

## Inspirational Thoughts for us all,

Every day when we turn the on the TV, we are exposed to horrific pictures of places which have become no go areas for the police and local government officials, and where it seems that the rule of the knife is now the religion for many of the younger people who see no hope for the future,

However in this maelstrom of activity there are many good people of faith living in those areas which haven't given up, and get actively involved. They are not heroes or heroines whose names are familiar and well known, but ordinary decent people who each day attempt to make some rational sense of their existence and their children's journey through life. They walk a hard and dangerous path, forever watching over their shoulders, it's easy to walk away from problems which are not of your making, by saying I don't like to get involved.

The message for us as Freemasons is to actively get involved in local problems, and be ready to take that extra step, most of us will be going about our daily business concentrating on our own thoughts, and not be aware of the many people who seem to have real problems in their lives, however stop for a short while and look around, you will see them, they are the people who walk through the streets and the shopping centres, with their eyes to the ground (as we say looking for 50 pence pieces) hating the weather, hating the cold, and not being very happy with life, they seem so sad and unhappy, to them everything in life seems so drab and dull.

Then a wonderful display of nature happens, suddenly the sun comes out and all the dark areas in the gloom are lit up and highlighted, the sun reflects off the puddles and shines with an intensity off of the shop windows in multitude of rainbow colours, and for a second or two they feel joy and wish that they could feel like this more often, but the problems of life are outweighing the pictures which are unfolding before their very eyes, so they lower their eyes towards the ground and continue trudging on their journey not seeing the wonders of nature and the wonderful gift of life before them, a life which is there for them to grasp.

Many of these lost souls think about the mistakes they have made in their lives, and spend a great deal of time reflecting on what life could have been, by using that wonderful phrase if only I had my time over again. Unfortunately looking back into the past is time lost, and time to realise that nothing which has happened in the past can be changed, the past is the past,

They don't realise that their future hasn't been written yet, their future will be what so ever they determine it will be, it will all depend upon their mind set, feeling sorry for themselves means nothing positive ever will happen, however if they could change their attitude to life, and towards themselves as individuals, start feeling good about themselves, start feeling confident and self assured, then their future could be very fruitful.

This is one area where we as freemasons could help many people change their attitudes to life, by getting actively involved as inspirational role models, by ensuring that everything we say and do is seen as being positive in nature, and by developing a more compassionate and caring side to our nature, and most importantly by being more understanding of others.

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