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### Message from WM



Dear Brethren,

Fraternal Greetings!

The preceding quarter has been very eventful and exciting which has always been the hallmark of Lodge Pandyan.

The highlight being the receipt of awards in FOUR categories at last year's (2016) Ritual Working Competition. My heartiest congratulations to my predecessor W Bro J ArasuShanker and his team on this great feat. Further, our Lodge has gone through the Ritual Working Competition Stage I for the current year (2017).

We visited Lodge Gomantak No 248, Goa second week of September. We had the privilege of raising their candidate Bro KunwarVikram Singh Bhati at an impressive performance, where our brethren excelled in their performance. It has been a memorable visit with the brethren of Goa overwhelming us by their hospitality. My heartiest thanks to our brethren who joined the visit and the brethren of Goa on hosting us.

The upcoming quarter is also going to be eventful with multiple events like family evening, past masters' night, etc. We also have the Half Yearly Meeting on December at Chennai. Brethren, I request your enthusiastic participation in them and your continued support in our endeavours.

Best wishes to you and your family members.

Yours Fraternally,

**W.Bro.BaskarPerumal**

**W M Lodge Pandyan No 49**

The Brethren of Lodge Pandyan No 49 congratulate our beloved **R. W. Bro. Abraham Markos, P.Dy.G.M., R. W. The Regional Grand Master of the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India**, on completing 40 Years of Dedicated Service in Freemasonry.

We wish you many such laurels in coming years.



### FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Dear Brethren,

Fraternal Greetings!

#### Visit to Lodge Gomantak No 248, Goa:

We had a fantastic outstation visit to Lodge Gomantak No 248, Goa on 16 September, 2017. It was a Raising Ceremony and their candidate in an extraordinary manner including perfect portion deliveries. A memento was presented to Lodge Gomantak on behalf of Lodge Pandyan to commemorate the visit. Further, the charity collected on the day was donated to their charity fund.

#### Infrastructure:

As part of the ongoing renovation works, the rest rooms have been entirely modernized with the latest ware. Also, the guest room has been refurbished and air-conditioned.

The installation of elevator which is the highlight of this entire project has been completed. The same was inaugurated by R W Bro Abraham Markos, R W The Regional Grand Master of Southern India in the presence of W Bro K Natarajan, W The Assistant Regional Grand Master on 23 July, 2017. R W Bro P V Rajendran graced the occasion and joined The Regional Grand Master of Southern India in the inauguration.

#### Student Development Program:

As part of the ongoing Student Development Program, we are in the process of establishing an educational library for the benefit of the students at our premises. The training programs on competitive exams, soft skills, guest lectures, etc is being continued as such..

Best wishes to you all.

Yours fraternally,

**W Bro V Venkatasubramanian**

**Secretary**



**Lodge Pandyan's Outstation Meeting in Goa**  
**By W Bro J Arasu Shanker**



An Outstation Meeting of Lodge Pandyan was conducted in Goa on September 16<sup>th</sup> at the Jay Kieran Hall, Ponda, the regular venue of Lodge Gomantak No 248. The meeting was organized with the support of the Worshipful Master and brethren of Lodge Gomantak. Worshipful Master, WBro Perumal Baskar and his team of officers Raised Bro Kunwar Vikram Singh Bhati, a Brother from Lodge Gomantak, to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason in an impressive ceremony. All our officers performed their roles to perfection and were duly appreciated by the brethren of Lodge Gomantak for the exceptional ceremony conducted. The meeting was well attended with a total of 27 brethren.



The Temple was setup in the Jay Kieran Hall, a wedding hall with a picturesque view on top of a small hillock near a temple. We reached the venue along with heavy monsoon rains and were warmly welcomed by the brethren of Lodge Gomantak. A meeting of Lodge Gomantak was scheduled just before our meeting and our brethren attended the same. Lodge Gomantak has adopted many practices from the English system, including the brethren singing Opening and Closing Odes, before opening and after closing the Lodge.





The meetings were followed by a fantastic festive board, with a lot of fun & frolic with Old-World charm in Goan style. The brethren of Lodge Gomantak follow the traditional Masonic Fire Toasts and for many of us, it was the first experience to participate in one. We were floored by the Visitors Toast by the Junior Warden, Bro Sudheer Prabhu. In addition to the hosting Gomantak brethren singing the Visitors Song, they also took turns to move around the banquet and shook hands with each of us. The festive board also included a raffle, whose proceeds goes towards charity projects. We participated and got lucky – winning a bottle of wine, a bottle of whiskey, a bottle of vodka and chocolates, of which we contributed the wine, whiskey and vodka back for future raffles. WBro Shiva Kumar gave a special toast to the candidate of the day with a briefing on Freemasonry, highlighting the significance of the Third Degree and also gave him a context about how the candidate could imbibe Freemasonry.



The previous day, we had an informal gathering with WBro Richard Gould at Bom Successo, a local pub. In addition to discussing on a wide variety of topics ranging from Masonic practices in England, differences in the Indian rituals to Goan food and shopping options, we sang along karaoke – with Bro Neethi starting with a solo and the rest of us taking up a group performance along with WBro Richard. It was an evening well spent.

Overall, another excellent outstation meeting of Lodge Pandyan – with a lot of learning of various practices, lot of sharing of our customs and more importantly, getting to know and engaging with more of our brethren.

Thanks to the Worshipful Master, WBro Perumal Baskar for organizing this awesome outstation meeting. Thanks to the Worshipful Master of Lodge Gomantak, WBro Prasad Borkar and all the brethren of Lodge Gomantak for supporting in all ways and joining our meeting. Thanks to WBro Richard Gould for the fun time the previous day. Thanks to Bro Anshuman Alamuru, Lodge Deccan for joining our meeting and taking up the role of the Junior Deacon

### **THE KNOWLEDGE OF YOURSELF**

It is been shown that the structure and appointments of the Lodge are symbolic; that the Lodge is a representation both of the Universe and of man himself as a Microcosm or the Universe in miniature.

By contemplating that image, therefore, the Mason learns to visualize himself; he is given a first lesson in that self-knowledge in the full attainment of which is promised the understanding of all things. "Know thyself," we have said, was written over the portals of the ancient temples of Initiation, self-knowledge being the aim of their intention and the goal of their purpose. Masonry perpetuates this maxim by recommending self-knowledge as "the most interesting of all human studies."

It involves the deepest introspection into oneself and perfect discrimination between what is real and permanent, and what is unreal and temporary in ourselves. As aspirants to the Mysteries could not learn the secrets of the Temple without entering it, learning its lessons, undergoing its disciplines, and receiving its graduated initiations, no one can attain self-knowledge without entering into himself, distinguishing the false from the true, the unreal from the real and ignoring what is negligible or superfluous.

This attainment is the self-knowledge pointed to by the Craft teaching, and to which that teaching seeks to guide the reflections of every Masonic Initiation has no other end than this conscious union between the individual soul and the Universal Divine Spirit.

This union is symbolized by the familiar conjunction of the Square and the Compasses. The Square is the emblem of the Soul; the Compasses of the Spirit which indwells in that soul. At first the Mason sees the points of the compasses concealed behind the square, and, as he progresses, their points emerge from that concealment until both become superimposed upon the square. Thus is indicated the progressive subordination of the soul and the corresponding coming forward of the ultimate Spirit into personal consciousness, so that the Mason can "work with both those points," thus becoming an efficient builder in the spirit and rendering the circle of his own being complete by attaining conscious alliance with his ultimate and only true self.

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### **What are the Duties of a Mason to his Lodge?**

Well, his first duty is to pay his Dues, every year, and on time: because the lodge needs them to pay for the financial obligation a lodge incurs in order to be a lodge: rent, Grand Lodge fees, district fees, regalia, printing, postage, etc., etc.

The second duty is attendance to meetings. This obligation is clearly spelled out in the promise the member makes at the altar when he is initiated, passed, and raised. No one, as far as I know, was ever forced to join a lodge at the point of a gun, but did so of his own free will and accord, begging on his knees to be granted the privilege to become a member and a Mason. Every privilege is accompanied by certain duties, which, as a good and upright man, the member cannot disregard or chose to neglect. Of course there are exceptions and circumstances, by which the member is justly relieved from these duties — exceptional family and work demands, sickness, distance, and financial distress — but nothing more.

The third duty is participation in the works of the lodge: serving as an officer, as the chair or member of a committee, or participate in the rituals, when skills and time allow him to do so. There is nothing wrong for a member to justifiably recusing himself from this participation, and sit in lodge as an attentive spectator, for such attentiveness will lead to learning, and perhaps one day to participation.

The fourth duty is to improve the quality of the lodge and its activities. This requires of the member to pay attention to what is done by the lodge, in any of its endeavours; to assess its efficacy, and to come forward with any suggestion he believes will improve this efficacy, so the other members may consider it and, if found useful, adopt it.

A member's participation in the works of his lodge is not to be equated to an optional occasional visit to a social club or a coffee shop: the monthly summons is not just an information flyer sent by the lodge to its members — it is a Summons, a command, an order to attend.

( From WhatsApp)



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