

T.F.S.
Three, five, and seven
3 5 7

By Ed Halpaus, Grand Lodge Education Officer.
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“Love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction.”

Antoine De Saint-Exupery

Dear Masonic Student,

We have an article I'm certain you will enjoy and get a lot out of for today's issue. It is written by Worship Brother Ken Baril. Brother Ken wrote the book "The Medal of Honor – The Letter G in victory." If you've read the book you know it is a fine book to have in your library, if not please try to get a copy. ISBN 0-9641073-4-1 published by Weidner Publishing 1-800-783-9654. When Brother Ken sent me his article he mentions that he wrote it after attending Lodge one night. A Lodge Brother was a Hot Air Balloonist; He said, 'I did some research, and with his assistance, came up with this paper.' He added that he hopes the readers of T.F.S. will enjoy it. I'm sure you will - Ed

HOT AIR BALLOONING AND FREEMASONRY

By S. Kenneth Baril, PM

Have you ever wondered what keeps a hot air balloon flying? The same principle that keeps food frozen in the open chest freezers at the grocery store allows hot balloons to fly. It is a very basic principle: Hot air rises and cold air sinks. So while the super-cooled air in your grocer's freezer settles down around the food, the hot air in a hot air balloon pushes up, keeping the balloon floating. There are three major components of a hot air balloon: the envelope, the burner, and the basket. The basket is where passengers ride.

The burner is positioned above the passenger's heads and produces a huge flame to heat the air inside the envelope.

The envelope is the colorful fabric bag that holds the hot air. When the air inside the envelope is heated, the balloon rises.

Now, what does this have in common with Freemasonry? Let us make some comparisons.

Like the envelope, Masonic information is stored in our memories, and when we need information on a certain subject, we "turn up the flame" and extract what we need.

In order to keep the balloon in the air, hot air is needed. It is the driving force. In Masonry, strong leaders keep the Lodge operating, and is its' driving force. As we need to rise to certain challenges, we need to increase the heat in our memories to make the right decision.

The basket is in Freemasonry, is the area where the officers await their turn to step up to the next position. It is an area where they can contemplate their plans and execute their designs.

To descend the balloon, the pilot allows the air to cool, and the balloon becomes heavier than the air. The pilot has complete control of the up and down movements by controlling the heat in the envelope. So is the case with the Master of a Lodge. He controls the up and down of the attitude in his Lodge.

Once airborne, balloons just float with the wind. It is true that the pilot does not know where the balloon will land ahead of time, but that does not mean he cannot control the landing.

In Freemasonry, the Master of a Lodge, in many cases, just let their Lodge "float with the wind." The difference is with a Master of a Lodge, is that HE CAN CONTROL THE DIRECTION OF HIS LODGE, thereby being able to control where it will land.

Before the balloon is launched, the pilot knows which way the wind is blowing so he knows which way the balloon will go. The air is in layers, and the different layers may be moving in different directions. Although the pilot cannot steer the balloon, he can move up and down to find a layer of air that will allow the balloon to change direction.

In Freemasonry, a Master has the same options as the pilot of a balloon. If a situation arises and a solution is needed, the Master can find that "layer of air," which will allow him to change direction in finding that solution.

Before the balloon takes off, many things have to be done. This takes a team of individuals working together for the same purpose. In Freemasonry, every task has to be done by teamwork, from the operation of the Lodge to the maintaining of the premises.

After the balloon lands, the crew packs the balloon back into the chase vehicle and everyone returns to the launch site.

Therefore, it is with Freemasonry. After the meeting is over, implements are stored away and we leave for our respective destinations. It is then we remember, that our balloon is our Lodge, and our memories of a great "Hot Air Balloon" ride is the true desire to return repeatedly, to enjoy, for however a brief period, the camaraderie and Brotherly Love that also "floats" within our Grand Fraternity.

Words to live by: "Success is often the result of taking a misstep in the right direction." Al Bernstein

From volumes of Sacred Law:

"And I saw six men coming from the direction of the upper gate, which faces north, each with a deadly weapon in his hand. With them was a man clothed in linen who had a writing kit at his side. They came in and stood beside the bronze altar." Ezekiel 9:2 Tanakh (Old Testament) NIV

"Under his direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love." Ephesians 4:16 New Testament NLT

"Say, whoever is an enemy to Gabriel - for he hath caused [the Koran] to descend on thy heart, by the permission of God, confirming that which was before [revealed], a direction, and good tidings to the faithful;" Qur'an 002:097 Sale translation

Please remember: if you would like to participate in the latest Masonic Monday Question, please go to <http://www.lodgebuilder.org> and click on the Lodge Education forum. When you have an answer send it to masonicmonday@gmail.com the Masonic Monday Question for the week of 0/19/10 is: **"What is the symbolic meaning of the candidate?"**

"If you cry "Forward" you must be sure to make clear the direction in which to go. Don't you see that if you fail to do that and simply call out the word to a monk and a revolutionary, they will go!" Anton Chekhov

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"We are not in a position in which we have nothing to work with. We already have capacities, talents, direction, missions, callings." Abraham H. Maslow

The newest Education video from the Grand Lodge of Minnesota can be viewed at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hAcUiBn8xI0>.

TFS & Masonic Matters can also be read on Ed's Face Book page; <http://www.facebook.com/ed.halpaus> - <http://halpaus.blogspot.com> - <http://www.mn-masons.org>

Please remember – Ed's new email address is erhmasonic@gmail.com the old one is going away.

With "Brotherly Love",
Ed Halpaus
Grand Lodge Education Officer

**Seek to mentor a Brother Mason:
It's good for him, it's good for you, and it's good for Freemasonry!**