

## Flowers

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My wife and I have recently got into flowers... the funny thing is neither of us has a green thumb! The other morning, I was out dead heading some flowers. And the more I searched in the flowerpot the more dead leaves and dead petals I would find. And just above the dead petals I would find a new flower starting its life.

I started to think about a Masonic Lodge... By reflecting how a lodge goes through a very similar transition every year. Sometimes a lodge is new with a bunch of new brothers all eager to jump in and help out. Sometimes a lodge has all seasoned Brothers doing the work; just as dedicated but getting tired. Sometimes a lodge gets in a place where there are new young Masons, some Masons who have been around for a while and some Masons who have been around for many years and all are involved working hard at the tasks. Sometimes a lodge loses the interest or dedication to the lodge by its members and officers, and it sadly closes.

Which brings me back to these flowers. If you look hard enough, you will see a new flower has started just above the older flower. In a sense the old flower is supporting this young flower by providing it with internal support for strength and as the new flower uses the nutrients from the stem to become stronger it stretches out to meet the morning sun, where it blooms with magnificent splendor and beauty. But if you look under the beautiful flower that support is still there from that seasoned flower all the way until it is dead and plucked from the flower by Mother Earth.

Masonry is one of the most beautiful flowers man has ever created... It starts with a foundation and a good set of roots, and it builds upon itself day after day, month after month and year after year. Each year new Masons and officers come into the lodge or the line full of energy and excitement; each year the new Masons and officers from the previous year's graduate with a little more understanding of the craft; and every year the Master Mason gains more knowledge, and the current Master becomes a Past Master, and they move into the support role. Supporting and lifting the new and seasoned officers to a new level of insight and education of what it means to be a Mason.

For over three hundred years Masonry has followed this path... Sometimes the sun is out, and Masonry grows like a weed. Sometimes it is over saturated with many new people, like was seen in the 1940's and 50's; and sometimes there is a drought with

little to no growth. Then there are times when everything lines up and the Masonry is flowering like never before.

My Brothers, we all have decisions to make along our journey in Masonry. I hope we all remember the many members who have served our lodges for over 300 years. These men have provided us with a great foundational root system, they have nurtured us on our journey, and we are building upon their legacy everyday.... In a lot of ways, I think Masons and flowers are the symbols of Strength, Wisdom and Beauty.

Have a great month and stop and smell the flowers sometime... You never know when a Masonic Lesson will be available for you to ponder!