

Justifying the Means

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Regional Provost Newsletter, Region 10

April 1, 2023

Are you a leader in Masonry or a man in Masonry? You wonder why to ask yourself this question. That is what we are here to discuss and understand. In too many Lodges, we find that our Brethren have not received the mentoring and training that would help them to provide the kind of leadership that inspires the Brethren and creates enthusiasm helping the Lodge to move forward in its endeavors.

How many know who is, Niccolò Machiavelli? He was a writer in the 1500s that authored many books. Even though he did not consider himself a philosopher, that is what he became. We want to look at one reference in the book "The Prince" and how it relates to Masonry, particularly the phrase, "the end justifying the means." Alternatively, the consequences of one's conduct are the ultimate basis for any judgment about the rightness or wrongness of that conduct. Performing a morally right act will produce a good outcome or consequence. In an extreme form, this idea is commonly called "the end justifies the means," meaning that if a goal is morally important enough, any method of achieving it is acceptable.

In Machiavelli's case, he believed men did not have to be ruled by fear or legitimate rights. But by correctly applying the leader's skill, talent, and strengths. Compelling people to be governed, in turn, maintaining safety and security.

Does this sound familiar? It should. The Lodge is ordered or directed in a Stated Meeting that does not stand upright to Masonic Protocol, Law, or Brotherly kinship. Or how often have you seen Brethren sit silently and pretend not to hear the Warden or master's plea to assist in taking a chair, a Committee, or to be a Mentor? It comes down to begging a Brother on the sidelines to do something. These examples happen in Lodges, where there is a leadership gap. None of the Brethren are working together. So, the next generation of Masonic Brethren/leaders fail at their Masonic duties.

We must pay more attention to mentoring these men and leading by example. They need to be encouraged and trained. If we fail to do so, many of them will drift away, but if we take the time and make an effort, our time and effort will be repaid with interest. We will have Brethren to call on when a Chair is vacant, or a position needs to be filled.

We must, as a Fraternity, focus on improving ourselves and the individual. We must learn to give and receive the proper instructions, work on our weaknesses, and build upon our strengths; then, the Lodge will have strong leadership. This will positively impact our community by populating it with

men who set the example and serve as role models for a just and moral society.

So, this is how we can perceive the end justifying the means in Masonry, that Masonry teaches the significance of being good and true by our honor and integrity. Without our honor and integrity, we cannot be true to ourselves and the people around us. Our actions would be without any meaning except selfish interests.

The Mason sees the views of others. He listens and thinks about what others are saying to understand them. The Mason does not belittle or slander others. His job is to see that anything from his mind, emotions, or mouth is the highest it can be for him. His emotions are always positive. The Mason's actions, feelings, and thoughts are synchronized with the teachings of Wisdom. He acts in the best interest of all concerned. Overall, in all his actions, he is presenting the strength of Brotherly Love.