

order that she may have the pleasure and satisfaction that every honest woman under such circumstances feels in gaining a livelihood for herself. The orphan, too, of a deceased brother, should be a precious legacy, to be loved and cared for, by the Craft. The son or daughter of a deceased Hiramite should always be adopted by the Brotherhood, educated and taught that there is plenty for hands to do and brain to perform, if such an one wishes to become an honest and upright man or a pure and virtuous woman. This is Masonic Duty.

Masonic duty, moreover, extends farther than this. Masonry does not limit her good deeds simply to those who either belong to the Craft or are connected to the fraternity by the ties of blood. The true Freemason sees the wretchedness and misery of life, and feels a pleasure in endeavoring to alleviate the same. It is not for him to judge regarding the cause of the drunkard's downward course, or to upbraid the errors of a fallen sister. It is, however, his Masonic duty to strive to lead back to the path of honor and rectitude him who, forgetting his family and himself, has sunk deep down in the miry morass that ever surrounds the victim of drink, the prey and carrion of obscenity, blasphemy and crime. So, too, should the follower of the Widow's Son ever bear in mind, when he sees vice in its most hideous and horrible form, flaunting its brazen, painted cheeks in the streets at noonday, and in gilded dens of sin at night, to exert every effort to save. The beautiful lesson of the Founder of the Moral Law, taught and exemplified in the

Jewish temple at Jerusalem over eighteen hundred years ago, still holds good. It is the noblest and purest sermon that the Gentle Nazarene ever enunciated, and all contained in God-inspired words, "Go, and sin no more." Masons should ever remember this holy doctrine. No one can tell how he or she may act when temptation assails them, and the prayer of the Hiramite should ever be, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Masonic duty is a pleasure beyond description to him who has locked up the secrets of the Craft "in the safe and sure repository of his heart." To help a brother in distress, to bathe his burning brow, to soothe his weary hours when he tosses on the bed of suffering, of agony, and perchance of death, to dry the widow's tears with hopeful words and kindly acts; to strain to his breast the infant babe of his departed Brother; to educate and clothe and feed the orphan; to reform the home of the drunkard, the blasphemer and the criminal; to snatch from the black and foul abyss of hell she who has fallen from her innocence by man's foul tongue and false and deceitful words; and above all, to learn to appreciate his fellow man, and reverence, adore and love him who recognises no creed or sect, but has declared, through His Apostle, St. James, "Religion pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this,—to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." This is Masonic Duty!

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