

## Exhortation to Brethren

Brethren, it is time that my present work were finished.

Let me earnestly entreat you to cherish with devotional affection, the cardinal principles of friendship, morality, brotherly love and charity; make them your morning study, your evening meditation. The bible, the great light of Masonry, will guide you to all truth, and direct your march to the temple of happiness. Let no dazzling delusion, no ephemeral glare, no false estimate of mere worldly acquisitions, lead you astray from the straight line of moral rectitude, which this sacred books points out and illuminates. One false step often leads the bewildered traveller through the intricate mazes of folly, into the labyrinths of vice, whence nothing short of divine interposition can rescue him. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works. Mark well the entering of the house, and every going forth of the sanctuary. May your deeds of charity be as constant as the returning wants of the distressed widow, and the cries of the helpless orphan. Take good heed of these things, for the night cometh when no man can work. The all seeing eye of the Supreme Architect is upon us. He sees not as man sees. He looks directly on the heart.

While you have the light, believe in the light, that you be not cast into outer darkness; that you may not knock when the door shall be shut. May the rules and designs laid down on your tracing boards be well gauged and plumbed. If any of you have passed the veil of the sanctuary, let no stain or blemish tarnish the spotless purity of the white banner entrusted to your care; clasp to your embrace with redoubled fondness the immovable jewel, and let nothing short of the last throes of departing life, disengage it from your grasp.

May you be enabled to perform with honour every kind of office, and every endearing charity of life: may your first and last care be to diminish the aggregate of human misery: may you be taught to win all who come within the sphere of your agency, to the exercise of those tender duties. May you as fathers, as husbands, as friends, as worthy men, and worthy Masons be enabled to distinguish and adorn the profession?

Let every brother be faithful to his conscience, that inward monitor, whose warning voice no human art can silence: pause for a moment, behold how swiftly the sands run, how rapidly our lives are brought to a close.

May we all, amidst the cares and troubles of this transitory life, prepare for the approach of the king of terrors: may we be more strongly than ever cemented by the ties of union, hospitality and friendship; may the short but precise time of our mortal existence, be widely employed; may we cherish an unceasing desire, in the interchange of kindness and affection, to promote not only our own mutual interests, but the welfare of all around us; may the whole fraternity spread over the globe, be not weary, but persevere in well doing; and finally, by the unmerited grace of Immanuel, be invigorated to finish all their works, and to take a seat in that spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.