

ROSE of the SHIRES COUNCIL - RUSHDEN

For us to be here conducting the Consecration of a new Council is a great pleasure and an awesome responsibility, that you have placed on us and on yourselves, you have asked us, as it were to breathe life into this child, and in asking us, to do this, you, have accepted the responsibility for its nurture and upbringing, its life and its reputation.

It will later, with the Installation of your first Worshipful Master, be very firmly placed in your hands and we, wish you, every joy and satisfaction in that undertaking and responsibility.

Masonry is not a religion nor a substitute for the practice of religion and it should never be treated or used as such, what it is however, is a guide for living, by which we are taught the virtues of a good life, to walk uprightly before God and Man, so that we live respected and die lamented. An ethical manner of living in which we are to walk with all men not only Masons but with all mankind in Faith Hope and Charity.

That Charity which is the most significant of all Virtues.

Not the Charity of the Alms Box but the Charity of the Scriptures which we use to a great extent in our Ceremonies the Charity which is summed up in;

Love thy neighbour as thyself, All our doings without Charity are nothing worth and Yea though I speak with the tongues of Angels and have not Charity I am as a tinkling cymbal or a sounding brass; Shakespeare also put in these words; To thine own self be true for it follows as night follows day thou can't not be false

to any man and all that applies to our daily lives as Masons, not only to our work within these tiled walls but outside of them

so that the outside world will know that a good mason is a good man.

These words from Psalm 133, which some of you will be familiar with;

BENOLD HOW GOOD AND JOYFUL THING IT IS;

BRETHREN TO DWELL TO - GETHER IN UNITY.

apply very much to that which we do this day.

Because we, in constituting and consecrating this Council, are preparing another place, where the Brethren who will occupy this figurative dwelling, must of necessity dwell to-gether in unity and these words are probably the central point of our purpose this day. Because, if you fail to dwell to-gether in Unity, you will fail.

The various ceremonies in this order tell us how we should lead our lives, They remind us of the humility and reverence due to our Great Creator, Inculcate the virtue of humility, to hate, arrogance and unjustifiable pride, in ourselves, as much as in others.

A stern warning, of the dangers in carelessness in our lives, and work and the danger of blaming others for our misfortunes That truth is mighty above all things, and that, as a man and a mason, to keep inviolate every pledge you have made,

and perform fully and diligently every duty to which, you,
have become bound.

So that, if you read carefully the various lectures attached to these
our ceremonies you will find a lectionary of the duties that you owe to
the Craft to which you belong and more importantly, to that life, which
you live under God.

Perhaps as each of us leaves to-day to go about our various activities
we should bear in mind the invocation that, what we have said with our
lips, may we believe in our hearts
and show forth in our lives to the honour of ourselves and
to the glory of our undertaking.

May you ever bear in mind these words from Scripture,
my Brethren, as you go about your work in this Council:

**BEHOLD HOW GOOD AND JOYFUL THING IT IS
BRETHREN TO DWELL TO - GETHER IN UNITY.**

with the additional prayer O Lord prosper thou the work of
our hands,

Yea Lord prosper thou our handiwork

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