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Lodge of Friendship No. 44  
Province of East Lancashire  
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**The inaugural John Acaster Memorial Short Paper Competition**

**Father of the Lodge**

A Father's Day Tribute by Brother Rhoades

He enquired as to our motivation,  
And other things like that,  
If you desire Freemasonry,  
The Father wants a chat!

Physical, Moral and Spiritual,  
The basic checks are done,  
"Be fooled not", he said politely,  
Your work has just begun.

Duly prepared, then from dark to light,  
And heeding obligation,  
The fathers influence evident,  
On the journey to be a Mason.

Language, structure, ritual,  
To contemplate upon,  
Ever present for guidance, a brotherhood, father, friendship,  
To never be outshone.

At first our body and faculties,  
And our place within the World,  
Virtues extolled to guide our growth,  
This new great light unfurled.

Then liberal arts and sciences,  
To polish and adorn the mind,  
Ever present for masterful tutelage,  
The father not far behind.

Into our journey as mysteries conferred,  
And fabulous new truths unfold,  
It's clear a fathers' guidance,  
Is commitment of life, body, mind, and soul.

So, thank you father of our lodge,  
A worthy mason he,  
Much more than 'king of the craft in a mystic tie',  
In our hearts forever you'll be.

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End