

Worshipful Master Lodge Discussion Series

Title: Rough Ashlar

Version: 1.0

Purpose: Test each man's ability to identify internal distortions and habits with honesty, and understand how his interactions expose these irregularities in others.

Keywords: Rough Ashlar, Self-awareness, Honesty, Growth, Vulnerability


Materials Needed:

None

Supporting Content/Guides

PDF - AMW Groundrules

Related Podcast Episodes:

 The Junior Warden: Noticing Before You Numb

 Hidden Tool #1 - Metallic Objects & The Preparing Room

 The Ruffians Within — Episode 3: Uncertainty Disguised as Virtue



Setup:

WM Time Needed:

10 min: review personal growth articles or podcast episodes related to self-awareness and honesty

Member Time Needed

5 min: reflect on the Rough Ashlar symbol's intrinsic, extrinsic, and integrative meanings

Considerations:

Individuals in the lodge will participate in different ways. Challenging a member to participate in a way that is uncomfortable for them should only be done with a skilled facilitator and a high-trust group.

Messaging:

Many brothers see themselves as polished stones, but we are all rough ashlar in progress. The symbol asks us to look for imperfections without self-condemnation or denial. By the close of this discussion, each brother should be able to name one internal distortion he has been ignoring and commit to addressing it.

Key questions:

“What is a recent instance when you failed to identify an internal distortion or habit?”

“Can you think of a time when you were defensive in response to constructive feedback from a brother? What does the Rough Ashlar demand of you in such situations?”

“Where do you see the principle of 'development begins through negation' in lodge work, specifically in how we interact with each other?”

“What internal distortion or habit is keeping you from fully engaging with your role within the lodge?”

“Describe a personal goal that requires self-awareness and honesty to achieve. How will entering this space require you to behave differently than you currently do?”

Wrap-up:

Touch on the key points and highlights of the discussion. Pay special attention to discoveries or immediate learnings by the participants. Personalize positive feedback with “I really valued Brother [John's] point about X, or Y”

DISCUSSION

Date of Meeting:

Rating? ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Key Points

Takeaways

The Best Part:

Thing's I'd do differently next time:

Do this again? Y N

If so, how often? _____

