



FRANK REED HORTON MEMORIAL LODGE NO. 379, F. & A. M.

UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES

Lecture No. 2 **RIGHT OF REPRESENTATION** Series of 2010

April 6, 2010

By: VW Antonio C. Zeta

Quoted from Albert Mackey's "Jurisprudence of Freemasonry"

The ritual defines a Lodge as –

“an assemblage of Masons duly congregated, having the Holy Bible, square and compasses, and a Charter or Warrant of Constitution authorizing them to work.”

The latter part is a modern addition; no such instrument or Warrant of Constitution was required. The Old Charges describe a Lodge simply as *“a duly organized society of Masons.”*

- A. Anciently, Freemasons met and performed the work of Freemasonry, organizing temporary Lodges, which were dissolved as soon as the work for which they have been congregated were completed, without the necessity of a Warrant to legalize their proceedings.
- In 1717, four Lodges existing in London met by inherent rights as Freemasons and organized the Grand Lodge of England.
 - When satisfactorily completed, they adopted a code of thirty-nine Regulations which, like the Magna Carta of the English Barons, was intended, in all times thereafter, to secure the rights and privileges of the Fraternity from any undue assumptions of power from the Grand Lodge.
 - Then, as legal representatives for the craft, they surrendered for themselves and their successors this inherent right of meeting into the hands of the Grand Lodge; and the eighth Regulation went into operation — which requires any number of Freemasons who wish to form a Lodge, to obtain, as a preparatory step, to obtain the Grand Master's Warrant or authority.
- B. Whatever powers and prerogatives a Lodge may now possess are those which have already been inherent in it by the Antient Landmark of the Order. No new powers have been created in it by the Grand Lodge.
- The Regulations of 1721 were a concession as well as reservation on the part of the subordinate Lodges — the Grand Lodge being established for convenience in government.
 - Whatever powers it possesses were yielded to it freely by way of concession by the Fraternity, not as representatives of the Lodges, but as Lodges themselves convened in a general assembly.

One of these Rights of Lodges is to be represented at all communications of the Grand Lodge.

A. It is a Landmark of the Order that every Freemason has a right to be represented in all general meetings of the Craft.

➤ Mackey's Landmark No. 12 states:

"The right of every Mason to be represented in all general meetings of the Craft, and to instruct his representative."

➤ Formerly, as far back as 1717, "even the youngest Entered Apprentice" had a right to be present at the General Assembly of the Craft.

➤ Soon after, with the adoption of the Thirty-nine Regulations, it was determined to limit the appearance of the brethren of each Lodge so that the Grand Lodge, henceforth, became a representative body.

➤ The inherent right and the positive duty of every Freemason to be present at the Grand Lodge was relinquished and a representation by Masters and Wardens was substituted in its place.

B. The right of instruction follows, as a legitimate corollary, from that of representation.

➤ It is evident that a Lodge whose instructions to its officers for their conduct in the Grand Lodge should be obeyed to become their representatives in that body.

➤ Accordingly, the right of instruction is, for this reason, explicitly recognized in the General Regulations of 1721 (*Article X, Anderson*):

"The majority of every particular Lodge, when congregated, shall have privilege of giving instructions to its Masters and Wardens, before the assembling of the Grand Chapter or Lodge, at the three quarterly communications hereafter mentioned, and of the Annual Grand Lodges too; because their Master and Wardens are their representatives, and are supposed to speak their mind."

C. Our Constitution provides for these rights of Lodges to its representatives to the Grand Lodge.

➤ Art. III, Sec.2, Sub-Sec. n.

"To send representatives at each Annual Communication."

➤ Art II, Sec. 3, Sub-sec. w.

"To instruct its delegates to the Annual Communication as to how they shall vote on any manner."

Landmark No. 12, Article X of the General Regulations, Article III, Section 2, Sub-Section n and Article II, Section 3, Sub-section w of our Constitution are very clear. Lodges have representatives in all Annual Communications but how, if ever, are they given instructions? Do we know of any Lodge procedure or process by which these instructions are given to their representatives? In my 13 year as a Master Mason, I have not experienced nor heard of any process by which Lodges give instructions to their representatives.

One of the activities in an Annual Communication is the election of the Grand Lodge Officers — from the Grand Master down to the Grand Auditor by our representatives. Without instructions given by the Lodges, we can only guess that our representatives elect these officers from their own personal choices — totally inconsistent with the provisions of the Landmark, the General Regulation and our Constitution.

Knowing this, don't you think it is high time we think of ways to implement this Masonic Law?

One way of doing this is for Lodges to conduct an election of the Grand Lodge Officers similar to how their officers are elected in December. The Lodge Senior Warden can gather from the Grand Lodge advance information of the qualified candidates including the six (6) short-listed for the position of Junior Grand Warden. The Grand Wardens are normally elected by succession to the Oriental Chair; the incumbent Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, and Grand Auditor re-elected for continuity in the Grand Lodge operations. The results of this election, together with others matters taken up like approval of the minutes of the previous Ancom and Constitutional Amendments, etc. can serve as the official Lodge instruction to its representatives.

In so doing, Lodges shall elevate and expand its awareness and involvement at the Grand Lodge level and become more pro-active in the approvals, resolution proposals, amendments and implementation of Masonic Laws.