

# The Maven's Journal

(March, 2017)

*"Dedicated to promoting Masonic leadership and education"*

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## Leadership Series

### *"Leaders are Visionaries – Lessons from Lincoln"*

In January I contrasted management with leadership, quoting Admiral Grace Hopper when she said *"managers manage things; leaders lead people"*. Things don't have emotions, dreams, thoughts of failure, joys of success, or egos. But people do, and



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promotes Masonic leadership and education. The articles in this and future editions appear on [MasonicMaven.org](http://MasonicMaven.org), where you will also find information of interest to all Freemasons and the general public. [Follow us on Facebook.](#)

thus the challenge. How do you get a person, with his or own idea of what should or should not be done in a given situation, to follow, sometimes blindly and without fear?

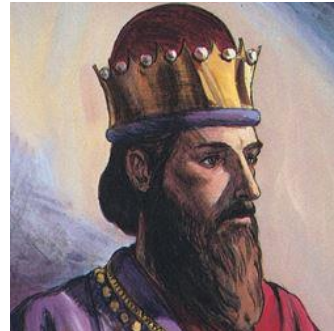
Well, my February article discussed respect, and that has a great deal to do with getting people to trust you. Respect alone will not get someone to subordinate their ideas to yours; but vision will. A clearly thought out vision, simply and well-articulated, convincingly and persuasively presented will win others to your cause. This is true if you are a U.S. President, a war time general, a little league coach, or a parent. And yes, it's true if you are Master of your lodge. Vision is such an important success factor for the effective leader that I will periodically present articles on this topic. For now, let's begin with how Abraham Lincoln viewed vision (pun intended).

While attending elementary school we all learned about our 16<sup>th</sup> U.S. President. A larger than life figure, literally and figuratively, Lincoln led a country at war for all but a few days of his presidency. The American Civil War was the first real test of the permanency of our great experiment, American Democracy. Other countries were waiting in the wings to take full advantage of the outcome. The north and south were not only split geographically, but economically and socially. The rights of the federal government were pitted against the rights of the states. The industrial north possessed far more resources than the agrarian south, yet that did not prevent 11 states from seceding from the Union.

In the early days of the war Lincoln was politically content with letting slavery persist in the states where it then existed. The abolition of slavery was not the main reason northerners fought in the war, but by 1863 Lincoln realized that the abolition of slavery was morally paramount. Antietam (Sharpsburg) provided Lincoln the military victory he needed to convince northerners that they were fighting a just cause, that of emancipation. Without Antietam (September, 1862) Lincoln did not have the political capital to issue the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863.

So how did Abraham Lincoln persevere and bring the War Between the States to a hard fought conclusion? Click [HERE](#) to continue reading.

Regards,  
Wor. Richard Ryder



### **Masonic Spotlight: Solomon - King of Israel**

*Richard H. Ryder, 2017*

All Masons hold Solomon's Temple in high esteem, for the perfection of this edifice symbolizes the internal edifice we all hope to perfect within us. But what do we know about Solomon, this fallible, historical, and biblical figure who built a temple to God?

Some records indicate Solomon lived about 60 years, reigning as King of the United Monarchy of Israel from 970 – 931 BC. The son of David and Bathsheba, Solomon was Israel's third king. David selected Solomon over his older brother, Adonijah, whom Solomon executed, believing him to be a political threat; hardly the expected action of

Richard H. Ryder  
March, 2017



## Education Series

### **"A Single Step: The Masonic First Degree"**

(Richard H. Ryder, 2016)

*Editor's note: This is the first of three articles highlighting the three Masonic degrees. They are written in generic terms to allow Masons and non-Mason to better understand the meaning of the degrees. By sharing these articles with spouses, family, and friends they will have a better understanding of why we in the Fraternity enjoy our Masonic experience so much; maybe even inspire a good man to seek membership.*

According to Lao-Tzu, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step". This is true for many of life's journeys, and for Freemasons these profound words have special meaning.

A first step toward the East begins our Masonic journey down a symbolic path from youth into manhood, toward age and eternity. The first degree symbolically prepares us for that journey from the rough to perfect ashlar and forms a cornerstone for a firm and supportive foundation.

Like all beginnings, the first step in Freemasonry is accompanied by feelings of anticipation and uncertainty. A new initiate may ask many questions of himself: "What brought me here?", "Why am I

one whose name derives from the Hebrew word 'shalom' or peace.

We learn in the Old Testament that God offered Solomon anything, but rather than wealth, respect or good health Solomon chose wisdom to carry out his God given responsibilities. He authored Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs, as well as several proverbs and psalms. However, Solomon disobeyed God by living a life of sin. He sealed many foreign agreements by marrying pagan women, allowed his wives to affect his loyalty to God, excessively taxed his people, and drafted his people into a labor and military force.

Marrying the Pharaoh's daughter (name unknown) in order to seal a pact with Egypt was one of many questionable actions. She was the first of hundreds of wives married for political reasons. Though an effective leader he let his personal life over shadow his successes, thus diminishing his gift of wisdom. It was not until late in his life that he began to repent his sins.

As a business leader Solomon

here at this point in my life?”, “What can I offer?”, and “What do I expect to gain”? In a period of darkness, having prepared his heart and mind, he seeks the light of truth and answers to life’s basic questions. With God’s help and his own exertion he seeks admission and takes that first step toward understanding.

As from the quarry, he emerges in a state of roughness and purity. Destitute, uneducated, and innocent, he relies on others to guide him. He meets resistance along the way, which teaches him valuable lessons that he stores within the repository of his soul. Silence is broken by words spoken from those who have already taken this journey and now impart the same wisdom and encouragement passed on through generations of predecessors.

And then begins the lifelong process of self-reflection and internalization of Masonic lessons. Like the ancient workers, he begins to form his own internal temple made not with stone, but with the building block of life’s lessons. These are the true secrets of Freemasonry, present to all beings, but now perceived within the context of a much larger set of experiences. He learns of the everlasting impact of charity, the application of the builder’s tools to remind him of important lessons, the guiding influence of those who came before us, and the power of Masonic tenets, namely, brotherly love, relief, and truth. And finally, virtues are impressed upon the mind that he may judge wisely, moderate self-interest, practice self-control, and confront uncertainty with strength and courage.

From this meaningful ceremony emerges a transformed individual prepared to view life from a completely new perspective. The new entered apprentice is now able to look at himself and others in new ways and better understands that it is not the outward appearance of a man that is important, but the internal qualities. With this newfound understanding he begins to prepare himself for the rest of his journey from the rough to perfect ashlar. He will soon realize that all men, having taken this same step, are willing to assist him on his journey under the watchful eye of a Supreme Being who stands watch over all of us into eternity.

*Richard Ryder*  
January, 2016

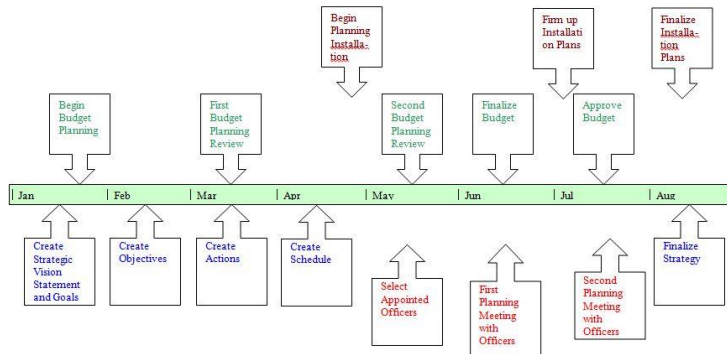
leveraged the commercial aspects of sea transportation and copper. He leveraged the weakness of his neighbors, Assyria and Egypt, and to make up for a trade balance deficit with Hiram, King of Tyre, Solomon ceded him 20 towns in Galilee.

It was with Hiram that Solomon had his biggest achievement, the building of the temple to the most high God, fulfilling his father’s promise to do the same. This was not the first structure associated with Solomon, given he built vast defense structures, public works, and the Porch of Pillars. But it was by far the grandest, eclipsing all other shrines in the land and used more continuously than any other structure of worship, until it was destroyed in 586 BC by the Babylonians.

Like all men, Solomon was not perfect. He was given a gift by God, but tarnished his wisdom through his actions. Best known to Masons as the builder of The Temple, the perfection of that building serves as a symbolic reminder of the elusive internal perfection we all seek.

Sources: *The Life Application Bible/New International Version; Smith's Bible Dictionary*

## Master's "Pre-Term" Timeline



## The Word

### Libertine

The man who lives without the constraint of conscience, licitiously violating the moral law, and paying no regard to the precepts of religion, is unworthy to become a member of that institution which boasts that its principles are intended to make all its members good men and true.

Source: *The Lexicon of Freemasonry, Albert G. Mackey*

## The Master's Trestle Board

### "Action Items and Budget Planning"

(Richard H. Ryder, 2017)

By now I hope you have read the Trestle Board series articles in the January and February editions of *The Maven's Journal*, where I reviewed how to create effective vision statement, goals, and objectives. If not, click [HERE](#) to read those articles. In this series entry I will review the last step in the strategy setting process: action items.

Action items are the meat and potatoes of the whole strategy setting process. Without clear and specific time based action items, which have realistic and attainable deadlines, your objectives, goals, and vision are but words on paper.

It is important to create action items with key members of your team in order to reach consensus, provide the team a sense that their input is meaningful, and also to solicit buy-in. Once the team is on board and agrees to the actions, it is up to everyone to take ownership and accountability, and for the Master to follow-up and check progress.



## 10 Ways Leaders Differ

Let's review our sample vision, goal and objective:

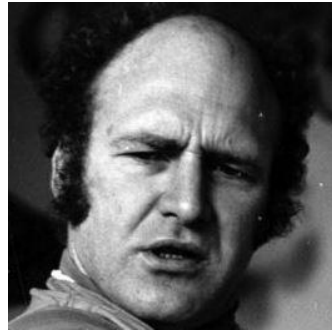
- **Vision:** *“Create a lodge environment that makes members want to attend and be active.”*
- **Goal 1:** *“By June of my Master’s term make each member feel a valued part of the lodge.”*
- **Objective 1-A** *“In the first three months, contact each member personally, by phone, or by email.”*

Now, let's add action items against Objective 1-A. To do so, continue reading by clicking [HERE](#).

## From Managers

1. Managers manage things; Leaders lead people
2. Managers live in the present; Leaders live in the future
3. Managers have employees; Leaders have followers
4. Managers react to change; Leaders create change
5. Managers have good ideas; Leaders implement them
6. Managers communicate; Leaders persuade
7. Managers direct groups; Leaders create teams
8. Managers try to be heroes; Leaders make heroes
9. Managers take credit; Leaders take responsibility
10. Managers exercise power *over* people; Leaders exercise power *with* people

**Source:** Item 1, Grace Hopper; Item 2, Richard H. Ryder; Items 3-10, You Don't Need a Title to Be a Leader, Mark Sanborn



### **What did he say?**

*"You don't lead by pointing  
and telling people some place  
to go. You lead by going to  
that place and making a case"*

Ken Kesey - Author



### **Attract and Retain**

*"We are all Masonic  
Ambassadors"*

Each day in your many roles  
you have the opportunity and  
the responsibility to serve as  
*Masonic* Ambassadors, within  
and outside the lodge, to  
promote Freemasonry and  
your lodge. That leaves one  
important question – how?

Let's begin by looking at two  
roles of the Lodge  
Ambassador, public

spokesman and mentor, and see how we can all best apply them in serving as *Masonic* Ambassadors.

### **Acting like ambassadors outside the lodge**

First thing that comes to mind is a podium and a speech. That's great, if you enjoy that, but most people don't enjoy public speaking. So what else can we do? Even if you do not hold the title, "Lodge Ambassador", understand that:

1. Our **actions** should speak volumes without uttering a word
2. **Recognition** should not be the motivator
3. We are **not better**; we are all the same, but we're different.

*What distinguishes us from other men?* Click [HERE](#) to find out.





### Coming Attractions

Stay tuned in future journal editions for *The Manager's Toolkit* series, which will run periodically. In it you will find articles on time management, meeting management, project management, and more.



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