

# THE TWO ASHLARS

The two ashlar that lie open at the front of your lodge are called the rough ashlar and the perfect ashlar. That in the north-east angle is the rough ashlar and the one in the south-east is the perfect ashlar. They are called Immovable Jewels and they are there for the brethren to moralize on. The rough ashlar is for the entered apprentice to work, mark and indent on. The perfect ashlar is for the more expert workman to try and adjust his Jewels on.

As the candidate enters your lodge, he travels east in search of light. He comes to the north-east angle of the lodge, the rough ashlar. As he travels onward, he then reaches a point where he may try and adjust his Jewels on the perfect ashlar. My brethren, I would not have you think that Freemasonry will make you perfect and by no stretch of the imagination will this be done. But what it has done and will do and will continue to do, until time shall be no more, is to take away those things that mar our perfection. Masonry is a tool to be used for this purpose.

A sculptor had completed a statue and had stepped back to view his work when a man stepped up and said, 'Sir, you have created the perfect image.' The sculptor thought for a moment and turning to the man, said, 'No, I have not created the perfect image. Perfection was already there. I merely removed the stone that was not needed.' And so, my brethren, perfection is already there. We must remove the things that are not needed with this wonderful tool called Freemasonry. As you know, each and everyone of us was created in the image of God. How much more perfect would we want to be? But let us take a look at the rough ashlar. As the stones were brought up from the quarry and placed in Solomon's temple, each stone must fit in the place allotted for it or it was cast aside and a new one was brought in as there was no recutting of the stones once they reached the construction site. As you well know, there was no sound of metal tools in Solomon's temple. So be it with your life and mine. When we reach that ethereal mansion in the heavens, there will be no reshaping or remoulding of characters. We must fit in that place He has allotted to us. As these stones were cut and shaped in the quarry, each stone had its own print or plan and each plan or print was taken from the master plan of Solomon's temple. Once again there is a plan for your life and my life laid down in the V.O.S.L. and the plan for each life is taken from the master plan of God.

But let us go back to the ashlar once more. As these stones were brought up and placed in the temple, they were mortared in with the greatest of care. We hear very little about cement mortar or the trowel in our lodges but this mortar was mixed with just the right amount of cement, sand and moisture to make these stones become one solid wall. It was mixed with the greatest of care. My brethren, are we mixing our mortar with temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice, adding the right amount of faith, hope and charity and mixing it with the trowel of brotherly love, relief and truth, so our stone will bond fast in one solid wall? We, as masons, are building a wall of masonry and each candidate who enters a lodge is a potential stone in that wall. Will our stones crumble and fall away or will they hold fast in a common bond and make our wall solid? This wall we build as masons, build it strong, straight and true. Let us square it with the square of virtue, let us level it with the level of human kindness and let us plumb it with the plumb of human greatness.

Brethren, Freemasonry teaches you and I that youth, properly directed, will lead to an honourable and virtuous maturity. And life regulated on the principle of morality and justice will lead, at its closing hours, to the prospect of eternal bliss.

A talk given by W. Bro. Charles L. Neve of King Solomon Lodge No. 394.