

T.F.S.

Three, five, and seven

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By Stan Shapiro MD, Grand Lodge Education Officer G.L. of MN

#208

The following article was sent to me by Brother Gerald A. Edgar, who lives in Iowa and is a fine writer. He is a member of The Minnesota Grand Lodge Education Committee and Writers Guild.

"Tomorrow is the most important thing in life; comes into us at midnight very clean. It's perfect when it arrives and it puts itself in our hands; it hopes we've learned something from yesterday."
-Bro. Marion R. Morrison, a famous English essayist.

The following are excellent words of instruction:

Tomorrow is indeed "another day" - fresh & inviting IF we approach it as such. Past failures & regrets can be reversed if we embrace the new day. As Masons we can successfully approach tomorrow when we rely on the lessons gleaned from our "yesterdays" when we were Entered, Passed & Raised. Perhaps even more importantly, those lessons are reinforced and amplified by the context AND content of our current Stated meetings.

Context: were we well informed of the meeting? Do we receive an annual calendar, a monthly newsletter, a phone call and/or an email notice? Did we enter into a well lit, clean, inviting structure? Even an older brick or frame building can be refurbished and dusted! Were we greeted (and did WE greet with equal warmth) in a true Brotherly way? Did we enter the Lodge hall with an expectation that we would indeed be "given proper instruction"?

Content: does the WM indeed put us to work and give us that proper instruction he pledged at the opening of the Lodge? Does the JW see that none go away dissatisfied as he pledged to do? As individual Masons we have a two-fold obligation to truly 'listen' but also to hold our Officers to the obligations they took when invested with their offices.

Godparents pledge to assist the new parents in bringing their children up in faith. As members of our respective Lodges, we have made it a sworn duty to support our officers but also to share our high expectations AND willingness to assist in meeting those expectations. Do we give constructive feedback to our Officers and to whoever presents programs of Masonic education? Do we applaud Officers and Brothers whom offer particularly good lessons? Do we actively participate in a civil way and gently discourage those who would bring disharmony to the meeting? Tonight's meeting will become our "yesterday" - let us insure it is an instructive one for all present.

So my Brothers, embrace that clean tomorrow with the lessons of yesterday, finding the proverbial silver lining in every cloud. Masonic education & philosophy should always be of the

"glass half full" attitude. Our tomorrows will indeed be less stained by the superfluities of life. Perhaps these sound like worn out catch phrases but truly consider the truths they reveal.

Did you think the above was written by *Brother Marion R. Morrison*?
It was written by another Iowa-born Brother by his name in later life: John Wayne.

Gerald Edgar 2011

Words to Live By: "Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning."---- Albert Einstein

If you have any comments, suggestions, or questions, please send them to
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The Education Videos by our education committee can be viewed at:
<http://www.youtube.com/glmned>

The latest Masonic Monday Question, and some of the past questions, can be viewed at www.Lodgebuilder.org and at www.mn-masons.org