

MONTANA SUPPLEMENT



Editor: Daniel E Koch Jr. REPGC
dkoch911@yahoo.com, 406-861-9946

Ya got to have faith!

Greetings Sir Knights, by this posting you can see that I have thus far not only dodged the Corona crisis but also stayed away from the murder hornets and carnivorous cottontails and if you are reading this, than I can assume that you have done the same and I am very happy for that. It is truly a strange time we live in where it is unsafe and even forbidden to attend church or have a family gathering in your own back yard but it is perfectly fine to go to Walmart, the liquor store or the pot shop! That is neither here nor there, and when I took over as editor for the supplement, I promised that I would not use it as my own personal sounding board so I shall resist because with great power, comes great responsibility.

Anyway, by the time of this publication, I am hoping that we will be starting to return to some semblance of what life was like pre-corona. This is a beginning of July publication so many of our Grand functions may have already passed and most lodges, Chapters, Councils, Commanderies will have starting going dark for the summer but I have faith that our elected officers (in all of the Masonic bodies) will have done their very best to ensure that we can resume our labors in due season. There may be some special meeting that will need to be called to finish up loose ends before next Masonic year but again, I have faith that our leaders will do what is right for the betterment of Masonry in Montana.

Speaking of faith! Now more than ever we all need to have faith in our heavenly Father, and in those making the decisions that affect all of us locally and globally. I resurrected and re-edited the following from an article I wrote back in the day, but it fits us now.

A lesson of faith. Not one of this faith or that faith, or my Church or your Church, but just faith! Having faith in God, your family, your neighbors and yourself. My father sent me this passage some time ago, but it is just as fitting now as it was back then.

“Do you know the legend of the Cherokee Indian youths' rite of Passage? His father takes him into the forest, blindfolds him and leaves him alone. He is required to sit on a stump the whole night and not remove the blindfold until the rays of the morning sun shines through it. He cannot cry out for help to anyone! Once he survives the night, he is a MAN. He cannot tell the other boys of this experience, because each lad must come into manhood on his own.

The boy is naturally terrified. He can hear all kinds of noises. Wild beasts must surely be all around him. Maybe even some human might do him harm. The wind blew the grass and earth and shook his stump, but he sat stoically, never removing the blindfold. It would be the only way he could become a man! Finally, after a horrific night the sun appeared, and he removed his blindfold.... It was then that he discovered his father sitting on the stump next to him. He had been at watch the entire night, protecting his son from harm. We, too, are never alone. Even when we don't know it, God is watching over us, sitting on the stump beside us.”

Author unknown.

Moral of the story: Have faith, just because you can't see something, doesn't mean it's not there.

I know I make it difficult at first to see how I use story's to make my point, but understand that the boy had faith in his father, he sat blindfolded with nothing but faith that he would be okay come sunrise. Perhaps we can look at this story and have faith in ourselves that we will always be there for others, that others will be there for us and our Heavenly Father will always be sitting on the stump next to us. If you cannot believe that, then maybe you took your blindfold off before the sunrise.

I pray you all are staying healthy physically, mentally and spiritually and remember that just because we are not together, does not mean we are alone.

Respectfully submitted: Daniel E Koch Jr. PM, REPGC