

# Worshipful Master Lodge Discussion Series

## Title: The Ruffians

Version: 1.0

Purpose: Examine what happens when fear starts running the room instead of wisdom. Help brothers notice the difference between necessary caution and the slow erosion of honest speech.

Keywords: silence, fear vs. wisdom, hollow agreement, interior liberty




### Materials Needed:

None

### Supporting Content/Guides

PDF - AMW Groundrules

### Related Podcast Episodes:

-  Building Self-Trust Through Small Repeated Actions
-  The Ruffians Within — Episode 1: Naming the Internal Saboteurs
-  The Ruffians Within — Episode 3: Uncertainty Disguised as Virtue



### Setup:

*WM Time Needed:*

2-3 minutes

*Member Time Needed*

None

### 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:

Most of us think the Ruffians are an outside threat. They are not. A Ruffian is what happens inside a man and inside a group when fear starts doing the thinking. When that happens, speech narrows. Agreement becomes performative. Trust erodes while everything looks fine on the surface. By the end of tonight, you should be able to name one place where you have felt that happening and what honest speech would actually cost.

### Key questions:

“What does honest speech look like when it is actually happening? Not confessional or reckless, but truthful. How do you recognize it in a meeting, a conversation, a workplace, a home?”

“Does any of that sound familiar in your own life right now? Where do you see yourself either speaking that way or holding back from it?”

“When have you stayed silent for good reason, and when have you stayed silent out of fear? What was the difference you noticed between the two?”

“If a visitor walked into this lodge and watched how brothers talk to each other, what would they see if interior liberty were truly protected here?”

“Did anything in this conversation shift how you see the difference between wisdom and fear keeping you quiet?”

### 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:

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Rating? ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Key Points

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Takeaways

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The Best Part:

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Thing's I'd do differently next time:

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Do this again?  Y  N

If so, how often? \_\_\_\_\_

