



Scientia Coronati Research Lodge No. 4 F&AM

Scientia Coronati Research Lodge No. 4 F&AM is a Masonic entity formed for the purpose of education, research and informative discourse of Freemasonry.

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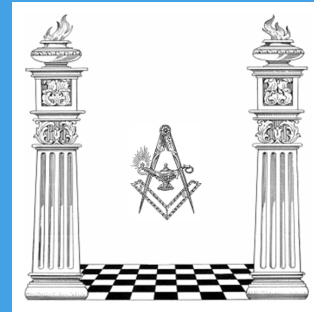
Essays, Papers & Articles

Masonic Topics

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And the Earth was without

form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters, and God said, 'Let there be light'



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A brief presentation and discussion
For the Scientia Coronati Research Lodge
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- ▣ A brief familiar maxim of folk wisdom, usually compressed in form, often involving a bold image and frequently a jingle that catches the memory. (Webster's Encyclopedic Dictionary-1989)
- ▣ (from **Latin**: *proverbium*) is a simple and concrete saying popularly known and repeated, which expresses a truth, based on common sense or the practical experience of humanity. They are often **metaphorical**. A proverb that describes a basic rule of conduct may also be known as a **maxim**. If a proverb is distinguished by particularly good phrasing, it may be known as an **aphorism**.

- ▣ Both the Bible (**Book of Proverbs**) and medieval Latin have played a considerable role in distributing proverbs across Europe, although almost every culture has examples of its own.

- ▣ Internal features that can be found quite frequently include:
- ▣ **Hyperbole** (All is fair in love and war)
- ▣ **Paradox** (For there to be peace there must first be war)
- ▣ **Personification** (Hunger is the best cook)
- ▣ To make the respective statement more general most proverbs are based on a **metaphor**. Further typical features of the proverb are its shortness (average: seven words), and the fact that its author is generally unknown (otherwise it would be a quotation).

- ▣ Proverbs come from a variety of sources. Some are, indeed, the result of people pondering, such as some by Confucius, Plato, etc. Others are taken from such diverse sources as songs, commercials, advertisements, movies, literature, etc. A number of the well known sayings of Jesus, Shakespeare, and others have become proverbs, though they were original at the time of their creation. Many proverbs are also based on stories, often the end of a story.

- ▣ Proverbs are used by speakers for a variety of purposes. Sometimes they are used as a way of saying something gently, in a veiled way. Other times, they are used to carry more weight in a discussion, a weak person is able to enlist the tradition of the ancestors to support his position, or even to argue a legal case. Proverbs can also be used to simply make a conversation/discussion more lively. In many parts of the world, the use of proverbs is a mark of being a good orator.

- ▣ was established in the language by the 18th century. Thomas Reid's *Essays on the Intellectual Powers of Man*, 1786, included this line:
- ▣ "In every chain of reasoning, the evidence of the last conclusion can be no greater than that of the weakest link of the chain, whatever may be the strength of the rest."

- ❑ This is quite an early proverb in the English language and, as such, might be thought to contain the wisdom of the ancients. The notion was known by the late 16th century, when it was expressed in rhyme by Thomas Tusser in *Five Hundreth Pointes of Good Husbandrie*, 1573:
- ❑ A foole & his money,
be soone at debate:
which after with sorow,
repents him to late.
- ❑ The precise wording of the expression comes just a little later, in Dr. John Bridges' *Defence of the Government of the Church of England*, 1587:
- ❑ If they pay a penie or two pence more for the reddinesse of them..let them looke to that, a foole and his money is soone parted.

- ▣ A version of this proverb was known by the 3rd century BC. Quintus Ennius wrote: 'Amicus certus in re incerta cernitur'. This translates from the Latin as 'a sure friend is known when in difficulty'.
- ▣ The *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations* lists it as existing in English from the 11th century. The earliest version I can find is from Caxton's *Sonnes of Aymon*, 1489:
- ▣ "It is sayd, that at the nede the frende is knowen."

- ▣ This phrase was coined by Eddie Green, as the title of his song *A Good Man Is Hard To Find*. This was composed in 1918. A similar outlook was expressed in the Bible, *Micah 7:2 (King James Version)*:
- ▣ The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net.

- ▣ 'A little knowledge is a dangerous thing' and 'a little learning is a dangerous thing' have been used synonymously since the 18th century.
- ▣ The 'a little learning' version is widely attributed to Alexander Pope (1688 - 1744). It is found in *An Essay on Criticism*, 1709, and I can find no earlier example of the expression in print:
- ▣ A little learning is a dangerous thing;
drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring:
there shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,
and drinking largely sobers us again.
- ▣ The similarity of the two phrases is demonstrated by what appears to be an impromptu coining of 'a little knowledge is a dangerous thing' in a piece in *The monthly miscellany; or Gentleman and Lady's Complete Magazine, Vol II*, 1774, in which the writer misquoted Pope:

- ▣ Mr. Pope says, very truly, "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing."
- ▣ Both Pope's original verse and the misquotation of it were predated by an anonymous author, signing himself 'A B', in the collection of letters published in 1698 as *The mystery of phanaticism*:
- ▣ "Twas well observed by my Lord Bacon, That a little knowledge is apt to puff up, and make men giddy, but a greater share of it will set them right, and bring them to low and humble thoughts of themselves.

- ▣ Again, there is a degree of misquotation here, as what 'my Lord Bacon', the English politician and philosopher Francis Bacon, Viscount St Alban, actually said, in *The Essays: Of Atheism*, 1601, was:
- ▣ "A little philosophy inclineth man's mind to atheism; but depth in philosophy bringeth men's minds about to religion."
- ▣ So, who coined the phrase? It appears to have been a group effort. Bacon can be credited with the idea, Pope with the 'learning' version and the mysterious 'A B' with the 'knowledge' version.

- ▣ A rolling stone refers to a wanderer, unable to settle to any job or lifestyle and is therefore characterised as unreliable and unproductive.
- ▣ That notion was known to the ancient world and Greek and Latin versions of the phrase are cited by Erasmus in the third volume of his collection of Latin proverbs - *Adagia*, 1508.
- ▣ The proverb may have come into colloquial English before then, although early records are incomplete. We do know that it was known by 1546, when John Heywood published *A dialogue conteinyng the nomber in effect of all the prouerbes in the Englishe tongue*:
- ▣ The rolyng stone neuer gatherth mosse.

- ▣ *A watched pot never boils.*
- ▣ *Cold hands, warm heart.*
- ▣
- ▣ *Dead men tell no tales.* Captain Jack Sparrow
– 2003 –
- ▣
- ▣ *Home is where the heart is.*
- ▣ *In for a penny, in for a pound.*
- ▣ *Judge not, lest ye be judged.*
- ▣ *Money talks,*

- ▣ The Bible, *Romans 13:9* (**King James Version**):
- ▣ For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

- ▣ The widespread use of 'speak softly and carry a big stick' began with American president Theodore Roosevelt. In a letter to Henry L. Sprague, on January 26th 1900, he wrote:
- ▣ "Speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far."
- ▣ Roosevelt claims the phrase to be of West African origin

- ▣ This proverbial saying is attributed to, and almost certainly coined by, Lord Byron, in the satirical poem *Don Juan*, 1823:
- ▣ 'Tis strange - but true; for truth is always strange;
Stranger than fiction; if it could be told,
How much would novels gain by the exchange!
How differently the world would men behold!
How oft would vice and virtue places change!
The new world would be nothing to the old,
If some Columbus of the moral seas
Would show mankind their souls' antipodes.

- It appears to be the oldest English proverb that is still in regular use today. It was recorded as early as 1175 in *Old English Homilies*:
- Hwa is thet mei thet hors wettrien the him self nule drinken [who can give water to the horse that will not drink of its own accord?]
- There are other pretenders to the throne of the oldest English proverb; for example:
- A friend in need is a friend indeed.
(mid 11th century in English; 5th century BC in Greek)
- When the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.
(late 9th century in English; Bible, Luke Chapter 6)
- Whilst the above were spoken in English earlier than 'lead a horse to water...', they derive from either a Greek or Biblical source and so can't claim to be the 'full English'. Either that or, like the 11th century proverb '*full cup, steady hand*', they haven't stood the test of time.

- ▣ -This book of the Bible is a listing of Moral and Ethical Principles.
- ▣ -Wisdom is mentioned 39 times.
- ▣ -Historically these writings are attributed to Solomon. But, as always, there is debate about this.

- ▣ 1:5 A wise man will hear and increase learning
- ▣ 1:7 ...fools despise wisdom and instruction
- ▣ 3:35 The wise shall inherit glory
- ▣ 8:15 By me(wisdom) kings reign and princes decree justice
- ▣ 8:33 Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not
- ▣ 9:9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser:
teach a just man and he will increase in learning
- ▣ 17:22 A merry heart doeth good like a medicine.
- ▣ 18:12 before honor is humility
- ▣ 22:28 Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers
have set
- ▣ 23:12 Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to
the words of knowledge

- ▣ This book of the Holy Bible was chosen to illustrate the desire of the brethren of our Lodge to pursue the wisdom and knowledge which further study and research will provide, not only to the individual Mason, but to his brethren as well, through the submittal, presentation and sharing of his own research and further light in Masonry with his brethren of the craft.

- ▣ Lover of wisdom
- ▣ Making good men better
- ▣ Fear not what man can do unto you
- ▣ Meet on the level
- ▣ Our mystic circle
- ▣ Masonic Secret – And then we eat!
- ▣ 3 distinct knocks at the door
- ▣ Masonic Light
- ▣ Rectitude of conduct
- ▣ So mote it be

- ▣ Are you a traveling man?
- ▣ The eyes of the fraternity are upon you
- ▣ The greatest of these is charity
- ▣ Masonic tradition informs us
- ▣ Circumscribe our desires
- ▣ The Master's word is lost
- ▣ A point within a circle
- ▣ Low twelve
- ▣ Progressive moral science