

The 70-MPH Ferrari

First imagine.....Ferrari announces a new model sports car with unmatched sophistication and performance that is unique to the world. It can attain speeds over 200 miles an hour and all the auto enthusiast publications have confirmed that this model has every technical detail anyone could ever need.

As a consumer you are excited about this technological wonder and you decide to purchase this Ferrari marvel. You go to the show room and purchase the vehicle. With the bill of sale in hand the salesman proceeds to tell you that the car can really only operate at 70 miles per hour in the United States and that all the technical specifications are pretty much useless in stop and go traffic. The salesman then continues to inform you that the vehicle really won't do anything for you on a personal level and it will never really fulfill your expectation.

Now make the substitution.....replace Ferrari with Freemasonry.

We have a Fraternity that receives publicity and attention from all over the world in every type of media available. Our Brotherhood is presented in ways that capture the imagination and interest of men who come seeking Light and Knowledge and during the interview process we tend to do a very good job of setting forth truths and expectations for the petitioner. It is sad that at some point after the First Degree is received, someone feels that they must tell the newly made Brother that we do not have any secrets, we have no connection to anything ancient, and if there was any knowledge we somehow lost the information without hope of recovery. Somehow, we seem to find the need to create a 70 mph Ferrari from what should be an experience that "slams you into the back of your seat with eyes wide open."

Each newly made Brother comes to us with his own unique understanding and expectation for what our Fraternity can do to fulfill his needs. To most, it is some combination of charity, Fraternity, and knowledge, and to all of them we have the ability to provide those aspects for which he yearns. As opposed to disillusion, our Fraternity has the opportunity to offer the newly initiated hope and guidance toward the fulfillment of his expectation.

As we invest our time and energy in performing the degrees to make a Master Mason it does not help anyone when we do not support the new Brother. It is a bit like advertising to new clients but ignoring the current ones. The Fraternity has lost untold opportunities as many of our new members become inactive from lack of continued interest or a series of disillusionments, but it is never too late try anew. As this new Masonic year moves forward, so moves our Degree work. We have the chance to support and assist every new Brother in his journey toward Light as Brothers who continually seek it together.

Include the new Brother as an observer to the various committees and meetings, and allow him to participate in the operation and running of the Lodge. Work with the new Brother in helping him to understand and appreciate the opening and closing Ritual of the Lodge. Start him with a place in the preparation room and give him a place in the Degree work. As Brothers on a common journey toward enlightenment, open up what we have to offer at full-throttle and help the new Brother find all that he imagined on his wide-eyed Masonic journey.