

**GRAND LODGE A.F. & A.M. OF CANADA
IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO
Ottawa District 2**

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D.D.G.M.'s Monthly Message

Brethren, over the course of a number of my recent “first visits” to District 2 Lodges I had occasion to respond to the toast to Grand Lodge. As part of that response I read an email from our Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Raymond S. J. Daniels respecting the Grand Master’s Theme for 2009 – 11. As this theme is intended to assist us in the mapping out of our direction over the next two years, I thought it appropriate to relate it to all the brethren who perhaps did not have the opportunity to hear it in Lodge.

The Grand Master’s Theme 2009 – 2011 is as follows:

“Get Knowledge; Get Wisdom; but with all thy getting, Get UNDERSTANDING.”

To quote our Grand Master, “We claim to distinguish ourselves as “Free and Accepted, or Speculative Masons.” In other words, we are “thinking” men, given to reflection upon and contemplation of the eternal verities embodied in our ancient ritual as we seek Truth. In this sense, we are *Philosophers*, a term coined by the learned Pythagoras which defined as “*lovers of wisdom*”.

The essence of Masonic philosophy is best expressed in the lessons of the Ashlars that we are charged “to moralize on.” Freemasonry sets out a five-stage curriculum of Self-Discipline: 1) self-examination, 2) self-discovery, 3) self-analysis, 4) self-realization, 5) self-fulfillment.

This is how a good man strives to make himself a better man – a better citizen, a better family man, a better colleague, and a better workman.

We can never forget that every Freemason is someone's living definition of Freemasonry. Let us therefore resolve to act as "the dictates of right reason prompt us" at all times and in all places.

Raymond S. J. Daniels
Grand Master"

Brethren, keeping these principles in mind will aid us all in putting forward a benevolent face to the body of our great fraternity of Freemasonry. As we go about our individual search for "Self-Discipline" and its five stages, the road we travel should lead us to that place where we become "better men, better citizens, etc" and, in turn, place each of us in a position of respect in the eyes of the world as we walk the paths of brotherly love, relief and truth.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

R.W.Bro. Jack Ledger
District Deputy Grand Master
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