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ABSTRAX TS 2

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PROTOCOL & ETIQUETTE

The P&E article is another in the series intended to contribute to a better understanding of the procedures and practices of various practices of head table protocols.

This article discusses where the GUEST OF HONOUR sits at the Head Table

Dr. Theresa Tam
Chief Public Health Officer of Canada

M.W. Bro. David J. Cameron
Grand Master

QUESTION:

Where does the Guest of Honour sit at the Head Table for a Masonic Banquet?

ANSWER:

In keeping with well-established Masonic traditions throughout the world, our Grand Lodge has adopted a very clear and unwavering protocol regarding where a Guest of Honour is seated at any of our Masonic Banquet.

RULE #1: The Guest of Honour is seated on the right side of the Presiding Officer. i.e. on his right, not yours.

Please note then that the Guest of Honour always sits on the **Worshipful Master's right side** and not on the right of the W.M.'s as viewed by the audience.. (All seating at the Head Table takes place in reference to the W.M.'s right to the W.M.'s left side)

This is not just a protocol followed by Freemasons. It has been followed for centuries by Royalty, by the International Diplomatic community, and by the Military. The seat of honour is always to the right of the host.

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PROTOCOL & ETIQUETTE

It should be fairly easy for you to remember where the Guest of Honour is to sit. It can be more difficult at times, however, to determine **WHO** is your Guest of Honour. The nature of the occasion should offer indications as to the relative significance of those present.

Usually - but not always - **the GUEST OF HONOUR is the highest ranking Mason present**. The Order of Introduction List (updated every July or August) is a good reference to follow in making this determination. Do not always take this for granted, however. Think about the purpose of the evening and if any special guests have been invited.

If it's your lodge's good fortune to be visited by the Grand Master, or a Past Grand Master, it would be unusual if he is not your guest of honour. However, circumstances are are sometimes not so straightforward. For example, back in 2010, my own lodge was honoured by a visit from the year's Prestonian Lecturer of the United Grand Lodge of England, W. Bro. Wayne Warlow became our guest of honour that evening, even though a Past Grand Master was also present.

Similarly, at the occasion of the evening, in which he is honoured and presented with his award, it is our protocol for a William Mercer Medal recipient to be asked to sit in the Guest of Honour's chair - even though the Grand Master and several Past Grand Masters are usually present.

Finally, consider this scenario. Suppose that in 2021, after a vaccine had been developed for COVID-19 and our lodges resumed their monthly meetings, that a lodge invited **Dr. Theresa Tam,** the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, to be their guest speaker. The lodge wanted to show Dr. Tam its appreciation for the efforts during the crisis we endured and to hear about some of the challenges she faced. Now suppose that our Grand Master, (Who is himself a physician), wanted to be present on this special occasion.

Even though she is not a Mason, who do you suppose would be the Official Guest of Honour of the lodge that evening? Hopefully, the answer is readily apparent.

Next month we will examine where other Head Table guests should be seated.

R.W. Bro. Gordon Crutcher,
Assistant to the Custodian

P.S. Some Worshipful Masters invite that evening's candidate to join him at the Head Table, for the banquet. Is that an acceptable gesture? If so, where should the Candiadate sit?

THE OPPORTUNITY THAT LIFE IS GIVING US

Life is always opening doors for us, giving us a gift. We just don't often recognize it.

For example, this morning, life gave you an amazing gift of a new day. Many people who are on their last breath would give anything for such a miraculous gift — and yet, we often will take this gift for granted. Fritter it away. Complain about much of it.

We waste the opportunity that life has given us!

So being aware of this … how can we use this new normal as an opportunity and a gift?

The first idea I'd like to offer is that the new normal is just highlighting the difficulties we often felt before, but could more easily ignore.

We could pretend that we weren't constantly being disrupted, that we weren't very restricted, that we didn't have massive uncertainty in our lives. We could pretend that we weren't craving connection and meaning, that we weren't irritated by others.

We're very good at fooling ourselves.

But now, we can't pretend (as much). We are faced with these realities, and we can either resist and complain … or we can look them squarely in the face, and accept them.

The second idea is that these are opportunities to grow — to train, to become more resilient.

So for example, we could train in each area I mentioned above:

- If you're feeling restricted, let yourself feel the feeling of restriction. It's probably something you've felt many times before but didn't face it. Can you shift this feeling, after you've felt it, to see the sense of openness and freedom and gift in each moment?

- If you're feeling isolated, can you use this to connect to yourself more, as if you were a monk in a monastery? Can you let yourself feel the feeling of isolation, and give yourself some compassion?

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THE OPPORTUNITY THAT LIFE IS GIVING US

- Let yourself feel the craving for connection and meaning. And then see how you can create that for yourself, each day, without any certainty about whether you're doing it right.
- If you're irritated at others, can you rise above your narrative about the other person, and see that you're both feeling fear and pain? That you both are dealing with this with anger, irritation, frustration? That both of you are resorting to old (unhelpful) patterns? Can you practice compassion for them (and yourself) instead?
- If you're impatient and wanting it all to be over … can you practice patience instead? Let yourself be with the pain and frustration you're feeling, and be willing to face it and sit in the middle of it? This is an incredibly powerful practice that will strengthen us for whatever we face in the future.
- Can you practice this patience with everything you're feeling: overwhelmed, irritated, frustrated, anxious, uncertain, fearful? And bring self-compassion to that as well?

So you can get a sense that we're practicing a few things with whatever we're facing:

- A willingness to feel what we're feeling
- A willingness to face and sit in the middle of difficulty (patience)
- Compassion for ourselves and others
- The ability to create connection and meaning
- What would it be like to use the gift of this new normal to get stronger during this crisis? To practice these incredibly transformative practices?

Leo Babauto

"Clouds come floating into my life, no longer to carry rain
or usher storm, but to add color to my sunset sky"

Gitanjali

MASONIC VALUES IN EVERYDAY LIFE

How Fraternalism transforms character via Education and Interaction

Q1 - Fraternalism - What is it?

It's Brotherhood by example and what one brings to the Lodge. Bring one, show them Masonry and watch it spread . Young men are looking for inspiration with accolades from older masons. The affirmation of a job well done.They want to give back to the community the charitable way. Give them the opportunity. Masonry does not transform people , people do in masonry! How do we bring the ones back who have drifted away? As individuals actions speak louder than words.

- Treat people well
- Bring back the values
- Bring back the resources they wanted
- Have sit down socials if tired of the old boring meetings
- Family activity

Character - we use old English words like Fortitude, Prudence, Justice. How does this affect me? Take that word Prudence . What does being prudent mean to me presently? Then we transform from that.

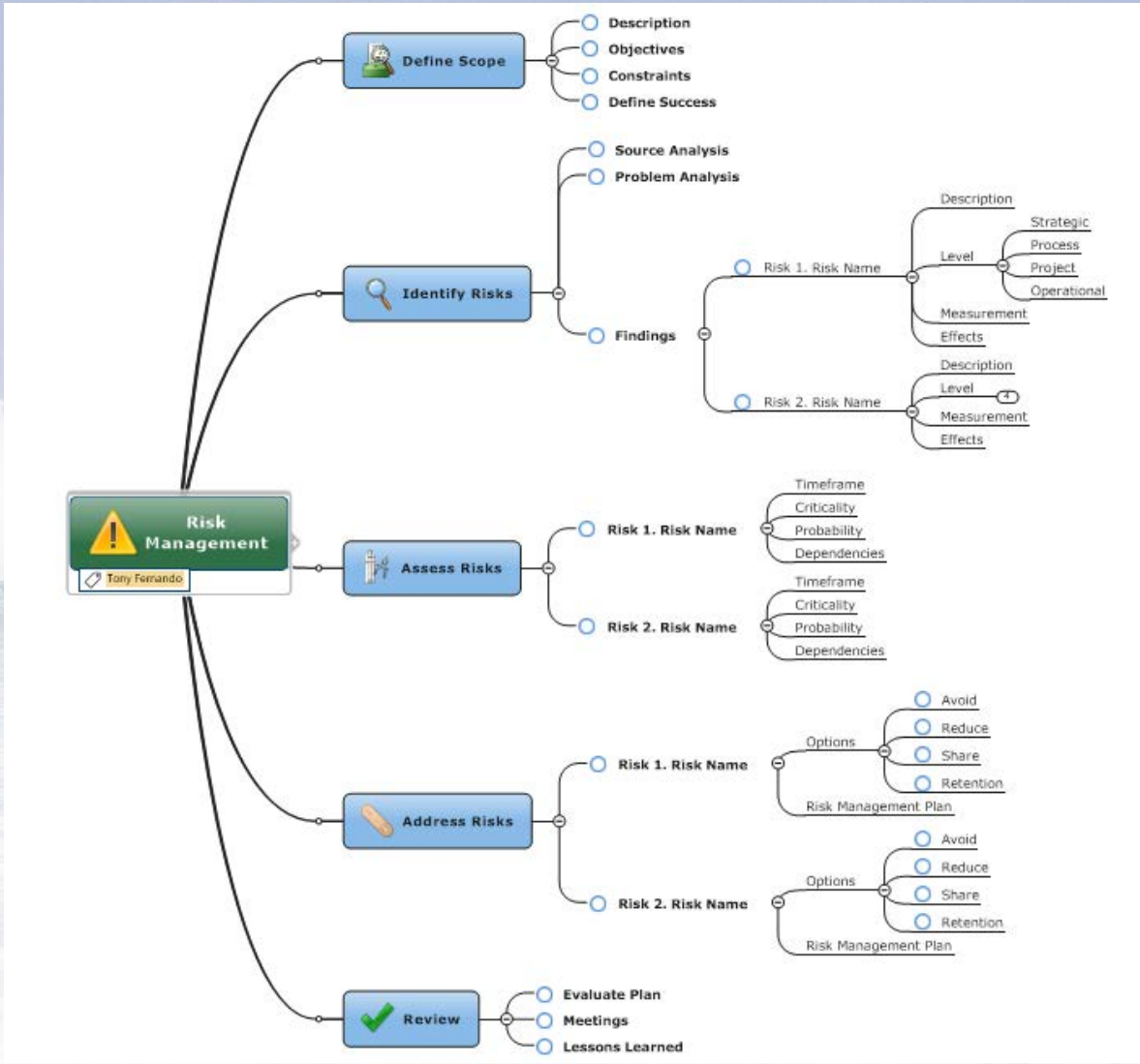
Q2 - How do you help in your Lodge?

We go to Lodge, then we go home. Remember, Masonry is a way of life. Go to Lodge, meet and take home some thoughts from your Lodge meeting. Time challenges available to a Brother outside the Lodge. Set aside time for your Brother. Maybe he just needs a little time or money. Care for each member. Is everything OK? The process needs to be habitual. Practice brotherhood outside the Lodge. Need more social events? Sometimes business is done there. Ask new masons if our ranks grow-what would society look like today? How can we use the lessons in the workplace? Your application/example will infuse in the workplace. We have a Mason on our team. (Deport yourself in the workplace). Masonry is a natural component of equality. It is about the values. We meet on the level.

R.W. Bro. Terry McLean

ABSTRAXTS 2

When did you last conduct a Risk Management Analysis of your Lodge?



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"HAPPY IS THE MAN WHO HAS SOWN IN HIS BREAST THE SEEDS OF BENEVOLENCE; THE PRODUCE THEREOF SHALL BE CHARITY & LOVE. FROM THE FOUNTAIN OF HIS HEART SHALL RISE RIVERS OF GOODNESS; AND THE STREAMS SHALL OVERFLOW FOR THE BENEFIT OF MANKIND" - **UNTO THE I GRANT 1760**