

**“Remember, it is the internal qualifications, not the external, which recommend a man to be a Mason”.**

Companions,

Every month during my year in office, I was highlighting one of the qualities which Masons should possess, and it is important for each of us to examine ourselves to ensure that we continue to possess and display these qualities. This month is my final month as your Grand First Principal, and I hope you have enjoyed reading my newsletters.

For **May**, the quality is **Virtue**: Conformity to a standard of right; morality; a particular moral excellence; strength or courage; a commendable quality or trait; merit; capacity to act.

In Masonry, we learn of Masonic **virtues** (Temperance, Fortitude, Justice and Prudence). In fact, I have already outlined two of the traits in my July and September newsletters. So why should **virtue** be a quality in addition to the masonic **virtues**?

**Virtue** is a trait or quality that is deemed to be morally good and thus is valued as a foundation of principle and good moral being. Each of the qualities a mason should possess talks about a specific trait or behaviour. **Virtue** speaks specifically about behaviours showing high moral standards, doing what is right and avoiding what is wrong. In effect, **virtue** is the overarching quality one must possess in order to do what is right and moral of all the other qualities.

In looking back over the last year and reviewing the qualities a mason should possess here are the main thoughts for each one:

Brotherly Love: Feelings of humanity and compassion toward one's fellow humans.

Fortitude: Strength of mind to encounter danger, bear pain or adversity with courage.

Honor: Good name or public esteem: Reputation; a keen sense of ethical conduct.

Prudence: Ability to discipline oneself; good judgment in the use of resources; caution to danger or risk.

Humility: Freedom from pride or arrogance: the quality or state of being humble.

Temperance: Moderation in action, thought, or feeling, Restraint.

Relief: Removal or lightening of something oppressive, painful, or distressing

Justice: Impartial, or fair; righteousness; conformity to truth, fact, or reason: correctness.

Fidelity: Faithfulness to obligation, trust, or duty, being bound by pledge or duty.

Integrity: Firm adherence to a code of moral values: incorruptible; completeness.

Truth: Sincerity in action, character, and utterance.

It truly has been an honour to have served as your Grand First Principal for 2022/2023.

M. Ex. Comp. Ken