are sure that no Mason or the Lodge is bigger than the great Institution of the Freemasonry and therefore we had to take unpleasant and unprecedented steps to curb rank indiscipline. No Grand Master wants to be harsh to any brother or the Lodges under his command, so long as the Brethren and the Lodges do not cross the red line. Once crossed, they no longer are the Masters of their Masonic

destiny and must be prepared to face the unpleasant consequences of their un-Masonic actions. It is an old saying that "efficiency is silent and nuisance is loud" and the same has been amply proved once again in the recent happenings. Nothing can be gained by spoiling the credibility of the Grand Lodge worldwide by inappropriate circulations of WhatsApp and Face book messages. These brethren are spoiling the credibility of the very institution of which they are proud members. Once they choose to do so, they make themselves open to reactions in equal measures.

I have been fortunate to present 60 years Long Term Service Jewel to ME Comp. Iqbal Singh at Dehradun. Masons like him are our Torch Bearers and Guide, and we all have a lot to learn from their unblemished Masonic and Public life. Their dedication and devotion towards our Institution is praise worthy and these brethren are walking examples of the true facets and tenets of our glorious institution. May their tribe grow by leaps and bounds.

My best wishes to you and your family members and I look forward to meet all of you in near future.

INSTALLATION OF R.W.BRO. ANISH KUMAR SHARMA

RW Bro. Anish Kumar Sharma was installed as the Regional Grand Master of Northern India, by MW the Grand Master, at the Annual Investiture Meet of the Regional Grand Lodge of Northern India, at New Delhi on 23rd February 2019. R.W.Bro.A.K.Sharma was born on 7th January, 1949 at Saharanpur. He is a Chartered Accountant by profession and also managing a Senior Secondary School in New Delhi. He is a financial wizard in various fields and he was the financial advisor and director in many companies. In



many Lodges and occupied Eastern Chair in other Lodges as well. He held many prestigious positions in Regional Grand Lodge of Northern India as well as the Grand Lodge of India during his journey in Freemasonry. He held the office of Active Assistant Regional Grand Master in the Regional Grand Lodge of Northern India from 2002 to 2004. He has been the Deputy Regional Grand Master of Regional Grand Lodge of Northern India in the year 2005. His contribution to the various activities of the

recognition of his vast experience in the financial sector, the Government of India appointed him as Director of Union Bank of India for three years R.W.Bro.A.K.Sharma, saw the light of Freemasonry on 10th November, 1979 in Lodge Industry No.23. From the day he became the Master Mason he became very Active in Masonry. He occupied the Eastern Chair in his mother Lodge Industry No.23 in 1992. He is also member of

Regional Grand Lodge of Northern India and the Grand Lodge of India is immense and cannot be quantified. He was the president of Regional Grand Board of General Purposes. He was elected to the Board of General Purposes of Grand Lodge of India twice. He was the Active Assistant Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of India in the year 2014 and also the Grand Treasurer of Grand Lodge of India from 2015 to 2017. He holds

the Rank of Past Deputy Grand Master in the Grand Lodge of India .

He was exalted in to Royal Arch Masonry in R.A.Chapter Progress No.10 on 22.12.1994. He was the Principal Z in the year 2000 in R.A.Chapter Progress No.10. He holds the past Rank of Second Grand Principal in the Supreme Grand Chapter of India and 2nd Principal in the Regional Grand Chapter of Northern India.

He was advanced in Mark degree on 22nd August, 1992 and was the W.M.M. of the Mark Lodge Sunder Heera No.30 in the year 2000. He was elevated in R.A.M. Lodge Mount Ararat No.5 on 2nd December,1994 and has been W.C.'N' of R.A.M.Lodge Star of Delhi No.103 in 2004. He holds the Past Rank of Past Deputy Grand Mark Master in the Grand Mark Lodge of India and also holds the Past Rank of Senior R.A.M. Grand Officer.

He held the office of the Secretary of the Masonic Fraternity of New Delhi twice and he continues to be one of the most successful Secretaries of the Masonic Fraternity which is responsible for the maintenance and up keeping of the large Masonic Property at Janpath, New Delhi, which is also the Head Quarters of the Grand Lodge of India and the Regional Grand Lodge of Northern India.

R.W.Bro.A.K.Sharma became the President of the prestigious Fraternity club, Janpath, New Delhi in 1996 and continued as president for many terms till September 2011.

His charitable disposition is immense. He contributed to almost all charitable activities undertaken by the Regional Grand

Lodge of Northern India . He contributed regularly for the activities of The General Williams Masonic Polyclinic, New Delhi, Amrit Masonic Spastic Society, Noida and Northern India Masonic Charitable Society, which runs the Masonic Public School at Vasant Kunj. He is Governor of all the three Charitable Societies.

R.W.Bro.A.K.Sharma is a dedicated , friendly and a humble person and a committed and devoted Freemason with exemplary Character. He motivates his fellowmen and brethren to practice and demonstrate the distinguishing charismatic of Freemasonry . His son W.Bro.Raghav Sharma is also a very active Freemason.

Because of the zeal and enthusiasm of R.W.Bro.A.K.Sharma, coupled with his vast administrative experience, charismatic personality and his contribution in no small measures to the development and advancement of Freemasonry, particularly in the Northern Region. M.W.Bro.Rajeev Ramkrishna Khandelwal, OSM, M.W.The Grand Master appointed him as the next Regional Grand Master, Regional Grand Mark Master and The Grand Superintendent of the Regional Lodge/ Mark and Chapter of Northern India on 24th November, 2018 at the Annual Grand Festival at Nagpur.

The Brethren of Regional Grand Lodge of Northern India are proud of having him as the Regional Grand Master and join him untidily in his laudable endeavors to make the Regional Grand Lodge of Northern India as one of the most vibrant Regions of the Grand Lodge of India.

RW BRO. ZAWAREH WADIA AWARDED OSM

MW the Grand Master was pleased to award the Order of Service to Masonry to a very deserving R.W.Bro. Zawahreh F Wadia at New Delhi on the 23rd of February 2019.



RW Bro Zawareh Hoshang Wadia was born on 24th December 1952 to late RW Bro Hoshang F Wadia, Chartered Civil engineer and Mrs. Manijeh Wadia, a microbiologist and renowned social worker. He is a fourth generation freemason. His great grandfather and Khan Bahadur Pestonji B Wadia, and grandfather W. Bro Framroz P Wadia and father RW Bro Hoshang F Wadia were all initiates of Lodge Hamilton No.26 Surat. RW Bro Zawareh Hoshang Wadia holds the degrees of Bachelor of Engineering(Civil) and Master of (Engineering (Structural engineering) from renowned Sardar Vallabhai Patel National Institute of technology. He is a practicing Consulting Structural engineer since 1978. His late wife Dr. Parizad Wadia was a professor of Medicine at Government Medical College

and New Civil Hospital at Surat. R W Bo. Wadia is blessed with a daughter and a son.

RW Bro Zawareh Hoshang Wadia saw the light of Freemasonry on 15th March 1980 in Lodge Hamilton No,26, Surat. He ascended the Seat of King Solomon in the same Lodge in 1986. He has been a member of many lodges. He has held many prestigious ranks and positions in the Regional Grand Lodge of Western India as well as in the Grand Lodge of India. In Regional Grand Lodge of Western India he held the offices of Asst. Regional Grand Master from the year 2000 to 2003, Deputy Regional Grand Master from 2009 to 211 and Regional Grand Master from 2012 to 2015. He is presently Past Deputy Grand Master in Grand Lodge of India. He is the Grand representative of the Grand Lodge of Texas near to the Grand Lodge of India.

RW Bro Zawareh Hoshang Wadia was exalted in Holy Royal Arch Chapter Benevolence No 336(SC) in the year 1983, and has held various ranks in the Regional Grand Chapter of Western India, as well as the Supreme Grand Chapter of India. He was the Grand Superintendent of Western India from 2012 to 2015. Presently he is the president of Committee of General Purposes and holds the Past Rank of Second Grand Principal in Supreme Grand Chapter of India. He has been equally active in Mark as well as Royal Ark Mariners Degrees. He was the Regional Grand Mark Master of Western India from 2012 to 2015 and holds the past rank of Deputy Grand Master in the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India.

RW Bro Zawareh Hoshang Wadia's zeal and enthusiasm for Freemasonry, coupled with his vast administrative experience and charismatic personality have contributed immensely to the development and advancement of Freemasonry, particularly in Western Region. A very dedicated and loving man, a friendly person and certainly a committed and devoted Freemason, he has, by his exemplary character and behaviour motivated brethren to practice and demonstrate the distinguishing virtues of Freemasonry.

ANNUAL INVESTITURE MEET SOUTHERN INDIA

The RGLSI- AIM 2019 was held at Mangalore, Karnataka on the 9th and 10th of February 2019, at the TMA Pai Convention Center, under the able leadership of our beloved Regional Grand Master, R W Bro. Abraham Markos. The brethren of the Organising team comprising of Lodge Mangalore No. 156, Lodge Prerana No. 313, Lodge Gopalakrishna No. 382 (Udupi) and Lodge Kasargod No 257 were pleased to welcome the Brethren of South India and several from the other regions. 1021 Brethren registered and 240 Spouse registrations total attendance of 1261. On the morning of 9th February 2019, the Spacious Dr T M A Pai Convention Center was decorated with Flowers, buntings, Welcome arches and posters bearing the ? AIM- RGLSI 2019, Mangaluru Ahoy ! ? slogan and Registrations went without a hitch. Each Mason received a Tee Shirt and Cap bearing the same with every host brother wearing them, while welcoming the guests on the morning of 9th February 2019. W Bro Umashankar conducted the Workshop on REGAL for Lodge Secretaries and Later the Workshop for ARGMs. A sumptuous Lunch with local delicacies followed. The Masonic Ladies team, engaged the Visiting

Ladies with a sight- seeing programme. Brethren assembled at 4.30 PM for the AIM in the magnificent Main hall. RW the Regional Grand Master then entered with his Officers and Opened the RGL meet in due form. He then welcomed his Brother RGMs with their deputations. The business of the AIM (including the investiture of the Incoming Officers) was carried out with impeccable timing.

In the mean while, The Ladies who had returned from Sight seeing trip were entertained (on a custom built stage) by Barathnatyam performance by Children of Masons. By this time, Brethren joined the Ladies to witness an unforgettable Yakshagana (a local art form akin to Kathakali) on the story of Bhatka Pahlada, by the Children of Saanidya Special School, held everyone spell bound with Lord Narasimha Emerging from a pillar amongst the audience ! This was followed by a Karaoke performance by a professional singing couple, who obliged the audience requests. By this time Fellowship was on full swing, followed by a delicious dinner including the much awaited Mangalore Fish.

On the following morning, despite the festivities of the previous night, a good number of brethren attended the AIM of the Regional Grand Chapter and Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India. This was followed by Fellowship and another grand Lunch. The Visting brethren then bade Mangalore good bye with Light hearts and Heavy Stomachs!

WESTERN INDIA

The Annual Installation and Investiture Meeting of Regional Grand Lodge of Western India, was hosted by the brethren of the Lodge Sahyadri No.351 along with the brethren of Pune Region on 16th February 2019 at Hotel New Pride, Sangli at 5.00 p.m. in the presence of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of India, Most Worshipful Brother Rajeev R. Khandelwal, OSM. Present and Past Officers of the Grand Lodge of India, Regional Grand Lodge of Western India, Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, and Brethren of various Lodges of all four regions attended the meeting in large number. A charity programme was organized in the School for Mentally Handicapped Children, run by Navjeevan Society Sangli, in the presence of M. W. Grand Master and R. W. The Regional Grand Master, a cheque of Rs. 1,00,000/- was handed over to the Director of the Institute. Rs. 1,00,000/- was handed over to the Director of the Institute. M. W. Grand Master sanctioned Rs. 25000/- as a financial assistance from the Grand Lodge of India, and R. W. The Regional Grand Master of Western India also declared donation of sum of Rs. 20000/- on behalf of Regional Grand Lodge of Western India.

The Investiture meeting of the Regional Grand Lodge of Western India was opened, and after completing preliminary business, Right Worshipful Brother M. S. Federal, Right Worshipful the Regional Grand Master of Regional Grand lodge of Western India, received the visiting deputations of the Right Worshipful Regional Grand Masters of other regions of the Grand Lodge of India.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of India, M.W.Bro. Rajeev R. Khandelwal, OSM along with members of his deputation was received, greeted and saluted by R. W. Regional Grand Master. R. W. Bro. M. S. Federal along with brethren present.

Silence for two minutes was observed as a mark of respect to the departed souls to the Grand Lodge above since September 2018. Various Trophies for the year 2018 were announced and

presented. R.W. Regional Grand Master appointed, obligated, invested and installed R.W. Bro. Yagnesh Thakkar as his Dy. Regional Grand Master for the year 2019. He also appointed, obligated, invested and installed as his Assistant Regional Grand Masters for the year 2019. Appointment and investiture of other officers of the Regional Grand Lodge of WI for the year 2019 was completed.

The names of the ex-officio members, elected members and nominated members to the Board of General Purposes of Regional Grand Lodge of W.I. for the year 2019 were announced.

M. W. Bro. Rajeev R. Khandelwal O.S.M., the M.W. Grand Master released ASHLAR, the bimonthly magazine, published by Regional Grand Lodge of Western India. R.W. Bro. M. S. Federal, R.W. Regional Grand Master of the Regional Grand Lodge of Western India addressed the brethren of Western Region. He thanked all brethren for attending in large numbers. M. W. Bro. Rajeev R. Khandelwal, O.S.M. M.W. The Grand Master of Grand Lodge of India, addressed the brethren of Western Region, complimenting brethren of Lodge Sahyadri for holding the meeting in excellent manner. The Charity Box was circulated. The National Anthem was sung. M.W. The Grand Master of Grand Lodge of India, retired in procession along with the members of his deputation. The Regional Grand Lodge of Western India was closed in due form. R. W. The Regional Grand Master R. W. Bro. M. S. Federal retired along with visiting deputations in procession. The meeting was followed by Fellowship and dinner.

The Annual Investiture Convocation of Regional Grand Chapter of W.I. was held at 09.30 a.m. on 17th Feb' 2019. M. E. Comp. M. S. Federal The M.E. Grand Superintendent of Regional Grand Chapter of W.I. entered the convocation hall in procession along with members of his deputation.

Silence for two minutes was observed as a mark of respect to the departed souls of Martyrs of Pulnama terrorists attack. With the help of other two Principals E. Comp. Rajiv Sethi and E. Comp. V.R. Avadhani, he opened the Chapter in due form.

After preliminary business was over, the M.E. Grand Superintendent Regional Grand Chapter of W.I. received the visiting deputations of the M. E. Regional Grand Superintendents of other three regions.

M. E. Comp. Rajeev R. Khandelwal, O.S.M. M. E. The first

Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Chapter of India was received along with deputation of his officers. The M.E. Grand Superintendent Regional Grand Chapter of W.I. welcomed and greeted him and his deputation along with companions of the Western Region. The M.E. Grand Superintendent Regional Grand Chapter of W.I. appointed, obligated, invested and Installed E. Comp. Dr.Yagnesh Thakar as The Second Regional Grand Principal and E. Comp. P. V. Dekatey as the Third Regional Grand Principal for the year 2019. M. E. Comp. M. S. Federal appointed and invested other officers of the Regional Grand Chapter of W.I. for the year 2019. After completing other business of the Chapter, M. E. Comp. M. S. Federal, addressed the companions of the Chapter appealing them to bring more brethren from Craft Lodges to the Order. The visiting dignitaries greeted M. E. Comp. M. S. Federal the M.E. Grand Superintendent of Regional Grand Chapter of W.I. M. E. Comp. Rajeev R. Khandelwal , M.E. The first Grand Principal, addressed the companions of the Chapter, acknowledging hard work and efforts, put in by the Organizing Committee. He expressed the need of young companions to join the order. The charity box was circulated. M. E. Comp. Rajeev R.Khandelwal , M.E. the first Grand Principal, retired in procession along with his deputation. The Regional Grand Chapter was closed in peace and harmony. National Anthem was sung. M. E. Comp. M. S. Federal, The M.E. Grand Superintendent of Regional Grand Chapter of W.I. retired in procession.

AIM of Mark followed at 11:00 AM. R.W. Regional Grand Mark Master, opened the Regional Grand Mark Lodge in due form. After preliminary business was over, R.W. Regional Grand Mark Master received the visiting deputations, the Right Worshipful Regional Grand Masters of all three regions of the Grand Mark Lodge of India.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India, the Most Worshipful Bro. Rajeev R Khandelwal along with the members of his deputation was received, welcomed, greeted and saluted by. R. W. Regional Grand Mark Master. R.W. Bro. M. S. Federal along with brethren present.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master in turn, thanked the brethren for their fraternal greetings.

R.W. Regional Grand Mark Master R. W. Bro. M. S. Federal

appointed, obligated, invested and installed R.W. Bro. Suresh Mehra as his Dy. Regional Grand Mark Master,. Bro. Ketan Bhat as his Assistant Regional Grand Mark Master. The appointment and investiture of other officers of the Regional Grand Mark Lodge of W.I. for the year 2019 was completed.

After completing other regular business, R.W. Bro. M. S. Federal R.W. Regional Grand Mark Master of the Regional Grand Mark Lodge of W.I. addressed the brethren. M, W. Bro, Rajeev R. Khandelwal, the M.W. .Grand Mark Master addressed the gathering.

The Charity Box was circulated. National Anthem was sung.

M. W. Bro. Rajeev R. Khandelwal M. W. Grand Mark Master retired in procession along with the members of his deputation. The Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Western India was closed in due form. R.W. the Regional Grand Mark Master retired in procession along with the visiting dignitaries. Approximately 100 brethren were present at the meeting. The meeting was followed by fellowship and lunch.

Another highlight of the Festival was that M. W. The Grand Master was pleased to bestow the highest Masonic Honor, "ORDER OF SERVICE TO MASONRY" on very deserving R. W. Bro. Zawareh H. Wadia.

Attendance of Ladies was unparalleled and Festivities were appreciated by one and all. All Committees functioned meticulously and all visiting Masons had a Great and Gala time.

NORTHERN INDIA

With unprecedented registration of more than 1200 Masons the ceremony of installation of R. W. Bro. Anish Kumar Sharma was held as a very colorful and glittering occasion on 23rd and 24th Feb. 2019 at Freemason Hall, New Delhi.

M. W. The Grand Master, M. W. Bro. Rajiv R. Khandelwal installed R. W. Bro. A.K. Sharma in the Craft, Chapter and Mark in these two days. Luminaries in the persons of M. W. Bro. H. P. Mathur, M. W. Bro. D.D. Udeshi, M.W. Bro. Justice Davender Gupta and M. W. Bro. Dr. Capt. Prof. Biswa Kumar graced the Occasion. All the four Regional Grand Masters attended the Ceremony. Another highlight of the Festival was that M. W.

The Grand Master was pleased to bestow the highest Masonic Honor, "ORDER OF SERVICE TO MASONRY" on very deserving R. W. Bro. Zawareh H. Wadia. Attendance of Ladies was unparalleled and Festivities were appreciated by one and

all. All Committees functioned meticulously and all visiting Masons had a Great and Gala time.

EASTERN INDIA

The Brethren of Berhampur, the “The Silk City “ of Odisha, hosted the Annual Meeting of the Regional Grand Lodge of Eastern India under the able leadership of R.W. Bro. Dr. Javed Akhtar, R.W. the Regional Grand Master.

M.W. Bro. Rajeev Khandelwal, OSM. Addressed the Master and Secretaries of Lodges under the Regional Grand Lodge of Eastern India at Freemasons Hall, Andhapasara Road at 11a.m. on 2nd March, 2019. Followed by a Charity programme at a Home for Divyang (Home for Visually Impaired) at 12.30p.m.

The Venue for Annual (Investiture) Meeting was Hotel Moti, Berhampur. The visiting Brethren from all areas of the Region and the dignitaries from the Grand Lodge of India and other regions, assembled for the meeting at 5 P.M. The Annual Meeting began with the ceremonial entry of R.W. The Regional Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Dr. Javed Akhtar, who entered the temple with his procession of Active Officers of the Region. Thereafter, R.W. Bro. Abraham Markos, R.W. the Regional Grand Master, Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India and Representatives of the Regional Grand Lodge of Northern India and Regional Grand Lodge of Western India were received, saluted and seated. M.W. Bro. Rajeev Ramakrishna Khandelwal, OSM, M.W. the Grand Master was received in due form along with the members of the Grand Lodge Deputation. M.W. the Grand Master was greeted and saluted, and he thanked the Brethren for their salutations.

The Regional Grand Master requested the assembled Brethren to observe one-minute silence to honour the sacrifices of the Martyrs of recent Pulwama terrorist attacks.

R.W. the Regional Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Dr. Javed Akhtar then addressed the Brethren. He also appreciated the work and the efforts put in by organizing committee, who had worked tirelessly towards the success of the Annual Investiture Meeting. R.W.Bro. Sreekumar Mookerjee was appointed as the Deputy Regional Grand Master. Appointment and investiture of new active officers was done along with investiture of retained and newly appointed active ARGMs.

M.W. Bro. Rajeev Khandelwal, OSM, Most Worshipful the Grand Master in his address to the Brethren, emphasized upon

the need of discipline and duties of Active Officers of the Region, especially the ARGMs. The Meeting was followed by Fellowship which was enjoyed by the assembled Brethren and the ladies. On 3rd March, 2019 at 8 AM, a Health Camp was organized at Freemasons' Hall, Andhapasara Road, Berhampur. The Annual Convocation of Regional Grand Chapter of Eastern India followed thereafter. M.E. the 1st Grand Principal attended the convocation along with the members of his Deputation. M.E. Comp. Dr. Javed Akhtar called the Convocation to order. Regional Scribe E called the Roll of Chapters and the Active Officers. M.E. Comp. Sreekumar Mookerjee was appointed, Obligated and Invested as the 2nd Regional Grand Principal. Rest of the Active Officers were Appointed and Invested. M.E. Comp. Dr. Javed Akhtar in his address re-emphasized the active participation of companions. M.E. Comp. Rajeev Khandelwal addressed the Regional Grand Chapter. The Convocation was closed after the Grand Deputation retired.

The Regional Grand Mark Lodge Meeting was convened at 11.30 a.m. by R.W. the Regional Grand Mark Master, R.W.Bro. Dr. Javed Akhtar assisted by his Active Officers. The Dy. Grand Mark Master, R.W.Bro. Ajit Kr. Saha who represented M.W. the Grand Mark Master, was received into the Regional Mark Lodge along with the members of the Grand Deputation. The Regional Grand Secretary called the roll of Mark Lodges and Active Officers and RAM Lodges and Active Officers, normal business of the Regional Grand Mark Lodge was conducted. Appointment of new Active Officers was done.

The Dy. Grand Mark Master R.W. Bro. Ajit Kr. Shaha then addressed the Regional Mark Lodge and congratulated the organizers. On behalf of M.W. the Grand Mark Master, he then awarded a 40 Years Long Term Service Jewel to R.W. Bro. Sisir Kr. Ghosh, P.Dy.GM, P.RGMM.

The Regional Grand Mark Lodge was closed after the Grand Mark Lodge Deputation retired. The meetings were followed by a lunch. Congratulations were accorded to the organizers, especially R.W. Bro. Dr. Epari Jayanti Rao, Organising Secretary and R.W. Bro. Major Palli Rama Rao, Chairman - Organising Committee and the Brethren of Behrampur.



CONSECRATION OF HRA CHAPTER GOMANTAK NO. 165

The newly formed Holy Royal Arch Chapter Gomantak No 165 was ceremoniously consecrated and constituted at Jay Kieran Hall, Ramnathi, Ponda, Goa on Thursday, 14th February 2019 at 6.00 P.M. in a very solemn and impressive ceremony.

Twenty-five companions from Goa, Belgaum, Hubli, Mangalore and Dharwad had petitioned to the Supreme Grand Chapter of India for starting a HRA Chapter in Goa, and the petition was acceded to by the M. E. the First Grand Principal and the Chapter chartered on 14th January 2019. Accordingly, it was decided to have the consecration of the Chapter on 14th February 2019.

M.E. Comp. Rajeev Ramkrishna Khandelwal, M. E. the First Grand Principal of Supreme Grand Chapter of India was the Consecrating Officer and was ably assisted by M. E. Comp. Abraham Markos as IPZ, M. E. Comp. Swadesh K. Bhargava as Second Principal and M. E. Comp. V. G.

Madhusudan as Third Principal.

M.E. Comp. Rajeev Ramkrishna Khandelwal, M. E. the First Grand Principal of Supreme Grand Chapter of India, the Consecrating Officer entered in procession along with the consecrating team. First a Casual Holy Royal Arch Chapter was opened and then HRA Chapter Gomantak No. 165 was ceremoniously consecrated and constituted according to ancient custom in a very impressive manner by the Consecrating Officer. M. E, Comp. V. G. Madhusudan gave a scholarly and impressive oration.

E. Comp. Madhukar C. Thakkar was then ceremoniously installed as the Founder MEZ by M. E. Comp. Abraham Markos, P II G. Pr., M. E. the Grand Superintendent of the Regional Grand Chapter of Southern India. E. Comp. Dr. Govind S. Welling was ceremoniously installed as the Founder Second Principal H by M. E. Comp. Swadesh K. Bhargava, II G. Pr. and E. Comp. Dr. Ashok Pandit as



Founder Third Principal J by M. E, Comp. V. G. Madhusudan, III G Pr.

M. E. Z. then appointed and invested the Founding Officers of the Chapter, including the Treasurer Comp. Subhash Malkarnekar and Janitor Comp. J. C. Patel who were earlier elected unanimously.

M.E. Comp. Rajeev Ramkrishna Khandelwal, M. E. the First Grand Principal of Supreme Grand Chapter of India, M. E. Comp. Swadesh K. Bhargava, II G. Pr., M. E. Comp. Abraham Markos, P. II G. Pr. and M. E, Comp. V. G. Madhusudan III G. Pr. were elected Honorary members of

the Chapter.

Founder members and Honorary members were presented with Founder Member Jewels.

The Founder MEZ E. Comp. M. C. Thakkar, M. E. Comp. Abraham Markos and M.E. Comp. Rajeev Ramkrishna Khandelwal then addressed the brethren.

The consecration ceremony was well attended by companions from Chapters in the area.

All present enjoyed the fellowship and banquet after the ceremony.

CONSECRATION , BANNER DEDICATION AND INSTALLATION OF LODGE KARVEER NO.469

LODGE KARVEER No. 469, was consecrated at Kolhapur, on 15th February 2019. At 4.30 pm all the Brethren in full regalia assembled for a group photograph, there were more than 150 brethren present. M.W. Rajeev R.Khandelwal M.W. Grand Master of GLI along with the consecrating team then entered the temple in a procession. The M.W. Grand Master then opened a casual lodge in all three degrees with R.W.Bro. S. Thiruganamurthy as a Senior Warden, R.W.Bro. Vishwanathan Ganesan as Junieur Warden, W.W.Bro. T. Manoharan as Chaplain, R.W.Bro. Zawareh H.Wadia as Secretary and R.W.Bro. Yagnesh Thakkar as D.O.C., V.W. Bro. Madhav Kulkarni as Sr. Deacon, R.W.Bro. S.Krishnan as Jr. Deacon, W.Bro. Vinayak Kewadkar as Inner Guard and W.Bro. Rakesh Khanna as Tyler. The brethren then saluted the M.W. Rajeev R.Khandelwal M.W. Grand Master of GLI and then the consecration ceremony began.

After the Lodge was Consecrated R.W.Bro. M.S Federal assumed charge of the Lodge as the Installing

officer. W.Bro. Koustub Gosavi was then installed as the W.Master of Lodge Karveer No.469 for the year 2019. The W.Master then appointed R.W.Bro. Yashkaran Singh Lauly as IPM. Bro. Nitin Nikam was elected as the Treasurer and Bro. Pratap Parulkar as Tyler for the ensuing year. The W.Master then invested his officers for the year 2019 as per by-laws. The Warrant of the Lodge was then presented to the W.Master. R.W.Bro. Swadesh K. Bhargava then gave the address to the W.Master followed by R.W.Bro. S. Thiruganamurthy addressed the Wardens and R.W.Bro. Zawareh H.Wadia addressed the brethren.

The By-Laws for the lodge were then approved and adopted and then presented to the W.Master. The W.Master then addressed the brethren. The dedication Ceremony of the Lodge banner then began. The M.W. Grand Master along with the officers of the Grand Lodge occupied their positions for the Banner Dedication. W.Bro. Prasad Chikaskar donated the banner, the banner was carried in procession W.Bro. Kunal Gosavi and Bro.



Subodh Kittur. The following petitioning Past Masters were also part of the procession.

R.W.Bo. Digvijay Dhuru, R.W.Bro. Shivkumar Patil, W.Bro. Lt.Col. Doc. Dinesh, W.Bro. Nitin Kardekar, W.Bro. Prasad Chikaskar. The procession was led by R.W.Bro. Abhiman Bhalerao D.O.C. of the lodge followed by the Deacons Bro. Rajendra Deshinge and Bro. Vikrantsinh Kadam. Then the Grand Chaplain gave the prayer of dedication. The Banner was then unveiled by the M.W. the Grand Master. The Banner explanation was then given by Bro. Pratap Parulkar. Founder jewels were then presented to the petitioners. R.W.Bro. M.S. Federal, R.W. The Regional Grand Master of Western India then addressed the brethren.

M.W.Bro. Rajeev R.Khandelwal M.W. Grand Master then addressed the brethren, charity box was then circulated. Two brethren each were elected for the Audit Committee and Permanent Committee as per by-laws. A resolution was passed to operate the bank account. The W.Master then rose for the first time. M.W. The Grand Master along with his deputation retired from the Lodge in procession. The W.Master then rose for the second and third time. Brethren from 38 Lodges of GLI and one from the Scottish constitution gave salutations and congratulated the W.Master. The Lodge was then closed in due form. Brethren then proceeded for fellowship

CONSECRATION OF HRA CHAPTER SABARIDESAM No. 166



The Convocation was held on 23rd March 2019 at Freemasons' Hall at Pathanamthitta, the Ceremony of Consecration and Constitution of the "Holy Royal Arch Chapter Sabaridesam No.166" was accomplished in a solemn and momentous manner by M. E. Comp. R. Sushil Raj, P.II.G.Pr., P.G.Suptd. of SI., Representative of M. E. Comp. Rajeev Ramkrishna Khandelwal, M. E. The First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Chapter of India as the Consecrating Officer assisted by M.E. Comp. Pratapkaran Paul, P.II.G.Pr., P. II.R.G. Pr. as the Second Principal and M.E. Comp. V.G.Madhusudan, P.II.G.Pr., P. II.R.G. Pr. as the Third Principal. M.E. Comp. V. G. Madhusudan, P.II.G.Pr. , P. II.R.G.Pr. Presented an

excellent and an apt Oration. The Installation Ceremony of the Founder Principals-Designate of Holy Royal Arch Chapter Sabaridesam No.166 were obligated, entrusted, installed and charged respectively: a) E. Comp. Ashok Bhanuvikraman as M. E. Founder First Principal by the M. E. Comp. Abraham Markos, P.II.G.Pr., M.E. The Grand Superintendent of the Regional Grand Chapter of Southern India as the Principal Zerubbabel. b) E. Comp. Joseph Rodricks as Founder Second Principal by M.E. Comp. Pratapkaran Paul, P.II.G.Pr., P. II.R.G. Pr. as the Principal Haggai. c) Comp. Jaikumar Sunil Kumar as Founder Third Principal by M.E. Comp. V.G.Madhusudan, P.II.G.Pr., P. II.R.G. Pr. the Principal Joshua.

CHARITY PROJECTS

Two Charity projects were conducted to mark the occasion.

1. Mrs. Remya K V, aged 34, a case of chronic kidney disease-stage V on hemo-dialysis, underwent a successful renal transplantation on 04.11.2014 for the second time and was advised to continue regular follow up and immuno-suppressive medications lifelong. We have decided to support her medications and follow up for one month giving Rs. 10,000.00.



2. The beneficiary is Mrs. Sujatha aged 54 years. Her husband died in 2003. She has two unmarried daughters. She is suffering from a grievous type Parkinson's disease for 16 years. She is now completely bedridden due to an accidental fall resulting in fracture of both the hipbones. The elder daughter is also suffering from the same disease. A very poor family finding it hard to meet both ends together was given Rs.15,000.00

SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF GORAKHNATH PAST MASTERS LODGE NO.286

Silver Jubilee celebration of Gorakhnath Past Masters Lodge No.286 was held on 10th March'19 . The Lodge was opened at 10.AM bt the Worshipful Master, W.BRO Kamleshwar Sahai, in all the three degrees, RW.Bro Dr.Javed Akhtar, RW THE Regional Grand Master of Eastern India and the members of his deputation was received and welcome then M.W.Bro Rajeev Ram Krishna Khandelwal, DSM, MW the Grand Master of Grand Lodge of Antient, Free and Accepted Masters of India and members of his deputation were received and welcomed the W.M of the lodge honoured the MW the Grand Master and RW the Regional Grand Master.V.W.Bro Dr.CPM.Tripathi, Secretary of the lodge read the citation in respect of MW the Grand Master and presented it. He further read the brief history of the lodge. The MW, the Grand Master took the charge of the lodge totake the obligation of Re. dedication. RW Bro.Sree Mukheerjee performed the prayer ceremony. WBro.Dr.Shiraj A.Wajih, WBro Kamleshwar Sahai and W.Bro Anil K.Srivastava, ead tge citation rpm Gita, Bible, Quran, Zend Vesta, and Guru Granth.MW the Grand Master honoured the founder members of the Past Masters Lodge viz, RW Bro Dr.N.M.Selt, & RW Bro Prem Nairain Srivastara and addressed the brothern W.Bro Kamleshwar sahai thanked him and the Regional Grand Master and all the visit up brothern on the behalf of the lodge. Mementos were distributed on this occasion RW.Bro Ajeet K.Saha, RW.Bro Shantanu Majumdar, RW Bro SreeKUMAR Mukgerjee, RW Bro.S.K.Chandhar, Bro.Nurul Hasan and Bro RK Dutta.





CALLED FROM LABOUR

मृत्योर्मा अमृतम् गमय - (From death lead me to immortality)

Freemasonry teaches us to accept death as an inevitable part of life; that "however strong the ties of friendship may be in this life, death must intervene; but there will be memory in our hearts, and finally a rallying place in the Grand Lodge above." Yet, when dear ones are called away, we do feel the pain. We can but pray for eternal peace for them and offer our condolence to the bereaved families.

W. Bro Suraj Prakash Jain was born on 28th August 1935 in Gujranwala now in West Pakistan, and settled in Agra after the Partition. 1953 he did his graduation in Law from Agra University and joined his father in his ancestral business of manufacturing Brass Utensils, and later started a foundry. He was known for his competency and efficiency. He was widely respected in his business circle and was loved by his workers for his kind heartedness.



RW. Bro Suraj Prakash Jain was married to Smt Janak Rani Jain in 1954 and had a son Shashi Kumar Jain who also happens to be a Past Master of Lodge Star of Agra, and two daughters Sushma Jain and Sonia Jain.

RW. Bro. Suraj Prakash Jain was President of Agra Founders Association, National Chamber of Industries & Commerce, (UP), Agra, Shri Atam Vallabh Jain Punjabi Sangh of Agra, founder President of Mahavir International Agra and Patron for Jain Milan, Agra. He was a Lion for over 30 years, and served as the Charter President of Lions Club of Agra United, Agra. He served the Lions District 321 as Regional Chairman and also Additional Cabinet Secretary.

He was initiated to Freemasonry in Lodge Star of Agra on the 10th of December 1971. He was Chairman of Masonic Fraternity of Agra. He rose to the rank of PJGW, and was a recipient of 25 and 40 years Long term Service Jewels. Late RW. Bro Suraj Prakash Jain was also exalted as a Companion in Royal Arch Chapter Jamuna No. 15.

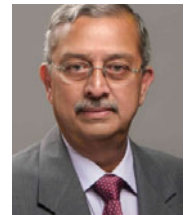
He was summoned to the Grand Lodge above on 17 February 2019. May he rest in Eternal Peace.

W.Bro.Kirit Ambelal Desai, was called to the Grand Lodge Above on 23rd February, 2019. He was one of the Senior Most brother of The Deolali Lodge No.91. He was recipient of 40 Years of Long Service Jewel and member of the lodge over 43 Years.(DOB: 05.06.1943). He was initiated on 24.07.1976 and he occupied Eastern Chair of

the lodge in 1985-86. He was also the member of Lodge Manockjee Cursetjee No 185 and was also occupied eastern chair in the Lodge. During his journey in freemasonry over 40 years he held many ranks and highest rank he held was **P.G.I.G.** 2012. He was very passionate active and very regular member of The Deolali Lodge No.91. He was very proactive and always have a point in lodge working. May his soul rest in peace.



RW Brother Dr. S. Ramachandran, a loveable Mason, affectionately known as was born on 30th September, 1950,. He completed BDS and MDS from the Madras Dental college, and set up his initial practice in Ootacamud before settling down in Chennai. He is married Dr. Sudha and had a son, Dharshan and daughter Rathi. He was initiated in Lodge Ramprasad No. 228. He exhibited true leadership qualities and made his presence felt at any meeting. He had a distinguished Masonic career, rising to the rank of P.DCy.GM in the Craft and Mark, and P.II Principal in Royal Arch. He was keenly interested in Masonic research and was a, a past chairman of Madras Masonic Study Circle, AcaciaWas a past President of Ransa Tennis club, a committee member in Presidency cluba member of the Madras Boat club, the Mylapore club and the TN billiards club, a Paul Harris fellow of the Rotary club of Madras and of late got interested in horse racing also owner of several horses. He left this transitory life for his heavenly abode on March 2, 2019. May he now rest in Peace.



02.03.2019 W.Bro.Rakesh Malik, P.Pres.of.G.Std., Kanpur

08.03.2019 W.Bro.N.S.Sivan, P.A.G.D.Of.C., Chennai

LONG TERM SERVICE JEWELS

You are to rise in the presence of the elderly and honor the old. - Leviticus 19:32

Freemasonry has always had great respect for age, and honoured its senior members for their services. Brethren who have served the fraternity faithfully and zealously for many years were presented with Long Term Service Jewels, as a token of our esteem and gratitude. Square & Compasses salutes them, and wishes them many more years of health, happiness and Masonic Service.

M E COMP. IQBAL SINGH



M.E.Comp. Iqbal Singh was honoured with the 60 Year Long Term Service Jewel by M.E. Comp. Rajeev Khandelwal, M.E.the First Principal, on 16th March 2019, in R.A.Chapter St.John the Baptist No. 3, Dehra Dun.

R.W.BRO. RAMASWAMY IYER

R.W. Bro. Ramaswamy Iyer was presented with the 50 Year Long Term Service Jewel by R.W.Bro. Sushil Raj, representing R.W.the Grand Master, on 22nd March 2019, in



Mark Lodge Thiruvananthapuram no. 62, Thiruvananthapuram. The jewel was presented at his residence, as his health did not permit him to come to the Lodge. About 30 brethren were present.

W BRO KAMALESHWAR SAHAI & W BRO DR ASHOK KUMAR AGARWAL

M.W. the Grand Master, presented 40 year Long Term Service Jewels to W Bro Kamaleshwar Sahai, W Bro Dr



Ashok Kumar Agarwal on 9th March 2019, in Lodge Lodge Gorakhpur No.157, Gorakhpur.

RW BRO DR N M JOHARI, & W BRO DR MAHAVEER SARAN DAS

RW Bro Dr N M Johari & W Bro Dr Mahaveer Saran Das, were honoured with 60 and 50 Years Long Term Service Jewels by M W The Grand Master, on 10th March 2019, in Lodge Nipal No.38, Gorakhpur. M.W. the Grand Master also presented W Bro S K Jee Srivastava with 40 Years Long Term Service Jewel, and W Bro S N Ali Sabzposh, W Bro M N Pandey, W Bro Dr Shiv Sharan Das, Bro Dr D Bharti, Bro Amir Amin and Bro Rai Anoop Prasad with 25 Years Long Term Service Jewels



REVIVAL OF THE SUNUT LODGE NO. 80 AT KOLKATA

The Sunut Lodge No. G.L.I which was originally warranted on 11th October, 1909 under the Irish Constitution at Calcutta was revived and relocated to Varanasi on 19th July, 2005, where it again went into abeyance after some years. On 18th March, 2019, by permission of Most Worshipful the Grand Master, it was revived at Freemasons' Hall, Kolkata. The Protem Officers for the Revival were R.W. Bro. Girish



Shastri - Protem Worshipful Master, R.W. Bro. Pervez S. Kaikobad - Protem I.P.M, R.W. Bro. Sreekumar Mookerjee - Protem Senior Warden, R.W. Bro. Dr. R.N. Bhattacharya - Protem Junior Warden and W.Bro. Pradip Kr. Dutta - Protem Secretary. W.Bro. Anwar Saleem, A.RGM was deputed by R.W. the Regional Grand Master to attend the meeting. A large number of eminent Brethren from Kolkata were also present at the revival meeting. Twenty Brethren joined the newly revived Lodge and proposals for 5 Candidates for Initiation and 2 Candidates for Joining were made by the Master-Elect W.Bro. Ankur Chaturvedi. A tasteful Festive Board was hosted by the Protem Master after the Meeting.

THE SIR ANDREW FRASER LODGE NO. 72 110TH FOUNDATION YEAR CELEBRATIONS, KOLKATA

The Sir Andrew Fraser Lodge No. 72 G.L.I celebrated the completion of it's year-long celebrations to mark 110 years of it's Consecration with great élan at Freemasons' Hall, Calcutta on 19th March, 2019. Most Worshipful the Grand



Master had deputed R.W. Bro. Girish R. Shastri, Assistant Grand Master, P. Dy.GM, P.RGM to represent the Grand Lodge of India at the meeting. R.W. the Regional Grand Master had deputed R.W. Bro. Sreekumar Mookerjee, Dy. RGM, P. Dy.GM to represent him along with R.W. Bro. Bhaskar Chandra Chunder, P.Dy. GM, the Regional Grand Secretary. Also, notably in attendance was R.W. Bro. Raja Mookerjee, the Grand Registrar, P. Dy.GM, P. RGM and a host of other eminent Masons from several Lodges.

LODGE CONCORDIA NO. 3102 E.C. which had originally Sponsored the Consecration of The Sir Andrew Fraser Lodge in 1908 sent W.Bro. Neil MacMillan from the U.K. to represent the Lodge at the Meeting. V.W. Bro. Prof. Roger Hansell and Bro. Prof. Biswajit Ganguly were also present from



the University Lodge under the Grand Lodge of Ontario in Toronto, Canada. After addresses by R.W. the Assistant Grand Master and the visiting Brethren, the Worshipful Master of the Lodge, W.Bro. Sugyan Lohiaa felicitated R.W. Bro. Girish R. Shastri and R.W. Bro. Raja Mookerjee for being two eminent Brethren, who had not only successfully led our Region as Regional Grand Masters, but also had been recently appointed by Most Worshipful the Grand Master to key positions in the Grand Lodge of India. R.W. Bro. Raja Mookerjee addressed the Lodge thereafter. The Worshipful Master also presented tokens

of Brotherly Love to the Visiting Brethren from U.K. and Canada to take back to their Lodge. The Lodge also approved an ex-gratia medical aid from its Benevolence Fund of Rs. 10,000/- to W.Bro. Ranjit Kr. Rakshit, an ex-employee of the Regional Grand Lodge of Eastern India. The meeting was followed by a carefully curated banquet which was enjoyed by the Brethren assembled.

MOST WORSHIPFUL THE GRAND MASTER'S VISIT TO KOLKATA

M.W. Bro. Rajeev Ramkrishna Khandelwal, OSM was felicitated on his maiden visit to Freemasons' Hall, Kolkata after assuming Charge as Most Worshipful the Grand Master on 5th January, 2019 by R.W. Bro. Dr. Javed Akhtar, Right Worshipful the Regional Grand Master on behalf of the Regional Grand Lodge of Eastern India. The extremely well attended ceremony was notably attended by R.W. Bro. Girish



R. Shastri, AGM, P.Dy. GM, P.RGM, R.W. Bro. Sisir Kr. Ghosh, P.Dy. GM, P.RGM, R.W. Bro. Raja Mookerjee, Grand Registrar, P.Dy.GM, P.RGM, R.W. Bro. Vishal Bakshi, Grand Secretary, R.W. Bro. Bhaskar Chandra Chunder, P.Dy.GM, Regional Grand Secretary, R.W. Bro. Ajit Kr. Shaha, Dy.GM (Mark) and R.W. Bro. Dr. Anjan Chakravarty, Dy. RGM. A host of eminent Brethren from Kolkata and other parts of the Region were also in attendance. R.W. Bro. Dr. Javed Akhtar, R.W. the Regional Grand Master welcomed everyone and proceeded to felicitate M.W. Bro. Rajeev Khandelwal, OSM. Addresses were also given by R.W. Bro. Girish R. Shastri, R.W. Bro. Sisir Kr. Ghosh, R.W. Bro. Raja Mookerjee, R. W.

Bro. Dr. Anjan Chakravarty and R.W. Bro. Nurul Hasan, Regional Grand Treasurer. A plaque commemorating the Felicitation was presented to M.W. Bro. Rajeev Khandelwal, OSM and his Official Portrait was unveiled. Most Worshipful the Grand Master then proceeded to address the Brethren assembled and spelled out the policies of his tenure. He also thanked R.W. the Regional Grand Master for honouring him.



After a Tea Break, M.W. Bro. Rajeev Khandelwal, OSM and R.W. Bro. Vishal BAKSHI attended the Regular Session of On the Level - The Eastern Masonic Study Circle, which was organized in his honour. R.W. Bro. Dr. Javed Akhtar, the Chairman of the Study Circle addressed the large number of Brethren who attended the Session. Most Worshipful the Grand Master presented the Study Circle Jewels to R.W. Bro. Sreekumar Mookerjee, W.Bro. Manchi Mancherji and W.Bro. Harsh Khemka. Masonic Papers were presented by W.Bro. Rahul Vashist and R.W. Bro. Pervez S. Kaikobad. Thereafter, M.W. Bro. Rajeev Khandelwal, OSM addressed the members of the Study Circle and the assembled Brethren. He expressed satisfaction at the work being conducted in the Sessions of the Study Circle and stressed on the importance of Masonic Education. R.W. Bro. Girish R. Shastri attended the Session, so did the former Vice-Chairmen of the Study Circle - R.W. Bro. Sisir Kr. Ghosh and R.W. Bro. Raja Mookerjee. The Session ended with a vote of thanks by R.W. Bro. Ambarish Singh Roy, Founder and Secretary of the Study Circle and the customary Closing Prayer. A dinner was hosted by the Study for the Brethren at a nearby Club.

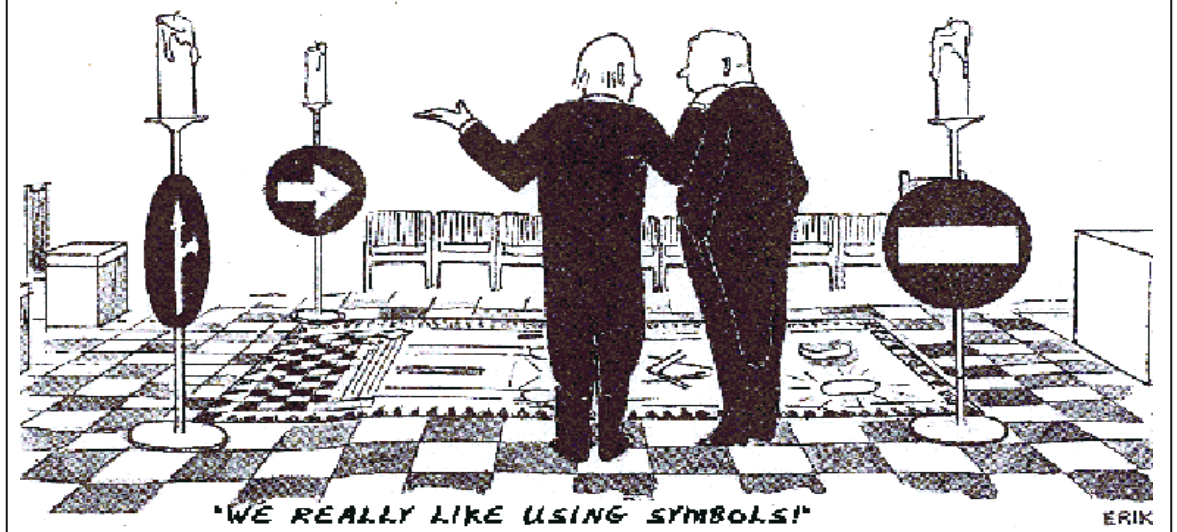
LODGE SIWALIK DR. DURGA PRASAD NO. 62

Lodge Siwalik Dr. Durga Prasad No. 62 is one of the oldest lodges in Northern India, established by Warrant dated 1st September 1902 for Lodge Siwalik No. 2329 (EC). The Lodge was consecrated on 23rd February 1903, at a rented building in the Dilaram Bazar area of Rajpur Road, Dehra Dun. The Lodge shifted to the 'Cantonment Club' in 1912. It was then that the Brethren resolved to construct a Lodge building, for which land was taken on lease in the Cantonment and the corner stone laid on 18th January, 1913. The new Temple was dedicated on 15th May 1913, and since then the Lodge has functioned here in peace and harmony. In 1916, W. Bro. Tikka Raghunath Singh became the first Indian to be installed as Master of the Lodge. Chapter St. John the Baptist now No. 3) was shifted to Dehra Dun in 1915 as, in those days, Lodge



Dalhousie remained closed for six months of the year. This is the oldest Chapter of Northern India. Mark Lodge and Royal Ark Mariners now attached to our Lodge were shifted here in 1936. Lodge Siwalik was amongst the founder constituent Lodges of the Grand Lodge of India in 1961 as Lodge Siwalik No. 62 (GLI). Lodge Siwalik had the honour of having its own, Dr. Durga Prasad installed as the first Regional Grand Master of the Regional Grand Lodge (Northern India) on 26th November 1961. Lodge Siwalik was renamed Lodge Siwalik Dr. Durga Prasad on 12th October 1974 in his memory. Lodge Siwalik also had the privilege of having another noted Brother R.W. Dr. Som Dhingra as the Regional Grand Master in 1983. The Lodge celebrated its Centenary on 18th January 2004.

MASONIC HUMOUR



REPORT OF M.W.GRAND MASTER'S PRESS MEET AT HYDERABAD **FREEMASONRY MAKES GOOD MEN BETTER FREEMASONS ARE ALWAYS AT THE FOREFRONT OF EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY**

Hyderabad, December 10, 2018.... Freemasonry is not known to many in this part of the country. Some even perceive it to be a secretive society. There is a nothing secret about Freemasonry. Just as you have Password and User ID to your email account, so are few keywords in Freemasonry says the newly elected Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Rajeev Khandelwal of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of India(GLI). Until some time back it was believed that Freemasons have a secret that they carefully conceal. But it is no longer considered like that says, he.

But our real secret, Khandelwal says is no other than our ceremonial methods of instruction and the mode of determining who are its members, which but few understand' and those who do, envelope it in mystery. But, there is nothing secret about it. It is a thing of the past. We have opened up a lot in the recent past. The very reason why I am giving this interview is the proof that we are open, he explained.

We want to lose this mysterious persona we have and want to reach out to as many people as possible. To dispel this very notion of secrecy we have been organizing Open Sessions to explain the purpose and significance of the Institution of

Freemasonry. Further emphasizing the transparency of the organization, he continues, "Our constitution, teachings, rituals, and activities are available for all to read. Books can be found in our offices and public libraries. There are so many online resources, he informed. We don't just reveal what we do inside our 'temple' (the hall where they meet is called as Temple) for historical reasons. There's nothing clandestine except our signs, tokens, and words Khandelwal stated.

The newly elected, youngest Grand Master of Grand Lodge of India(GLI) for the year 2018-2021 was here in the

city on a two-day maiden visit to the city after he elected to the highest office of Freemasonry in India. He was here in the city in connection with the presentation of Long Term Service Jewels(LTS) to two members Praful Kumar Sahgal and Vishwanathan Ganeshan, who completed 25 years of service in the Freemasonry, as well as unveil his portrait and participate in few charity projects taken up by Local Lodges(primary units, clubs of Freemasonry) Nearly 500 Freemasons and their family members graced the portrait unveiling function. Portrait function which takes place once in three years immediately after new Grand Master takes over is a very significant Freemasons function.



Immediately after taking over the reins, this Nagpur based Chartered Accountant by profession, Rajeev Khandelwal, who is one among 73 highly decorated prominent Freemasons to receive the highest honor "Order of Service to Freemasonry" in the past six decades in the history of the organization" chosen to visit Hyderabad. When asked the same, he said, Hyderabad is one of the most vibrant Masonic centers in the country. Masonry is spread in India across 200 towns and cities.

Hyderabad is like a home coming to me. I have been coming to this place as we have twinned with local Model

Lodge, informed Khandelwal

Khandelwal is the head of the GLI which was consecrated as a Sovereign Grand Lodge with full Masonic Jurisdiction over the territories of Republic of India in November 1961. As of now, there are 380 Masonic Lodges and over 200 other Masonic bodies located in different parts of the country under the GLI with a total membership of about 22,000 Freemasons.

Interacting with the media at Freemasons Hall at Goshamahal Baradari, Rajeev Khandelwal said Freemasonry has been in existence in the present form for

nearly 280 years in the world and for over 250 years in India. Responding to another question he informed that Freemasonry is always at the forefront of embracing technology. When asked to comment how he would like to make the organization more relevant to the present generation, since most of its members are old people, Rajeev said, things are changing. We have a good mix of old and new members. We need both. We don't solicit members. But, we are able to get more and more youth and millennials joining us. People have their own reasons why they enjoy Freemasonry. Many come for the brotherhood other for self-improvement. Freemasonry is an ocean. You can learn many things brotherhood, charity, education, values, discipline, character building, knowledge etc. In one word, it offers a journey of personal discovery. Its preachings appeal to all generations, he said and added that more and more millennials are becoming Masons.

Freemasonry came to India in 1730 with officers of the East Indian Company holding their meetings in Fort William, Calcutta. Since then the organization flourished in India, patronized by British Nobles and Indian elite class.

It is one of the world's oldest secular fraternal societies. It is a worldwide organization based on the principle of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man. It is a society of men concerned with moral and spiritual values. Freemasonry is not a religion, nor is it a substitute for religion. There are more than 150 Grand Lodges functioning all over the world, he said.

When asked to explain what is Freemasonry? he said it is a way of life. It is a character building society. We make good men better. Replying why Freemasonry is not seen as much as Lions, Rotary and Round Table, he said, we don't publicize much about us. But, we are a very active body. Locally in Hyderabad, we have 19 branches which are called Lodges.

Though there is no comparison, the Masonic Fraternity is involved in several charitable projects. The General Williams Masonic Polyclinic and a Masonic Public School in Delhi, as also a Masonic Medical care center for children in Coimbatore; Construction of Sheds for cyclone victims in Andhra Pradesh. Under "Jyothirgamaya Project" 110 villages in the country provided Solar Lights etc., are examples of some of the socially relevant activities of Masonic organizations all over the country. And this project is highly talked about the project in the country. Most remote

villages electrified under this project. Some of the well-known people in the city are our members. Locally notable Freemasons include P. Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Sir Terrence Keys - the British Resident, Raja Venkata Ram Reddy, Nawab Mehdi Nawaz Jang, and Nawab Ali Yavar Jang Bahadur, who became Governors of Gujarat and Maharashtra, Bakshi Raghunath Pershad, Syed Mohd. Bilgrami, Nawab Shamsheer Jung Bahadur, Meher Ali Fazil, Nawab Bashir Yar Yung, Raja Rajwant Bahadur, Syed Hali Ali.

Nationally some of the well-known Freemasons include Swami Vivekananda, Dadabhoj Nowroji Tata, W.C. Bannerjee, Pandit Motilal Nehru, President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, Sir Dorabji Jamshedji Tata, Dr. C. Rajagopalachari, Sir Sultan Mohammad Shah, Aga Khan, Maharaja Ganga Singh, and others, Rajeev Khandelwal informed.

It is based on three great principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Every Freemason shows tolerance and respect for the opinions of others and behaves with kindness and understanding to his fellow creatures. Members are taught to practice charity, and to care, not only for their own, but also for the community as a whole, both by charitable giving and by voluntary efforts and works as individuals. Freemasons strive for truth, requiring high moral standards and aiming to achieve them in their own lives, Rajeev added.

It requires of its members a belief in God as part of the obligation of every responsible adult but advocates no sectarian faith or practice. Its members are from different faiths but meet on an equal level and never discuss religion and politics.

Freemasonry is a worldwide organization based on the principle of the 'Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man'. It is a society of men concerned with moral and spiritual values.

The Grand Lodge of India (GLI) is the main governing body of Freemasonry within India, it was officially constituted on Friday the 24th November 1961.

Its primary unit of organization is a 'Lodge.' A number of independent Lodges of a region are under the governance of a 'Grand Lodge.' The Grand Lodge of India is based at New Delhi

The Society of Masons is distinguished into three classes or degrees: The Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and Master Mason. The Entered Apprentice knows but little

more of Masonry than the use of signs and tokens, and certain steps and words by which Masons can recognize each other without being discovered by a non-Mason.

The Fellow Craft is not much better instructed in Masonry, than the Entered Apprentice. It is only in the Master Mason's Lodge, that whatever knowledge remains of the ways of Masonry is preserved and concealed.

Its meeting place is called Temple, but, all major religions are represented. Group of members called Lodge. It summons (not invites) its members for its meeting. No atheist or agnostic is admitted into movement. Only men can become members (women are not allowed to become Masons in India). Masonic fraternity calls its members as 'brothers'. Brothers when meet, the means of identifying each other as true brethren is very secret.

It is a society of men concerned with moral and spiritual values. Its members are taught its precepts by series of rituals which follow ancient forms and use stone mason's customs and tools and allegorical guides. It seeks to make good men better and thereby make the world a better place in which to live.

The motto of Freemasonry is Brotherly Love, Relief & Truth. It is not a Religion. It is not a political party or organization. There is nothing secret or secretive about Freemasonry. Freemasonry does not conceal the time and place of its meeting nor does a member hid the fact of his membership.

Like many other societies, it regards some of its internal affairs as private matters of concern only for its members. There is no secret about its aims and principles. Copies of its Constitutions and Rules can be obtained by interested members of the public from its offices. "Does, in a corporate set up, a non-Board of Director allowed into a Board Meeting"? In masonry too, no guest or non-mason allowed to enter its temple. It doesn't canvas for members. It never seeks publicity nor makes tom-tom about its contributions to the society.

Charity is the predominant characteristic of a Freemason's heart. Its member includes princes and common men, sages and servants, one and all. Member is always expected to 'give' to Freemasonry rather than expect to 'receive' anything from it for personal benefit. Freemasonry teaches its members kindness in the home, love for one another, courtesy in society, resistance towards evil, help for the weak, pity and concern for the unfortunate, forgiveness for the penitent, fairness in work and honesty in business and above all, reverence and love for God. Freemasonry is the science by which morality is taught the visible symbols and instructive traditions associated with the erection of King Solomon's Temple some 3,000 years ago. Freemasonry is known as a worthy organization and membership carries with it a great amount of prestige.

**ORATION ON THE OCCASION OF CONSECRATION OF LODGE KARVEER No. 469,
KOLHAPUR, ON 15TH FEBRUARY, 2019
By R.W.BRO. T.N. MANOHARAN, GRAND CHAPLAIN**

Most Worshipful the Consecrating Officer M.W.Bro. Rajeev Ramkrishna Khandelwal, OSM, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of India, R.W. Bro Swadesh Bhargava, RW. The Dy Grand Master, RW Bro Girish Shastry, RW The Asst Grand Master, RW Bro Muffazal Saifuddin Federal, RW The Regional Grand Master of the Regional Grand Lodge of Western India, RW Bro Abraham Marcos, RW The Regional Grand Master of the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India, RW Bro Zawareh Hoshang Wadia, RW Bro Arvind Prasad Chitra, RW



Brethren, VW Brethren, W Brethren and Brethren all, a very pleasant good evening and my humble salutations to all of you.

It is a distinct honour to render oration on this unique occasion of consecration of Lodge Karveer no. 469, in the historic city Kolhapur. Kolhapur, having a population of over 4 million, is one of the oldest civilizations of the country. Kolhapur's cultural history dates back to 17th Century.

Situated at the banks of River Panchganga, Kolhapur is called as Dakshin Kashi (Kashi is a holy city in Northern India and Dakshin means South) for its spiritual

history.

Brethren may recall that on 24th November, 2018, our beloved M.W. Grand Master in his address at Nagpur, after assuming office as GM, made a profound statement which I quote "Brethren everything in this world changes except change itself". All of us would agree that we have experienced this truth in our own lives. Let me provide you with two simple examples to validate this statement of fact. Firstly, when we went to school a few decades ago, our parents often visited the school and asked the teacher "How is my son studying? Or How is my daughter studying?". The present generation of parents are so busy to do this and instead they ask their son or daughter at home "How is the teacher teaching?". Secondly, many of us had the habit of writing some of our daily happenings in a diary and preserved it with confidentiality. But in contrast, whatever we used to jot down then in diary with secrecy, the youth are now posting them on their face book and do expect "likes" to be posted by others. Some changes like this keep evolving around us, some other changes are thrust on us but some changes which are brought about for the common good happen only due to the determined effort of well-meaning individuals. Today's consecration of Lodge Karveer no.469 is the outcome of sustained efforts of 64 dedicated Brethren drawn from across many cities, including 14 local brethren, who have petitioned for consecration of this Lodge. Henceforth the historic profile of Kolhapur would get enshrined with this momentous occasion of consecration of a Freemasonry Lodge within its own jurisdiction.

The Lodge Banner to be dedicated during the course of today's proceedings, besides showcasing chosen Masonic symbols, adequately symbolizes and reflects upon the rich tradition and culture of this Holy City. It encompasses an illustration that of famous temple of Devi Mahalakshmi. Kolhapur is the seat of Goddess Mahalakshmi, also known as Ambabai. Shree Ambabai Mandir, built in the 7th century, is one of the Shakti peeths mentioned in Indian mythology. The story as to how Goddess Mahalakshmi positioned in Kolhapur has different versions. One version attribute it to the spat between Lord Vishnu and Goddess Lakshmi over the treatment given to the sage Rishi Bhrgu.

Consequently, Mahalakshmi left Vaikuntha and settled in the city of Kolhapur. It is said that she began a furious penance at Kolhapur that resulted in Lord Vishnu taking the avatar as Lord Venkatchalapati and marrying her in her rebirth as Goddess Padmavati. It is considered that the darshan of Shri Balaji of Tirumala in Andhra Pradesh is incomplete without visiting goddess Mahalakshmi of Kolhapur. Every day, a special train named Haripriya Express arrives in Kolhapur from Tirupati, carrying hundreds of pilgrims crossing 905 kms distance. TTD Trust presents "Shalu" every year to Kolhapur Mahalakshmi during Navaratri festival time.

Another version says that the goddess arrived here to protect the locals from a demon named Kolasura, who was harassing them. The Goddess defeated the demon and it was his dying wish that the place be named after him and hence the name Kolhapur was given to the City. Kolhapur city is also known as Karveer city, after which this Lodge is proudly named.

The motto of Lodge Karveer inscribed in the banner is "Tamaso ma Jothir gamaya". It is from the Shanthi Mantra from The Brhadâranyaka Upanishad which is one of the ancient, "primary" (mukhya) Upanishads. The full Mantra and the meaning is as follows: -

असतो मा सद् गमय
तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय
मृत्योर् मा अमृतम् गमय 1.3.28.

"Asato mâ sad gamaya;Tamaso mâ jyotir gamaya; Mrtyormâ amrtam gamaya

Om shânti shânti Shânti" (Brhadâranyaka Upanishad 1.3.28)

"From ignorance, lead me to truth; From darkness, lead me to light; From death, lead me to immortality. Om peace, peace, peace"

One of the significant benefits of our being committed Brethren in masonry is that we develop ability to destroy the darkness within us by getting the inner energy ignited by the spiritual light. The journey of every Brother into Freemasonry is aimed at enriching his mind with genuine

knowledge and to lead him to enlightenment. That is why he is admitted blindfolded and then exposed to material light and thereafter taken through emblematical lights- namely the Volumes of Sacred Law, Square and Compasses. The mysteries and privileges, as they unravel in the ceremony of initiation, passing and raising effectively inform, perform upon, reform and then transform human mind thereby significantly impacting on our lives.

The rituals of each degree inform us of the principles of moral and intellectual truth; the rituals make us perform the ancient usages and established customs of the order. Rituals also reform our thought process, attitude and approach to life. Finally, rituals transform us from the state of a rough ashlar symbolizing the rough and uninformed mind to a near perfect ashlar referring to a mature mind polished by education and experience. When we progress considerably in this transformation process, we evolve to a state of mind where we are able to view life holistically and embrace alike both success and failure in our efforts, upliftment and setback in our endeavours and similarly the positive and negative occurrences in life. Freemasonry even prepares us, by contemplation, for the closing hour of existence. Above all, Freemasonry teaches us to bend with humility and resignation to the will of the Great Architect of the Universe.

Let me quote from Ramayan an incident to demonstrate how an evolved mind faces both favourable and adverse situations with the same composure. Rama, being the eldest son of Dasaratha, was informed that he shall be crowned as the king the next day to succeed his father and that he should be prepared for the crowning ceremony (Pattabhisekha). Later, he was informed that his younger brother Bharatha will be crowned as the king and Rama should go for fourteen years vanavaas. Rama, always obedient, was as content to go into banishment in the forest as to be crowned king. In fact, some authors of Ramayan say that on hearing both the joyful news on one day and reversal of it later, Rama's facial glow remained unchanged and resembled that of a shining lotus flower. It might be argued by some that Rama was an avatar of Lord Vishnu and therefore it was possible for him to have such an evolved mind but it is difficult for human mortal beings to

scale to such a level.

Brethren, even a human mind is capable of such evolution as borne out in the real-life story of Late Mr. Arthur Ashe. The legendary Tennis Player Arthur Ashe, who won Wimbledon championship in 1975, was in his death bed in 1993, at the age of 49, succumbing to a decease caused by infusion of infected blood during a heart surgery. He was the first black American to be ranked world's No.1 professional tennis player. During his illness, he received letters from his numerous fans, one of which conveyed anguish as to why God, of all the persons on earth, selected him to be affected by such a dreadful ailment and Arthur Ashe was urged to question God, "Why me?". To this Arthur Ashe replied stating that while he appreciated the empathy of his fan, the fact remains that world over 50 million start playing tennis; among them only 5 million learn to play tennis; out of them only 500 thousand start playing professional tennis; From them only 50,000 enter the circuit; 5000 scale up and finally only 50 qualify to play Wimbledon tournament; among them only 4 reach the semi-finals and 2 to the finals. Arther Ashe further says, "When I reached the finals, won the tournament and lifted the Wimbledon champion trophy and the whole world applauded, I never asked God "why me?". Having not asked then in a celebrative mood, I should not be asking now in pain, "why me?".

Brethren we can attain this maturity and evolved thinking by the study of the liberal arts, by conformity to the principles of the order and by steady perseverance in the practice of every virtue imbibed by Freemasonry in us. May the establishment of Lodge Karveer mark the beginning of a glorious era for the masonic movement in this part of the Region. True to its motto, may Lodge Karveer facilitate many men to be led from darkness to light.

Finally, having referred to changes in life at the beginning of the oration, let me quote what Charles Darwin said ". It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but rather the one most responsive to change". Therefore, adaptability to changes is the key for survival Brethren and an evolved mind is capable of it in abundance. May the blessings of the Great Architect be bestowed on all of us.

PRECIPITOUS PROFICIENCY AND IMPETUOUS INVESTIGATIONS

Posted on June 20, 2017 by The Freemasonry Squared Team

Nothing can be more certain than that the proper qualifications of a Candidate for admission into the mysteries of Freemasonry, and the necessary proficiency of a Freemason, who seeks advancement to a higher degree, are the two great bulwarks which are to protect the purity and integrity of our Institution. Indeed, we know not which is the more hurtful-to admit an applicant who is Unworthy, or to promote a candidate who is ignorant of his first lessons. The one affects the external, the other the internal character of the Institution. The one brings discredit upon the Order among the profane, who already regard us, too often, with suspicion and dislike; the other introduces ignorance and incapacity into our ranks, and dishonors the science of freemasonry in our own eyes. The one covers our walls with imperfect and worthless stones, which mar the outward beauty and impair the strength of our temple the other fills our interior apartments with confusion and disorder, and leaves the edifice, though externally strong, both inefficient and inappropriate for its destined uses.

But, to the candidate himself, a too hurried advancement is often attended with the most disastrous effects. As in geometry, so in Freemasonry, there is no royal road to perfection. Knowledge of its principles and its science, and consequently an acquaintance with its beauties, can only be acquired by long and diligent study. To the careless observer it seldom offers, at a hasty glance, much to attract his attention or secure his interest. The gold must be deprived, by careful manipulation, of the dark and worthless ore which surrounds and envelops it, before its metallic luster and value can be seen and appreciated.

Hence, the candidate who hurriedly passes through his degrees without a due examination of the moral and intellectual purposes of each arrives at the summit of our edifice without a due and necessary appreciation of the general symmetry and connection that pervade the whole system. The candidate, thus hurried through the elements of our science, and unprepared, by a knowledge of its fundamental principles, for the reception and comprehension of the corollaries which are to be deduced from them, is apt to view the whole system as a rude and undigested mass of frivolous ceremonies and puerile conceits, whose intrinsic value will not adequately pay him for the time, the trouble, and expense that he has incurred in his forced initiation. To him, Freemasonry is as incomprehensible as was the veiled statue of Isis to its blind worshipers, and he becomes, in consequence, either a useless drone in our hive, or speedily retire in disgust from all participation in our labors.

But the candidate who by slow and painful steps has proceeded through each apartment of our mystic Temple, from its porch to its sanctuary, pausing in his progress to admire the beauties and to study the uses of each, learning, as he advances, line upon line, and precept upon precept, is gradually and almost imperceptibly imbued with so much admiration of the Institution, so much love for its principles, so much just appreciation of its design as a conservator of divine truth, and an agent of human civilization, that he is inclined, on beholding, at last, the whole beauty of the finished building, to exclaim, as did the wondering Queen of Sheba: "A Most Excellent Master must have done all this!"

The usage in many jurisdictions of the United States, when the question is asked in the ritual whether the candidate has made suitable proficiency in his preceding degree, is to reply, "Such as time and circumstances would permit." We have no doubt that this was an innovation originally invented to evade the law, which has always required a due proficiency. To such a question no other answer ought to be given than the positive and unequivocal one that "He has." Neither time nor circumstances of candidate should be permitted to interfere with his attainment of the necessary knowledge, nor excuse its absence. This, with the wholesome rule, very generally existing, which requires an interval between the conferring of the degrees, would go far to remedy the evil of too hurried and unqualified advancement of which all intelligent Freemasons are now complaining.

(FS Commentary: American Ritual, at least on the west coast, does not use the previously described acknowledgment. "He has", is the proper answer but the perquisite of completed proficiency which has now been dissolved to a minimum

understanding and last page of the catechism. This is what we today would be the equivalent of Mackey's thesis here.) After these views of the necessity of a careful examination of the claims of a candidate for advancement in Freemasonry, and the necessity, for his own good as well as that of the Order, that each one should fully prepare himself for this promotion, it is proper that we should next inquire into the laws of Freemasonry, by which the wisdom and experience of our predecessors have thought proper to guard as well the rights of those who claim advancement as the interests of the Lodge which is called upon to grant it. This subject has been so fully treated in Mackey's Text Book of Masonic Jurisprudence that we shall not hesitate to incorporate the views in that work into the present article.

The subject of the petition of a candidate for advancement involves three questions of great importance: First, how soon, after receiving the First Degree, can he apply for the Second? Second, what number of black balls is necessary to constitute a rejection? Third, what time must elapse, after a first rejection, before the Apprentice can renew his application for advancement?

How soon, after receiving a former degree, can a candidate apply for advancement to the next? The necessity of a full comprehension of the mysteries of one degree, before any attempt is made to acquire those of a second, seems to have been thoroughly appreciated from the earliest times; thus the Thirteenth Article in the Regius Manuscript, which is the oldest Masonic document now extant, provides that "if the master a prentice have, he shall teach him thoroughly and tell him measurable points, that he may know the Craft ably, wherever he goes under the sun." Similar direction is found in most all the Manuscripts.

But if there be an obligation on the part of the Master to instruct his Apprentice, there must be, of course, a correlative obligation on the part of the latter to receive and profit by those instructions. Accordingly, unless this obligation is discharged, and the Apprentice makes himself acquainted with the mysteries of the degree that he has already received, it is, by general consent, admitted that he has no right to be entrusted with further and more important information.

The modern ritual sustains this doctrine, by requiring that the candidate, as a qualification in passing onward, shall have made suitable proficiency in the preceding degree. This is all that the general law prescribes. Suitable proficiency must have been attained, and the period in which that condition will be acquired must necessarily depend on the mental capacity of the candidate. Some men will become proficient in a shorter time than others, and of this fact the Master and the Lodge are to be the judges.

An examination should therefore take place in open Lodge, and a ballot immediately following will express the opinion of the Lodge on the result of that examination, and the qualification of the candidate. Such ballot, however, is not usual in Lodges under the English Constitution.

Several modern Grand Lodges, looking with disapprobation on the rapidity with which the degrees are sometimes conferred upon candidates wholly incompetent, have adopted special regulations, prescribing a determinate period of probation for each degree.

Thus the Grand Lodge of England requires an interval of not less than four weeks before a higher degree can be conferred. This, however, is a local law, to be obeyed only in those jurisdictions in which it is in force. The general law of Freemasonry makes no such determinate provision of time, and demands only that the candidate shall give evidence of suitable proficiency.

What number of black balls is necessary to constitute a rejection? Here we are entirely without the guidance of any express law, as all the Ancient Constitutions are completely silent upon the subject. It would seem, however, that in the advancement of an Apprentice or Fellow Craft, as well as in the election of a profane, the ballot should be unanimous. This is strictly in accordance with the principles of Freemasonry, which require unanimity in admission, lest improper persons be intruded,

and harmony impaired. Greater qualifications are certainly not required of a profane applying for initiation than of an initiate seeking advancement; nor can there be any reason why the test of those qualifications should not be as rigid in the one case as in the other. It may be laid down as a rule, therefore, that in all cases of balloting for advancement in any of the degrees of Freemasonry, a single black ball will reject.

What time must elapse, after a first rejection, before the Apprentice or Fellow Craft can renew his application for advancement to a higher degree? Here, too, the Ancient Constitutions are silent, and we are left to deduce our opinions from the general principles and analogies of Masonic law. As the application for advancement to a higher degree is founded on a right inuring to the Apprentice or Fellow Craft by virtue of his reception into the previous degree that is to say, as the Apprentice, so soon as he has been initiated, becomes invested with the right of applying for advancement to the Second Degree it seems evident that, as long as he remains an Apprentice in good standing, he continues to be invested with that right.

Now, the rejection of his petition for advancement by the Lodge does not impair his right to apply again, because it does not affect his rights and standing as an Apprentice; it is simply the expression of the opinion that the Lodge does not at present deem him qualified for further progress in Freemasonry.

We must never forget the difference between the right of applying for advancement and the right of advancement. Every Apprentice possesses the former, but no one can claim the latter until it is given to him by the unanimous vote of the Lodge. As, therefore, this right of application or petition is not impaired by its rejection at a particular time, and as the Apprentice remains precisely in the same position in his own degree, after the rejection, as he did before, it seems to follow, as an irresistible deduction, that he may again apply at the next regular communication, and, if a second time rejected, repeat his applications at all future meetings. The Entered Apprentices of a Lodge are competent, at all regular communications of their Lodge, to petition for advancement. Whether that petition shall be granted or rejected is quite another thing, and depends altogether on the favor of the Lodge. What is here said of an Apprentice, in relation to advancement to the Second Degree, may be equally said of a Fellow Craft in reference to advancement to the Third Degree.

This opinion has not, it is true, been universally adopted, though no force of authority, short of an opposing landmark, could make one doubt its correctness. For instance, the Grand Lodge of California decided, in 1857, that "the application of Apprentices or Fellow Crafts for advancement should, after they have been once rejected by ballot, be governed by the same principles which regulate the ballot on petitions for initiation, and which require a probation of one year." Brother Mackey commented on this action as follows:

"This appears to be a singular decision of Masonic law. If the reasons which prevent the advancement of an Apprentice or Fellow Craft to a higher degree are of such a nature as to warrant the delay of one year, it is far better to prefer charges against the petitioner, and to give him the opportunity of a fair and impartial trial. In many cases a candidate for advancement is retarded in his progress from an opinion, on the part of the Lodge, that he is not yet sufficiently prepared for promotion by knowledge of the preceding degree an objection which may sometimes be removed before the recurrence of the next monthly meeting.

In such a case, a decision like that of the Grand Lodge of California would be productive of manifest injustice. It is, therefore, a more consistent rule, that the candidate for advancement has a right to apply at every regular meeting, and that whenever any moral objections exist to his taking a higher degree, these objections should be made in the form of charges, and their truth tested by an impartial trial. To this, too, the candidate is undoubtedly entitled, on all the principles of justice and equity." - W.B. Albert Mackey



"FAILURE"

THE OLD PAST MASTER" BY CARL CLAUDY- 1924

"What's troubling you?" asked the Old Past Master of a serious-faced brother who sat down next to him. "So much I hardly know where to begin to tell it," came the response. "I try to be an optimist, but I can't help feeling that, practically speaking, ing, Masonry is a failure, and it depresses me horribly, because I love it." "Now that's too bad," said the Old Past Master soberly. "Masonry is a failure, practically speaking! That would depress me, too, because I also love it. In fact, I should think it would depress a great many men." "Yes it would.... a lot of men love it," said the troubled brother. "Suppose you explain why it is practically speaking a failure," said the Old Past Master. "If I ought to be depressed because of such a condition I think I ought to know it."

The troubled brother looked up suspiciously, but the grave face in front of him wore no smile. If the old eyes twinkled they were hidden by solemn lids from the penetrating glance of the troubled brother. "Well, it's this way," he began. "Masonry teaches brotherhood. Naturally, your brother is a man on whom you can depend; he is worthy of trust. One believes in one's brother. One backs his note and expects to be paid; one is willing to trust one's wife, one's life, one's good name, to a real brother. "But there are a good many men who are Masons that I know are not worthy of my trust, merely because they are Masons. They are my brethren because I have sworn with them the same obligations and professed the same faith. But I do not think I could trust them with that which is of value to me, and I know they wouldn't trust me with what is of value to them. I don't mean they are not good men, but I don't feel that my Masonic bond is strong enough to give me the complete trust which a real brotherhood should provide and I don't think they feel it either. "If I were in a strange city and a man came up to me and wanted to borrow two dollars and pointed to a Masonic pin as the reason, I wouldn't lend it to him. And if I walked into a

strange bank and tried to cash a check for twenty dollars on the strength of my Masonic pin, I wouldn't get it." "A pin, you know," put in the Old Past Master, "is not real evidence of being a Mason!" "No, but even if I could convince the banker I really was a Mason he wouldn't cash my check without identification. And I wouldn't give money to a stranger even if I knew he was a Mason, because....well, because my brotherhood hasn't struck deep enough, I guess. And so it seems to me that practically speaking, Masonry is a failure." "And yet you say you love it!" sorrowed the Old Past Master. My brother, you have, in the language of the street, got hold of the wrong dog.

"Now let me talk a minute. Your blood brother is a man you love. You were children together, you fought with him and for him. You shared his joys and sorrows. You learned him, through and through. If you love him and trust him, it is not because of your mutual parentage, but because of your association. Two boys are not blood brothers, but raised as brothers, may have the same tender love and trust. It isn't the brotherhood of the flesh, but the brotherhood of spirit, that makes for love and trust. "You complain because you don't have that feeling for a stranger. Had you been parted from your blood brother at birth, and never seen nor heard of him until he met you on the street and demanded money while offering proof of his blood relationship, would you trust him without knowing the manner of man he had come to be? Merely because he was a blood relative wouldn't mean he was the type of man you are. He might have become anything during these years of separation. "Now, my brother, when you became a Mason you assumed a tie of brotherhood with all the other Masons of the world. But you did not assume any obligation to make that tie of brotherhood take the place of all the virtues which are in the Masons of the world, or the virtues possessed by the profane. If you are a true Mason you will extend Masonic brotherhood, practically, to those Masons who hold out the brotherly hand to you; which means those men who are able and willing to prove themselves brothers and Masons, not merely those who belong to lodges and wear pins. "The world is one big compromise, my brother, between things as

they are and things as we would like to have them. You would like to be rich, and you compromise by getting what you can. You would like to be famous, and you compromise by being as well known as you can and doing the best you can to deserve fame. You would like to be the most highly skilled man in your profession, but you have to compromise with perfection on the one hand, and the need of earning a living on the other. As a Mason, you would like to trust on sight every Mason in the world, but you have to compromise with this fact that all Masons are human beings first and Masons afterwards, and human beings are frail and imperfect. "Masonry makes no man perfect. It merely holds out one road by which a man may travel towards the goal of spiritual perfection more easily and with more help than by other roads. It had no motive power to drive men over that road; but it smooths the way and points the path. The travel

is strictly up to the individual brother. "If you trust those whom you *travel that path*, they will trust you....and Masonry will be, practically speaking, for you both a success. If you travel with your eyes open, you will see many who fall by the wayside, not because the way is plain and smooth, but because they are too weak to travel it. That is the fault, not of the road, but of the traveler.

"And so, my brother, Masonry cannot be a failure, because men fail as Masons. As well say the church is a failure because an evil man goes to it; as well call Christ a failure because all men are not Christians. The failure is in the *man*, not in the beautiful philosophy which is Masonry." "And I," said the troubled brother, "Am a failure now because I have failed to understand. But not in the future, thanks to you".

WHO WILL FOLLOW IN OUR TRAIN?

R.W. Bro. R. C. Hodsman, Deputy Grand Master of Saskatchewan.

The title of this address is a challenge to every Freemason. As a father contemplates his children as his only means of projecting himself into the future, so must every Freemason contemplate every applicant for admission, every candidate progressing through the degrees as his successor in the sacred mysteries. This raises two questions in the mind of every true Mason, the first being, "Am I living up to the standards that are suggested in our esoteric work, in the ancient charges, the constitution of Grand Lodge, the bylaws of my Lodge and above all the Volume of the Sacred Law, on which our Order is based", and so setting a proper example to my junior Brethren. The second question is, "Am I so guarding the portals of my own Lodge so as to assure with the greatest possible certainty that only those men shall be admitted who will reflect honour on our choice, who will carry on our traditions and teachings, and who will pass on to their successors the unimpaired teachings of Freemasonry which we have inherited. On the answers to these questions depend the answer to the title of this address - "Who will follow in our Train". Talking to candidates is only part, and a small part, of the influence we have on them. They are going to be influenced in their

attitude toward Masonry and towards life by their observations of the Members and officers, particularly the officers of their own Lodge, and more especially the Grand Lodge Officers with whom they come do contact. They are going to observe whether or not the senior Brethren of the Lodge give serious thought to their Lodge duties such as regular attendance, committee responsibilities, and ritualistic work. They are going to observe how seriously he takes his church duties, his duties as a husband, a father, as a citizen. The fact that Freemasonry arouses these thoughts is evidence of the leavening influence that it is capable of having on its members. If each member of our order realized the great potentialities in the phrase "rank entails responsibility" or "noblesse oblige", the great influence of our order for good would be accelerated. The constant rise in standards of freedom and justice; in spiritual and moral values, in democratic processes of government has always been evident in those civilizations where Freemasonry was allowed to flourish. The reason for this is that Freemasonry is a way of life based on the teachings of the Bible. One of the great purposes of Freemasonry is to interpret the Bible into a practical philosophy of life for its members. At our

sessions last year M.W. Bro. Black stock, quoted the words of Quentin Reynolds - "If I were a dictator the first book I would burn would be the Bible. I would burn it because I realize that the whole concept of democracy came out of that book". Brethren, Masonry is known to us as the most democratic institution in the world. There is a

personal responsibility on every Mason, on each one of us to so live, to so interpret Masonry to our Brethren and to the world that those who follow in our train shall be respected citizens of a free democratic world. On the answer to the second question previously raised "Am I so guarding the portals of my own Lodge as to assure with the greatest possible certainty that only those men will be admitted who will reflect honour on our choice", depends the degree of respect and influence that our order shall enjoy. The answer to this question has a very direct bearing on "Who Will Follow in Our Train". In some jurisdictions, particularly the older ones, the sponsors of an applicant are required to answer, in the affirmative, questions indicating any intimate personal acquaintance with the proposed candidate over a considerable number of years. In newer jurisdictions operating in territories where the population is fluid rather than static this approach is not practical. However the fact that it is not practical is all the more reason for great care being exercised before placing our names on application forms as sponsors. It is all the more reason for careful enquiry on the part of the investigating committee, for taking the necessary time to make enquiries by correspondence even though waiting for replies entails holding up the application until there is no possible doubt as to the character any reputation of the applicant. It is all the more reason for having an unfavourable report brought into the Lodge and having the applicant rejected if that course is indicated, rather than returning the application forms and the fee quietly to the applicant and allowing the character committee to fail in reporting on the application. Such a course leaves the undesirable seeker after our privileges free to apply to another Lodge and freely state that he has never been rejected by a Masonic Lodge. I have observed a deplorable tendency to allow this unauthorized custom to

become more prevalent. Finally there rests on each member the responsibility to use the black ball where there is any possible doubt. The report of the committee on Grievances and Appeals at the annual communications of all Grand Lodges, from time to time recommends suspension or expulsion of a member. It is a sad commentary on the care with which our portals are being guarded. It indicates that in some respect we have failed, most likely primarily in the selection of material, and possibly secondly in the instruction and inspiration afforded the members of our Lodge. In some jurisdictions it is customary to hold sponsors of a candidate responsible for the performance of new members - first as candidates preparing for advancement through the degrees and later as members attending Lodge and participating in committee work or as junior officers. Where this attitude prevails - of holding the sponsor responsible for the Masonic conduct of proteges - there is a noticeable increase in the caution with which applications are sponsored. No sponsor relishes the prospect of being asked in Lodge to explain why a Brother is not answering the signs and summons of the Worshipful Master. There may be fewer applications received, but the members gained do not tend to drift away as is the case where a more casual attitude prevails regarding the non-attendance of members.

A possible solution that lies within the power of every Lodge is to include in the bylaws a provision for suspension of a member for non-attendance, just as I suppose every Lodge has a provision in the bylaws for suspension of a member for non-payment of dues. In cases of sickness or absence from the area within which the Lodge operates allowances could be made, but to the absent Brother who has permanently moved to a new community the suggestion should be made that a transfer to a conveniently situated Lodge is the desirable course. The provision of reduced annual dues for non-resident members is to be deplored as it encourages retention of membership in a Lodge which the Brother cannot attend. There should be, in my opinion, no reduction for non-resident members, and in fact I believe that a much more healthy provision would be for increased annual dues

for them as an inducement to affiliate in a Lodge where they can attend and so absorb some of the Masonic atmosphere which have found always prevails at Lodge meetings. He would be in a better position to make contribution which will assure us that those who follow in our train shall be earnest and sincere men whose philanthropy is not merely a phrase in the ritual but a practical reality. In all voluntary organizations the responsibility of maintaining the organization and cultivating and developing its influence rests upon a relatively small group of willing officers and members. Such men are to be found in our craft as is evidenced by the growth and spread of Freemasonry throughout the world. Such men are the ones we should be careful to admit when opportunity offers, to the exclusion of those who, in their daily lives, in their attitude towards church, home and state have indicated a lack of the required sense of responsibility, a lack of sense of mission in this world as a preparation for the next. In other words, the member in accepting an application, the character committee in investigating the applicant, and the Brethren when balloting should have in mind a positive search for material that will strengthen, support and maintain our institution. They should always remember that Masonry is not a reform school, but an institution designed to make good men better. They should remember that we are at that point determining in a very real way "who shall follow in our train". There are two commentaries on the programmer following the suggested title of this paper. They are "What do our present day Brethren expect from the craft?" and "What will our Brethren of the future expect.?" M.W. Bro. Heckbert, in his paper delivered at our Conference last year entitled "What should be the practical Masonic Design for Individual Masons" gave an account of a personal survey head made of twenty non-attending members of his own Lodge. I have read again these twenty answers, with the thought in mind "What does or what did this brother expect from the Craft?". As you might expect of an accountant, I endeavoured to classify and tabulate the answers given by them. Under the heading of "Does he enjoy the meetings", I found that fourteen answers would indicate that they did. Four

complained of too much degree work although two of these indicated that they enjoyed the meetings. The remaining four answers were of such a nature that they did not commit themselves on this point but two of them were attending other related organizations, one stated that he wanted Lodge work and one complained of late nights. This would appear to indicate that at least two thirds of the non-attending Brethren had found what they expected in the fields of friendly association and entertainment - they enjoyed the meetings but were not attending next endeavored to summarize the reasons given for non-attendance. I found that the answers "neglect", "no excuse", "busy" or "carelessness" accounted for eleven of them and "late nights" for two. Three claimed family responsibilities, study, club discontinued and friends not Masons, respectively. The remaining four were active in other related organizations because they were in office or felt that they were needed there. This to me is a significant group. It is one of the great human characteristics that we all want to feel that we are useful, that we are needed. Is this significant answer to the question "what do the present day Brethren expect from the Craft?" It could well be that the eleven Brethren who gave no real reason for not attending did not realize that it was because they did not feel that they were needed. In every Lodge there is a group, usually composed of officers, past masters and committee members, who are exemplary in attendance. They are the members who feel that they are needed. Of the eleven members referred to above who had no real reason for not attending nine did promise to try to do better. Was this in response to a feeling that had been aroused in them by the enquiry? Had it given them reason to think that they were missed and were needed? It requires an earnest, persistent effort on the part of the W. Master and senior officers of a Lodge to endeavour to keep every member busy, to make each man feel that he is needed. Attendance committees can be effective if they are composed of senior members of the Lodge, as indicated by the promises of better attendance received by M.W. Bro. Heckbert. The next step would appear to be to give each member a real job to do, a reason for feeling that he is

needed. One popular avenue of approach to this problem is degree nights when "side benchers" do the work... Masonic plays are another means of interesting and developing members. Asking members to look after hospital visiting or calling on shut-ins sometimes produces surprising results in that the visitor usually benefits himself as much as he does the brother he calls on. We learn and develop by doing, and the Master who is successful in keeping the largest possible number of his members busy will be doing his part toward the realization of the noble object of Freemasonry, the cultivation and development of the human mind, and he will be justifying the claim of our order that it can with propriety be styled a science. It therefore appears that what the present day Brethren expect from the Craft is that they be given a task in the building of the temple, that they be given a reason, a purpose for their membership, that they be given an opportunity to make a contribution to the great work, and in doing so cultivate and develop their own talents, and grow in their appreciation of spiritual values. Regarding the second commentary on the programme "What will our Brethren of the future

expect", we enter into the field of prophesy when we endeavour to peer into the future. However believe that we can expect to be held responsible for the maintenance of the traditions and ideals of the Craft which have been handed down to us, to be held in trust for future generations. We must avoid the possibility of letting members come to look on Freemasonry as a religion. My own observations lead me to believe that the leaders in our Lodges tend to be the leaders in Church work in their communities, which is, of course, in accord with the teaching of our Craft. Annual or more frequent Church parades should be continued and emphasized as they do publicly refute any suggestion that Masonry is taking its members away from their churches. Our Brethren of the future will undoubtedly expect that we shall continue our efforts to make our members conscious of their religious duty and encourage them to support the Church, which has begun so influential in bringing our way of life up to the high spiritual, moral and democratic standards we now enjoy. The maintenance and raising of

these standards should, in self-interest and in the interests of our Brethren of the future, be our constant conscious aim. We are all aware that it is unlawful to countenance innovations in the body of Masonry. Our Brethren of the future will expect us to resist the pressures exerted at times to make our Craft more "popular" by converting it into a service club or some other such organization. Service clubs are very worthy organizations and fill a definite need in our communities. They do a great deal of charitable work, they participate in fund raising campaigns for community projects; they sponsor cultural and artistic programmes and many other related ventures. All such activities have the heart approbation of Freemasonry and there is no reason why the Brethren should not participate as members of such service clubs. Freemasonry has, however, a distinctive spiritual basis, a mystic origin lost in antiquity, a message and a mission which is not comparable to any other organization; and our Brethren of the future will expect us to maintain these values intact. Our Brethren of the future will undoubtedly expect that Masonry will maintain itself in a sound financial position in keeping with the importance and dignity of the Craft. There are certain principles of finance which should be observed by all Masonic Lodges. Foremost among these is that current expenditures should always be kept within current income. This means that initiation fees should be considered as the capital investment of the new member in the Lodge, and as such should be deposited in a separate bank account to be used for capital purposes such as erection of a permanent home for the Lodge, establishment of a benevolent fund, or some other such project of a permanent and creative nature in keeping with the teachings of the Craft. To follow such a course would mean that most of our Lodges would find it necessary to raise the annual dues. I believe that we are selling Masonry short by offering bargain rates in initiation fees and annual dues, and that more dignity and respect would accrue to the Craft if the rates were set high enough to enable our Lodges to maintain a level in their benevolent, social and business activities in keeping with the high importance of the order. Our Brethren of the future will undoubtedly expect that we

shall develop buildings and furnishings of such a size and style as will draw favorable attention to the Craft. On the prairies most of our Lodges are quite new, but in spite of this fact many of them have already acquired creditable Masonic Temples which are well furnished. Some are renting premises in commercial buildings and a few are actually renting accommodation from other fraternal Societies. This is, in my mind, unworthy of the oldest and largest Fraternal Society in the world and I am sure it is not what our Brethren of the future will expect. Undoubtedly many of the Brethren present will express ideas which vary from those I have expressed, many will have new thought to bring to the discussion, and that is what we are here for. To sum up my thinking on this question "Who will follow in our train?", I can think of no better conclusion than the following tribute to Freemasonry, which also commences with a question and has a prophetic theme based on her past and present attribute and those of her members. What is the Mystery of Freemasonry's hold upon her Brethren? A little close knit fraternity set in a vast sea of humanity, a shroud of

mystery for a garment, her lessons veiled in allegory and illustrated by Symbols, our Mother Grand Lodge, in size, a pebble on the seashore; in distance from parts of her Order so isolated that most of her members are initiated, live their 'Masonic lives and die without ever having seen her; cultivating and developing men as mysterious as she; cold, foggy, aloof, indomitable, deep, gentle, kind, lethargic. Brave as lions, hard as nails, stupid as bulls, keen as steel, dumb as fish, eloquent as torrents, and with an imagination so superb, that for them, if they will it there is nothing to stay them. These are the men that, throughout the long corridors of time Freemasonry sends out to the four corners of the earth to live and die as Masons. These are the men who carry her out in their hearth, so wrapped and guarded, that wherever they go, she is.

Conference of the Grand Lodge Officers of the four Western Masonic Jurisdictions (Canada) held at Banff, Alberta on September 8th, 9th and 10th, 1955=====
===== 2001-01-01

THE ROYAL ARK MARINE DEGREE

R.W.Bro.M.C.THAKKAR (TINU). GRAND MARK CHAPLAIN. 2017-2018.

The ultimate background of this degree is more interesting than that of any other in Freemasonry. How could it be otherwise when we consider that its ritual is based upon a historical occurrence or event which happened 6000 years ago? The inundation described in the Book of Genesis is well known and referred to as "THE FLOOD", but it is by no means the only floods in the world's history. There were serious floods in Babylon, Greece, Europe, India, Eastern Asia and other parts of the world. Are these stories myths or there is any historical evidence that they relate to actual events in the long history of the world? Sir James Frazer in his "Folklore in the Old Testament" believes that most of them are legends of local floods due to natural causes handed down to generation to



generation by word of mouth, while a few nearer to the Euphrates valley relate to Noah's floods passed from one country to another by some curious method.

The Babylonian Floods. The oldest legend of the Great Flood to be recorded is the Babylonian or more correctly the Sumerian, written in Greek by the native Babylonian historian Berosus in the first half of the third century B.C. where he says the great flood happened during the reign of the 10th king of Babylon when the great ship to save the King and his family and animals from drowning was built. There are five other fragmented accounts of flooding in the same area, but the greatest of them is known as "The Gilgamesh epic" as per the records from the library of King Ashurbanipal. Whose library was the most precious

store house for learning in the ancient world? George Smith of the British museum put together the pieces and revealed the famous Gilgamesh epic in twelve tablets the eleventh describes the Flood and Gilgamesh, how he was sad at the loss of a great friend and himself being seriously ill, decides to seek the secrets of how to be immortal from a distant ancestor, Ut-Napishtin who had become immortal and enquires how to live forever, after a journey of hardship and peril he meets him and enquires, who in reply to the formers query says that immortality is not for the mortal man. To this Gilgamesh says how come that you were a mortal man once and now you have become immortal how you do explain that? Where upon Ut-Napishtin tells him how he had survived the great flood and how he was rewarded the gift of immortality. This story is similar in almost every respect to Noah's.

These Babylonian legends might have arisen in the 17th century B.C. much earlier than the Hebrew version but other tablets have been found written in Sumerian language about 2100.B.C. These tablets must go back far beyond this date because by 3000B.C., the Sumerian race had virtually ceased to exist, and replaced by the Semites. Now the Sumerian story bears an extraordinary resemblance to that of the Genesis, there is no proof that the Sumerian and the Hebrew Floods were the same, but there is a great volume of presumptive evidence to suggest that they were the same. Historians Wolley and Frazer differ on the dates of the floods, Wolley dates Noah's Flood at 4000B.C., Frazer puts the Sumerian Flood a long way back from 3000.B.C., both differentiate between clean and unclean animal, both lay emphasis on no 7, both refer to a dove or a raven to ascertain if the waters had subsided both their ships came to rest upon a mountain, and both celebrated their survival by a sacrifice upon the mountain. It's not unreasonable to assume, that the two stories relate to the same event and Noah and Ut-Napishtin were one and the same person.

NOAH and HIS ARK----- Fact or Fable (a short tale to teach a moral lesson); It is believed that a great Flood had occurred in Mesopotamia in 4000B.C. Is there any corresponding proof that the story of Noah or Ut-Napishtin is also historically true? The answer is NO. With these two separate documents it is impossible, to accept Genesis as a true record for a simple reason that it is a combination of two

entirely separate documents, most convincingly seen in its creation and the Flood. One document was written by a priest and the other by a Jehovistic as there is not a single coordinated story to amalgamate the two. They are two different accounts and contradictory in some places. One document was written by a priest on his return from the Babylon's captivity later than 586.B.C., Where as the Jehovistic or the "J" code was compiled in much earlier days of the first kings of JUDEA in the 8th and 9th century. B.C. Now there are observations which suggest that the story of Noah and his Ark is a myth, for which the Flood formed the obvious inspiration. 1st In the Babylonian account and the P code in Genesis exact instructions are given as to how the construction of the Ark was, from which competent surveyors have estimated that the displacement of such a vessel would have been 36000 tons. How could Noah have obtained such huge quantity of timber and assemble large number of workmen to build such a big ship? 2. How could Noah and his family with no other assistance or help feed, water and "muck-out " that number of living creatures for the duration of sixty nine days which is the shortest according to the "J" code. 3. It is known how long it takes for vegetation to grow after a drought or flooding, then how did the large number of animals when released from the ship, they would have found it hard to keep them alive, 4. The astonishing account (added later) of the "Arch-angle Gabriel "delivering a coffin unto Noah containing the embalmed body of Adam, which was placed in the center of the Ark and at night the men were separated from the women carries a convincing hallmark of the capacity capable of creating such a elaborate myth.

Although we accept the Flood as an historical fact and in spite of the probability that Noah and his Ark are myths, nevertheless the story has captured the minds and imaginations of men and has become an imperishable tradition to the Jewish, Gentile and some other Arab people until today.

The Transmission of the Noah Story;

From the 1st century to the 3rd century various historians have mentioned the Noah story in different ways, it is very difficult to know how the earlier christen fathers of the church used the Old Testament in their teachings; they were more likely to be absorbed by the Gospels and the teachings of St.

Paul. When the remains of Pompeii were excavated a lodge of the college of Architects was found to contain a table top of gray green stone in mosaic, portraying number of symbols many of which were identical with our Masonic symbols of today, which are in the National museum in Naples. But the Ark, Dove and Olive branch were not represented. The Comacine Masters whose work was building and decorating of churches during the reigns and under the patronage of the Lombard Kings who had been converted to Christianity, it seems probable that the earlier Christian church was not interested in the Old Testament. This of course, changed as centuries passed and the old Biblical stories began to excite interest again. Certain pagan rites and festivities were adapted to mediaeval Christen thought e.g. Like the Mithraic ceremony with Christmas and the sword dance of Tacitus which became a drama illustrating the expulsion of winter and another slaying of summer by winter. Drama was sternly frowned by the early church, but in time the priests had to stage their own plays in self defense against the attractions offered by the Minstrels, Jongleurs and Buffoons to their parishioners. 50 years after the Norman Conquest the system of Craft Gilds representing the principal trades was becoming highly organized. When the Mystery plays had so improved that the clergy could not manage them and the churches were too small for their presentation, it was the craft gilds which took over the plays which were to be a notable feature of Gild life for so many years. This started in the 13th century and lasted into the 16th century. These plays must not be confused with the Miracle Plays. The former, of great antiquity, were concerned with Biblical stories while the later dealt with the lives of Saints and Martyrs. The mystery plays connected with Noah were performed annually at different places like YORK, CHESTER, NEWCASTLE, CORNWELL, HULL, and COVENTRY AND WAKEFIELD. In course of time the solemn tone of the clerical plays began to assume a more amusing and jocular air. A typical example came from Chester. The play opens with God's announcement of the coming deluge and His command to Noah to build the Ark. It proceeds with the building of the "Shippe". Which when finished Noah is anxious to enter with all his family but Noah's wife has no faith in his story refuses to sail with him and roundly abuses him as a fool, eventually Japhet persuades

her to come on board. Before leaving the subject of the mystery plays it should be clear that it has never been seriously suggested that they had any bearing upon the origin of Masonic rituals in any degree. Likewise the Masonic Gilds or Companies took no part in the plays.

Association of Noah with Freemasonry;

In the first known MS Constitution, the Regius Poem, there occurred on line 537 a passing reference to Noah and the Flood. From then onwards from the Cooke MS every Masonic constitution contains allusions to Noah, not however to the Flood and the Ark but to his findings the two great pillars inscribed with the seven liberal arts and sciences. The date of the Refius poem is about 1390 but like the Cooke it bears evidence of being derived from an earlier document written in 1350 Therefore as early as the 14th century we have the Noah story appearing in association with masonry, but the Flood and the Ark take a secondary place to the two pillars found by Noah after the Flood.

The Royal Ark Mariners Degree and its Origin;

At the time of the formation of a Grand Lodge in London in 1717 the ritual was very different to what it is now. No official record is in existence and we owe such knowledge to various exposures from Prichard's Masonry Dissected and Jachin and Boaz. A third degree was not in existence and it was some years before our present three degree system had become sufficiently stabilized to be the basis for the many different workings throughout the world. This was somewhere in the year 1730 that the rituals were stabilized and the Royal Ark rituals were also similarly dealt with. During the next fifty years a number of new degrees made their appearance, certain brethren who were keen ritualists and symbolists became imbued with this pass time and bent their energies and their creative abilities to fabricate new rituals. Unfortunately in every case these men remained anonymous. Moreover, they left no records of their labors, which must have been considerable, for the degrees, when introduced, were beautifully finished productions; again they left no indication of their own interpretation of the symbols they had used. One of the degrees was the Royal Ark Mariner. In the Statutes of the Grand Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners produced in 1871 there occurs a long story of the origin of the degree. The 1793 WARRANT; in the 1871 Statutes great stress is laid upon the

importance of this warrant by the so called Grand Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners. It says; This Warrant of Charter, sanctioned by the Grand Lodge of England under the old constitution before the union in 1813. Is dated November 1793, informing that His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence had been pleased to accept the office of the Grand Commander of the Order and is signed by some distinguished masons of that period. Seals are appended to it and it is considered by those who have seen it to be a curious but valuable document. The original is in the library of Mark Masons Hall, close scrutiny reveals that it has been tampered with, amended or mutilated in at least five places. There are three seals, the one on the right is on red sealing wax and bares the Ark, rainbow and the sun and may be regarded as a genuine Mariners device. The other two are highly suspect. It is impossible to avoid the conclusion that this warrant is a fabrication with two of its seals extracted from other sources and stuck on it. There is no evidence that the Duke of Clarence was ever associated with the Ark Mariners Degree in 1793 Dunckerley was supposed to be in charge of both the orders of the Temple and Royal Ark Mariners. Lastly what explanation can there be of the words on the left hand seal "Union of the Ancient and Modern Masons when the date is 1793 twenty years before the Union of 1813.

From 1800 to 1871 when the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters Masons assumed the protection and control of the Ark Mariners Degree, meetings of Ark Mariners were held under the sanction of Craft Lodges or more rarely K.T. Encampments and sporadic attempts were made to resuscitate the Grand Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners, It seems proper at this stage to ask the question of when the degree was first introduced various suggestions have been made with little or no evidence. Like some believed it originated in America and was brought to England or Ireland possibly by Dunckerley. It is suggested that Sibly was the author of the Ark Ritual. He was a doctor of medicine, an author of works on astrology and a bit of a quack but here again there is no evidence to prove his capability of producing a genuine initiatory rite which the Ark Mariner Degree is. More over 1790 reference to the K.T Camp of Antiquity No.1 in Bath giving William Boyce the degree of Ark Mariners suggests that it was well known before 1790. Revival of the Ark Mariners degree.

In 1843 an attempt was made by Bro. Dorrington, the self styled Grand Commander to revive the Grand Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners. His efforts were even less successful than in 1793 body. Nevertheless many years later he was responsible for initiating the real revival of the degree, which occurred in 1870. In May of that year St. Mark's Lodge of M.M.M originally of Scottish Contusion but under the English obedience, held a meeting of a Royal Ark Mariners Lodge which was reported in the "FREEMASON" of the 7th of May 1870. Sequent progress came under the stable guidance of the MARK Grand Lodge, the Mariners degree has made steady, if not sensational, progress. Between 1871 and 1879 twenty lodges received warrants and in the following ten years twenty seven others followed. In 1968 there were 464 active lodges in England and Wales, 77 in four states of Australia and 18 in India. In mast of the countries all Mariner Lodges must be attached to a Mark Lodges and bear its number. In recent years it has been laid down that a Mariner Lodge must also use the same name as its parent Mark Lodge except in very exceptional cases. In the late 1930's certain brethr4en from the North of England, feeling that the degree was somewhat as a poor relation of the Mark degree, suggested that some form of recognition should be accorded to the Past Commanders who had given valuable service to the Ark. At that time nothing came of it and only too soon the Second World War broke out.

Royal Ark mariners Grand Rank. Since the centenary of the Mark Lodge in 1956 this feeling has been steadily gaining strength especially in the Provinces. There seemed little to interest brethren once they have passed the Commander's Chair and it was felt that Mark brethren in general did not seem keen to become Royal Ark Mariners. In 1967 the movement had impressed the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council to such an extent that serious thought was given to it. It was not easy to know how best to meet this desire for more recognition; the R.A.M. had no Grand Lodge so the question of Grand Rank was not practical. At the December 1967 Communication the Grand Master announced that he was about to institute a new Grand Rank somewhat on the same lines as London Grand Rank in the Craft. The Provincial and District Grand Lodges would have the powers to award Royal Ark Mariners Provincial/District Ranks. The badge of this

Rank will consist of a collaret of rainbow silk from which will be suspended a small Ark on a triangle in gold or gilt for Grand Officers and in Silver for Provincial /District Officers. At the first investiture meeting of December 1968 Communication of the Grand Mark Lodge in England it was decided to bring in the new Gran Rank for Mariners into existence and thereby it was hoped greatly to increase the interest in the Mariners Degree and also to the December communication.

Conclusion; the Royal Ark Mariners Grand Rank has become

a beacon in the history of the degree, hoping that it will be a guiding light to a greatly extended appreciation and enthusiasm for the Ark. Only too often it is feared that brethren consider the Mariners degree as rather superficial and trivial, but it is nothing of that sort, yet it fulfills the canon of the genuine Initiation Rite and its Symbolism is worthy of deep study. Mariners Degree, when fully understood it captures the hearts of its members as one of the jewels of Masonic Ritual.

THAT'S NOT HOW WE DID IT IN MY YEAR !!

by W. Bro. Carl W. Davis

The story is told of a bishop who was touring a newly constructed church building. The church's pastor took the bishop into the sanctuary. Above the door was painted a verse of Scripture that said, "My house shall be called a house of prayer." Next, the pastor took the bishop into the kitchen where the following scripture from the Gospel of Matthew was painted above the door "I was hungry, and you fed me." As they went into the Sunday-School room, the bishop saw above the door the words from II Timothy "Study to show thyself approved." The bishop was impressed by this congregation's commitment to the Scriptures. Then, as he entered the nursery he saw these words from the New Testament, "We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed."

Indeed, we shall all be changed. In fact, the art of Freemasonry is the practice of intentional change. Freemasonry changes a man from profane, to Apprentice, to Fellow, to Master, over time, through a course of allegorical moral instruction. Freemasonry teaches that life is ABOUT change. We learn in our Craft that men advance through life in three principle stages of change, namely youth, manhood and age. Additionally, Masons are taught that we are always undergoing the process of change via the use of our working tools as we seek to change ourselves from rough to perfect ashlar, better fit for the Builder's use.

If Freemasonry is such a progressive order, why then, is the new master of a lodge who seeks to bring about some change that he views as positive, so often met with the words "That's not how we did it in MY year!"? I propose that there are three major reasons that Past Masters say those words: insecurity, ignorance, and impotence.

Insecurity: It has been said that the only person who likes

change is a baby with a dirty diaper. And, frankly I have seen some of them who didn't much care for it either. One of the principal reasons that humans are uncomfortable with change is because, by definition, it is insecure. We are comfortable with what we know. The familiar seldom surprises us. It is important that we realize that one of the aims of Freemasonry is to provide stability. Indeed, there are few human creations more stable than the great cathedrals constructed by our operative relatives. So then, how do we foster security while at the same time maintain needed change? The answer requires us to have a firm grasp of what Freemasonry truly is, and what it is not. Freemasonry is a course of moral instruction. Freemasons are good men who seek to become better men through the application of Masonic principles in their lives.

Therefore, some things about Freemasonry must never change or Freemasonry will cease to exist. A few examples of these unchangeable things are: solid character investigations of our proposed members, the Masonic tradition of initiating, passing and raising men in our ancient ritualistic tradition, the moral teachings of the fraternity and the expectation of high moral conduct from all Freemasons.

However, many things in our lodges, not only may change, but also should change. For instance, a lodge's meeting time, the attire expected of its members, the food eaten by the lodge, or the lack thereof, the day that the lodge schedules its degrees, whether the lodge reads its minutes aloud or prints them for the members to silently read, are all things that are open to change to meet the cultural expectations and needs of the membership. Once an understanding of what things are changeable and what things are not changeable has been arrived at, then one may safely go about the business of making needed changes. When the changes are being

announced and implemented, it is important to emphasize first the things that will be staying the same. Often times, a new master is so excited about his idea that he forgets to present them with tact and humility.

Consider these two differing examples:

Example One: "Wardens and Brothers. We waste a lot of time in this lodge reading the minutes of previous meetings aloud each month. It is boring and stupid. From now on they will be typed out and handed to you as you come in. Read them silently then we will approve them and get down to the good stuff." Example Two: "Wardens and Brothers. It is important to make sure that our lodge's business is accurately recorded, and that all of the brothers are aware of what happens in our Stated Meetings. Our secretary and Past Masters have all done a good job of doing that by reading the minutes out loud each month. From now on, however, we will accomplish that same goal differently. The minutes will be in printed form and personally given to each of you as you enter the lodge room. The same attention to accuracy and detail will be preserved. But, it is hoped that this change will allow our meetings to be slightly more efficient." Or forwarded by email to all Brethren in advance of the Lodge meeting. The second example does not negate the work of past generations. Yet, it effectively brings about the needed change. By emphasizing the fact that the truly important goal of lodge minutes will be maintained, the Past Master's sense of security is less threatened by the new change. Hence, the new man in the East is less likely to hear "That's not the way we did it in MY year!"

Ignorance: Our Brother Samuel Clemens [Mark Twain] once said that travel is the natural enemy of ignorance. Indeed, Masons who have traveled to lodges other than their own quickly learn that there are many good and equally Masonic ways for a lodge to function. Unfortunately, many of our lodge members are only familiar with the traditions and practices of their own individual lodge. Therefore, when a well-informed Master attempts to improve his lodge by borrowing ideas learned from others, he is met with opposition from less informed brothers in his lodge who consider his ideas foreign to Freemasonry. Ideally, the new Master could compel his members to visit other lodges and expand their personal understanding of our Craft. However, the next best thing is for him to educate his members about the practices of other lodges. By informing his lodge that some of his new ideas are not really new at all, but rather have a proven record of success in other lodges, he will likely meet with less opposition from

ignorant members of his lodge than he otherwise would.

Impotence: In his play "Death of a Salesman", Arthur Miller tells the story of Mr. Willy Loman. During his prime, Willie had been the best salesman around. He knew everyone, and everyone loved him. Over time however, Willie's friends retired or died. Willy found himself surrounded by people who did not know him. Instead of being viewed with great respect and awe by those he worked with, his new co-workers viewed him with impatience and disrespect. They wished that he would get out of their way and stop talking about the good old days. They had a business to run. Willy just wanted to be treated with the respect and admiration that he had grown accustomed to in his prime. At the same time, he was frustrated with his own decreasing ability to perform. Our lodges are filled with Willy Lomans'

Many elderly lodge members are having a difficult personal struggle dealing with their loss of status and power. They have retired from jobs where they were once respected leaders. The children who respected and obeyed them have now grown and moved away. As they look around society, they see people young enough to be their grandchildren in positions of power and prominence. They feel impotent and used up. Therefore, in lodge, the last place where they still feel a sense of power, they often go too far in their attempt to have influence and control.

As frustrating as this reality may be to the new Worshipful Master, he would do well to recognize the base cause of these brothers' behavior. The wise Master will do all in his scope of influence to show the elder members of his lodge true respect. He will appoint them to work that they are capable of excelling in, and frequently praise and thank them for their efforts. When these brothers are busy with tasks such as organizing the lodge's Past Master's guild, overseeing the mentoring committee, working on character investigation committees, on the social night organization team, etc, they will be less likely to oppose the new Master's plans with the words "We didn't do it like that in my year!" because they will feel that they still have a sense of belonging, purpose and power in their lodge.

He who is Master of his lodge. While he rules his lodge with brotherly love and concern for his members' personal well being, he must also govern with the good of his lodge in mind. And, while he will inevitably hear the words "We didn't do it like that in MY year!" at some point, he can take solace by silently thinking to himself the response "and that is exactly why we are doing it like this now!"

**REGIONAL GRAND LODGE OF WESTERN INDIA
ANNUAL INVESTITURE MEET, SANGLI - 16 & 17 FEBRUARY 2019**



**REGIONAL GRAND LODGE OF EASTERN INDIA
ANNUAL INVESTITURE MEET BERHAMPUR I- MARCH 2019**



REGIONAL GRAND LODGE OF SOUTHERN INDIA ANNUAL INVESTITURE MEET, MANGALORE - 9 & 10 FEBRUARY 2019

