

storing your mind with valuable information and by proving yourself a competent instructor, in fact a *Master* in its broadest sense, can you not realize the revolution you will make in the old order of things. No more poorly attended meetings, no more luke-warm members. The meeting night will be always set apart for lodge purposes notwithstanding other attractions. Your old members who may have unfortunately lost interest in the order, will on hearing the joyful news return to the fold and assist you by their counsel and advice as they are certain that something beside monotonous routine will be presented for their entertainment. It has been well and truly said that a master possessing no brains other than what is required to recite ritual and call on the senior warden for the next order of business has as little chance of keeping up the interest of the members as a clergyman would have in keeping his church filled Sunday after Sunday if he had nothing else to offer them than the repeating of the Apostles Creed. I think that a careful attention to above matters will solve the vexed question. How shall we prevent the demands for demits and the suspensions for non payment of dues.

Another matter in which the master should excel is the impressive and correct reciting of the ritual, for it is only by perfect work that you can ever hope to impress a candidate with our ceremonies and thereby make a good Mason of him. I can assure you brethren that first impressions are half the battle and if you are unsuccessful at this stage all your subsequent work will prove worthless. I need not here enlarge on this point, as it must be apparent to you all; but the members of the lodge can materially aid your efforts by preserving silence during the ceremony and restraining from hilarity of every description, by refraining from senseless joking and conversation with the candidate in the ante rooms and in place thereof by impressing on him the gravity of the situation and importance of the steps he is about to take. And

right here let me say that a steward or deacon who indulges in this unseemly joking with a candidate either to frighten him, or as I have noticed, to make a wager that he cannot stand the third degree, should receive from the master a severe reprimand or be removed from his office.

Before I leave this subject, let me impress on the masters this fact, that they should not only be the exponents but living examples of the principles of the Order. If you wish to succeed in your mission, if you desire the brethren to live up to what I deem the two great commandments: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart and thy neighbour as thyself," then your conduct and life, not only in the lodge but in the home circle, in the business walks of life, and in your adherence to some of the denominations wherein God is worshipped and glorified, must be such that you will have the respect and love of all your brethren young and old. Your style and language may not be as polished as possible, but if your words of admonition and instruction come from your heart, they will be listened to and treasured; but on the other hand although your sentences may be beautifully rounded off, your rendering of the ritual perfect and impressive, they will be like the seed which fell on stoney ground if your conduct gives the lie to your words. Can you not imagine the thoughts of a candidate, while listening to the impressive lessons of morality and virtue which fall from your lips when he is thoroughly acquainted with your moral standing. If he is aware that brethren, occupying exalted positions in the lodge, lead lives, and whose business record is that of swindler, cheat and liar, will he not brand us as hypocrites and the institution a fraud and a sham.

If unfortunately we possess such a master, of what use is it for him to preach brotherly love, or to impress on the candidate the symbolism of the lamb skin apron, when he himself is a regular Ishmaelite in society whose