



The Traveler

**WILKERSON
COLLEGE
LODGE NO.
760**

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Summer 2010

Quality Control

By: WB Larry Thompson, PDDGM



I don't know about you, but I look for quality in the products that I purchase. For years I looked for the cheapest deal that I could find in cars, computers, sporting goods, etc. and, more times than not, I quickly found out that I got what I paid for! Most of the "bargain" priced items that I ended up with are now long gone and all that is left are just the memories.

In the past few years I have started looking at Freemasonry in the same light and it looks to me like a lot of lodges are offering their members "basement bargains" rather than a quality experience. I don't know what happened to our lodges between the turn of the century and today, but something most definitely changed.

Looking back at lodge records from the early 1900's I see that our brothers from that era were well dressed when they attended lodge, they were investing heavily in their lodge buildings and they thought enough of Freemasonry at that time to pay lodge dues that were substantially higher in real value than what we pay today. Conversely, here we are, more often than not, sitting in lodges in dire need of maintenance and worried about the ramifications of raising our dues just high enough to remain afloat!

How did we get to this? I can't say for sure but I am fairly certain that the underlying cause was/is apathy and I think that apathy was generated by a lack of quality control. Collectively, we are in charge of quality control and, if you are not providing a quality experience in the lodge, we can rest assured that we are going to generate disinterest and detachment.

You can take that analogy and apply it to our meals, our meetings, our degree work and the condition of our property. Simply put, if we are not giving them our best, folks are going to stay at home.

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Chaplain's Corner

By: WB Rick Smith, PDDGM

The keepers of the house are the hands which tremble with palsy in old age. The strong men are the legs which become bowed with the years. The grinders which cease because they are few are the teeth, and those that look out of the windows is a poetic expression for sight.

4. "And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of music shall be brought low;"

The doors are the ears which grow deaf in age and can no longer hear the sound of the grinding of grain in the little stone mills which the women use. To rise up at the voice of a bird may signify the light sleep of age easily interrupted by any slight sound, or nervousness which is so extreme in some old men that they start at any little noise. The daughters of music are the vocal cords which lose their timber in age, resulting in the cracked voice of senility.

5. "Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail; because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:"

The old man fears any height, knowing his brittle bones will stand no fall. He is timid, and he has no strength with which to defend himself. The almond tree blossoms white, like an old man's hair. Any little weight, even a grasshopper, is too much a burden for extreme age to carry. The old have no desires. The long home is the grave, in preparation for which the mourners go about the streets.

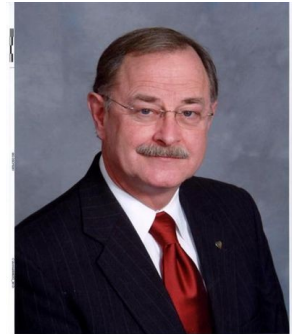
The remaining verses of this Scriptural reference describe, in a mystical way, the many ailments and infirmities that mark our passage into old age, up to and including the death of the physical body and the return of our spirit to its Creator.

6. "Or ever the silver cord is loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain or the wheel broken at the cistern."

Verse 6 notices the circumstances that take place in the hour of death. The silver cord is the spinal cord. The golden bowl is he brain, the pitcher broken at the fountain a failing heart, and the wheel broken at the cistern the kidneys, bladder and prostate gland, all of which give trouble to an old man.

7. "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was, and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."

Whether or not the writer possessed a sufficient knowledge of anatomy to symbolize parts of the body as the "silver cord" the "golden bowl" the "pitcher", the "wheel broken at the cistern" is so problematical that much skepticism of this interpretation has been expressed. The people of Israel were nomads, tillers of the soil, vinyardists, tenders of flocks. Their wisdom was of the spiritual rather than the material. That they had dissected dead bodies enough to gather the relationship between its parts is not impossible as animal sacrifices were so common. But the imagery seems to be rooted in too high a degree of scientific knowledge to be wholly credible.



WB Rick Smith, Chaplain

A Wilkerson College Lodge First

Special Events
Banquets & Catering at The Chapel Hill Country Club



Please join us as Wilkerson College Lodge travels to Chapel Hill on June 12, 2010. Remember that this meeting will be out of the norm compared to those in the past. Our Lodge meeting will be held at 4:00 PM instead of 11:00 AM. University Lodge No. 408 will be our host and the program will be provided by Brother Steve Campbell, entitled "Waterloo". Afterwards, we will adjourn to Chapel Hill Country Club for dinner and some special entertainment provided by MWB Tom Gregory. You don't want to miss this one!! All ladies and guest are invited to attend. The meal is just \$30 per person and reservations can be made by contacting our Lodge Secretary, WB Ray Hall. Hope see everyone there.

Happy Birthday to the Following Members

June

D.C Heilman - 28
Dick Wilkerson - 16
Jim Wisdom - 1
Thomas Stephenson - 26
Bill Bruton - 22
Rich Miller - 3

July

Charles Lewis, Jr. - 14
Clayton Wright - 24
Dan Weatherington - 20
Frank Spears - 18
Jack Clayton - 18
Kevin Walton - 2
Russ Jones - 2
William Mills, III - 20
Jimmy Blalock - 24
Doug Calhoun - 17
John Hudson - 24
Billy Phillips - 12
Mack Sigmon - 18

August

Daniel Miller - 27
Gene Jernigan - 16
Sean Graystone - 7
Sid Carter - 15
James Howell - 6



Why Are We Here ?

By: WB Joseph Adegboyega, PM

Preamble : One day in 2006, as I was cleaning the guest-room in my house, I looked at the photograph of my wife's grandfather (Mr. Vernon Dennis of Mauldin SC). Grandpa looked young and handsome in his US Air Force Uniform. Mr. Dennis passed on 03/24/2002; at the ripe age of 78. He retired from the USA Air Force having fought in the WWII and the Korean War. I immediately remembered a similar photograph of my own father, Mr. Raphael Adegboyega, dressed in British Army Uniform; from the WWII era. My father was a young officer in the photograph. My father fought in WWII as a British Army officer in the Nigerian Contingent, from 1939 to 1945 in Burma, India. My father passed on in March 2004 at the ripe age of 87.

Then I began to wonder how quickly a person grows from a new born-baby into adulthood and then die. How fast had young Mr. Dennis and Mr. Adegboyega completed their individual assignments on this planet (this life) before passing on to The Creator!

Why are we here on this planet and in this life? According to Yoruba Mythology, before coming into this world, every soul is called to kneel down before the throne of The Creator. The soul is then given an assignment(s), before departing. It is speculated that often when a baby is born memory of the assignment(s) is scrambled and access is inaccessible except through periodic visions or dreams which would provide glimpses (directives) to the future. We (Yorubas) believe that as a person advances in age the mission here-below will start to make sense. Good examples are prophets and leaders in different parts of the world like: Jesus Christ, Moses, Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, George Washington, Napoleon the Great, etc...

These prophets and leaders in their youth were unaware of their mission until the culmination of events finally caused the eventual manifestation of assignments; which had been buried in the memory since birth. It then starts to make sense.

For how long is our life on planet earth or in this life? No one knows for sure how long he or she will be here. Yoruba elders (mythologists) described the earth, or this world, as a market place, where people arrive and depart at different times. As I am writing, babies (new souls) are making their entry into this world. At the same time, young and old people are departing this world for various reasons. My father was once a young soldier in the photograph I am talking about. Whereas the photograph kept him young, he had aged quickly and departed this world since March of 2004. In my head I still remember my father as a young father, as he was when I was just a young student in High School. Sadly so, my father departed this world six years ago! In like manner did Veronica's grandfather left this world eight years ago!

What can we do to make the best of our travel through life or through this world?

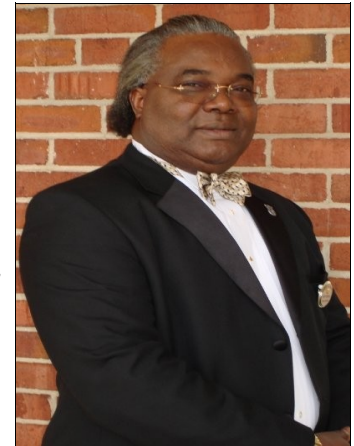
Knowing that our time here is short should help us to do right and to be faithful. Doing right is "doing good unto all and recommending more especially it to the household of the faithful". The MW GM of NC AF & AM (Brother William "Billy" Dill) encouraged brothers to do as Our Lord Jesus Christ ordered by "believing that there is only One God and loving others as thyself."

Why Are We Here.....con't

Seeking membership in Freemasonry comes with the burning desire for godliness and for more Light through the Darkness of this world. I will keep on traveling towards the everlasting Light. In conclusion: I have found the route to godliness by working hard as a Mason; striving to do good to all, more especially to my brothers in masonry. With godliness comes LOVE because God is Love Himself. To be close to God the Soul must abhor hate in order to embrace love. May the God of love and peace delight to dwell with and bless you.

I thank you for reading.

(Dedication : No one can be an Island to himself or to herself. We all have grown from interacting with other people. We learn from one another. It is undeniable that people contributed; either in a positive or in a negative way to the progress or downfall of those they touched. I dedicate this article to all the men and women who have touched me during this life time. I am eternally grateful to those brothers who have helped in my study of metaphysic; particularly my brothers in Freemasonry.)



WB Joseph Adegboyega, PM

Congratulations Wilkerson College Class of 2010



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The next issue of the "Traveler" will be published on or about September 18th. Anyone wishing to contribute, please contact Editor Gary Handy or Asst. Editor Larry Thompson.



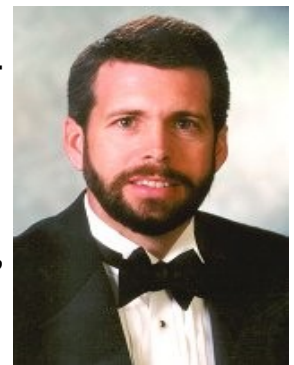
Wilkerson College Lodge's Mission Statement

The mission of Wilkerson College Lodge is to foster a flame of brotherly love and friendship that will surpass all differences, envelope all similarities and consistently travel that level of time in search of how to make good men better. As speculative Masons, education will be our greatest tool, so as to instill in our future Masters qualities of leadership, responsibility and compassion.

Quality Control

Con't from front page

Wilkerson College Lodge is blessed to have leaders with a vision. I was especially pleased when W. Brother Mark Conner appointed a committee last year, chaired by M.W. Brother Tom Gregory, to investigate the idea adding a quality dining experience to our meetings. W. Brother Russ Jones, our current Master, charged the committee to take its recommendation of incorporating a semi-annual dinner into our current meeting schedule and to "make it so". Our first "dining out" is scheduled for June 12th at the Chapel Hill Country Club with a promise that our entertainment for the evening will be well worth the cost of admission! Be sure to make your reservations with W. Brother Ray Hall now and join us as we celebrate St. John's Day early with our first dining out.



WB Larry Thompson,
PDDGM

In February your lodge approved to authorize funds to help offset the costs associated with bringing in out of state guest speakers. While your Education Committee was working hard to find just the right speaker for our meeting in October, they managed to secure Brother Michael Halleran, author of the "Brother Brother" series that appears regularly in the *Scottish Rite Journal* and the newly released "The Better Angels of our Nature - Freemasons in the American Civil War", who will be joining us for our June 11, 2011 stated communication!

These are just two examples of our lodge doing its best to provide a quality experience for both us and our guests. Thanks to the vision of our leaders, we are building a lodge that is not only unique to North Carolina but to Freemasonry itself and that is something to be proud of... quality control in action.