



POWER OF THE
MASTER OF YOUR
LODGE

(Move over Machiavelli)

THE ASPECT OF CONGRESSES AND SUCH MEETINGS
GENERALLY TO WHICH I ATTACH THE GREATEST
IMPORTANCE IS THE DISCUSSION.
THAT IS WHY PEOPLE ASSEMBLE:
TO HEAR DIFFERENT OPINIONS,
RATHER THAN TO PASS RESOLUTIONS.

FREDRIK BAJER

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VERMONT
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LODGE OF RESEARCH
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WHY?

WHY, TO GIVE YOU A TASTE OF YOUR FUTURE,
A PREVIEW OF THINGS TO COME.

CON PERMISO, CAPITAN?

THE HALL IS RENTED, THE ORCHESTRA ENGAGED.
IT'S TIME TO SEE IF YOU CAN DANCE.

Q (JOHN DE LANCIE)

STAR TREK: TNG

EPISODE "Q WHO"

INTRODUCTION

MY BROTHERS, A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO I HAD THE GREAT HONOR AND PRIVILEGE OF SERVING AS MASTER OF MY LODGE FOR TWO YEARS. IT WAS ONE OF THE HAPPIEST AND MOST REWARDING EXPERIENCES OF A LONG AND INVOLVED PERSONAL MASONIC JOURNEY.

IN RESEARCHING THIS PAPER, I HAD WHAT IS CALLED A "GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS" MOMENT. THIS CATHARSIS WAS WHERE I REALIZED SOMETHING VERY SIGNIFICANT. THE "GOOD NEWS" WAS THAT I BECAME CONSCIOUS OF THE GREAT THOUGHT AND PLANNING THAT WENT INTO THE CREATION OF THE LODGE OFFICERS OF THE MODERN ERA AND JUST HOW AND WHY THE LODGE WOULD BE GOVERNED IN THE FORM WE HAVE TODAY. THE "BAD NEWS" WAS THAT I WISH I HAD DONE THE RESEARCH BEFORE I SERVED AS MASTER.

THIS PAPER IS WRITTEN TO PRESENT TO THE VERMONT EDWARD J. WILDBLOOD, JR. LODGE OF RESEARCH AS A SHORT TALK SUBJECT AND AS SUCH MUCH OF THE RESEARCH WAS DESIGNED WITH A SLANTED VERMONT POINT OF VIEW. I HAVE ENDEAVORED TO STAY "GENERAL" IN MY REPORTING AND WILL POINT OUT WHERE VERMONT DIFFERS FOR MY VERMONT BRETHREN. I HAVE RELIED HEAVILY ON THE PRIOR WORKS OF OTHERS (IN PRINT AND ONLINE) AND HAVE INCORPORATED SOME OF THE WORK HEREIN. I WILL ATTEMPT TO LIST ALL REFERENCES AT THE END OF THIS PAPER, HOWEVER I FOUND THAT MOST OF THE WORKS I READ (ESPECIALLY ONLINE), THEY HAD BORROWED FROM PREVIOUS WORKS AND THE ORIGINAL AUTHOR WAS UNDOCUMENTED.

BY WAY OF FURTHER CLARIFICATION, THIS PAPER WILL DEAL WITH ONLY THE "POWERS" OF THE MASTER AS MUCH AS I CAN STAY ON POINT (MY FRIENDS WILL TESTIFY, I HAVE A PROBLEM IN THAT AREA). THERE WILL BE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY IN OTHER PAPERS AND BY OTHER BRETHREN TO DISCUSS ADDITIONAL ASPECTS OF THE OFFICE OF MASTER, I.E., DUTIES, RITUAL, BENEFITS OF THE OFFICE, ETC., BUT FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PRESENTATION WE ARE SOLELY INTERESTED IN THE ACTUAL POWERS THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER AS IN HIS POSITION AS MASTER OF HIS LODGE. IN READING ALL THE MATERIALS AND BY VIRTUE OF ACTUALLY SERVING AS MASTER, I REALIZE THAT THIS PAPER COVERS ONLY THE OUTSTANDING MAJOR POWERS OF THE MASTER THAT DIFFERS FROM NON-MASONIC GROUPS. THERE ARE MANY MORE, LESS NOTICEABLE AND "SUBTLE" POWERS THAT EXIST AND IN REALITY (AND PRACTICE) COME FROM LOCAL CUSTOMS AND ROUTINE I.E., MEMBERS ASKING FOR PERMISSION TO DO SOMETHING.

BEFORE WE CAN DISCUSS THE "POWERS" OF THE MASTER OF A LODGE, SOME INITIAL INFORMATION IS NECESSARY TO SETUP THE DISCUSSION.

PARLIAMENTARY LAW

THE RULES ESTABLISHED FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CONGRESS IN THE UNITED STATES, AND THE PARLIAMENT IN ENGLAND, AND WHICH ARE KNOWN COLLECTIVELY UNDER THE NAME OF "PARLIAMENTARY LAW," HAS BEEN ADOPTED FOR THE REGULATION OF ALL MEETING BODIES, WHETHER OF A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE NATURE. BUT OUR LODGES DIFFER MUCH IN THEIR ORGANIZATION AND CHARACTER FROM OTHER GROUPS, THAT THIS LAW WILL, IN VERY FEW CASES, BE FOUND APPLICABLE; AND, INDEED, IN MANY COMPLETELY INAPPLICABLE TO THEM. THE "RULES OF ORDER", THEREFORE, FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF MASONIC LODGES ARE IN GENERAL TO BE DEDUCED FROM THE USAGES OF THE ORDER, FROM TRADITIONAL OR WRITTEN AUTHORITY, AND WHERE BOTH OF THEM ARE SILENT, FROM COMPARISON TO THE CHARACTER OF THE INSTITUTION.

MASONIC FOUNDATION

AN INDIVIDUAL MASONIC LODGE IN A TYPICAL JURISDICTION HAS AS ITS AUTHORITY:

1. CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF ITS JURISDICTION
2. GRAND LODGE RESOLUTIONS, REGULATIONS, AND EDICTS
3. ADOPTED BY-LAWS OF THE INDIVIDUAL LODGE.

ALL MEMBERS OF MASONIC LODGES ARE DUTY-BOUND TO STAND BY, MAINTAIN AND SUPPORT:

1. LAWS, RESOLUTIONS, AND EDICTS OF THE GRAND LODGE,
2. BYLAWS OF THE PARTICULAR LODGES OF WHICH THEY ARE MEMBERS,
3. LANDMARKS AND THE ANCIENT USAGES AND CUSTOMS OF THE FRATERNITY.

GRAND LODGES DIFFER IN THEIR INTERPRETATION OF SOME OF THE "ANCIENT USAGES AND CUSTOMS" OF THE FRATERNITY; WHAT APPLIES IN ONE JURISDICTION DOES NOT NECESSARILY APPLY IN ANOTHER. BUT CERTAIN POWERS OF A MASTER ARE SO WELL RECOGNIZED THAT THEY MAY BE CONSIDERED UNIVERSAL. THE OLD LANDMARKS OR THE ANCIENT LANDMARKS AS WE USUALLY TERM THEM ARE THOSE FOUNDATIONS OF THE LAW OF MASONRY WHICH ARE NOT SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

HOWEVER THE MODERN OVERALL AUTHORITY FOR OUR MASONIC FRATERNITY OPERATION IS BASED ON GENERAL REGULATIONS AND THE OLD CHARGES FIRST PRINTED IN 1723. THE GENERAL REGULATIONS AS SET FORTH IN ANDERSON'S CONSTITUTIONS WERE ADOPTED SHORTLY AFTER THE FORMATION OF THE MOTHER GRAND LODGE IN ENGLAND. IN GENERAL THE OLD CHARGES ARE CONCERNED WITH THE RELATIONS OF THE INDIVIDUAL BROTHER TO HIS LODGE AND HIS BRETHREN; THE GENERAL REGULATIONS WITH THE CONDUCT OF THE CRAFT AS A WHOLE. THE GENERAL REGULATIONS PERMIT THEIR OWN ALTERATION BY GRAND LODGE - THE OLD CHARGES DO NOT.

DISCIPLINE

MANY CIVIL LAWS ARE PROVIDED WITH MEASURES OF ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES FOR INFRINGEMENT.

MASONIC LAW KNOWS BUT FOUR PENALTIES:

1. REPRIMAND
2. DEFINITE SUSPENSION
3. INDEFINITE SUSPENSION
4. EXPULSION

THESE PENALTIES FOR SERIOUS INFRACTIONS OF MASONIC LAW MAY BE ORDERED AFTER A MASONIC TRIAL AND A VERDICT OF GUILTY, BUT MERCY IS MUCH MORE A PART OF MASONIC THAN OF CIVIL LAW. INFRACTIONS OF MASONIC LAW RESULTING IN TRIAL AND PUNISHMENT ARE RARE, COMPARED TO THE NUMBER OF MASONS, THE VAST MAJORITY OF WHOM ARE SO WILLING TO OBEY THE LAWS THAT ENFORCEMENT IS SELDOM REQUIRED.

TITLE OF WORSHIPFUL MASTER

THE ACTING HEAD OF A MASONIC LODGE IS CALLED THE MASTER, NORMALLY ADDRESSED AND REFERRED TO AS THE 'WORSHIPFUL MASTER'. THE TITLE OF "WORSHIPFUL" DOES NOT IMPLY THAT THE MASTER IS TO BE WORSHIPED. THE USE OF THE WORD IMPLIES ITS ORIGINAL MEANING, "TO GIVE RESPECT", SIMILAR TO CALLING A JUDGE "YOUR HONOR" OR A MAYOR "HONORABLE". IN FACT, MAYORS AND JUDGES IN PARTS OF ENGLAND ARE STILL CALLED "WORSHIPFUL" OR "YOUR WORSHIP." MASONS ARE REQUIRED TO OBEY THE MASTER OF A LODGE AS MUCH AS BUT NO MORE THAN ANY MEMBER OF ANY VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION OR ORGANIZATION IS REQUIRED TO OBEY THE PRESIDENT OF THAT ORGANIZATION. OBEYING THE MASTER OF YOUR LODGE PERTAINS TO LODGE MATTERS ALONE, SUCH AS WHEN A LODGE MEETS, WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP, WHAT SIZE AND COLOR APRON MEMBERS CAN WEAR, ETC. THE MASTER CAN NOT TELL YOU HOW TO RUN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE, SUCH AS WHAT TO EAT, WHERE TO SHOP, WHEN TO SLEEP, WHO TO INVITE OVER TO WATCH FOOTBALL, WHETHER TO PAY YOUR LIGHT BILL, AND SO ON.

THERE ARE A FEW TITLES USED IN RELATION TO THE POSITION OF MASTER OF A LODGE:

- WORSHIPFUL MASTER - THE PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE LODGE
- INSTALLED MASTER - GENERIC TERM FOR MASONS WHO CURRENTLY SERVE AS WORSHIPFUL MASTER OF A LODGE
- PAST MASTER - A MEMBER WHO HAS PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS WORSHIPFUL MASTER OF ANY LODGE.
- IMMEDIATE PAST MASTER - THE PAST MASTER WHO SERVED DIRECTLY BEFORE THE PRESENT INCUMBENT, AND ACTS AS HIS MENTOR AND PROMPTER.
- RIGHT WORSHIPFUL (WITHOUT THE WORD MASTER) - IS RESERVED FOR GRAND LODGE OFFICERS
- MOST WORSHIPFUL (WITHOUT THE WORD MASTER) - IS RESERVED FOR THE GRAND MASTER

A POINT OF ETIQUETTE SHOULD BE MENTIONED HERE. IN MODERN SOCIETY, A LAWYER WHO HAS SERVED AS A JUDGE RETAINS THAT TITLE FOR LIFE AND IS REFERRED TO AS "JUDGE [NAME]". IN THE MASONIC WORLD, A MASON WHO HAS SERVED AS MASTER, RETAINS THE TITLE FOR LIFE AND IS TO BE REFERRED TO AS "WORSHIPFUL [NAME]" (OR PAST MASTER [NAME]). THIS ALSO APPLIES TO PAST GRAND LODGE OFFICERS I.E., "RIGHT WORSHIPFUL [NAME]" AND TO A PAST GRAND MASTER I.E., "MOST WORSHIPFUL [NAME]" (OR PAST GRAND MASTER [NAME]).

UNIQUE POSITION OF THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

THE MASTER OF A MASONIC LODGE HAS MORE POWER THAN THE PRESIDING OFFICER OF ANY NON-MASONIC BODY. THE BY-LAWS OF A NON-MASONIC ORGANIZATION MAY RESTRICT OR CURTAIL THE POWERS A PRESIDENT OR CHAIRMAN; IN A MASONIC LODGE NO BY-LAW WHICH RESTRICTS THE INHERENT POWERS OF A MASTER CAN BE PASSED, OR, IF PASSED, WILL BE SUSTAINED BY GRAND MASTER OR GRAND LODGE. BRIEFLY, THEN, IF HE KEEPS WITHIN THE LAWS, RESOLUTIONS AND EDICTS OF HIS GRAND LODGE ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE LANDMARKS, OLD CHARGES, CONSTITUTIONS AND "ANCIENT USAGES AND CUSTOMS" ON THE OTHER, THE POWER OF THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER IS THAT OF AN ABSOLUTE RULER.

THIS MAY, AT FIRST SIGHT, APPEAR TO BE GIVING TOO DICTATORIAL POWER TO THE MASTER. BUT A SHORT REFLECTION WILL CONVINCED ANY ONE THAT THERE CAN BE BUT LITTLE DANGER OF OPPRESSION FROM ONE SO WATCHED OVER AND CONTROLLED AS A MASTER IS, BY THE SACRED OBLIGATIONS OF HIS OFFICE, AND THE SUPERVISION OF THE GRAND LODGE.

TRADITIONAL APPARENT RULES VS. DETERMINED ANNUNCIATED RULES

IN REFLECTION, I THINK MOST OF THE POWERS OF THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER ARE TRADITIONAL APPARENT RULES. THESE RULES ARE BASED ON PRIOR PRACTICES OF THE LODGE AND IMPLICIT BECAUSE RULES AND PROCEDURES MAKE SENSE TO THE MEMBERS AND HAVE WORKED FOR THE FRATERNITY FOR A LONG TIME (I.E., IT MEANS LAW THAT WAS ESTABLISHED BY ANCIENT USAGE AND CUSTOM RATHER THAN BY LEGISLATION).

DETERMINED ANNUNCIATED RULES ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE WRITTEN DOCUMENTED RESOLUTIONS AS A RESULT OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EXACT MEANING OF A RULE OR ACTION. MOST POWERS, RULES OR PROCEDURES ARE NOT ANNUNCIATED UNTIL THEY BECOME A TOPIC OF CONTENTION. THE BEST EXAMPLE I CAN MAKE IS THE EXPLANATION I GAVE MY WIFE ABOUT WHY THERE ARE WARNING LABELS ON HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS. SHE WAS CURIOUS WHY THE HAIR DRYER SHE WAS USING NEEDED TO HAVE A WARNING LABEL NOT TO USE IT IN THE BATHTUB. I EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS THERE BECAUSE SOMEONE TRIED IT AND COMPLAINED (OR SUED) BECAUSE THEY HAD NO WARNING THAT WAS DANGEROUS. THEREFORE WE CAN CONCLUDE THAT QUESTIONS OF AUTHORITY OR INTERPRETATION OF RULES ARE CLARIFIED ONLY AT THE TIME THEY ARE QUESTIONED.

IN THE POWERS LISTED BELOW, I HAVE PRESENTED THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED POINT OF VIEW FOR MOST JURISDICTIONS AND WHERE VERMONT EITHER DIFFERS FROM OR IS IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT AND HAS ADDRESSED THE ISSUE SPECIFICALLY, I HAVE MENTIONED THE CITE.

LIST OF DISTINCTIVE POWERS

ORIGIN OF POWER

IN GENERAL

THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER HAS POWERS PECULIAR TO HIS STATION; POWERS FAR GREATER THAN THOSE OF THE PRESIDENT OF A NON-MASONIC SOCIETY OR THE CHAIRMAN OF A MEETING OF ANY KIND. AS WE SHALL SEE BELOW, PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN ARE ELECTED BY THE BODY OVER WHICH THEY PRESIDE, AND MAY BE REMOVED BY THAT BODY. A MASTER IS ELECTED BY HIS LODGE, BUT HE CANNOT BE REMOVED BY IT; ONLY BY THE GRAND MASTER OR GRAND LODGE. THE PRESIDING OFFICER IS BOUND BY RULES OF ORDER ADOPTED BY THE BODY AND BY ITS BY-LAWS. A LODGE CANNOT PASS BY-LAWS TO ALTER, AMEND OR CURTAIL THE POWERS OF A MASTER. ITS BY-LAWS ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE PROPER GRAND LODGE COMMITTEE OR BY THE GRAND MASTER.

VERMONT CODE §319.2 QUALIFICATIONS (A) MASTER. NO BROTHER CAN BE ELECTED MASTER UNTIL HE HAS SERVED AS AN ELECTED AND INSTALL WARDEN OF A LODGE IN THIS JURISDICTION, EXCEPT IN FORMING A NEW LODGE THE FACT THAT A BROTHER IS A PAST MASTER OF A LODGE IN ANOTHER JURISDICTION DOES NOT QUALIFY HIM FOR ELECTION AS MASTER OF A LODGE.

VERMONT CODE §319.2 QUALIFICATIONS (A) (1) TERM LIMIT. A BROTHER MAY NOT SERVE AS MASTER OF ANY LODGE FOR MORE THAN 2 CONSECUTIVE YEARS UNLESS, FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, HE IS GRANTED A DISPENSATION BY THE GRAND MASTER.

VERMONT CODE 2006 PROCEEDINGS, P.____. A BROTHER MAY NOT SERVE AS MASTER IN MORE THAN ONE LODGE DURING THE SAME YEAR.

VERMONT CODE 1913 PROCEEDINGS, PP. 35, 94. THE OFFICIAL ACTS OF THE MASTER, TO BE EFFECTIVE, MUST BE PERFORMED WHILE HE IS IN THE JURISDICTION OF HIS LODGE.

MEMBER OF GRAND LODGE

FROM A VERY CONCEPTUAL POINT OF VIEW, WHEN A MASON IS ELECTED TO THE CHAIR OF MASTER, IN A WAY HE BECOMES A DIRECT REPRESENTATIVE OF GRAND LODGE AND CEASES TO BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF HIS OWN LODGE. THE CHANGE IS SUBTLE, BUT IMPORTANT. THE MASTER IS TRANSFORMED DURING HIS TENURE INTO AN ADVOCATE FOR THE ISSUES AND POLICIES OF GRAND LODGE. HE ALSO BECOMES A PROMOTER OF THE SUPREME POWER OF GRAND LODGE OVER THE SUBORDINATE LODGE. THIS IS NOT IN MANY WAYS A BAD SITUATION, BUT TO IGNORE THE SUBTLE CHANGE IS TO MISS THE COMPLETE PICTURE OF POWER AND INFLUENCE THE MASTER HAS IN HIS OWN LODGE.

MASTERS POSITION IN THE LODGE

NO ONE BUT THE MASTER MAY PRESIDE OVER HIS LODGE, IN HIS PRESENCE (EXCEPT THE GRAND MASTER OR HIS DEPUTY) UNLESS BY HIS ORDER.

VERMONT CODE 1893 PROCEEDINGS, PP. 24, 53. THE LAST DUTY INCUMBENT UPON THE MASTER BEFORE LEAVING HIS OFFICE IS TO SEE THAT HIS SUCCESSOR IS PROPERLY INVESTED WITH THE PAST MASTER'S DEGREE AND DULY INSTALLED.

POWERS CANNOT BE CURTAILED

THE PRESIDING OFFICER IS BOUND BY THE RULES OF ORDER ADOPTED BY THE BODY AND BY ITS BY-LAWS. A LODGE CANNOT PASS BY-LAWS TO ALTER, AMEND OR CURTAIL THE POWERS OF A MASTER. ITS BY-LAWS ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE PROPER GRAND LODGE COMMITTEE OR BY THE GRAND MASTER; SELDOM ARE ANY APPROVED WHICH INFRINGE UPON HIS ANCIENT PREROGATIVES AND POWERS; IN THOSE FEW INSTANCES IN WHICH IMPROPER BY-LAWS HAVE BEEN APPROVED, SUBSEQUENT RULINGS HAVE OFTEN DECLARED THE MASTER RIGHT IN DISREGARDING THEM.

APPEAL

FREEMASONRY DIFFERS FROM ALL OTHER INSTITUTIONS, IN PERMITTING NO APPEAL TO THE LODGE FROM THE DECISION OF THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER. THE MASTER IS SUPREME IN HIS LODGE, SO FAR AS THE LODGE IS CONCERNED. HE IS AMENABLE FOR HIS CONDUCT, IN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LODGE, NOT TO ITS MEMBERS, BUT TO THE GRAND LODGE ALONE. IN DECIDING POINTS OF ORDER AS WELL AS GRAVER MATTERS, NO APPEAL CAN BE TAKEN FROM THAT DECISION TO THE LODGE. NO APPEAL LIES FROM A MASTER'S DECISION, EITHER TO THE LODGE, TO A COMMITTEE, OR TO ANY PAST MASTER. FOR THE MASTER TO ALLOW SOME BROTHER TO "APPEAL TO THE LODGE" AND HAVE THEN ABIDED BY WHAT THE LODGE DECIDED IS SUBVERSIVE OF THE DIGNITY OF THE MASTER'S STATION. THE APPEAL, IF SUSTAINED, MAY HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES. THE BROTHER WITH THE GAVEL IS NOT ONLY A MEMBER OF HIS LODGE, BUT WORSHIPFUL' MASTER. HE IS A MASTER WHO INSISTS ON ALL RESPECT BEING PAID THE DIGNITY OF THE OFFICE. TO PERMIT INTERFERENCE WITH THE ANCIENT USAGES AND CUSTOMS WHICH SURROUND THE MASTER'S CHAIR DECREASES REVERENCE FOR TRADITION. WHILE HIS BRETHREN MAY NOT APPEAL TO THE LODGE FOR REDRESS FOR ANY WRONG, REAL OR FANCIED, THEY MAY APPEAL TO GRAND LODGE, GRAND MASTER OR DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER.

VERMONT CODE §321.3 - THE MASTERS AUTHORITY IS ABSOLUTE. NO APPEAL CAN BE TAKEN FROM HIS DECISION TO THE LODGE. HE IS AMENABLE ONLY TO THE GRAND LODGE.

APPOINTING OFFICERS

THE MASTER, AND ONLY THE MASTER, APPOINTS THE APPOINTIVE OFFICERS IN HIS LODGE. HE MAY REMOVE SUCH APPOINTED OFFICERS AT HIS PLEASURE. BUT HE CANNOT SUSPEND, OR DEPRIVE OF HIS STATION OR PLACE, ANY OFFICER ELECTED BY THE LODGE. THE GRAND MASTER OR HIS DEPUTY MAY DO THIS; THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER MAY NOT.

THE MASTER FILLS ALL VACANT OFFICES BY APPOINTMENT; IF THE SENIOR WARDEN IS ABSENT, THE JUNIOR WARDEN DOES NOT, OF INHERENT RIGHT, ASSUME THE WEST. THE MASTER SENDS HIM THERE, OR PUTS ANOTHER BROTHER OR PAST MASTER THERE, AT HIS PLEASURE. BUT IF THE MASTER IS ABSENT, THE SENIOR WARDEN DOES, BY INHERENT POWER, OCCUPY THE EAST FOR THAT PERIOD; THE JUNIOR WARDEN, IN THE ABSENCE OF BOTH MASTER AND SENIOR WARDEN.

VERMONT CODE 1870 PROCEEDINGS, P. 25. THE MASTER CANNOT ORDER AN ELECTION TO FILL VACANCIES.

VERMONT CODE 1892 PROCEEDINGS, PP. 36, 71. IN THE EVENT A VACANCY OCCURS IN THE EAST, THE SENIOR WARDEN SUCCEEDS TO THE DUTIES OF THE MASTER; THE JUNIOR WARDEN REMAINS IN THE SOUTH BY ELECTION AND INSTALLATION; THE PRESIDING OFFICER FILLING THE WEST PRO TEMPORE APPOINTMENT.

VERMONT CODE 1898 PROCEEDINGS, PP. 77-8. THE MASTER HAS AUTHORITY TO FILL VACANCIES IN THE APPOINTIVE OFFICERS OF HIS LODGE AT ANY TIME.

VERMONT CODE 2005 PROCEEDINGS, P. 26. IF THE MASTER-ELECT, OR ANY OTHER ELECTED OFFICER, DIES PRIOR TO HIS INSTALLATION THE GRAND MASTER MAY GRANT A DISPENSATION FOR AN ELECTION TO FILL THE VACANCY.

RESIGNATION

A WORSHIPFUL MASTER CANNOT RESIGN. VACANCIES OCCUR IN THE EAST THROUGH DEATH, SUSPENSION BY A GRAND MASTER, EXPULSION FROM THE FRATERNITY. NO POWER CAN MAKE A MASTER ATTEND TO HIS DUTIES IF HE DESIRES TO NEGLECT THEM. IF HE WILL NOT, OR DOES NOT, ATTEND TO THEM, THE SENIOR WARDEN PRESIDES. HE IS, HOWEVER, STILL SENIOR WARDEN; HE DOES NOT BECOME MASTER UNTIL ELECTED AND INSTALLED.

VERMONT CODE 1886 PROCEEDINGS, PP. 30, 55. THE MASTER CANNOT RESIGN, NOR CAN HE DEMIT FROM HIS LODGE UNTIL HIS SUCCESSOR HAS BEEN REGULARLY ELECTED AND DULY INSTALLED.

REMOVAL

PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN ARE ELECTED BY THE BODY OVER WHICH THEY PRESIDE, AND MAY BE REMOVED BY THAT BODY. A MASTER IS ELECTED BY HIS LODGE, BUT CANNOT BE REMOVED BY IT; ONLY BY THE GRAND MASTER OR GRAND LODGE.

AFFIRMATIVE POWERS

CALL MEETINGS / SUMMONS

THE MASTER MAY CONGREGATE HIS LODGE WHEN HE PLEASES, AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE HE WISHES, PROVIDED IT DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH THE LAWS OF THE GRAND LODGE.

A SUMMONS IS A REQUEST TO ATTEND THE COMMUNICATION OF THE LODGE FOR WHICH THE SUMMONS IS ISSUED, OR THE OCCASION TO WHICH HE IS CALLED. A MASTER MASON IS MASONICALLY BOUND TO "DUE ANSWER MAKE," EITHER BY ATTENDANCE, OR SUBMITTING (IN WRITING OR BY VERBAL NOTICE TO THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER, SENIOR WARDEN, JUNIOR WARDEN OR SECRETARY) AN ACCEPTABLE EXCUSE, SUCH AS ILLNESS, ABSENCE BEYOND THE LENGTH OF HIS CABLE TOW, OR OTHER INABILITY TO BE PRESENT. IN MOST JURISDICTIONS, INCLUDING VERMONT, THE ANNUAL MEETING HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN REQUIRED ATTENDANCE FOR THE MEMBERS OF EACH LODGE.

THERE IS GOOD MASONIC AUTHORITY TO EXPLAIN THE BACKGROUND AND POWERS OF A SUMMONS. ALBERT MACKAY'S "MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE" STATES: "THE MASTER HAS THE RIGHT TO CONVENE THE LODGE AT ANY TIME AND IS THE JUDGE OF ANY EMERGENCY THAT MAY REQUIRE A SPECIAL MEETING." SIMONS "PRINCIPALS OF MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE" STATES: "IT IS AN IMMEMORIAL USAGE - AND THEREFORE A LANDMARK - THAT NONE BUT THE MASTER (WHEN HE IS PRESENT) CAN CONGREGATE THE BRETHREN. UNDER THIS PREROGATIVE THE MASTER MAY CALL OR SUMMON A MEETING OF HIS LODGE AT ANY TIME HE THINKS PROPER. THE SUMMON CAN BE ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF THE MASTER ONLY, WHILE HE REMAINS IN DISCHARGE OF HIS FUNCTIONS, AND IS A PREEMPTORY ORDER WHICH MUST BE OBEYED, UNDER PENALTY, UNLESS THE EXCUSE OF THE DEFAULTER BE OF THE MOST UNDENIABLE VALIDITY." IT IS GENERALLY, NOT EXCLUSIVELY, HELD THAT ONLY THE MASTER CAN ISSUE A SUMMONS. THE DISPUTE, WHERE IT EXISTS, IS OVER THE RIGHT OF MEMBERS PRESENT AT A STATED COMMUNICATION TO SUMMONS THE WHOLE MEMBERSHIP.

IN THE UNITED STATES THE USE OF THE SUMMONS GROWS RARER WITH EVERY PASSING YEAR, AS APPLIED TO A WHOLE MEMBERSHIP. IN CERTAIN JURISDICTIONS THE MASTER SUMMONS HIS LODGE ONCE A YEAR, AS MUCH, PERHAPS, TO KEEP THE IDEA OF THE SUMMONS ALIVE, AS TO ASSEMBLE THE WHOLE LODGE FOR ANY PURPOSE. OCCASIONALLY LODGES ARE SUMMONSED REGULARLY TWICE A YEAR, A CUSTOM WHICH DOUBTLESS GREW OUT OF THE ORIGINAL ONCE-A-YEAR SUMMONS TO COME AND PAY DUES, WHEN SUCH PARTICULAR LODGES DECIDED TO RECEIVE DUES EVERY SIX MONTHS. IN SOME JURISDICTIONS THE SUMMONS IS USED FOR THE WHOLE MEMBERSHIP ONLY UPON EXTRAORDINARY OCCASIONS, AS WHEN IT'S PROPOSED TO FINANCE A TEMPLE, OR CONSIDER SOME EXTREMELY IMPORTANT QUESTION OF POLICY SUCH AS GIVING UP THE CHARTER. IN MANY JURISDICTIONS A LODGE CAN NOT LEGALLY GIVE, OR SURRENDER ITS CHARTER WITHOUT THE ACTION BEING CONSIDERED BY THE WHOLE MEMBERSHIP AT A SUMMONSED MEETING. MOST JURISDICTIONS WOULD COMMONLY

USE THE SUMMONS TO COMMAND WITNESSES AT A MASONIC TRIAL. IN SOME THE MASTER USES THE SUMMONS TO GET A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF BRETHREN PRESENT FOR MASONIC FUNERALS.

UNHAPPILY, THE PRESSURES OF MODERN LIFE, THE CASUAL MANNER IN WHICH TOO MANY REGARD THEIR MASONRY, THE LAXNESS OF SOME MASTERS AND THE "LAISSEZ FAIRE" POLICY OF SOME GRAND LODGE LEADERS, HAS ALLOWED THE SANCTITY OF THE SUMMONS TO BE SOMEWHAT TARNISHED.

RIGHT TO ALLOW MEMBERS

THE MASTER CONTROLS WHO MAY ENTER AND WHO MAY LEAVE THE LODGE. THERE IS A VAST DIFFERENCE HERE BETWEEN POWER AND RIGHT. THE MASTER HAS THE POWER TO REFUSE TO OPEN THE DOOR TO ANY ONE - MEMBER OR VISITOR (EXCEPT THE GRAND MASTER OR HIS DEPUTY). THE MASTER HAS THE UNDOUBTED RIGHT TO SAY WHO SHALL ENTER, AND WHO MUST LEAVE THE LODGE ROOM. HE MAY DENY ANY VISITOR ENTRANCE; INDEED, HE MAY DENY A MEMBER THE RIGHT TO ENTER HIS OWN LODGE, BUT HE MUST HAVE A GOOD AND SUFFICIENT REASON, OTHERWISE HIS GRAND LODGE WILL UNQUESTIONABLY RULE SUCH A DRASTIC STEP ARBITRARY AND PUNISH ACCORDINGLY. IF HE PERMITS ENTRY OF A VISITOR TO WHOM SOME MEMBER HAS OBJECTED, HE MAY ALSO SUBJECT HIMSELF TO GRAND LODGE DISCIPLINE. IN OTHER WORDS, HIS "POWER" TO ADMIT OR EXCLUDE IS ABSOLUTE; HIS "RIGHT" TO ADMIT OR EXCLUDE IS HEDGED ABOUT BY PLEDGES HE TAKES AT HIS INSTALLATION AND THE RULES OF THE GRAND LODGE.

VERMONT CODE 1856 PROCEEDINGS, PP. 41, 61. THE MASTER SHOULD NOT OFFEND A SITTING MEMBER BY ADMITTING A VISITOR WHEN THE MEMBER DECLARES IN OPEN LODGE THAT HE CANNOT SIT WITH HIM. A MASTER IS JUSTIFIED IN REFUSING TO ADMIT A VISITOR IF A MEMBER PRESENT DECLARES IN OPEN LODGE THAT HE CANNOT SIT WITH HIM.

VERMONT CODE 1869 PROCEEDINGS, P. 21. THE MASTER MAY, IN HIS DISCRETION, REFUSE TO ADMIT A VISITOR WHEN, IN HIS JUDGMENT, THE PEACE AND HARMONY OF THE LODGE WOULD BE BEST SECURED BY SUCH REFUSAL.

CAN ASSIGN MEMBERS TO RUN DEGREE AND KEEP CONTROL

THE MASTER HAS THE RIGHT OF PRESIDING OVER AND CONTROLLING HIS LODGE. HE MAY PUT ANY BROTHER IN THE EAST TO PRESIDE OR TO CONFER A DEGREE; HE MAY THEN RESUME THE GAVEL AT HIS PLEASURE - EVEN IN THE MIDDLE OF A SENTENCE IF HE WANTS TO! BUT EVEN WHEN HE HAS DELEGATED AUTHORITY TEMPORARILY THE MASTER IS NOT RELIEVED FROM RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT OCCURS IN HIS LODGE.

VERMONT CODE 1883 PROCEEDINGS, P. 51. THE MASTER IS RESPONSIBLE TO THE GRAND LODGE, NOT ONLY FOR HIS ACTS AS MASTER, BUT FOR THE ACTS OF HIS SUBORDINATES. IT IS HIS DUTY TO SEE THAT THEY PERFORM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THEIR OFFICIAL STATIONS. IT IS THEIR DUTY TO OBEY THE MASTER'S WILL AND PLEASURE, AND TO BE CLOTHED WITH ALL NECESSARY POWER TO ENFORCE OBEDIENCE.

CAN CHANGE ORDER OF BUSINESS

MOST JURISDICTIONS HAVE RULED THAT "ORDER OF BUSINESS" IN THE BY-LAWS COULD BE NO MORE THAN SUGGESTIVE, NOT MANDATORY. THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER HAS POWER TO ORDER A CHANGE THE ORDER OF BUSINESS PROVIDED THE ACTION BY THE MASTER WAS NOT MADE TO PREVENT AN INJUSTICE TO THE MEMBERSHIP I.E., POSTPONE A VOTE UNTIL A CERTAIN MEMBER HAD LEFT OR WAS UNAVAILABLE.

CAN DETERMINE SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

IT IS ONLY FOR THE MASTER TO SAY WHETHER THIS SUBJECT IS TO BE DISCUSSED NOW OR LATER. THE LODGE IS OPENED AND CLOSED AT HIS PLEASURE (EXCEPT THAT HE MUST NOT DO BUSINESS AT A STATED OR SPECIAL COMMUNICATION AT A TIME EARLIER THAN THAT STATED IN THE BY-LAWS.

VERMONT CODE 1867 PROCEEDINGS, P.27. IT IS THE DUTY OF THE MASTER TO SEE THAT THE LODGE IS PROTECTED FROM IMPROPER PROPOSITIONS, OR PROPOSALS PRESENTED WITH UNDUE FREQUENCY. HE HAS CONTROL OVER ALL SUCH MATTERS, SUBJECT ONLY TO THE GRAND LODGE.

CAN DETERMINE WHO SPEAKS

IT IS FOR THE MASTER TO SAY WHO MAY AND WHO MAY NOT SPEAK. HE CAN BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE "PEACE AND HARMONY" OF HIS LODGE ONLY BY CONTROLLING ITS DELIBERATIONS. BUT HE IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MASONIC FAIRNESS, CHARITY, COURTESY AND REASONABLENESS OF HIS ACTIONS;

FULL CONTROL OF DEBATE

MASTERS HAVE FULL CONTROL OF DEBATE. IT IS THE MASTER'S RIGHT TO CONTROL LODGE BUSINESS AND WORK. IT IS IN A VERY REAL SENSE "HIS" LODGE. HE DECIDES ALL POINTS OF ORDER AND NO APPEAL FROM HIS DECISION MAY BE TAKEN TO THE LODGE. HE CAN INITIATE AND TERMINATE DEBATE AT HIS PLEASURE, HE CAN SECOND ANY MOTION, PROPOSE ANY MOTION, VOTE TWICE IN THE CASE OF A TIE (NOT UNIVERSAL), OPEN AND CLOSE AT HIS PLEASURE, WITH THE USUAL EXCEPTION THAT HE MAY NOT OPEN A SPECIAL COMMUNICATION AT AN HOUR EARLIER THAN THAT GIVEN IN THE NOTICE, OR A STATED COMMUNICATION EARLIER THAN THE HOUR STATED IN THE BY-LAWS, WITHOUT DISPENSATION FROM THE GRAND MASTER. HE IS RESPONSIBLE ONLY TO THE GRAND MASTER AND THE GRAND LODGE, THE OBLIGATIONS HE ASSUMED WHEN HE WAS INSTALLED, HIS CONSCIENCE AND HIS GOD.

MOTIONS

A MASTER MAY PROPOSE A MOTION, SECOND IT, PUT IT, CLOSE DISCUSSION, REFUSE TO PUT A MOTION, AT HIS PLEASURE . . . BUT LET HIM THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE REFUSING TO PUT ANY MOTION. IF THE PROPOSER OF THE MOTION WHICH THE MASTER REFUSES TO PUT LAYS THE MATTER BEFORE THE GRAND MASTER, THE MASTER MUST HAVE A GOOD REASON OR MAY BE CONVICTED OF ARBITRARY USE OF HIS POWER AND DISCIPLINED.

VERMONT CODE 1866 PROCEEDINGS, P.24. IT IS THE PREROGATIVE OF THE MASTER, AND HIS DUTY, TO CAUSE ALL MATTERS IMPORTANT TO BE CONSIDERED TO LIE OVER TO THE NEXT REGULAR COMMUNICATION FOR DELIBERATE ACTION THEREON; ALSO, TO POSTPONE THE TAKING OF A VOTE WHEN, IN HIS OPINION, THE GOOD OF THE CRAFT REQUIRES FURTHER AND MORE CAREFUL DELIBERATION, BEING ALWAYS RESPONSIBLE TO THE GRAND LODGE FOR ANY ABUSE OF SUCH PREROGATIVE.

CREATE COMMITTEES

A VERY IMPORTANT POWER OF A MASTER IS THAT OF APPOINTING COMMITTEES. NO LODGE MAY APPOINT A COMMITTEE. THE LODGE MAY PASS A RESOLUTION THAT A COMMITTEE BE APPOINTED, BUT THE SELECTION OF THAT COMMITTEE IS AN INHERENT RIGHT OF THE MASTER. HE IS, EX OFFICIO, A MEMBER OF ALL COMMITTEES HE APPOINTS. THE REASON IS OBVIOUS; HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDUCT OF HIS LODGE TO THE GRAND MASTER AND THE GRAND LODGE. THE LODGE MAY REFER A MATTER TO A COMMITTEE, BUT MAY NOT NAME ITS PERSONNEL. OTHERWISE THE LODGE MIGHT CONTROL THE MASTER, NOT THE MASTER THE LODGE. THE MASTER, AND ONLY THE MASTER, MAY ORDER A COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE A VISITING BROTHER. IT IS HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO SEE THAT NO COWAN OR EAVESDROPPER COMES WITHIN THE TILED DOOR. THEREFORE, IT IS FOR HIM TO PICK A COMMITTEE IN WHICH HE HAS CONFIDENCE.

COMMITTEE ACTION ON PETITIONERS

WITH RESPECT TO THE COMMITTEES WHICH REPORT UPON PETITIONERS, THE MASTER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACCURACY, THE FAIR-MINDEDNESS, THE SPEED AND THE INTELLIGENCE OF SUCH INVESTIGATIONS. IT IS, THEREFORE, FOR HIM TO SAY TO WHOM SHALL BE DELEGATED THIS NECESSARY AND IMPORTANT WORK.

ADJOURNMENT

A QUESTION OF ADJOURNMENT CANNOT BE ENTERTAINED IN A LODGE. THE ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN, WOULD INVOLVE THE NECESSITY OF THE MASTER TO OBEY IT. THE POWER, THEREFORE, OF CONTROLLING THE WORK, WOULD BE TAKEN OUT OF HIS HANDS AND PLACED IN THOSE OF THE MEMBERS, WHICH WOULD BE IN DIRECT CONFLICT WITH THE DUTIES IMPOSED UPON HIM BY THE RITUAL. THE DOCTRINE THAT A LODGE CANNOT ADJOURN, BUT MUST BE CLOSED OR CALLED OFF AT THE PLEASURE OF THE MASTER, APPEARS NOW TO ME TO BE VERY GENERALLY ADMITTED.

RESTRICTIVE LIMITATIONS ON POWER

NEEDS PERMISSION TO ACCEPT MINUTES

THE LODGE, NOT THE MASTER, MUST APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING MEETING. THE MASTER CANNOT APPROVE THEM; HAD HE THAT POWER HE MIGHT, WITH THE CONNIVANCE OF THE SECRETARY, "RUN WILD" IN HIS LODGE AND STILL HIS MINUTES WOULD SHOW NO TRACE OF HIS IMPROPER CONDUCT. BUT THE MASTER MAY REFUSE TO PUT A MOTION TO CONFIRM OR APPROVE MINUTES WHICH HE BELIEVES TO BE INACCURATE OR INCOMPLETE; IN THIS WAY HE CAN PREVENT A CARELESS, HEADSTRONG SECRETARY FROM DOING WHAT HE WANTS WITH HIS MINUTES! SHOULD A MASTER REFUSE TO PERMIT MINUTES TO BE CONFIRMED, THE MATTER WOULD NATURALLY BE BROUGHT BEFORE GRAND LODGE OR THE GRAND MASTER FOR SETTLEMENT.

VERMONT CODE 1852 PROCEEDINGS, P.14 - THE MASTER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CORRECTNESS OF THE RECORDS OF HIS LODGE WHILE HE REMAINS IN OFFICE, AND MAY AT ANYTIME HAVE THEM AMENDED IF WRONG; BUT HE CANNOT CHANGE RECORDS MADE DURING THE ADMINISTRATION OF A PREDECESSOR.

NEEDS PERMISSION TO CHANGE BYLAWS

A MASTER CANNOT SUSPEND THE BY-LAWS. HE MUST NOT PERMIT THE LODGE TO SUSPEND THE BY-LAWS. IF THE LODGE WISHES TO CHANGE THEM, THE MEANS ARE AVAILABLE, NOT IN SUSPENSION BUT IN AMENDMENT.

NEEDS PERMISSION TO ACCEPT MEMBERS

A MASTER CANNOT ACCEPT A PETITION, OR CONFER A DEGREE WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE LODGE. IT IS FOR THE LODGE, NOT THE MASTER, TO SAY FROM WHAT MEN IT WILL RECEIVE AN APPLICATION, OR A PETITION; AND UPON WHAT CANDIDATES DEGREES SHALL BE CONFERRED. THE MASTER HAS THE SAME POWER TO REJECT WITH THE "BLACK BALL" OR "BLACK CUBE" THAT IS POSSESSED BY ANY MEMBER, BUT NO POWER WHATEVER TO ACCEPT ANY CANDIDATE AGAINST THE WILL OF THE LODGE.

VERMONT CODE 1936 PROCEEDINGS, PP. 46-7. THE MASTER MAY WITHHOLD FROM THE LODGE AN APPLICATION FOR A DEMIT WHEN THE APPLICANT IS UNDER CHARGES FOR UNMASONIC CONDUCT.

NEEDS PERMISSION TO GIVE DEGREES

FOR INSTANCE, HE MAY ASSEMBLE HIS LODGE AT A SPECIAL COMMUNICATION TO CONFER DEGREES, AT HIS PLEASURE; BUT HE MUST NOT, IN SO DOING, CONTRAVENE THAT REQUIREMENT OF THE GRAND LODGE WHICH CALLS FOR PROPER NOTICE TO THE BRETHREN, NOR MAY A MASTER CONFER A DEGREE IN LESS THAN THE STATUTORY TIME FOLLOWING A PRECEDING DEGREE WITHOUT A DISPENSATION FROM THE GRAND MASTER.

NEEDS PERMISSION TO SPEND MONEY

A MASTER MAY NOT SPEND LODGE MONEY WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE LODGE. AS A MATTER OF CONVENIENCE, A MASTER FREQUENTLY DOES PAY OUT MONEY IN SUDDEN EMERGENCIES, LOOKING TO THE LODGE TO REIMBURSE HIM. BUT HE CANNOT SPEND ANY LODGE FUNDS WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE LODGE.

CANNOT DISCLOSE VOTES OR INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

A WORSHIPFUL MASTER HAS NO MORE RIGHT TO INVADE THE PRIVACY WHICH SHROUDS THE USE OF THE "BLACK CUBE" (OR BALL), OR WHICH CONCEALS THE REASON FOR AN OBJECTION TO AN ELECTED CANDIDATE RECEIVING THE DEGREES, THAN ANY MEMBER OF THE LODGE. HE CANNOT DEMAND DISCLOSURE OF ACTION OR MOTIVE FROM ANY BROTHER, AND SHOULD HE DO SO, HE WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE SEVEREST DISCIPLINE FROM THE GRAND LODGE.

CONCLUSIONS

I FOUND IT INTERESTING IN READING THE EARLY HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY THAT THE FORMATION OF GRAND LODGES CAME ABOUT WELL AFTER THE EXISTENCE OF LOCAL LODGES. IN TRYING TO BRING TOGETHER ALL OF THE INDEPENDENT LODGES, CARE HAD TO BE GIVEN NOT TO EXCLUDE INDIVIDUAL LOCAL PRACTICES. THE APPROACH THAT WAS TAKEN IS MUCH LIKE THE APPROACH OUR FOUNDING FATHERS TOOK IN THE FORMATION OF THE UNITED STATES BY THE THIRTEEN COLONIES. IN ORDER TO HAVE A POWERFUL (AND EFFECTIVE) CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, GREAT DEFERENCE WAS GIVEN TO ALL THE INDIVIDUAL COLONIES (STATES), IN WHAT IS TERMED "STATES RIGHTS", TO ALLOW IT SO THAT THE STATES FELT THAT THEY WERE NOT GIVING UP (AND PRESERVING) THEIR ANONYMITY. BY INVESTING THE MASTER WITH THIS EXTRAORDINARY AMOUNT OF POWER, GRAND LODGES MAINTAIN CONTROL OVER THE MEMBERSHIP IN LARGER MORE "THEORETICAL" ISSUES AND ULTIMATELY THEY WERE FOLLOWED AND EVENTUALLY CONSIDERED THE AUTHORITY ON MOST ISSUES BY THE SUBORDINATE LODGES.

THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER RECEIVES GREAT HONOR, HAS GREAT PRIVILEGES, AND ENJOYS GREAT PREROGATIVES AND POWERS. THEREFORE, HE MUST MEASURE UP TO GREAT RESPONSIBILITIES. POWER IS CONSTRUCTIVE ONLY WHEN USED WITH KNOWLEDGE. THE MASTER WHO DOES NOT KNOW HIS POWERS CANNOT USE THEM INTELLIGENTLY. THE MASTER WHO KNOWS WHAT HE MAY AND MAY NOT LAWFULLY DO WILL LEAD WITH WISDOM, DISCRETION AND SUCCESS.

SOURCES

VERMONT MASONIC CODE

ADOPTED BY GRAND LODGE OF VERMONT

BARRE, VERMONT

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1856.

SOME PRINCIPLES OF THE MASONIC LAW

M.W. BRO. B. STUART PARKER

PAST GRAND MASTER

GRAND LODGE OF MANITOBA

IT REQUIRES WISDOM TO UNDERSTAND WISDOM:
THE MUSIC IS NOTHING IF THE AUDIENCE IS DEAF.
WALTER LIPPMANN

