ROUGH ASHLARS ARE NEEDED IN FREEMASONRY

As Masons we are inclined to visualize our symbolic ashlars, as described in the Entered Apprentice Degree, as replicas of material ashlars.

The rough ashlars are described as the stone in its natural state, and we believe that the principal use of the rough Ashlars is for comparison with the perfect Ashlars, as made ready for the builders use. We associate the petitioner for the degrees as a rough Ashlar. And he will become a perfect Ashlar through the teachings of Freemasonry.

While this may become an important lesson, we may get just as important lesson from an entirely different meaning, as both the rough and perfect Ashlars are used in Masonry construction.

The Ashlars symbolize members of our Fraternity, but, do we not have worthy brothers of rough exterior? Who are of various sizes and shapes, both physically and mentally? Do we not have worthy brothers in various stages between the rude and natural state, as far as perfection? If all of these are true, doesn’t each have a place in the Masonic structure?

What about the operative art? There is need for rough Ashlar’s of various sizes. In various stages of perfection. Are all of the old cathedral’s erected of perfect Ashlar’s? Or is the skill of the workmen tested by the various sizes intermingled in the wall to give it strength as it rises perpendicularly? But, one thing that each Ashlar has in common with all the other Ashlars is that it is of good heart.

In Freemasonry, we must have the perfect Ashlar to bind the structure. But without the rough Ashlar, we would be very short of material. The rough Ashlar has a most important part to play in Freemasonry.

Fraternally,

Bob