

The Regius Poem is the oldest Masonic document in existence. It was written sometime around 1425. It consists of 64 pages. The following is merely an excerpt that spoke to me.

Regius Poem

Good manners make a man.
To the next degree look wisely,
To do them reverence by and by;
Do them yet no reverence all in turn,
Unless that thou do them know.
To the meat when thou art set,
Fair and honestly thou eat it;
First look that thine hands be clean,
And that thy knife be sharp and keen,
And cut thy bread all at thy meat,
Right as it may be there eaten,
If thou sit by a worthier man,
Then thy self thou art one,
Suffer him first to touch the meat,
Ere thyself to it reach.
To the fairest morsel thou might not strike,
Though that thou do it well like;
Keep thine hands fair and well,
From foul smudging of thy towel;
Thereon thou shalt not thy nose blow,
Nor at the meat thy tooth thou pick;
Too deep in cup thou might not sink,
Though thou have good will to drink,
Lest thine eyes would water thereby-

Master Mason Brother Mariette's received enlightenment;

Good manners make a man: Good Masons enlighten their fellow men and brothers.

Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

If Masons do not seek to enlighten their brothers and fellow man they are allowing their brothers and mankind to become dull and thus doing society as a whole a disservice. It must begin with us the brotherhood. Knowledge, tradition, and ceremony are passed from generation to generation, be sure to share your knowledge.

To the next degree look wisely: Always look for the next path to enlightenment for thyself and thy brothers.

Master Mason Brother Benjamin Franklin said, "If a man empties his purse into his head, no man can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.

Continually seek new knowledge and refresh old knowledge for the betterment of the brotherhood.

Fair and Honestly thou eat it: Take enlightenment, instruction, or correction with a listening ear, a reverent heart, and a learning mind.

Proverbs 19:20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

Take enlightenment and if need be correction as it should be received, with openness. No one brother is as good as the collective brotherhood.

First look that thine hands be clean: Before correcting a brother be sure that thou thyself art correct.

Matthew 7:3-4 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and behold, a beam is in thine own eye.

Be sure that you are right before you point out a brother's wrongs. Clean your house before you offer to clean your neighbor's.

And that thy knife be sharp and keen: Before correcting a brother be sure that your correction is needful and that thou art doing so out of brotherly love.

Master Mason Brother Albert Pike said, "Wherever there is strife and hatred among brethren, there is no Masonry; for Masonry is Peace, and Brotherly Love, and Concord.

For the continuation of the brotherhood we need to accept each other as brothers both giving and receiving instruction with openness. The brotherhood will cease to exist if there are no brothers. It starts with peace, brotherly love, and concord. It starts with you, it starts with me, let's start it today.