

# MONTANA SUPPLEMENT



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## Can't we all just get along?

In light of all the dirt slinging and “he said, she said” in the world around us today, I feel blessed to be part of an organization that always seems to rise above the garbage that is floating around.

Because we are taught to never discuss politics or religious beliefs in our Masonic doing's in order to let peace and harmony prevail, I am not going to discuss politics or religion specifically but may make general references for the purpose of this article.

When we meet on the level and part upon the square, that does not only apply within the lodge room, “So may we ever meet, act and part” reminds us of that. Within the Masonic families, very rarely do we all agree with each other about religious, political or even everyday matters. What sets us apart from the rest of the “civilization” is the fact that we can be civilized.

If I make a statement about something that you have opposing views about, I do not have to worry about you being offended and I don't need to help you find a “safe place” for you to escape to where you can be sheltered from my scary opposing opinion that somehow is making it impossible for you to function as the individual you need to be.

That's is not how it works in our Masonic civilization. In our civilization, if I make a statement that is in opposition to what

you believe, you either present me with your opinion and we have a productive conversation discussing the finer points of both views, or you just don't say anything because in all actuality, my opinion has absolutely no bearing, no force and no influence on how you are going to live your life.

If I am a republican and you are a Democrat or if I am a Baptist and you are Catholic, that does not make me right and you wrong, that just means that we are individuals and our choices are right for us individually. You are not going to lose sleep or need therapy because I believe something you don't and the same rings true back on me. You are not going to run around to all my friends telling them that I am a right-wing Baptist nutjob because that is not what civilized people do.

Now just to clarify things, while I said my opinion has no bearing on you nor yours on me, that only applies to the scenarios previously stated. On other aspects of our daily lives, I value the opinions and insight from my Masonic family and will always welcome the whispers of good council in my ear. There is a distinct difference between political/religious views and our daily interactions with the world.

Since the beginning of time, man has never “always” agreed with each other. Man has come up with various ways of settling their disputes and disagreements including just agreeing to disagree and live and let live. It wasn't until recently that the world around us has become a place where you must conform to what certain others think and believe and if you don't, you are a racist, a sexist, a bigot, an idiot, uneducated or whatever other “ist” happens to be big at the time. There is no more “you do your thing and I will do my thing”.

That is why I am so proud to part of a civilization where we can honestly say “yes! we can all just get along.”

Respectfully submitted by: Daniel E Koch. REPGC