

EMESSAY NOTES

April 2021

Disaster Relief Sent From MSA



**THE
MASONIC
SERVICE
ASSOCIATION
OF NORTH
AMERICA**

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The Masonic Service Association has sent more than \$131,000 in disaster relief assistance to the Grand Lodge of Iowa, following damaging tornados late last year. The appeal has been officially closed.

Appeals, however, continue for the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, following two hurricanes from the Gulf of Mexico last year. So far, more than \$53,000 has gone to Louisiana. An appeal for the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, which suffered hurricane damage, is also still ongoing, with only limited contributions received so far.

All donations, which are tax deductible, should be sent to the MSA, 813 1st Avenue SE, Suite 357, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402.

The Lambskin

The wearing of "aprons" dates back almost to the beginning of time itself.

Upon entering the Masonic Fraternity, each new member becomes a brother and is presented a Lambskin or White Leather Apron. The apron is given along with a lengthy explanation of its Masonic meaning.

From that time forward the Brother wears the white apron in regular Lodge meetings, special ceremonies, and even, if he "so choses to be placed on his coffin which shall contain his earthly remains, and with them be laid beneath the silent clods of the valley."

We are taught that the white apron is an ever present reminder of a "purity of life and rectitude of conduct, a never-ending argument for nobler deeds, for higher thoughts, for purer actions." But do we really give thought as to the other meanings, applications, and lessons the white apron holds for each of us?

As we all know, aprons are worn by a number of individuals, both male and females for different purposes. A lady wears an apron when cooking to prevent staining her clothing. Workmen often wear aprons to protect their clothing. A medical doctor, dentist, or patient may wear an apron to protect from harmful X-Rays or medical usages. Even children wear aprons to protect their clothing when working with paints, or other materials. The list goes on and on for the many usages of the apron.

Aprons were also worn by the workmen of King Solomon's Temple to perform the setting of brick and stone work using mortar. So it would be fair to say that "the apron is an article which protects an individual."

We as Free and Accepted Masons, can take our meaning of the Lambskin or white apron even further. In Biblical usage, the lamb has been deemed as the symbol of innocence and purity, and thus we should strive to make every effort to pattern outlives and actions in a pure and spotless way which is

pleasing to God and for others to see.

The building of King Solomon's Temple has been said by a number of noted authors to have been a magnificent structure of architecture even by today's standards.

As workmen in the building of King Solomon's Temple wore their aprons to protect their clothing, therefore it is altogether fitting and proper that we as Masons should wear our aprons 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in our minds and hearts, as a constant reminder to make every effort to guard and protect ourselves from harm and evil and to make our lives and actions as spotless as the white apron.

This article was written by W. O'Neal Cleveland, chaplain of the Springfield (Alabama) Masonic Lodge. He has been Worshipful Master of two other Lodges, and active in a variety of Grand Lodge of Alabama and other related Masonic duties.

Attitude is a Problem

Too often we say, "Something must be done," rather than, "I can do something."

Too often we say, "There's a problem that needs solving," rather than, "I can help solve that problem."

The Lighter Side of Masonry

The late Stewart M. L. Pollard, well-known Masonic writer, published a book in 1983, titled, "The Lighter Side of Masonry," which was a collection of Masonic wit, humor, poetry, and thoughts. Here are a few examples of stories he shares:

A Matter of Ethics. Grand Masters have a habit of poking fun at each other when they visit each other's jurisdictions. We won't mention which jurisdictions, but in introducing a visiting Grand Master, the host told a story to point out how affluent the visitor's jurisdiction was.

"When John was installed, the Masters and Wardens Association presented him with a brand new Cadillac. But, John told them that in good conscience he couldn't accept it. After a short time, the association came up with a solution. 'Suppose we do this, Most Worshipful,' they proposed, 'We'll sell it to your for Ten Dollars.' It only took old John a moment to reply, 'Well, in that case, let me have two of them! Mary drives, too!'"

Queen Elizabeth. When Dr. James Anderson revised or codified the Ancient Charges in 1738, he incorporated in the historical preamble to them a statement that Queen Elizabeth, who favored all other arts, was not graciously disposed towards Freemasonry, merely because she, as a woman, could not become a Mason. The story runs as follows:

Hearing that the Masons were in the possession of secrets which they could not reveal, and being jealous of all secret associations, she sent an armed force to York, with intent to break up the annual Grand Lodge. This design, however, was happily frustrated by the interposition of Sir Thomas Sackville, who took care to initiate some of the chief officers whom she had sent on that duty. They joined in communication with the Masons and made so favorable report to the Queen on their return that she countermanded her orders, and never afterward attempted to disturb the meetings of the fraternity. What authority, if any, Anderson had for this story is unknown.

Exploratory Surgery. Members of the medical profession seem to have a particularly difficult time with Masonic terminology. We heard one in taking the Scottish Rite degrees who translated "Ineffible Degrees" to be "inoperable disease." Another, while serving as Grand Master called for the report of the "Neurology Committee," when he actually meant "The Necrology Committee."