

# The Maven's Journal

(Oct. 2017)

*"Dedicated to promoting Masonic leadership and education"*

Published by [MasonicMaven.org](http://MasonicMaven.org)

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Introspection

*(Richard H. Ryder, 2017)*

When was the last time you looked at yourself? Not in a mirror, but at the person you are? As a leader you need to periodically practice introspection, making sure that the person you convey is that of the leader you want to be. Perry Smith discusses introspection in his book, *"Rules and Tools for Leaders"* and this two-part **Maven's**



**Editor's Note:** This month you will learn why introspection is a necessary activity for the successful leader. The multi-part series on Architecture and Freemasonry continues

*Journal* series will highlight some of his key points.

You are five persons in one: you are who you are, who you think you are, who your team thinks you are, who your peers think you are, and who your superiors think you are. Soliciting feedback from others will benefit you. Understanding how these differ or overlap will help you better perform as a leader. In the process you will gain confidence and respect. You will also avoid becoming out of touch and irrelevant.

Establish your priorities: write them down, communicate them, ensure they are understood, discuss them with your team and ensure they dovetail with those of the organization. Then, be sure to follow them, which is sometimes easier said than done.

Examine your reliability: how often do you not attend meetings or fulfill commitments without notice or good reason? How often do **you commit to something, then don't deliver when or as promised?** Do you avoid over-scheduling or over-committing to fulfill commitments you have already made? Do you take full responsibility for your commitments? Reliability is a critical success factor for leaders, which demonstrates respect for others and ownership of your responsibilities. Remember, even in a volunteer organization, once you volunteer for something it then becomes a commitment, where people above, below, and next to you rely on your reliability.

How well do you listen? As someone said, God gave us one mouth, but two ears. It is important that you use your ears more than your mouth. Good listening is an acquired skill and leaders should avoid the tendency to try to make their point as quickly as possible. Instead, in the words of Stephen Covey, seek to understand before being understood. When someone brings you a problem it is important to hear them out before jumping to conclusions. This way you get the whole story and can better decide on how to respond.

How is your body language? How do you present yourself in public? Do you sit straight? Do you avoid crossing your arms during a discussion? Do you avoid demeaning facial expressions when

with the building of Solomon's Temple – Part 2. A new series, *Looking Toward the East*, replaces *The Master's Trestle Board* and is designed to help line officers fulfill their roles and responsibilities. We also replaced *The Spotlight* article for this month with an editorial, which we hope you will find thought provoking. As always, visit us at [MasonicMaven.org](http://MasonicMaven.org) and be sure to [Follow us on Facebook](#).

Regards,  
Wor. Richard Ryder

## **Nobody asked... just my opinion.**

Editorial

Tiny Ripples of Hope  
(Richard H. Ryder, 2017)

Is the world more dangerous and less tolerant? Is civility less fashionable? Are attacks on one's reputation more prevalent? Is human life still sacred? Are we more

someone says something with which you disagree? How you carry yourself, especially when serving in a leadership capacity, speaks volumes about how you perceive others. Sometimes bad habits are hard to break, and you may not even realize you are conveying negative body language. To prevent this, ask a trusted friend to observe you in different settings and then provide constructive feedback.

Are You an Innovator? Are you open to new ideas and new ways of doing things? Are you willing to take educated risks to bring improvements? Knowing when to push innovation and when to proceed slowly, given an unreceptive audience or organization, comes from experience and sage advice from trusted team members and mentors.

Are You Flexible? Must you always expect people to do it your way, thinking that you are all-knowing? Or are you open to trying something new, even if others get the credit. Sometimes subordinating your approach to that of another can motivate the best in your team, such that everyone wins, and the organization improves.

*Richard H. Ryder, 2017*



## Education Series

Architecture and Freemasonry - Solomon's Temple: Part 2

*(Richard H. Ryder, 2017)*

In part one of this article you learned about the events leading up to

polarized and regressing into a tribal mentality? Is social media a blessing or a **curse...or both**? Are these valid concerns or is it just me?

The recent massacre in Las Vegas is reflective of all the evil and good that humanity and this country offer. One man kills 58 innocent people and destroys the lives of hundreds, during which time countless unselfish acts of heroism play out on the field of destruction. Just the latest in a never-ending series of terroristic rampages. It seems to leave us helpless in our quest to solve the perfect storm of problems that cause people to render harm on others. As a country we cannot agree on how to respond and we become paralyzed. We pray, and then carry on with our lives. We demonstrate outrage, and then point to the other side as the problem.

**And the problems don't stop there.**

Click [HERE](#) to continue reading.

*Richard H. Ryder, 2017*

and the construction of King Solomon's Temple. Part two describes the men responsible for its construction, the Temple's destruction, and the religious significance of the Temple site.

#### The Builders

The most famous of the builders was, of course, Solomon. But without two other biblical figures the Temple would not have been constructed. Hiram, King of Tyre and Hiram-Abi played pivotal roles, along with 153,300 laborers.

**Solomon's father, David, formed an alliance with king Hiram, a relationship continued by Solomon.** It was through this relationship the finest timbers were available for construction, as well as skilled artisans. 2 Chronicles 2:3-10 tells us that Solomon asked Hiram to

*"Send me cedar logs as you did for my father David when you sent him cedar to build a palace to live in. Now, I am about to build a temple for the Name of the Lord my God. Send me, therefore, a man skilled to work in gold and silver, bronze and iron, and in purple, crimson, and blue yarn, and experienced in the art of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem with my skilled craftsmen, whom my father David provided. Send me also, cedar, pine, and algum logs from Lebanon, for I know that your men are skilled in cutting timber there. My men will work with yours to provide me with plenty of lumber, because the temple I build must be large and magnificent. I will give your servants, the woodsmen who cut the timber, twenty thousand cors [125,000 bushels] of ground wheat, twenty thousand cors of barley, twenty thousand baths [118,000 gallons] of wine, and twenty thousand baths of olive oil."*

The skilled architect and engineer sent by Hiram was, according to 2 Chronicles, 2:13-14, Hiram-Abi, who was **"a man of great skill, whose mother was from Dan [from the tribe of Naphtali] and whose father was from Tyre. He is trained to work in gold and silver, bronze and iron, stone and wood, and with purple and blue and crimson yarn and fine linen. He is experienced in all kinds of engraving and can execute any design given to him. He will work with your craftsmen and with those of my lord, David your father."**



#### The Word

##### Three

*Richard H. Ryder, 2017*

Ever heard of the superstition, **"three on a match"**? Linked to the Crimean War and both World Wars it was deadly to be the third soldier lighting his cigarette from the same match. On the first light the enemy would notice, on the second light the enemy would aim, and on the third light the enemy would fire. Interesting, but not very useful today. However, the number three has rich symbolism in numerology and Freemasonry. Here are just a few examples.

The number three has always been linked to harmony, wisdom, and understanding. To Aristotle the number three contained within itself a beginning, a middle, and an end. It appears throughout mythology: the thunder-bolt of Jove was three-forked; the scepter of Neptune was a trident; Cerberus, the dog of Plato,

Under the supervision of Hiram-Abi, 153,300 workers toiled during construction. According to the introduction in the *Heirloom Family Bible* and supported by the book of 1 Kings, 5: 13-16, 30,000 Israelites were employed to secure the timbers and sent in detachment of 10,000 each month, so that they spent one month in Lebanon and two months at home. 150,000 of the remnants of the Canaanites were impressed into service - in the hills were 80,000 hewers [to give form or shape to with or as if with cutting blow] and 70,000 carriers, or bearers of burdens. Lastly, there were 3,300 Israeli and Canaanite foremen, who supervised the project and directed the workmen. During the entire time it is believed that King Solomon was in frequent communication with Hiram and Hiram-Abi.

#### The Destruction

The *Heirloom Family Bible* tells us in its introduction that the Temple lasted for more than 400 years as a center of Jewish religious life. It was, however, allowed to deteriorate and fell into neglect. Over the years Temple repairs were performed and re-consecrated. Several times the Temple treasury was plundered by foreign invaders who took its gold as tribute. Then, in 586 B.C., according to *Freemasons for Dummies*, King Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon and his army conquered Syria and then seized Israel. He stole most of the Temple artifacts before burning it and dismantling the citadel. In the process The Ark of The Covenant disappeared, never to be seen again. *Freemasons for Dummies* goes on to say that the temple was eventually rebuilt by Zerubbabel and the Jews after their 50-year exile in Babylon. In this location Herod also built a temple, a site of several events in the life of Jesus. However, in 70 A.D. the Romans destroyed the Temple, but not before Flavius Josephus, the ancient historian, rescued the ancient scrolls.

#### Religious Significance of the Site

**For Jews, the area where Solomon's Temple was constructed is** known as The Temple Mount. Situated on the Eastern Hill in Jerusalem, it is also known as Mt. Moriah or Zion. As previously mentioned, it is here that Abraham offered his son Isaac as a **"burned offering unto the Lord"**. Jewish tradition maintains that it is here where a third temple will someday be built. For these reasons, it is the holiest site for Jews, where they turn towards during prayer.

was three headed. The druids had their triads and the ancient mysteries held a sacred regard for the number three. It is also a sacred number in many world religions, including Christianity. The symbol of three rings forming The Tripod of Life symbolizes the trinity; removing one causes the other two to fall apart. In rituals, actions are often performed in threes. There are three primary colors and three leaf clovers that supposedly bring good luck. Magic and fairy tales make liberal use of it and when we try to prove our point we do so with three examples. There is no end to the application of this commonly used number.

In Freemasonry the number three consistently presents itself, sometimes obvious, but other times not. Three is the first figure to form a geometrical figure – a triangle. There are, of course, three degrees and three principle officers. We know of the three greater lights and three lesser lights, the three movable and three immovable jewels, and the three stages of human life. Once again, the list goes on. As in life, Freemasonry has a deep and profound

For Sunni Muslims the site is known as Haram esh-Sharif, the Noble Sanctuary. It is here where the Prophet Mohammed ascended to heaven by a ladder rising from a sacred stone said to be from **Solomon's Temple**. The Dome of the Rock (Mosque of Sakhra), **built by Calif Abdul Malik's in 691 A.D., is situated next to the original location of King Solomon's Temple**. Also situated here is the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest site in Islam.

For Christians, the site does carry some religious significances, due to it being the site of the temple where Jesus spent much of his time. It remained a revered site to Christians after the death of Jesus, but following the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D. it soon **became a symbol of God's punishment to the Jewish** people. Today, the main attraction of Christians to the area is the nearby Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where Jesus was said to have been crucified and entombed.

*Richard H. Ryder, 2017*



## Looking Toward the East

The Wardens

*(Richard H. Ryder, 2017)*

This new series, *Looking Toward the East*, replaces *The Master's Trestle Board* and is designed to help line officers fulfill their roles and responsibilities, and assess their responsibilities as stepping stones toward the Oriental chair.

The Junior Warden and Senior Warden hold very important

respect for this ubiquitous numeral. As you sit in lodge, try to be aware of all the references to the number three; you may find references in places you never noticed before.

*Sources: Lexicon of Freemasonry, Albert G. Mackey, 2004 edition; mysticalnumbers.com*

*Richard H. Ryder, 2017*



What did he say?

***“Because if I can't impact people, then this whole thing is a waste”***

Chris Rosati, on his ALS diagnosis. Chris, who passed away on 10/18, spread joy in Durham, N.C. by giving away free donuts to kids. One

positions within the lodge, for in the absence of the Master there are next in line, respectively, to assume the East. As such they need to prepare themselves for this potential responsibility. Also, there will come a day when they too will become Master. This article highlights some of the steps new Wardens can take to prepare themselves for assuming the East of their lodge.

### The New Junior Warden

The newly elected Junior Warden demonstrates, by filling this office, a desire and commitment toward sitting in the East as Master of his lodge. This commitment and accompanying responsibility should not be taken lightly. The Junior Warden owes it to himself and the lodge members to be well prepared for assuming his current and future responsibilities. It is important for him to not only begin the process of planning his term, but also to coordinate his role, responsibilities, and activities with those of the Senior Warden and Master.

The following checklist will assist the Junior Warden in preparing for his term:

- Become more acquainted with lodge members
- Become more acquainted with Wardens and Masters within the district
- Increase visibility within the lodge and at lodge activities
- Increase visibility within the district and at district activities
- Attend Grand Lodge meetings, when appropriate
- Regularly attend and support district Lodge of Instruction
- **Attend Master's Path to begin thinking about and pre-planning your term as Master**
- Attend all rehearsals and monthly meetings
- Familiarize yourself with and apply, where necessary, the Lodge By-laws
- Familiarize yourself with and apply, where necessary, the Grand Constitution
- Familiarize yourself with the lodge government process, including budgeting and finances
- Properly prepare for and effectively execute floor work and

ordinary man making a difference.

To view Chris' story, click [HERE](#).



### Attract and Retain

#### *The Sponsor*

*Richard H. Ryder, 2017*

As we all know, Freemasonry is a membership based organization that always requires men to regularly join and keep the member population growing. As you bring friends and family members into the Craft it is important to realize that your responsibility may not end there. As his sponsor you have a role and a responsibility to help the applicant and candidate during those first few formative months until he becomes engaged in the lodge. It is during this critical period that he will shape his impression of Freemasonry and the direction he will take following his third degree.

ritual

- Fulfill the Junior Warden roles and responsibilities as outlined in the book, *Duties and Responsibilities of Lodge Officers and Committee Chairmen*
- Coordinate goals and objectives with those of the Senior Warden and Master
- Support the Senior Warden and Master in their respective activities
- Become familiar with effective public speaking skills

Click [HERE](#) to read about the new Senior Warden

*Richard H. Ryder, 2017*

Remember when you first inquired about Freemasonry? Maybe you did some research online or read *Freemasonry for Dummies*. Maybe you viewed a DVD on Freemasonry or discussed Freemasonry with someone who was a Mason. Maybe you attended an open house or was referred to a lodge via Grand Lodge. At some point you met members of your lodge to learn more. Liking what you heard and saw, you completed an application and soon were taking your degrees. Then, you tried to determine where you fit in.

Most likely this whole process took several months. Where you left alone without someone to guide you through the process, answer questions, and mentor you? If you had a good sponsor then you probably had a good experience. Someday, hopefully soon, you may have the opportunity to recommend someone for membership. If so, you will be their sponsor. When this happens how do you know what to do?

Click [HERE](#) to continue reading.

*Richard H. Ryder, 2017*



### Coming Attractions

In November, *The Maven's Journal* will feature a contributor article on the symbolic weight of the Master's collar. The *Architecture and Freemasonry* series continues as does the new series, *Looking Toward the East*, to help officers assess their responsibilities as stepping stones toward the Oriental chair. The Leadership Series article, *Introspection*, concludes.



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