

The 15 Fellowcraft

In the Drama of the third degree there are 15 Craftsman, three of which become ruffians. What are the lessons we learn from them? As you read this reflect on yourself, and events in your life. I suggest that you will find many instances which relate to the character of the Craftsman? In our lives we confront the various personality traits of these Craftsmen on a regular basis. Some are positive other negative, how we interact and respond defines our own character.

History; of the eighty thousand Fellowcraft employed in the building of the Temple evidently fifteen were to some extent disgruntled and impatient. One of these obviously had leadership qualities, and his closest Brothers were loyal followers. The other twelve were followers among whom there was at least one whose moral character inspired him to leadership in a time of need. Jubalum was the leader, and he solicited the support of his most loyal friends Jubalo and Jubala they in turn solicited twelve additional friends.

Jubalum has a strong character and a strong leader with loyal friends who trust and follow him. However he is also impatient. His two Brothers are loyal and stand behind him. The other twelve recognize Jubalum as a leader and fall in with the others. Sometime following at least one of the twelve, (the first Craftsman) had second thoughts and reminded the others of their obligations. They then recanted. And when they realized the horrid deed had been done had the character to come forward.

The three Ruffians meanwhile realizing they have no future are overcome with guilt, are captured and forlornly admit to their crime. The twelve Craftsmen were ashamed that they had initially associated with the ruffians, but had the moral integrity and honesty to come forward.

Analysis; Jubalum was in all probability a Strong charismatic personality; he was a leader of sorts and had loyal friends. However was dissatisfied and impatient, and his pursuits were self-serving. His two Brothers as loyal as they were lacked the quality of discernment and the strength of Moral character.

On the other hand the twelve Craftsmen, lead by the first reflected with discernment on what was proposed and had the strength of character to recant. I venture that their honesty would be respected, and they would in time be forgiven. In the future however they would be much more cautious in their associations and who they chose to follow.

Leadership; is a strong personal Character, it should be discerning, balanced and honest. Serving the need of those who have chose to follow. It should not be self serving. Some have great leadership qualities others develop them over time. In our Craft we should endeavor to develop these qualities, not only in our lodges but in our communities. Good leaders have strong moral integrity; they share the credit for achievements and take the blame for failures upon themselves.

Loyalty; is admired quality by all of us, it is a strength which we can rely on among our friends, brothers, and family. A true, trusted and loyal friend is truly a great asset. But such a true friend should be analytical and discerning. He would cover your six while upholding the moral law. And he would be honest with you, "reminding you in the most friendly manner".

Morality; This discussion revolves around the moral integrity of all the characters portrayed. As Masons our obligations revolve around the moral law. It is what our degrees are all about,

what our lectures and allegory try to impart. We need to make this a center point of our mentoring programs with our new Brothers. It will strengthen their character, build their self confidence, and develop their leadership abilities.

Finally my Brothers;

- Be discerning choose your leaders wisely
- Be discerning in your loyalty to your chosen leaders, your Country, family, and Brothers,
- Be honest with yourself
- Serve

Questions for discussion:

- What strengths of character do you perceive in the third degree drama?
- Is King Solomon's anger appropriate?
- What do you feel the future would hold for the twelve Craftsman, how would you relate to them in the future?
- Apply the lessons of the drama to your Lodge, and your life?

15 Craftsman

Qualities:

Leadership
Character
Morality