

antient fraternity ; avoiding all wrangling and quarrelling, all slander and backbiting, nor permitting others to slander any honest brother, but defending his character and doing him all good offices, as far as is consistent with your honor and safety, and no farther. And if any of them do you injury, you must apply to your own or his lodge ; and from thence you may appeal to the grand lodge, at the annual communication, as has been the antient laudable conduct of our forefathers in every nation ; never taking a legal course but when the case cannot be otherwise decided ; and patiently listening to the honest and friendly advice of masters and fellows, when they would prevent your going to law with strangers, or would excite you to put a speedy period to all law suits, that so you may find the affair of masonry with the more alacrity and success ; but with respect to brothers or fellows at law, the masters and brethren should kindly offer their mediation ; which ought to be thankfully submitted to by the contending brethren ; and if that submission is impracticable, they must, however, carry on their process or law-suit, without wrath or rancour (not in the common way), saying or doing nothing which may hinder brotherly love and good offices to be renewed and continued, that all may see the benign influence of masonry, as all true masons have done from the beginning of the world, and will do to the end of time.

*AMEN, so mote it be.*