



## Mehr Licht! More Light!

Number 173 – May 22, 2008

Dear Brethren – I received the following from Brother D.J. Seals, a Mason from the Grand Lodge of Ohio. He sent it out to his list called Did-U-Know. His email address is [djseals@verizon.net](mailto:djseals@verizon.net) in case you would like to subscribe to his list. You may already be on his list, and would have already seen the following, but I thought the letter that follows is so good, and carries such a good message that I decided to put it into a special - mid-week - edition of Mehr Licht, and forward it on to those who haven't seen it. The message of this letter would always be important, but in these days of dwindling membership possibly it is especially important. The following would be an excellent short talk in Lodge. – Fraternally, Ed

### A MOMENT IN TIME

R. W. Bro. Paul Alexander

D.D.G.M. 2nd Masonic District - Grand Lodge of Ohio

This, my Brethren is the Grand Masters theme for this year. The D.D.G.M. at inspections usually says a few words on this subject. Just the other evening one of our District Deputies was saying how a word of encouragement or just a kind word could make a big difference in some one's life and raise their spirits with just a moment of ones time. Well these words came to mind to me the other day in a way that was not very pleasing.

I was making a few phone calls to some brethren regarding their dues and to see if there was anything we might be able to assist with. One of these Brethren that I have known for several years and have always had the utmost respect for and knowing what he stands for and the kind of man he is, I knew he had, had a lot of sickness in his family in recent years and thought he may need some assistance. I approached the subject as delicately as I knew how, so as not to embarrass or to offend him. Well my friends, I was the one that wound up being embarrassed.

He explained that he had been thinking of dropping out of Lodge for several years. Not for financial reasons, but that a problem had been bothering him for a good while. He went on to explain that while in lodge everything was so serious and proper with teachings from the Bible and the Masonic code of conduct, then as soon as lodge was closed we went out for fellowship, then he would hear FOUL language and off color jokes, and since he was a Christian this type of fellowship did not appeal. So he thought his money would be better spent in supporting his church, so therefore he would not be paying his dues any longer. What a moment in time that was for me.

Yes, I have been guilty of this offense, so I am not pointing my finger at any one else. I had to take a look at myself, and wonder about those moments in time when I had said something offensive. How many good men I might have driven away!

So my brethren, the next time you get ready to speak, take a moment in time to think about what you are going to say. I know I am going to try to. Because these are the very men that Masonry is trying to attract. And with just a moment in time with a lapse of good judgment we can ruin not only our reputation, but also that of the fraternity. Some of the funniest comedians of our time Bob Hope, Red Skelton, Jerry Lewis, Bill Cosby, do not use profanity in their materials, and yet we laugh at their jokes. I know I am rambling, but it has taken me several days to try and compose this letter. I don't ever want to have that feeling again to know that someone I know doesn't want to associate with me or be in a group that I am a member of.

I hope this brother and others that may have been offended will accept this apology, and return to lodge. Sometimes we all need to be reminded where we fall short of our obligations. And I would much rather here good council whispered in my ear from my brethren than from someone else. So the next time you hear me say excuse my French or anyone else for that matter just say no I won't! And if I, or they be offended by this and leave so be it. This may be what our fraternity needs. Think about what we are supposed to stand for. Just think, for a moment in time, what it could and should be!

Please remember: if you would like to participate in the latest Masonic Monday Question, please go to <http://www.lodgebuilder.org> and click on the Lodge Education forum. Past Masonic Monday Questions and the current one may also be read on the Web Site for the G.L. of MN at [www.mn-masons.org](http://www.mn-masons.org) under Masonic Monday Q&A When you have an answer send it to [masonicmonday@gmail.com](mailto:masonicmonday@gmail.com) the Masonic Monday Question for the week of 05/19/08 is: **On the capital of the pillars, how many Pomegranates were there?**

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With "Brotherly Love",  
Ed Halpaus  
Grand Lodge of Minnesota  
Grand Lodge Education Officer