

The Rubbish Of The Temple
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In the Entered Apprentice Degree, we learn that at the building of King Solomon's Temple, there was no cutting of the materials on site. All of the materials were prepared in some other location, brought to the site, and assembled without the aid of any tool of iron. The timbers and woodwork were cut and shaped in the forests of Lebanon, and then conveyed to the temple. Likewise, the stones were cut and numbered in the quarries before being shipped to the building site. We further learn, every part was fitted with such exactness, that the finished building had the appearance of the handiwork of God, and not of human hands.

Later in our travels to the East, we discover that the body of our Grand Master, Hiram Abiff, was buried in the rubbish of the temple. If all the materials of the temple were prepared off site, and if there was no cutting of any materials on the site, and if the materials fitted with such exactness, then where did the rubbish of the temple come from?

I think that anyone who is employed in the building trades or anyone who has built any project in their home, will realize that . materials get damaged. In the process of shipping, in the process of storage on or off site, and in the process of assembly, sometimes pieces get mishandled and broken. Thus, these pieces find their way to the rubbish heap.

What is the lesson here for us as Masons? Every time we get a new candidate, and he enters our lodge, he is beginning his journey from the forest, or the quarry to the building site, where we hope he will become an integral part of our temple. If we mishandle that candidate, if we set a bad example, if we do not live by our teachings, if we do not teach the candidate the importance of our craft, if we do not show him that he is important, then when or if, that candidate becomes a Master Mason, the chances are he will receive his dues card, walk out our door, and we will never see him again. If this happens to a candidate, or to a brother of our lodge, then that man just found his way to the rubbish heap of our temple. We need to be careful to handle and form each candidate and member with the utmost care. This is a responsibility of all Masons.

I think this story alludes to a more important lesson. God asked Amos what he saw, and Amos replied "A plumb line". Then God proceeded to tell Amos that He was going to set a plumb line in the midst of His people and measure them, and that if they were not standing upright, He was going to cut them off. We are taught to stand upright before God. We are taught that we are traveling on the level of time to an undiscovered country. We are taught to act on the square. We are taught that someday we will become part of a temple, not made by hands, eternal in the heavens. If within our journey through life from the forest, or the quarry to that house not made by hands, if within that journey we do not pay attention to our teachings, help one

another, or follow the examples laid down by the Grand Master of the Universe in that great book of Revelation, then when we arrive at that building site, we will be damaged goods, and will not fit. Thus my brethren, we would end up on the rubbish heap of that temple, a place where God has assured you, you do not want to be.