

September 11, 2026 #167

Dear Brethren and Friends,

Today marks the 25th anniversary of the attack on the US by Islamic jihadist ideology or what we call 9-11. It seems some have forgotten about this attack. Let's hope we remember for the sake of future generations.

Special Announcements:

Sept 22 (Tuesday) - This will be the Past Masters Dinner with ritual competition to follow. Dinner at 6 pm. All PM's are welcome.

Sept 29 (Tuesday) - 5th Tuesday Dinner. Family Movie Night. A family friendly movie after dinner. Lodge will supply the meat for the meal. And if we talk real nice to Richard and Roger, maybe they will make popcorn.

Saying of the Week

"Something I noticed about resilient people: They don't have fewer problems. They have faster reset times.

Bad news hits at 9 am. By 10 am, they're back to their priorities. They feel it, process it, and move. The speed of the reset matters more than the size of the setback." - Jaelen Kim

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Stop the Sabotage!



Augustine of Hippo 354–430 CE

Augustine of Hippo was one of the most influential thinkers in the development of Western Christianity. He lived during the final centuries of the Roman Empire and became Bishop of Hippo in North Africa.

His importance is that he brought Christian theology into conversation with Greek philosophy – especially Platonism – and developed ideas about human nature, morality, free will, evil, and God's grace that shaped Christianity for centuries.

Augustine was born in 354 CE in Tagaste, North Africa, in what is now Algeria. His mother, Monica, was a Christian, but Augustine did not initially embrace Christianity.

He was highly educated and became a teacher of rhetoric. In his younger years he pursued philosophy, ambition, relationships, and pleasure. His spiritual journey eventually led him back to Christianity.

One of the most famous descriptions of his conversion appears in his autobiography, *Confessions*, written around 397–400 CE.

His famous prayer captures his earlier struggle:

“You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.”

Augustine's thinking remains surprisingly applicable to today's world.

1. We can sabotage ourselves

Augustine recognized that knowing what is right doesn't necessarily cause us to do what is right. We can understand something intellectually while still being controlled by our desires.

2. What we love determines who we become

His concept of properly ordered love is especially relevant today. Ask: What do I spend my time, money and attention pursuing?

Augustine would say the answer reveals what we actually value – not necessarily what we claim to value.

3. Freedom isn't simply doing whatever you want

Augustine's concept of freedom is deeper than unlimited choice. A person can technically be free while being controlled by:

- greed
- anger
- addiction
- pride
- envy
- fear

True freedom involves becoming capable of choosing the good.

4. Evil can begin as something good that becomes corrupted.

- Ambition isn't necessarily evil.
- Money isn't necessarily evil.
- Power isn't necessarily evil.
- Pleasure isn't necessarily evil.

The problem occurs when a good thing becomes more important than it should be.

That is one of Augustine's most enduring insights.

Augustine and Freemasonry

There is an interesting philosophical intersection with the themes you've been studying in Freemasonry, although Augustine was obviously centuries before modern Freemasonry.

Several of his ideas resonate strongly with Masonic moral teaching:

- Self-examination → examining one's own character and shortcomings.
- Search for truth → intellectual and moral pursuit of truth.
- Self-mastery → controlling passions rather than allowing passions to control us.
- Moral improvement → becoming a better person through conscious effort.
- Brotherhood/community → recognizing that individual character affects the larger community.

There is also a particularly interesting connection to the Masonic emphasis on building. Augustine essentially viewed human character as something that must be continually ordered and rebuilt – moving from disorder toward truth, virtue and ultimately God.

A good Augustine quote:

“Do not go outside yourself, but enter into yourself, for truth dwells in the interior person.”

In modern language:

Before trying to fix the world around you, examine the person within you.

Augustine has several published works. Free copies can be found her:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/author/1156>

Almighty God, grant us the wisdom of the ages to more fully serve you. In His name I pray.
Amen.

Lodge Calendar

Sept 15 (Tuesday) - Stated Communication. Dinner at 6 pm lodge at 7 pm.

Sept 22 (Tuesday) - **Correction**, this will be the Past Masters Dinner with ritual competition to follow. Dinner at 6 pm. All PM's are welcome.

Sept 29 (Tuesday) - **Correction**, 5th Tuesday Dinner. Family Movie Night. A family friendly movie after dinner. Lodge will supply the meat for the meal. And if we talk real nice to Richard and Roger, maybe they will make popcorn.

Oct 6 (Tuesday) - Stated Communication. Dinner at 6 pm lodge at 7 pm.

Oct 13 (Tuesday) - Fellowship with dinner at 6 pm.

October 15 (Thursday) - District 12 meeting at Tulsa Lodge #71 located at 5925 E 9th St, Tulsa, OK 74112. Dinner at 6 pm with meeting to follow at 7 pm.

Oct 20 (Tuesday) - Stated Communication. Dinner at 6 pm lodge at 7 pm.

Oct 27 (Tuesday) - Fellowship with dinner at 6 pm.

Oct 31 (Saturday) - Broken Arrow Spooktacular - 5 pm to 9 pm. The lodge will be handing out candy and popcorn. We need lots of volunteers to help. The popcorn will be made at the lodge beginning mid-afternoon. Wear your favorite costume if you like.

Dec 1 (Tuesday) - Lodge election night and Stated Meeting. Dinner at 6 pm, Lodge at 7 pm.

Dec 6 (Sunday) - Officer Installation. 2 pm light refreshments to follow.

Dec 29 (Tuesday) - 5th Tuesday Dinner

See you at Lodge!

Sincerely,

W.: Scott A. MacDonald, Treasurer and Membership Calling Chairman