

Volume 2 Issue 8

August 1, 2014

**THIS MONTH'S
FEATURE STORY**

**Learning and
Memorizing Rit-
ual—Part 2**

Learning and Memorizing Ritual—Part 2

Learning and Memorizing Ritual—A Continuation of Last Month's Article from the Ritualist's Corner.

Part 2

3b: Large-Scale Memorization

Once you've got most of the sentences, try to move on to paragraphs. Again, some will be easy and some hard. Try to understand exactly why this sentence follows that one -- in most cases, the ritual does make sense. An individual paragraph is almost always trying to express a single coherent thought, in pieces; figure out what that thought is, and why all the pieces are necessary. Keep at this until you're able to get most paragraphs by glancing at the

first word or two, or by thinking, "Okay, this is the description of truth," or something like that.

Finally, start putting it all together. This is where the structural analysis in Step 2 gets important. You visualized the speech, and figured out how it hooks together; use that visualization to connect the paragraphs. Make sure you have some clue why each paragraph follows the one before. In almost every case, the next paragraph is either a) continuing this thought, or b) moving on to a related thought. In both cases, you can make memorization much easier by understanding why it flows like that. Convince yourself that this paragraph obviously

has to follow that one, and you'll never forget the order.

4: Smoothing It Out

You're now at the point where you've got pretty much all the sentences down, and most of the paragraphs, and you're able to get through the whole thing only looking at the book a few times. Now, start *saying* it.

When you're driving in the car; when you're alone at home; pretty much any time you have some privacy, try saying it all out loud, at full voice. Trust me, it sounds very different when you actually say it aloud. You'll find that you stumble more, and in different places. Some words turn out to

It's Still Summer!



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Programs & Announcements



This month our dining out will be returning to On the Border at 6709 Slide Road, Wednesday August 20. Bring your voucher and the lodge receives a 15% rebate on the cost of your meal to support the scholarship fund. An email with voucher

will be coming as we get closer to the 20th. We need to develop more venues for this activity. Let us know if you have any restaurant ideas.

The Warden's retreat is coming to Lubbock September 5, 6, and 7 MCM Elegante Hotel & Suites 801 Ave. Q, Lubbock, TX

Plans are progressing for the Hilltop meeting scheduled for

September 20. Check the website under events for details. We will publish more the closer we get to the date. We are the host lodge this year.

Don't forget proficiency examinations October 18 beginning at 9:00AM at Yellowhouse Lodge.



And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. Genesis 1:3



A Message From the East
Worshipful Master Glenn Fant

THE MASTER'S CHARGE AT OPENING
This charge can be used by the Master following the battery & prior to the declaration...it is written in the monitor but few Masters choose to use it in Texas.

The ways of Virtue are beautiful. Knowledge is attained by degrees. Wisdom dwells with contemplation. There we must seek her. Let us then, my brethren, apply ourselves with becoming zeal

to the practice of the excellent principles inculcated by our Order. Let us ever remember that the great objects of our association are the restraint of improper desires and passions. The cultivation of an active benevolence and the promotion of a corrective knowledge of the duties we owe to God, our neighbor, and ourselves. Let us be united, and practice with assiduity the sacred tenets of our Order; ever remembering that where

brethren are, there should be peace and harmony, and each should wish for the good of the whole.

!



"The grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race"

Washington



A Message From the West—Scattershots and a New Year
Senior Warden Kevin Rush

Scattershooting and wondering, how did our brother founding fathers support and conduct a revolution and not violate their obligations?

With the lodge having so many new faces, I would like to encourage brethren that have not attended lodge for a while to come back and get involved. I believe that beginning with your one simple visit may help leave a strong impression on several of our newly made

brothers as well as making big impression on the lodge in general for that night. Make it a regular routine and we can go places! A brother can give back to lodge in many ways from showing up occasionally to meetings and rituals, to helping with lodge functions, to mentoring a newly made brother. Always remember that a brother in the past helped you along your journey.

I know this is going to seem strange since this is only my second month in the West but, it seems that a good part of my year is to be spent learning and planning for next year. As such, I would like to invite commentary from anyone who cares to provide me with ideas for the year to come even though we are just starting this New Year.

See you at the next lodge meeting.



From the South — Did You Know? . . .
Junior Warden John Rosser

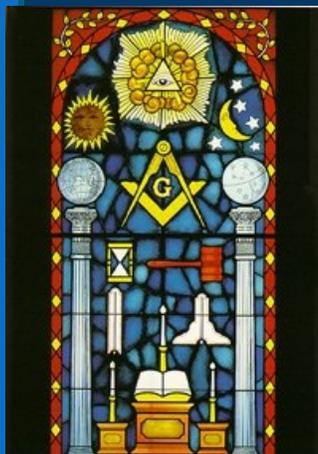
One of the functions of the Junior Warden is to keep up with the application of Masonic Law. There has been some discussion at our Lodge of late on the matter of carrying a gun into the lodge room, i.e. a brother police officer, while on or off duty, Should they be able to carry his gun into the lodge room? I am sure we can all come up with many different scenarios as to why it

should be allowed.

However, I want to direct you all to "The Laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas", Title II, Article 226 - Weapons. Weapons, either offensive or defensive, must not be carried into the lodge room. I submit, until there is a change at the Grand Lodge, we cannot carry a gun or any other weapon into the lodge room. Having your Concealed Carry License or

other license to carry a weapon has nothing to do with the application of Masonic Law and bringing a weapon into the lodge room.

This topic may be addressed by way of a resolution at the Grand Lodge Communication in December.



"Remember not only to say the right thing in the right place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment."

Benjamin Franklin



From the Secretary Jerry Hendrick
Taking Care of Business

"WHAT IS THE PROPER WAY TO WEAR A MASONIC RING?"

There is neither a proper nor improper manner of wearing a Masonic Ring. Freemasonry thinks highly of the individual - so much that it leaves a few choices to him.

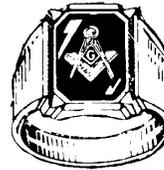
If you want to wear your

ring with the Square and Compasses right side up as you look at it, go ahead. It is your privilege and there are excellent reasons to support you.

If you want to wear your ring with the Square and Compasses right side up to the observer, go ahead,

and blessings on you.

Remember one thing - **JUST WEAR THE RING HONORABLY.**



From the Senior Deacon Charles Straub
Visiting Brothers & Prospects

Last month we had the following guests attend our stated meeting: Rod and Gary Armstrong of #1327 Mackenzie Lodge and Jonathon Gonzalez of Rio Grande #81 in Brownsville.

We're excited to report that we currently have a class of four working on their proficiencies. Be sure to come to

floor practice on Tuesday nights and let's give them all the support we can.

We had no visitors at the July stated meeting, so ya'll come on out to see us and bring another brother with you. You'll be assured to receive a fine meal and great fellowship!

Don't forget, we are the host

lodge for this year's Hilltop Meeting September 20.



Let us endeavor so to live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry.

Mark Twain



From the Senior Steward Luis Ramos
Food, Flowers & Frolic

Greetings brethren,

The meal for August will be provided from Jerry Hendrick's daughter for some fellow brethren that help her move. This is her appreciation for all the help she received. So, this is to give thanks to our fraternity for being great men.

Serving a meal either prior to or immediately following a

Lodge meeting has been an inherent part of our Masonic culture for many years. Brothers attend such meals more for the camaraderie it offers than anything else. Although there are no definitive figures on the subject, many Masons assume the meal has a direct bearing on meeting attendance. I tend to believe this.

Like it or not, Masonic meals

are an important part of a Lodge meeting. And think about it, do we attend Lodge simply to listen to a meeting or do we come for the warmth and camaraderie of our Brothers? A meal greatly facilitates brotherhood.



Upcoming Menu for August:

It's a Surprise!

The Fellowcraft Pillars—con't



be more difficult to pronounce than you expected. Try it a few times.

Start out by trying to do this frequently -- once, even twice every day. It'll be hard at first (and it's a real pain to pull out the cypher book while you're driving), but it'll gradually get easier. When you're starting to feel comfortable, slow down, but don't stop. Practice it every couple of days, then every week. Don't slow down below once a week. If you feel up to it, see if you can speed up your recitation. (But do not ever speed-talk the ritual in open Lodge -- that's for memorization and rehearsal only.)

5a: Mindset

Last part. You're now at the point where you pretty much have the ritual memorized. Now, the trick is learning how to perform it well. Very nearly everyone has some amount of stage fright; us acting types often have it even worse than most. The trick to overcoming it is control of the nerves.

Now that you're comfortable reciting the ritual, observe how you do it. By now, you're not thinking about it so much; your mouth is doing almost all the work, with the conscious mind simply making a few connections between paragraphs. That is the right state to be in. Think about how that feels, and learn it.

Before you go in to "perform", do some basic acting exercises. Take a few

deep breaths; concentrate on not thinking. I think the ideal is a little light meditation, but it takes a fair bit of practice to be able to drop into that state on demand; for now, just worry about being calm. Being calm is far more important than anything else. If you're calm, you're unlikely to screw up too badly; if you're tense, you're far more likely to. Some people like to exercise the body a bit, to relax the mind; you should do what works for you.

5b: Acting

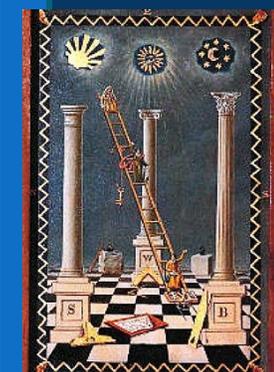
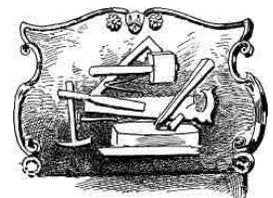
Now the final nuance, which separates merely competent ritual from the really good stuff. Now that you're able to let your mouth do all the talking, start listening to yourself. Think about the ritual again, but don't think about the words, think about what it means. What are the important bits? Emphasize those. How could you use your body or hands to illustrate a point? Try talking *to* the person in front of you, not just *at* them -- look them in the eye and make them get the point. You are teaching important lessons here; try to capture a little of the emotional intensity of that importance.

Think of your "performance" as a melding of two parts. Your mouth is providing the words, your mind and heart the emotion. Again, nothing beats practice. This is what rehearsal should really be for - taking a dummy candidate in hand, and learning how to really get the point across.

Don't fret if you find that you need to change "modes" now and then -- here and there you will need to think about the words briefly, when you change paragraphs or hit a hard sentence. That won't throw you, though, so long as you keep track of what you're saying; you've already figured out why each part leads into the next, and that will guide you when you stumble.

Conclusion

Don't expect to get all this down instantly; it takes most people a few years to really get good at it. Just try to advance yourself bit by bit. Learn the transitions and pieces first -- if you have that, you can get through the ritual. Next time, work on memorizing more thoroughly. The time after that, work on getting it really smooth. After a while, you can build up to the point where you have the luxury to act. And at that point, you will find that you start doing the kind of ritual that Masonry is meant to have -- both moving and interesting, enough so that the candidate (who is, remember, the whole point) actually *learns* what you're saying, and what it actually means. And if you really do it well, you'll find that you come to understand the meaning of the ritual a good deal better yourself.



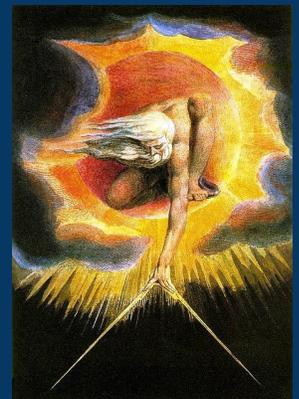
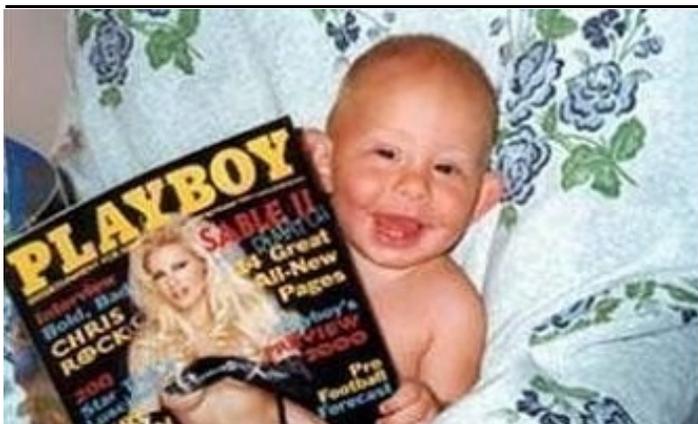
Lubbock 1392 in Action



School starts August 25 for LISD, Frenship, Lubbock Cooper, LCU, South Plains College & Texas Tech



There are no pictures this month and that just ain't right!
Some of us are here for the pictures!



LUBBOCK MASONIC LODGE #1392

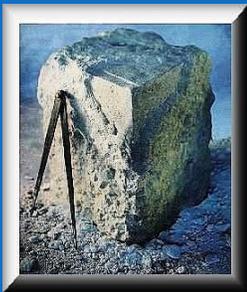
MASONIC DIST 93-A

4539 Brownfield Dr
Lubbock, TX
79410-1721

Meetings:
Second Friday of each
month, 7:30 p.m.
Meal: 6:30pm

Floor School:
Every Tuesday @ 7p.m.

lubbockmasoniclodge.org



Brotherly Love, Relief & Truth

This Month's Sickness & Distress



George Buchanan
Tom Noble



Please take the time to visit our sick and distressed; send them cards or call them on the phone, and be sure to keep them in your prayers.

If you know of sickness or distress with a brother or his family, please let us know.

This Month's Brothers & Birthdays

Eric Martin 8/1
Billy Dyess 8/7
Luis Ramos 8/9
Brian Harrison 8/11

Tom Lusk 8/23

The Quarry: Our Esoteric Work By Bro. Coke Etgen

With all the activity about the lodge with new Entered Apprentices, there is a lot of esoteric work going on and that is a good thing! Some of that work is coming in the form of our own review of the proficiency work for those who are instructing and sometimes we need a little help. But be mindful of this:

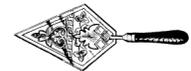
Is being in possession of, sharing with others (initiated or not), or even

the writing of the codebook a violation of an obligation? (I'm sure you all know which part I'm talking about) I mean, it is not all that hard to decode the book characters, even to the uninitiated, so would that be a violation in typing it up? And if typing it up was a violation, would those who have it or pass it on to others be committing an offense? Does it all boil down to what each person's definition of "secrets" is?

Art. 505. Certain Other Masonic Disciplinary Violations. It shall be a Masonic disciplinary violation for a Lodge, a committee or any

combination of Masons, or an individual Mason to: 20.) Possess, or use a cipher/code book anywhere on a Lodge premises, and to use a cipher/code book in the presence of a candidate when instructing the candidate in the esoteric work of a Masonic Degree. (Revised 2007).

Don't forget certificate examinations Saturday, October 18, 9am at Yellow-house Lodge.



The things a man has to have are hope and confidence in himself against odds, and sometimes he needs somebody, his pal or his mother or his wife or God, to give him that confidence. He's got to have some inner standards worth fighting for or there won't be any way to bring him into conflict. And he must be ready to choose death before dishonor without making too much song and dance about it. That's all there is to it."

Blaise Pascal

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