



Trestle Board

UPON THE SQUARE

Daniel Lee Venters, WM

Brethren, we have two newly raised Brother Master Masons, as of March 16th, Brother Randy Subia and Brother Cole Tripp. They are truly going to be great Master Masons and the future of our wonderful Lodge, so when you get the chance please congratulate them. Myself, I want to thank all my Lodge Brothers for stepping forward to help with our degree work and encourage everyone to come forward to help with our upcoming degrees, if your cable-tows permit. We have more intelligent and eager Brothers coming onto more degrees very soon, so there will be plenty of opportunity for everyone to contribute. I also want to give a big thank you to the Brothers from visiting Lodges, Carson #1 and Washoe #35, for their assistance in our

degrees.

We have Lodge on the very first Wednesday of April, with dinner at 6 pm and the meeting starting at 7 pm. Hope everyone can attend and should anyone need a ride to and from this or any of our meetings, please call me at 775-842-5876. Remember we have work and instruction on every Monday night beginning at 6:30 pm for about 1 to 1½ hours.

THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY

By John Freeman, PM

Many of you may recognize in the Fellowcraft degree the reference to the "undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveler returns" as those coming from William Shakespeare's play Hamlet.

"**To be, or not to be...**" is a phrase most of us have heard, even if you are not a lover of Shakespeare and is the opening phrase of a dialog in the "Nunnery Scene". A despondent Prince Hamlet contemplates death and suicide. He bemoans the pains and unfairness of life but considers that the alternative may be worse. Hamlet's soliloquy explains his hesitation to immediately avenge his father's murder (discovered in Act 1) on his uncle, stepfather and new King, Claudius. Let us review Hamlet's entire soliloquy.

To be, or not to be, that is the question—
Whether 'tis Nobler in the mind to suffer
The Slings and Arrows of outrageous Fortune,

Or to take Arms against a Sea of troubles,
And by opposing, end them? To die, to sleep—

No more; and by a sleep, to say we end
The Heart-ache, and the thousand Natural shocks

That Flesh is heir to? 'Tis a consummation
Devoutly to be wished. To die, to sleep,

To sleep, perchance to Dream; Aye, there's
the rub,

For in that sleep of death, what dreams may
come,

When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,
Must give us pause. There's the respect
That makes Calamity of so long life:

For who would bear the Whips and Scorns of
time,

The Oppressor's wrong, the *proud* man's Contumely,

The pangs of *despised* Love, the Law's delay,
The insolence of Office, and the Spurs
That patient merit of the unworthy takes,
When he himself might his Quietus make
With a bare Bodkin? Who would these Far-
dels bear,

To grunt and sweat under a weary life,
But that the dread of something after death,
The undiscovered Country, from whose
bourn

No Traveller returns, Puzzles the will,
And makes us rather bear those ills we have,
Than fly to others that we know not of.

Thus Conscience does make Cowards of us
all,

And thus the Native hue of Resolution
Is sicklied o'er, with the pale cast of Thought,
And enterprises of great *pitch* and moment,
With this regard their Currents turn *awry*,
And lose the name of Action. —Soft you
now,

The fair Ophelia! —Nymph, in thy orisons
Be all my sins remembered.

Hamlet contemplates his options, which in his
mind are three fold:

1. Accept the inequities of life, "...suffer the slings and arrows".
2. Fight against these inequities, "...take arms against a sea of trouble".
3. End his life, "...by sleep, to say we end".

That dread of something after death which Hamlet refers to as that undiscovered country, puzzles him and he decides not to end his life. Perhaps Hamlet's conscience of knowing what is right and wrong and failing to act on his conscience would somehow pervert his journey to that undiscovered country. The fear of what comes after, "...conscience does make cowards of us all", conscience being the ultimate judge of one's fate at death's door. Perhaps knowing this he was able to transform and clarify his thoughts and actions and remove temporarily the fear which was paralyzing him.

ON THE LEVEL

Robert L. Ammerman, SW

We have two newly made Brother Master Masons; congratulations to Cole Tripp and Randy Subia on being raised to this sublime degree. We continue to rely on help from the Brothers from other lodges and they have consistently stepped in to help; what a great fraternity we have.

If you haven't been to Lodge in awhile we would encourage you to come see and help us grow. If you're having health issues please let us know as we'd like to keep you in our thoughts and prayers. And if you need transportation to and from the meeting just call me at 775-626-7175 and let me know; I'd be happy to give you a lift.

We're still working toward putting on a golf tournament this year; so if you're a golfer stay tuned for more information or call me if you want to volunteer to help.

BY THE PLUMB

Ronald Daniels, JW

I want to send a big congratulations to Brothers Cole and Randy, our newest Master Masons. They are two great men and Masons. Also I look forward to seeing our other Brothers going through their degree work now grow and becoming Masters in our great Craft.

