

The Trestleboard

AUSTIN Lodge #12

July AD 2010, AL 6010

Worshipful Master

Steven Charles Sterzing



~Rising From the East ~

Begin With the End in Mind

Brethren,

Wow, this concept of Beginning With the End in Mind is an ambitious one to say the least.

When I was accepted to Texas A&M University, I transferred midway through my college career. I gave notice to the young freshmen touting t-shirts that read, "Begin with the End in Mind". This saying became inspirational to me, because I had no clear direction to complete my college course work. But this chance encounter helped me to channel my direction and helped me to choose Industrial Distribution as my collegiate path.

Before moving to College Station I had already become an Entered Apprentice Mason, but this path was put on hold due to study, and the rest of just plain old college life and all that it entails. Masonry, although on my mind, took

a back seat to the life-style that I grew into while working on a Bachelors degree. Thus, I did not become a Mason with the end in mind.

I believe that as humans grow in knowledge they tend to prioritize the things in life that they deem as important to not only themselves, but to their community as a whole. This life that we have been given is a wonderful and glorious thing, but there are a lot of snares and pitfalls that we must learn to maneuver as we tread life's path. "Knowledge is gained by degrees", this familiar quote sums up why I steered my path back towards a Masonic life. Meeting with the fraternity weekly gives me a chance to charge up my life battery.

My rambling thought processes are best summed up by this: I did not *become* a Mason with the intent of becoming Master of Austin Lodge 12 A.F. & A. M.; I chose to *return* to a fraternal order that had accepted my membership many years ago; I choose to *stay involved* in an organization that puts God as the center of its scope and charitable causes as the direct outflow of this God based vision. I believe that at the start of each new day each of us should strive to Begin With The End In Mind; we should strive to do good for ourselves and our communities which will reflect well for God and our Masonic Order.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Steven Sterzing, Worshipful Master
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~As The Sun In The West~

To continue on in the vein in which I was writing as Junior warden, I offer you the following treatise:

Virtues and Prajna Paramita

Another system of virtues is included in the ancient Buddhist texts often called the Prajna Paramita literature. The oldest texts, perhaps from about 100BC, are difficult for westerners to understand, and so there is a tradition of interpretations and translations. This list is summarized from one such interpretation.

The system of virtues is based on the concept of improving oneself until reaching perfection, and the title translates as "The Perfection of Wisdom". The notion is that the virtues build, one upon the other in order, but that perfection will necessarily involve setbacks and new insights that require revisiting the base virtues until they are perfected.

Generosity

- of knowledge
- of material
- of protection

Self-discipline

- reject negative actions (of body, speech, or mind)
- accept positive actions (such as compliments)
- do all for the benefit others

Patience

- compassion for harmdoers
- with hardships of the (spiritual) path
- without fear for the profound true nature of the ups and downs of life

Joyful effort

- unceasing effort/joy towards positive activity/work
- unflinching courage/focused intention and application (in face of difficulty)
- insatiable effort/not discouraged; unshaken, not prejudiced

Concentration

- time of peaceful, joyful life in direct present moment perception/one-pointed evenness
- compassion for all sentient beings
- extend this concentration to others' benefit by focus on their true nature (not surface features)

Supreme wisdom

- of study/worldly
- of contemplation/self certainty
- of prayer, meditation, experience, and realization

1. understanding
2. experience
3. realization

These last three are attempts to explain levels of perfection in prayer and are not well explained in a list form. As with all of the systems discussed, I encourage you to study them further for more complete understanding.

Russel Zears, Senior Warden
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~From the South~

WHEN YOU GET UP TOMORROW AND LOOK IN
THE MIRROR, YOU WILL SEE A MAN LOOKING
BACK----
DO YOU LIKE WHAT YOU SEE?

The Man In The Glass

Anonymous

When you get what you want in your struggle for self
And the world makes you king for a day,
Just go to the mirror and look at yourself
And see what that man has to say.

For it isn't your father or mother or wife
Whose judgment upon you must pass.
The fellow whose verdict counts most in you life
Is the one staring back from the glass.

You may be like Jack Horner and chisel a plum
And think you're a wonderful guy.
But the man in the glass says you're only a bum
If you can't look him straight in the eye.

He's the fellow to please-never mind all the rest,
For he's with you clear to the end.
And you've passed your most dangerous, difficult test
If the man in the glass is your friend.

You may fool the whole world down the pathway of
years
And get pats on the back as you pass.
But your final reward will be heartache and tears
If you've cheated the man in the glass.

John W. French, Junior Warden
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~From the Secretary's Desk~

**Happy Birthday to all who have had
birthdays since our last Trestleboard.**

*Please keep our sick, infirm and
otherwise distressed Brethren*

*and their families in your
thoughts and prayers.*

Brethren, we are off and running in a new
Masonic year. The new Officers are in their
stations and places and are ready to go.

Last year we conferred 27 Degrees and it was a
great year for Austin Lodge #12 under the
guidance of now Jr. Past Master James Allen
(J.) McKissick (I just wanted call him that
before anyone else).

We are starting this year where we left off. We
should be voting on three candidates this July
stated meeting.

This being a New Year, Masonically speaking,
let's try a New Year's Resolution to attend
Lodge more often this Masonic Year.

Happy Birthday to our Nation and to all of our
July birthday brethren.

Hope to see you in Lodge soon,

Victor Armstrong, Secretary
Austin Lodge #12, A. F. & A. M.
Website is: austinelodge12.com

SUMMONS NOTE:

The Worshipful Master wishes you all to know
that each Trestleboard is to be viewed as an
official summons to the Stated Meeting just the
same as the summons you receive every other
month. Please notify one of the above officers
of your disposition.

**Our new Stewards, Brothers Jessee Obed, SS
and Todd Smith, JS, will provide a meal to be
reconed with. They invite y'all to come and
give feedback as to their proficiency in the
kitchen!**

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THE TRESTLEBOARD

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~UPCOMING SCHEDULE~

AUSTIN LODGE #12 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

Thurs. July 8 : Esoteric Work
Mon. July 12 : CALLED MEETING
Thurs. July 15 : Esoteric Work
Mon. July 19 : **STATED MEETING**
Thurs. July 22 : Esoteric Work
Mon. July 26 : CALLED MEETING
Thurs. July 29 : Esoteric Work

AUGUST

Mon. August 2 : CALLED MEETING
Thur. Aug 5 : Esoteric Work
Mon August 9 : CALLED MEETING

Thur. Aug 12 : Esoteric Work
Mon. August 16: **STATED MEETING**
Thur. Aug 19 : Esoteric Work
Mon. August 23 : CALLED MEETING
Thur. August 26 : Esoteric Work
Mon. August 30 : CALLED MEETING

SEPTEMBER

Mon. September 6—Labor Day, Dark

NOTE: At almost all of the called meetings we are doing degree work. Come out and be a part of the dynamic work that is going on at your Austin Lodge #12. We have some great young men joining our Lodge and the work is excellent. Y'all will be proud!

Visit our website at
<http://austinlodge12.com/schedule.php> for the latest schedule.