

## **How strong is the community!**

### **On the situation of brothers in times of crisis**

**By Br. Ralf Bernd Herden**

Nothing is like it used to be. It remains to be seen whether Corona and the war in Ukraine alone are to blame. Probably not. Presumably only what has been languishing in the quiet background for a long time breaks out socially. It remains to be seen where the journey will go. And is in us (I Or Ego) to see us (family, lodge, society, state) and above us (again, like the ego, a highly personal issue).

No, a large dose of Moralin won't help us. It has been proven that many others, regardless of their persuasion, are better at this unsuccessful application. No, it's not about political know-it-alls either - I've somehow become ratios myself in the last few months. What was supposedly reliable has become unstable, we don't find the rock in the surf as much as we look at the shifting dune, which is constantly changing in appearance. You have become restless. And that is precisely why we need practical solutions. Solutions that can show us the way to strength, wisdom and beauty. Solutions in which we are vigilant and mindful - for ourselves, our families and our brothers.

There are brothers who are angry or at least upset because they feel left alone in the lodge: only very few brothers come to the well-organized temple work and brother evenings. Sometimes not even the official positions can be filled. A seemingly futile commitment can turn into great disappointment. Outright frustrating.

There are brothers who feel isolated from the Lodge. Who neither a visit nor a phone call, not even a regular newsletter reaches, who feel empty and forgotten. Silence has become hell.

There are brothers who feel disturbed by urgent brotherly invitations. Because they really wanted to come back, but they often have other worries in addition to the sometimes long journey: family and work, health and safety. Loving remembrance can become unwanted torment instead of wanted help.

There are brothers who have been hit in many ways - by the loss of close relatives, by the sometimes helpless agony in the lodges, by the catastrophic and existence-destroying economic consequences of the current situation - and the uncertain future.

Corona has actually lost as much as a topic of conversation in the box as politics or religion. As is well known, the issues harbor the danger of division. Or the arrogance: "Oh yes! - I'm really glad! Because, thank God! I'm not like that!", to paraphrase Wilhelm Busch. The realization came to me very emphatically: The supposed, own "wisdom" is not the same final conclusion.

However, it can also be enriching for all sides if opposing opinions for and against the corona measures are discussed objectively and calmly. Unfortunately, it cannot be ruled out that the pandemic is not over.

If everyone is tolerant and respectful, that's no problem. Otherwise it will definitely become a problem.

Not only hairdressers restaurateurs (also lodge castles!) and physiotherapists are still struggling to survive. It's up to us, who are perhaps not so badly affected by this burden: go to the hairdresser once more (or at all!) go to the hairdresser's, treat yourself to a snack or a glass at the castellan's or in the local inn - at the bookshop's reading material (preferably Masonic literature !) - and check the Masonic basic equipment, supplement clothing, ritual objects. Above all, think of our brothers here in our lodge, whose business has collapsed and has still not recovered. If we do not support their businesses, we will soon be without our own reliable sources of Masonic commodities. This too would be a great loss.

Nobody knows what the future will bring. But everyone can help to make it as positive as possible. Thinking ahead and acting ahead are required today more than ever. I thank the committed, the isolated, the burdened, the affected, the thoughtful and critical brothers - and among them especially the brave and confident brothers.

It is important to act. Each as he can, and each with deference and respect for the other brothers.

There are brothers who are also different for the above reasons already on the way. The way of the new design and experience.

That should, we sincerely wish, for each of them only be positive in nature.

And ultimately hopefully also for our lodges, our brotherhood.

Let's consider: The individual is so weak, the community is so strong

Or:

There is nothing good unless you do it. Let's shake hands in trust.

At least in spirit. Everyone acts according to their strengths and abilities. Let's get to work.

It's always the right time for that.

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