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A few years after the completion of King Solomon's Temple, which took many years and needed the help of many Masters, Fellowcrafts, and Apprentices, King Solomon ordered the building of a small temple not far away. Compared to the main temple, it was modest in size, but it would still need many Master Masons in order to complete.

But alas, many of the Masters that had completed the main temple had either moved away, retired, or decided that they had done enough, so found themselves working elsewhere. Seeing this, the remaining Masters decided that they needed to raise Fellowcrafts and Apprentices to Masters. Two Masters, Raanan and Alter, disagreed about how to raise Masters in order to complete the temple. Raanan wanted to raise as many Masters as possible, as quickly as possible, and use those Masters to raise other Masters. Alter wanted to have each Master apprentice one Fellowcraft, and each Fellowcraft apprentice one Entered Apprentice.

"We need many Masters, Alter, said Raanan, during one of their arguments, "and we need them to replace the Masters who are not here. It doesn't matter why those Masters aren't here, we need new Masters."

"I agree we need more Masters, Raanan," said Alter, "but they need to be raised so that they not only have the knowledge, but will stay and work on the new temple. Do not rush through this."

Raanan and Alter argued back and forth, and the temple was still not being built at the pace it should have been. Because of this, Raanan convinced enough Masters that they needed to raise as many Master Masons as fast as possible. Alter did not leave, but he tried to help Raanan as much as possible, taking newly raised Masters by his side to give them as much knowledge as possible.

Soon, there were enough Masters raised in order to continue the temple without interruption. But, as the construction continued, there were problems with the temple. Elder Masters would give the new Masters work that they were not prepared for and tasks they were for which they were not fit. While the new Masters had the knowledge, they did not have the experience. Walls did not fit right, and the mortar was weak. Elder Masters would have to redo the work correctly and would sometimes rebuke the newly made Masters.

Eventually, the new Masters would not show up for work and could not be found. When found, they would have other tasks to do that would, they said, would prevent them from being at work building the temple. Work slowed to a pace that made the Masters look incompetent. At a loss, they went to Alter, who was busy helping make the bricks for the temple.

“Alter,” they said, “what do we do? Raanan said to raise many Masters, and the temple is now almost not being built. What do we do?”

Alter, who had observed all that had passed over the last few years, stood up straight and smiled.

“Please bring me Raanan,” said Alter.

There was much hushed discussion about this, but eventually, Raanan was brought before Alter. Raanan did not look at Alter and kept his face down in shame. Alter came up to Raanan and held him by the shoulders.

“Raanan, you convinced the Brothers to raise many Masters as quickly as possible in order to finish the temple. You forgot your own journey in order to please Solomon. Solomon wants the temple to be built in order to stand for all time. We cannot do that if Masters have only the knowledge and not the experience. They need time in order to go through their degrees. Let them take their time.”

Alter then went to a bench and brought before Raanan the level, plumb and 24-inch gauge. Alter also brought to him, all Masters that could be found.

“Brothers,” Alter said, and he talked, he raised each of the working tools, “Brothers. We know what these are for. We need the plumb to make sure our vertical is straight to the heavens, the level is parallel to the Earth, and the gauge is to make sure the blocks are of the right size.

“But we have the experience to know not only how to use them, but that they make sure we have the time to work with them and know what they mean to the whole temple, not just the wall we are working on. For years now, we have raised other Masters and have not given them the time to understand this. This must change.”

Alter then took Raanan, his Brother, in his arms and said, “We will work together to raise Masters. We will tell Solomon that we need to take the time to make the temple and that we will raise Masters in order to complete the temple. I will need your help, and all Masters.”

So Alter set it in place in order to renew the Masters and complete the temple. It was different than his original plan. Each Master would, as they raise each degree, would take the time to let the knowledge of each degree be useful for the man. There wouldn’t be a rushing of degree work and the tasks afforded to each Fellowcraft, Entered Apprentice, and Master would be to their own ability and schedule. Each Brother would be encouraged to attend the work and reminded that there would be work, but also fellowship and refreshment that they could get nowhere else.

What Alter’s plan also included, was to find those Brothers that hadn’t been seen for some time, and get them to come back to work. But the absent Masters were asked to come in order to come to work for their knowledge and to let them be part of refreshment and fellowship.

At first, Alter's plan was slow to start. The absent Brothers would only come in ones and twos. The newly made Masters would come only if they knew they weren't tasked with work, and were respected. But, over time, more Brothers came to work in order to help build and then maintain the temple. They made sure the bricks were kilned properly and the mortar was mixed in the correct proportions. Brothers came and left. Some for a year or two, some for one or two meetings a year. But there was still a consistent amount of Brothers attending in order get the work done that would make the temple strong, and lasting for the ages.