



The Overy Papers

Number 10 Our Grand Masters Motto 2014/2015

"Be Inspired by the Quality Within"

Fraternal Greetings Brethren

When I first read this motto I wondered if the Grand Master was talking about being inspired by the quality within the lodge or being personally inspired by the quality within me the person.

I did my usual and looked in the Oxford Book of Quotations to find out where he obtained it but it was not in there. Next I tried Goggle, which, was also of no help so I decided it was up to me to try and discover what the Grand Master meant.

So with that task set this is my interpretation and I only hope we are at least on a similar wavelength.

The first thing I realized was that the aspirations of my Lodge and those of myself were the same or very similar.

So I will start with being inspired by the quality within myself.

I have set myself many goals in my lifetime, but many did not become a reality until 9/11 and I took an early retirement and moved from Toronto to Abbotsford and suddenly I had more time available,

I decided to try to help others in our community and with my wife as a willing partner in these endeavours, I think. we decided to concentrate our efforts and our limited resources on our community seniors and children who need help.

I feel that maybe we would have done this without my involvement within the Freemasons but I do feel the Lodge gives the guidance and support needed to make anything we do a lot more effective. As I said what my Masonic Lodge and our Fraternity expect of me as a person and what I expect of me as a person are basically the same.

I must admit we do have problems looking after seniors and one big problem being, we now have a good idea where we are heading in life, as we get older. They have problems and illnesses I have never even heard of but we do find a good meal, good company and a glass of wine helps a great deal and if we can leave them laughing we have won.

Getting one group our war brides into my small Ford Focus is fun, as all but one are over 90. Getting them into a seat that has to be one that matches their ailments is a bundle of laughs then doing up their seat belts and their comments of "mind where to put your hands" is interesting but the effort is well worth it.

So I feel that my Masonic life and my Non Masonic life have now become intertwined. I am always pleased to tell anyone who asks "why we bother to do this with no payment." I reply "It is because I am a freemason and it is expected of me as a member of our community".

I know we do not advertise what we do and I must admit to do so would make me uncomfortable especially as a Brit. I know there are Masonic exceptions, such as the Shriner's but let's face it, most people have no idea they are Masons anyway.

As I said I feel that the ideals of my Masonic Lodge and the ideals of myself have parallel goals. I try to be a better person by becoming an integral part of our community by helping others and making others "have a nice day" by random acts of kindness. A wave when someone lets you into traffic a helping hand with heavy shopping or even giving help getting a senior out of a seat in a restaurant.

I feel we must all try and put a better face on Freemasonry to offset the many TV stories that show us in a bad Light.

So that is one side of what I feel our Grand Master had in mind.

The other side of his Motto, I feel, could be talking about being inspired by the quality within the lodge.

We must try to be a better Mason by supporting our Lodge in anyway we can. This again comes from within oneself.

For example I feel I can support my lodge better by being the Historian and Director of Education than by going through the Chair even though I realize I have missed out on a major event in a Freemasons life. But that is me and I have learnt to accept it.

So I spend my efforts in fully supporting those in our Lodge, who have taken office, in the best way I can. We must always remember we are a fraternity we are not a club and it is not the size of our lodge but the quality of our members and how you make the lodge meetings an interesting and memorable one, are all important. Your Lodge must have been about for a good few years looking at the number and even the joining of the Ionic and Kent Lodges makes for a proud association.

So finally I wish your Lodge luck for the future.

Now having rambled on a while I have only to wait for the Grand Masters visit to our District to find out if I was on track.

Thank you and whatever I say may we continue in peace and harmony.

Bro. Bill Overy

Member of the Education Committee of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon.