

# The Secret Isn't Very Secret

With due recognition to the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International's monthly newsletter, I copy a writeup from General Grand Scribe Chadwick Burks section:

"I subscribe to several Masonic email lists and am involuntarily added to many, many, more, but recently ran across an "email blast" that really made me smile. The email originated from Matt Johnson who is currently the Worshipful Master of Montezuma Lodge #35 in Phoenix, Arizona. Below is the very slightly edited content of what Worshipful Brother Johnson sent to his lodge educational email list:

A young man considering becoming a Mason asked a valid question ... what if he learns secret things on how to help his family and friends to live better lives and he is not allowed to tell them about it because of being sworn to secrecy? Having such helpful knowledge and not being able to tell others would be a true torture, he believes.

Here was my answer:

You and I are cut from the same cloth my friend! Over thinkers! Better to be an over thinker than a dull man I say! You will learn incredible things. The thing you will learn that will help the people you love the most is the thing that is no secret at all regarding Freemasonry and here it is: We meet with men of all races, religions, political parties, etc. and focus not on our differences but on our common humanity. We do not talk about politics and religion together. We encourage our members to read, think and ponder the great mysteries of life. THOSE things right there, if you share those values with the people you love, will DRAMATICALLY improve their lives. These Masonic values are no secret and our greatest gift to humankind which culminated in the creation of the U.S. Constitution which is a profoundly liberating work of genius not just for Americans, but for the entire human race to learn and benefit from. Freemasonry is such a precious gift and through our influence, the U.S. Constitution not only gives Masonic light and liberty to all Americans as I already said, it shines a light to the world as how to make their own countries better and more free. Freedom for all is the light of God's truth. Oppression, tyranny, forced conformity, domination, these are the darkness. Freemasonry is a study in light. Freemasonry needs more thinking and compassionate empathetic men like you seem to be.

Wow, could you imagine if you were that young man and received a response like that from the Master of a Masonic Lodge? What would your impression of Freemasonry be after reading that? I especially applaud the line, "Freemasonry needs more thinking and compassionate empathetic men like you seem to be." Kudos to you, Worshipful Brother Johnson, kudos indeed.

So next time you get an inquiry about the Fraternity no matter how awkwardly it is worded or no matter how busy you are, take some time to get to know the man who submitted that inquiry and do it quickly! You never know . . . that could be a future Grand Officer on the other end of that email address and by you simply taking the time to help him get his questions answered, you may be doing a tremendous service to the entire international Masonic community. "

Indeed a lesson for us all.

REC Terry Gould  
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RAM Website Committee