THOUGHTS FOR THE ENQUIRING MASON

Addendum March 2013

"Sequendo Lampada Disco"
Victorian
Lodge of Research No.218
United Grand Lodge of Victoria

What Prompted You To Join Freemasonry?
A response from a concerned reader
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Response to TFTEM – February 2013.

Brother Editor/Compiler; what sort of diversity of responses did you envisage this TFTEM to engender? Social Psychologists have been cogitating for years over the reasons/causes for people joining groups. In the case of Freemasonry, one author appears to me to tap key motivations; at least where they fit my perceptions. That author is M. A. Hogg in a number of papers and books where three principal theories about people's needs are presented, these being,

1. The Sociometer model.
   a. Need to be socially included.
   b. A measure of self-esteem.
2. The Uncertainty model.
   a. A need to reduce uncertainty about one's self.
   b. To find a place in the world.
   c. Group processes reducing uncertainties about one's self.
3. Terror management.
   A motivation to reduce the fear of the certainty of death

With the exception of item 3 any of these individually or collectively could be motivations for a person to seek to become a Freemason. Item 3 being more of a motivating factor in respect of religious belief systems of which Freemasonry is not a part. These factors, one would hope, are prominent in the minds of those appraising potential members.

Should you seek to pursue this topic I suggest the question might be "Did any of these aspects motivate you to become a Freemason?" Then list them. For my part, having at the time, recently moved to Melbourne to set up a home, I found on reflection, that items 1a and 2b were principal motivating factors.

Over to you brother!

Dear concerned reader,

The original intent of the founder and creator of the TFTEM was that they would hopefully stimulate discussion and thought, as the name implies, and your missive certainly fulfils that expectation. Thank you for your contribution to the TFTEM and glad our offerings meet with your approbation.

Anonymous contribution from WBro Ian Richards