

# A Happy and Merry Christmas to All Especially to our Members who are "Shut-ins"



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## Grand Lodge Bulletin

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### Peace

Christmas has always been associated with the concept of Peace. Seven hundred years before the first Christmas Day, the ancient Prophet in the Volume of the Sacred Law writes the Name,—“The Prince of Peace.” At His birth, the heavenly host sang the first Christmas Carol,—“Glory to God in the Highest, and Peace on earth to men of Good Will.” Wherever He went, He whispered Peace,—Peace to the white-capped waves by the Sea of Galilee,—Peace to the maniac mind of the man of Gadara,—Peace to the sin-stricken soul of the erring one—Peace to the two weeping sisters whose brother had passed over the silent river to the mysterious dwelling-place beyond,—Peace to the torn and doubting minds of His followers in the upper room. How significant that though it was a war-like age, the nations of the earth were at peace at that first Christmastide!

Milton in his “Hymn on Christ’s Nativity” writes:

“No war or battle’s sound was heard the world around;  
The idle spear and shield were high uphung;  
The hooked chariot stood unstained with blood:  
The trumpet spake not to the armed throng;  
And kings sat still with awful eye,  
And if they surely knew their sovran Lord  
was nigh.”

Thus does the Prince of Peace in our day and generation look upon a broken and bleeding world and whisper “Peace.”

Thus do all men of good will sincerely hope for and earnestly pray for Peace. This is the great task of this generation; this is the opportunity of the centuries. We are near the eleventh hour. Such an opportunity may never come again. Today we are blazing a trail along which mankind will march for a thousand years. What shall it be,—war or peace,—annihilation or survival? Today, mankind stands at the cross-roads of destiny.

What a sad and sorrowful record man has left behind him in the corridors of time! In four thousand years of history, there have been only 268 years which have been free from war.

What a terrifying commentary on greed, hatred and man’s inhumanity to man! In our time, the nations of the earth have passed through two convulsing cataclysms which have left the world shaken and shattered. Dorothy Thompson, columnist and philosopher, recently spoke in the name of the mothers of the world,—“We have given you our sons. Some are dead; some are blind and grope through home and street with fearful fingers; some walk without feet and labour without hands; some chatter incoherently behind locked doors and barred windows. Death is hurled swifter than sound and faster than light. Statesmen, you

promised us peace, but you are arming for war. You spent one hundred millions of dollars and forty ships of war to see if the atomic bomb would work again." It did! Listen now, ye men of strife, and if you cannot hear the muted melodies the angels sing, listen at least to the plaintive pleading of the mothers of the world.

Masons of all nations, what can we do? We have a part to play; we, a creative minority, can sound a trumpet of warning and of guidance. Dr. Einstein recently made an arresting statement,—“If two per cent of our population would take a personal, resolute stand against the sanction and support of another war, that would end war.” Masons, quantitatively small but vitally active, can act as the leaven in the meal until it is completely leavened. Let us not simply accept the status quo (translation: the mess we are in), but courageously and with prophetic vision go forth to build an enduring Temple of Peace. Let us be very practical.

1. **We would banish ignorance.** Disraeli said,—“Ignorance is the mother of suspicion.” Very true! Ignorance says that all Americans are a gum-chewing, money-grabbing people who worship at the Shrine of the Dollar. That is false. Ignorance says that all English people are cold, unsociable and cynical. That is false! Ignorance says that Canadians live in a frozen northland, bound down and writhing under the heel of an English King. That is false! Knowledge and good will, reading and travel, sympathy and an open mind will dispel the darkness of ignorance and open the windows of light. Fling them wide open!

2. **We would eliminate prejudice based on half truths.** A half truth is more dangerous than a lie. We will be forced to change our history books and cease to say, “Our nation always right; others always wrong.” Remember well Nurse Cavell’s last recorded words,—“Patriotism is not enough; I must bear no hatred in my heart.”

3. **Do not judge a whole nation by the acts of the few.** We will always find the blatant, loud voiced, ill-mannered, venomous few who seem to represent all citizens, but they do not! There are the many thousands who have not bowed the knee to the Baal of hatred,—men and women of good will in every land,—the very salt of the earth. Let them speak.

4. **Let us forget past grudges and bury ancient quarrels.** It is so easy to perpetuate old misunderstandings and exhume forgotten feuds. May no “stormy clangour of wild war-music” or unholy hymn of hate be heard among us.

“Love shall tread out the baleful fire of anger,  
And in its ashes plant the tree of peace.”

But there is something deeper still. The chaos without is truly symptomatic of the chaos within. The patient blames the pillow for being hot, but the source of the burning heat is his own fevered brow. The mind of man is bewildered and bedevilled; the nations therefore are confused and groping for the light. The most powerful thing in the world is an idea. You may imprison a man but you cannot imprison an idea. In other words, it is the attitude of mind that counts. It is the direction in which a man faces that matters. The real cause of the two Great Wars was not a Kaiser or a Hitler, but a comparatively little-known man named Nietzsche who in his study-cell formulated the idea, the philosophy of the superman, of ruthless war, of calloused cruelty, of conquest and power. That philosophy was the atomic bomb which has all but destroyed the human race. The defence against such a formidable idea can only be an equally formidable idea or a more formidable idea. Here do Masons and all Men of Good Will begin to build, but it must come from the minds and hearts of men who deeply believe in the concepts of truth and right and peace, and are willing to give themselves to that ideal with the same energy and power which they gave to Mars. Now they give themselves to God. Amid the Babel of confused tongues, we must build up reservoirs of good will in every land and with patience and sympathy, and with sleepless vigilance bear the banner of the Prince of Peace to all the nations of the earth, fully believing that all war is now civil war. All the loyalties of Masons must be world loyalties. In his last address which he did not live to speak, Franklin D. Roosevelt wrote these great words,—“We are faced with the pre-eminent fact that if civilization is to survive, we must cultivate the science of human relationship,—the ability of peoples of all kinds to live together and work together in the same world,—at Peace.” There is no other way! Brother Masons,—this is our task.

“O shall we never learn

The truth all time has taught,

That without God as Architect

Our building comes to naught?

Lord, help us and inspire

Our hearts and lives, that we

May build with all our wondrous gifts

A Kingdom meet for thee.”

So mote it be.

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## THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF SPONSORSHIP

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must ever remember that we are all human and subject to the errors of the human race, further if we start with a nearly perfect man, a great portion of our teachings would be unnecessary.

Having decided to propose someone for membership and having this proposal accepted by the brethren of the Lodge, there is a further responsibility incurred by seeing, and helping wherever necessary, that the candidate is properly impressed with the importance of the step he is about to take and of the usefulness and necessity of the Masonic Organization in the world of today.

There is a true saying that first impressions are the most lasting and this is especially true with regard to the ideas formed of the Order by a new brother, and right here is one of the most important duties of the sponsors of a candidate. His mind should be prepared for the dignity, importance and solemnity of the duties he is about to assume, and not unprepared by tales of foolish buffoonery regarding his initiation or supposed physical absurdities to which he is about to be subjected. The correct first impression goes a long way toward making a man a real Mason.

The coaching of a candidate for his examinations for the various degrees is, in my opinion, strictly one for his sponsors. They should see that the correct instruction is given and the new brother well versed in what the Lodge expects him to know. The manner in which examinations are passed by a candidate, reflects either for or against him, and a poor showing in the minds of the brethren, in this regard is very hard to overcome.

The impression created in the minds of the brethren also has quite an effect on the future Masonic life of a brother as it is not reasonable to suppose that a poor examination would recommend a brother as a future Master of his Lodge. Therefore in order to secure the desired end of making a new initiate an asset, his sponsors should accept this responsibility.

A further responsibility of sponsors is to see that a new brother is given the opportunity of becoming interested in the work of the Organization. It matters not what form that interest may take, so long as the end in view is to benefit his fellows and is to the credit of the Craft. An active member is a great asset while the opposite might be said of an inactive one.

Another very important responsibility of sponsors is to be reasonably sure, as far as possible, that the

proposed new member has sufficient soundness of physical qualities so that he is able to comply with the regulations of our ceremonies, and further, that his station in life is such as will not cause any undue burden to be placed upon the Organization. Of course, unforeseen circumstances may arise over which none of us have any control and therefore cannot be guarded against.

A candidate should not be left to form his own opinion of the Craft but should have his thoughts moulded upon Masonic lines by the help, example, brotherly love and knowledge of his sponsors, so that a proper understanding and realization of the aims of the Order, to which he has been accepted, for Masonry is a way of life, will be correctly communicated to him. This will enable him to realize that now he is expected to be a useful, energetic and informed brother, with untold opportunities to help his fellow man, through his Masonry, in every conceivable way possible. Thus should Masons be sponsored and trained.

These matters could be best impressed upon the new brother by his sponsors as they owe him a duty to see that he is correctly guided and a proper Masonic outlook on life realized. If a sponsor expects to make a Mason of a man, in the truest sense of the word, he must see that, through his Lodge, the opportunities are presented and the correct training furnished.

So shall we achieve our object; shouldering our responsibilities, making real Masons of men and furthering the interests of the Masonic Brotherhood so sorely needed in the world today.

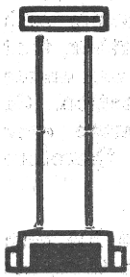
W. Bro. Harold Bentley,

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Masonic reading is an essential part of the education of a Mason and it is never too late to begin, but always better to begin early.

You don't have to tell how you live each day; you don't have to say if you work or play; a tried true barometer serves in its place—however you live, it will show in your face.—*Anonymous*.

Ten men banded together in love can do what ten thousand separately would fail in.—*Thomas Carlyle*.



## Between the Pillars



### THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF SPONSORSHIP OF A CANDIDATE

The matter of proposing men to be admitted as members of our Brotherhood is one which has very far reaching effects on the future course of Freemasonry and its impact on the world at large.

It cannot be denied that the course and effectiveness of our Organization will be, in future years, placed to a large extent in the hands of men who at present are not Masons and who at the present time are not having their thoughts and actions moulded upon Masonic lines.

It is therefore of paramount importance that great care and sound judgment be exercised in the matter of proposing new members. No man should be considered just because he is popularly known as a good fellow or because of casual acquaintanceship. There is something far deeper and of too great an importance at stake.

The responsibility of sponsors is weighty and serious as the very existence of our beloved Order is in peril if a person is proposed and accepted as a member who does not possess the necessary qualifications of Love of God, impeccable character, sound judgment, strict morals and a sympathetic understanding of the frailties and foibles of the human race.

Every brother has a duty to his Lodge in particular and to the Craft in general with regard to propositions for membership, for once a person is received into the Order he is entitled to all the privileges of the Masonic organization and is henceforth to be regarded as a brother.

It is therefore necessary that he have the qualifications to fulfill and merit this confidence and acceptance, further, having been admitted, it is incumbent upon all other brethren to see that the same confidence is placed in the new member, thus showing, as we put it, that all Masons are brothers.

This responsibility is one for the serious thought of all Masons, because, as we cannot all be proposers for all candidates, we must, perforce rely upon the

judgment and discernment of those brethren who are the sponsors, as they, in this instance, have the care of the friendship and brotherly love of the Organization at large, in their keeping.

This entails a further responsibility, because the proposer of a candidate, is, in effect, choosing Masonically, one who is to be a brother member to all of us in the future.

Let us look at some of the ways of deciding who is a proper and fit person to propose for membership by asking if we can accept the responsibility of giving a satisfactory answer to some of the following questions:—

1. Is his mode of living compatible with the tenets and principles of our Order.
2. Does he belong to a church organization and if so, does he take an active interest in its affairs or is he just a member.
3. How does he talk in everyday life, is his speech such as one likes to hear, and are his words and language fit to be used in a Masonic Temple.
4. What kind of people does he associate with.
5. Is he neat and tidy around his home and does he help in whatever way he can to make his home a place of which he may be justly proud, without being haughty or arrogant.
6. If married, does he speak respectfully of his wife, and if he has children, do they behave as if proper training is given them and do they act as if they love and respect their parents.
7. Would you like to have him as an intimate friend and receive him, and his wife if married, into your home.
8. How do his neighbors regard him and of what other clubs and organizations is he a member.
9. Are you sufficiently aware of his method of conducting himself at home, at work, or away from both, to give an intelligent answer as to if he is a proper person to propose as a member.

This phase could be greatly enlarged upon but I have given sufficient to show that a knowledge along these lines would be of great benefit in our decision to accept the responsibility of suggesting a member for the Order. Of course it is not necessary that he measure up perfectly to all these enquiries, for we

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