WHY LEARN THE CHARGES IN THE RITUAL WHEN WE MAY NOT PRESENT THEM IN OPEN LODGE

Recently I put forward the idea that we should all learn certain Charges contained in the Ritual, charges that we may never ever present in Open Lodge.

I received the answer….. *"why bother, especially as there was little chance to present those charges".*

Why indeed! I will try to explain it this way.

The memorization of all this ritual is not just some stunt, or challenge, but through the endless memorization process, we find intertwined, thousands of concepts, precepts, philosophies, moralities, and principals that cause us to pause for a moment as we study and think about what and who we are.

You must consider that the Ritual is a lesson in life.

With this effort, little by little, we begin to apply it to our lives.... a few words at a time.... a few phrases at a time... a few sentences at a time....then a page....and it takes quite a few pages, applied to our lives, to change us, to make us a Mason in the true sense of that word.

Our ritual is so obscure and so deep that there's no way we could perceive and assimilate all of it the first or second time, however over

the length of our Masonic career, each time we come back to it, we are going to learn something new.

I believe that knowing, understanding and committing the various Charges to memory is the key to success as a man and a Mason.

An additional advantage is that learning ritual requires short-term as well as long-term memory, draws upon multiple senses by requiring recitation out loud, and even exercises the brain in ways similar to learning a new language, thanks to the use of Ritual. In fact, memorization exercises, such as learning degree work, are beneficial for anyone to increase brain activity and health

The answer to the question is simplicity itself.

The lessons of the Craft are contained in its Ritual.

Learning, understanding, and ==living== the various Charges will indeed make us better men.

It is a win/win situation

This is what I think, what do you think.