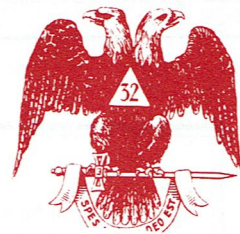




# The Rite Light



VALLEY OF ALBANY

ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY, N.M.J., U.S.A.

Vol. XXI

Winter 2000

No. 3

## Happy Holidays!





### Allegiance

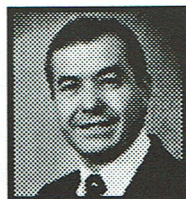
The Bodies of Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of Albany, State of New York acknowledge and yield allegiance to thy Supreme Council, 33° Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America, and whose Officers are:



Ill. Robert O. Ralston, 33°  
Sovereign Grand  
Commander



Ill. Harold L. Aldrich, 33°  
Deputy for the  
State of New York



Ill. Richard H. Welkley, 33°  
Active for Area 4

Ill. Robert O. Ralston, 33°  
*Sovereign Grand Commander*  
Ill. Lawrence D. Inglis, 33°  
*Grand Lieutenant Commander*  
Ill. Robert W. Clarke, 33°  
*Grand Minister of State*  
Ill. Harold L. Aldrich, 33°  
*Deputy for the State of New York*  
Ill. Bruce W. Widger, 33°  
*Active Member and Past Deputy*

### Active Members for New York

Ill. Richard H. Welkley, 33° (1991)  
Ill. Douglas K. Wilson, 33° (1995)  
Ill. Gary A. Henningsen, Sr., 33° (1998)

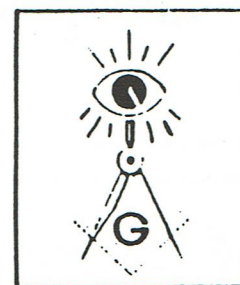
### Active Emeriti Members

Ill. John H. Van Gorden, 33° (1974)  
Ill. Ralph M. Tompkins, 33° (1981)  
Ill. James F. Niehoff, 33° (1991)  
Ill. Carlton A. Winchester, 33° (1992)  
Ill. Harold F. Dates, 33° (1995)

### Deputy's Representative

Ill. Alan C. Lewis, 33°

The RITE LIGHT is published quarterly by Scottish Rite Bodies, Valley of Albany, 67 Corning Place, Albany, NY 12207-1904.  
Richard G. Barrell, 33°, Editor, 869-0684 or 434-8970; Russell J. LaGrange, Jr., MSA, Assistant Editor 438-7128 or 457-6166.



Take a Good Look at  
**YOURSELF**

You're Somebody's  
Impression of  
**MASONRY**

**EXERCISE YOUR  
SAFETY SENSE**

"A compliment is  
verbal sunshine."

—Bob Orben in QUOTE



Season's Greetings and  
a Healthy, Happy and  
Prosperous New Year!



**HAPPY HANUKKAH**





# Important!

## Should the Valleys of Albany, Schenectady, & Troy Merge?

Our Active for Area Four, Ill..Richard H Welkley, 33\*, recently wrote to the Secretaries of each Valley informing them that he has met with a few concerned Brothers regarding the needs of the Valleys to a possible merger.

Discussions have touched on such topics as:

- 1 The difficulty in getting interested men to serve as Officers.
- 2 The difficulty in getting interested men to take part in the degrees.
- 3 The difficulty in getting Officers to attend Executive Board and Valley meetings.
- 4 The issues which keep our three Valleys separated.
- 5 The reasons why a merger would be good for Scottish Rite Masons in our three Valleys.
- 6 Where would a merged Scottish Rite Valley meet?

It was agreed that any proposed merger should be discussed with all the Valley members.

Considerations for the proposed merger would be:

- 1 To keep the Albany Lodge of Perfection intact since it is the oldest Lodge of Perfection in the world.
- 2 To name the Council of Princes of Jerusalem and the Chapter of Rose Croix as Delta and Sigma, denoting the Valleys of Schenectady and Troy.
- 3 To rename the Consistory with an appropriate new name.
- 4 To decide where this new merged Valley shall meet.

Ill..Richard H Welkley, 33\* Active will be with us at the next Chapter of Rose Croix Conclave, Thursday, December 7, 2000, to discuss the issues before us regarding a possible merger. Your attendance and input are needed.

Remember the date - December 7, 2000, at precisely 7:30 PM, in the Scottish Rite Hall, Albany Masonic Temple, corner of Corning Place and Lodge St.

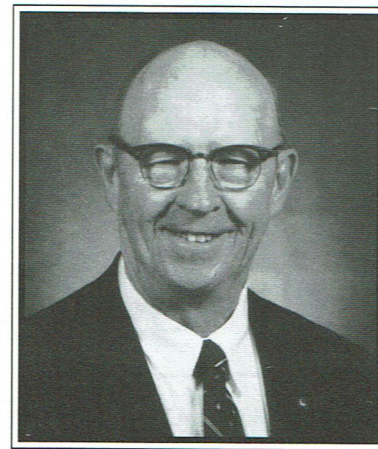
**NOTE - A VOTE TO MERGE OR NOT TO MERGE, WILL NOT  
HAPPEN AT THIS MEETING.**

**IF A VOTE IS TO BE TAKEN, IT WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
ARTICLES 323 & 324 OF THE BOOK OF CONSTITUTIONS.**



## The Commander-In-Chief's Message

HELLO AGAIN SUBLIME PRICES.



As your commander-in-chief sits at his desk he feels the beginnings of the chill of winter. Hopefully it will not hit too hard and cause discomfort.

As you all know October 13, 2000 was a Testimonial dinner for three sublime Princes. Two for M S A awards and one thirty third degree honarary. A great evening and many accolades were given. These people have devoted many hours of their time for the benefit of their craft and community: well deserved honors.

October 21, 2000 saw our Fall Reunion portrayed with the help of the Troy Delta Bodies and Schenectady Sigma Bodies. A good day was had by all: A lot of hard work, but satisfying rewards.

Although we had only seven candidates, I feel the day was a success due to the fact the new Princes were visibly impressed. While I am on this subject, let us try to have a bigger class for our Spring Reunion. Elsewhere in this Rite Light you will see twelve reasons why Freemasons should attain the thirty second degree along with a few questions and answers. Read, heed and bring in those petitions.

The workings for our new center for children with learning problems (Dyslexia) are still moving along although rather slowly due to problems with many restrictions placed in our path at the Delmar location. It appears that a new location will be on the grounds of the East Greenbush Masonic Temple. More on this as developments take place.

Sublime Princes, I must close for now, work in other quarries of Masonry and work at home beckon. Happy Holidays to all and we will see you soon.

Sincerely & Fraternally,



*Lewis O. Slocum*

Lewis O. Slocum  
Commander-in-Chief

### Why The Yule Log?

The Yule log originally had a practical purpose—a large log was burned simply to keep the great halls of chilly English houses warm in the holiday season.

In pagan England, a log was burned as part of the mid-winter Yule festival. Eventually the lighting of a Yule log from the unburned remnant of the previous year's log became a tradition of the Christmas holiday.





## Masonic Light *as seen by the*

*Sovereign Prince  
Troy Delta Council of  
Princes of Jerusalem*



Robert R Roseberger, 32\* MSA

Greetings to All Valiant Princes:

As Free and Accepted Masons and Scottish Rite Masons in particular, we are taught thirty-two degrees of valuable lessons to apply to our daily lives to better serve ourselves as well as mankind. However, in addition to those Masonic teachings, as we travel along life's pathway, we also hear or read philosophical quotes or sayings to enhance our being. Many of those quotes stick with us to serve as gems of wisdom. Listed below are some I hope will remain with you to be applied in your daily lives.

*Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.*

*He who receives a benefit should never forget it; he who bestows one, should never remember it.*

*If a task is once begun, never leave it 'till it's done. Be the labor great or small, do it well or not at all.*

*Success or failure in doing anything is caused more by mental attitude than by mental capacities.*

*Light is the task where many share the toil.*

*There is something that is much more scarce, something finer by far, something rarer than ability; it is the ability to recognize ability.*

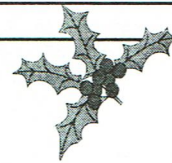
*Never measure the height of a mountain until you have reached the top. Then you will see how low it was.*

*Wonderous is the strength of cheerfulness, and its power of endurance. The cheerful man will do more in the same time, will do it better, will persevere in it longer than the sad or sullen.*

*and lastly,*

*Some days you feel like the dog, and on others you feel like the hydrant*





# Scottish Rite supp

## The 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children

The 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children program was established in 1994 to provide dyslexic children with specialized tutoring to enable them to read and write more effectively. This service, offered free, will be offered at 55 centers in the 15-state jurisdiction by 2003. Twenty-four centers are open to date, already resulting in many success stories of young children being able to overcome their disability. **In the year 2000, the Supreme Council has appropriated \$4 million to the building and maintenance of the learning center program.**

## Schizophrenia Fellowships

Schizophrenia Fellowships have been supporting schizophrenia research at designated colleges and universities since 1935 by providing fellowships for graduate students interested in the mental health research field. Scottish Rite donates more than \$150,000 toward research fellowships each year. Scottish Rite in the Northern Jurisdiction has been in the forefront of the fight against mental illness and schizophrenia, the most prevalent and serious type of mental affliction. Several hundred projects have received Scottish Rite grants totaling more than \$21 million. The emphasis is placed on fellowships for graduate students in behavioral science at colleges and universities located within the 15 states of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.



# ports four charities



## Leon M. Abbott Scholarships

Leon M. Abbott Scholarships provide financial support for the continuing education of young men and women from Scottish Rite families and Masonic-related youth groups. Since 1951, more than \$3 million has been awarded to students from each state of the Northern Jurisdiction. Freedom, understanding, and brotherhood are dependent upon our ability to reason effectively. That is why the Masonic fraternity, and Scottish Rite in particular, have long been committed to fostering the value of education. The Abbott Scholarships began with a portion of the legacy of the late Leon M. Abbott, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander from 1921-1932. Each year nearly 400 scholarships are awarded to eligible and deserving students attending accredited colleges, universities, and specialty schools.

## The Museum of Our National Heritage and Library

The Museum of Our National Heritage and Library provides Masons all over the jurisdiction with information on the history of our country, as well as, the history of Masonic and other fraternal organizations. The museum consists of the Stanley F. Maxwell Auditorium used for educational and community events, the James Francis Farr Conference Center and the Van Gorden historic library. Traveling exhibits help expand the museum's scope and benefit the brethren who do not live close at hand.

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VALLEY OF NEW CASTLE



## Twelve Reasons Why Freemasons Should Attain the 32nd Degree

1. The degrees in Scottish Rite Masonry permanently fasten in the mind of the candidate the basic principles of the order through the beauty and dramatic impressiveness of the work.
2. They present an unexcelled opportunity for the practical demonstration of the teachings of Freemasonry.
3. Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Masonry provides the necessary historical background for an intelligent and effective appreciation of Masonic philosophy.
4. They create within you a greater love for chivalry; a greater respect for philosophy, and a never-ending love for your mother Lodge.
5. They give you a greater incentive to higher thoughts and nobler deeds, because of greater knowledge of your responsibilities and the history of the institutions of the Scottish Rite.
6. These degrees inculcate patriotism, respect for law and constitutional government, causing one to be less partisan, less sectarian and more democratic.
7. Fellowship in Scottish Rite Masonry is greatly enriched by the sense of a common experience and a kindred spirit, breaking down the barriers of political animosity and sectarian alienation and other influences that tend to divide men.
8. In the degrees of Scottish Rite Masonry the great essentials of our human and Divine relationships are taught through the medium of the spoken word and the dramatic reproduction of many of these fundamental relationships.
9. Scottish Rite Masonry expresses a profound belief in the capabilities of human nature, the willingness of the Divine to reinforce the human, and the betterment of the world by the cooperation of God and man.
10. The degrees teach you how to participate in the glorious work of spreading the propaganda of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man, so that in time to come, the words of the Master may be fulfilled when He said, "I will draw all men unto me."
11. It will bring to you many new friends whom you would not meet otherwise.
12. It presents to you an opportunity to obtain that coveted ambition to become a Thirty-second Degree Mason.

## A Few Questions and Answers

*Q. What is the Scottish Rite?*

A. It is a branch of Freemasonry, membership in which is limited to those who are Master Masons in a recognized Masonic Blue Lodge.

*Q. How many degrees in it?*

A. thirty, from the fourth to the thirty-third inclusive.

*Q. Why does it begin at the Fourth degree?*

A. Because the first Three Degrees are under the jurisdiction of the various state Grand Lodges in this Country.

*Q. Where are the Fourth to the Thirty-second degrees conferred?*

A. The Fourth to the Fourteenth degrees are conferred in a Lodge of Perfection. The Fifteenth and Sixteenth degrees in a Council of Princes of Jerusalem. The Seventeenth and Eighteenth degrees in a Chapter of Rose Croix. The Nineteenth to Thirty-second degrees in a Consistory of Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret.

*Q. What about the Thirty-third degree?*

A. This degree can never be applied for and is conferred by the Supreme Council only as an honorary degree.

*Q. How widely distributed is the Scottish Rite?*

A. Universally.

*Q. How many Grand Jurisdictions are there in the United States?*

A. Two, the Northern and the Southern.

*Q. What States does the Northern Jurisdiction embrace?*

A. Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin.

*Q. What States does the Southern Jurisdiction embrace?*

A. All of the balance.

*Q. What is the total 32nd degree membership in the Northern Jurisdiction?*

A. 448,305.

## Who Is Eligible?

A Blue Lodge Mason having resided in the State of New York for one year and who is in good standing in his Blue Lodge, in any State or Country That is recognized by the New York Grand Lodge eligible for membership.

Members of any Scottish Rite Body in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction may affiliate without any affiliation fee.

*A petition should be in the hands of a Blue Lodge Brother. Will you put it there?*

## SOME PEOPLE ARE LIKE POTATOES....

There are those who are content to watch while others think and work. They are called "*Spec Tators*".

Some never help, but are gifted at finding fault and telling others how to do it. They are called "*Comment Tators*".

There are people who cause problems by asking others to agree with them that it is too hot, too cold, too sour, or too sweet. They are called "*Agri Tators*".

Then there are people who say they will help, but somehow they never get around to it. They are "*Hezzie Tators*".

There are some people who pretend to be someone they are not. They are called "*Emma Tators*".

Those who are bossy and like to tell others what to do, but would not soil their own hands may be called "*Dick Tators*".

Then there are those who smile and do what they say they will. They are always prepared to lend a helping hand.

They bring real sunshine into the lives and work of others. They make work and life flow more smoothly for everyone. They are called "*Sweet Tators*".

*From The Northern Light*





## Greetings from the Most Wise Master

Brother Knights:

I am requesting your attendance at our Regularly stated communication on Thursday, December 7th for the purpose of hearing Ill. Richard Welkley, 33<sup>rd</sup> Active present a proposal to merge the Valleys of Albany, Schenectady and Troy into one Valley for the Capital District of New York State. It will give each of us the opportunity to ask questions and/or make comments on such a proposal. Your presence is earnestly requested as we are at a very critical point in Scottish Rite Masonry considering the Shrines decision to eliminate Scottish Rite or York Rite membership as a requirement to become a Shrine Noble.

Our recent reunion, which was a success, may even have been more impressive if there were more brothers in attendance to take part in the degrees. Could a merged valley with degree teams from each of its constituent parts contribute to such?

We need to take pride in ourselves as Scottish Rite Masons. By setting good examples perhaps we could get interested Masons to join Scottish Rite, serve in the capacity of elected valley officers and they, in turn, attract other good men to our ranks.

I always encourage members of each of our four bodies to attend meetings of the other bodies. Often interesting, educational and enlightening programs are presented such as the fencing demonstration at the last Lodge of Perfection's Meeting. Although our December 7th meeting is without entertainment; it's vital concerns necessitate your presence and participation.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at our communication. Wishing you and your families a very Happy Thanksgiving and joyous and peaceful Holiday Season.

Most Wise Master



### Christmas

Christmas, Dec. 25, is the most widely observed Christian festival of the year. The date was designated in 336 A.D. as a celebration of the birth of Christ. The true date of His birth is unknown. Historians believe that Dec. 25 was chosen for celebrating the Christ's Mass (Christmas) because it would correspond with the Winter Solstice, which, at the time was believed to occur on that date.

Many of the customs associated with Christmas are related to celebrations of the Solstice—decorating with evergreens and mistletoe, for example. Many other Christmas traditions, such as the exchanging of Christmas cards, are relatively new, originating in the mid-19th century, though gift giving figures date back to pagan times. Our modern day version of Santa Claus was created in 1822 when Clement C. Moore penned "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Until then, St. Nicholas, the patron Saint of Children, was celebrated on Dec. 6. His day is still celebrated on that date in Canada by the Dutch and German communities and by many Eastern Europeans.

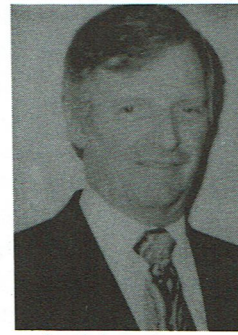




## A Word From the Sovereign Prince

Valiant Princes:

Receiving the Meritorious Service Award was not only a great honor, it was a complete surprise to me. I am truly humble, and wish to thank everyone who had anything to do with submitting my for consideration. I will try to uphold your faith and trust that you have reposed in me.



With the approaching Holiday Season of Christmas and Hanukkah, I wish everybody best wishes, good health and happiness, and prosperity for the New Year in 2001. I hope we can keep the joyous spirit that blossoms this time of the year for the following eleven months instead of letting it fall away.

Getting Brothers to participate in the various degrees during reunions is still a challenge. Your help - whether a long speaking part, a short speaking part or a non-speaking part - is desperately needed. Many of our key participants have either died or are physically unable to take an active part. Won't you help? You may find it enjoyable and self gratifying.

Several concerned Brothers from the Valleys of Albany, Schenectady and Troy have been meeting with the Active for Area Four, Ill..Richard H Welkley, 33\*, to discuss mutual problems in the Valleys such as difficulty in getting qualified members to serve as officers, difficulty in getting officers to be active in committees and other functions, problems in putting together degree teams, etc.

In view of the above, it is the consensus that the three Valleys should merge.

To hear more about a possible merger of the three Valleys, make every effort to attend the next meeting of the Chapter of Rose Croix, Thursday, December 7, 2000, when you will hear what is being proposed and have any questions answered. In any event, **no vote to merge** will be taken at that time.

Brethren, in making out your list of New Year's resolutions, please give some thought to adding the following allies to your attitude:

1. Show appreciation at every opportunity. Make people feel important.
2. Make it a rule in everything you do, to give people more than they expect to get.

Happy Holidays!

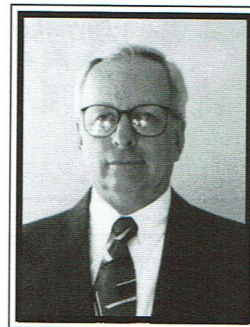
William F Okesson Jr  
Sovereign Prince





## Update Commentary From The Thrice Potent Master

Dear Respectable Brethren:



William Minor Korn

Now that November is here we are nearing the end of the year two thousand. Thinking back to a year ago there seemed to be worldwide concern over what would happen to our computer electronics when the New Year came. Well my brethren January 1<sup>st</sup> came and went and nothing really changed. We got through it.

During the year changes came to our fraternity. The Rites bodies are no longer a prerequisite to Shrinedom. There has been and will be some effects and concerns, but we will get through it. In our first Scottish Rite Reunion since the change we still had a class of fifteen, which is about our average.

Has this change affected the Shrine? From my position in the Shrine, I can report that a little less than half of the candidates for the Shrine's upcoming Ceremonial are Scottish Rite Masons. Many members in the Shrine are still encouraging involvement in the Rites.

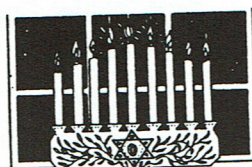
The Ineffable and Sublime Grand Lodge of Perfection has had two meeting thus far this fall. Attendance seems to be up and I am proud to report that most of the officers were present. Both of the programs seemed to be well received. Our next meeting will be held on February 8, 2001. Shirley Carman, past president on the local and regional level for the Daughters of the American Revolution will give an informative and interesting presentation. There will be refreshments served afterwards. I encourage you to plan on attending.

Lastly, as we near the year's end, I extend to you and yours a most joyous Holiday Season and best wishes for the New Year.

Fraternally,

*William M. Korn*

William M. Korn  
Thrice Potent Master



### Top 10 Grocery List

According to FitnessLink.com, the top 10 items sold in grocery stores are:

- Marlboro cigarettes.
- Coca-Cola – Pepsi-Cola.
- Kraft processed cheese.
- Diet Coke.
- Campbell's soup.
- Budweiser beer.
- Tide detergent.
- Folger's coffee.
- Winston cigarettes.

If your four basic food groups consist of tobacco, pop, beer, and soup you may have health problems.



## Where There's a Will There's a Way

Your will is one of the most important documents you will ever sign. To avoid problems, consider the following:

**1. Do it now.** The worst thing you can do in creating a will is to procrastinate. A will delayed is a will not done. Now is the time-while you are able-to plan for the future.

**2. Seek professional assistance.** Saving a few dollars by writing your own will or using a mass-produced generic form will not provide the level of inner peace and confidence you and your family deserves. A qualified estate planning attorney who knows how to draft a will that meets the specific requirements of your state of residence will meet your individual needs.

**3. Don't rely on it solely.** Your will needs to be considered along with other transfer documents, such as life insurance policies, joint-ownership accounts and retirement accounts. Other estate planning documents might include: power of attorney, appropriate health care provisions and a living will.

**4. Revisit your will periodically:** Things change. Children grow up. New laws are passed. New developments occur regarding health issues and financial resources. It's a good idea to review your will every year.

**5. Keep a copy of your will with your lawyer:** A will is worthless unless it can be located and duly recorded at your passing. Let someone know where it is. A little foresight can spare your family added stress during their time of grief. A copy can go in your files at home, but your lawyer should have the original.



## Master Masons Need the Scottish Rite

Freemasonry is mystical and as such is satisfying to the spiritual hungering of man. In the Blue Lodge degrees our spiritual minds were stirred as we sought more and more light. There is, however, still a hungering and a thirsting for more and more of what we received in the Blue Lodge.

Step by step the initiate goes, seeking more and more light, from the Fourth through the Thirtieth Degrees until his quest is climaxed in the last of the Philosophical and Chivalric Degrees. The light of knowledge bursts forth into the brilliance of eternal truth in the Thirty Second Degree.

At the end of a journey one is better able to appreciate the begin-

ning; at the end of the Scottish Rite, we as Master Masons appreciate more completely the degrees of the Blue Lodge.

As a progressive science, Freemasonry is not confined to three degrees only; the teaching of liberty, equality and common welfare are too wide to be so restricted. Freemasonry is the protagonist of the modern world of freedom, against which great political forces are in suppressive reaction.

The twenty-nine Scottish Rite degrees are progressive steps in moral and philosophical knowledge, based upon three preliminary degrees of the Master Mason series. The second degree of the Blue Lodge supplements the first degree, and the third degree supplements the second; likewise the successive Scottish Rite degrees add to those which precede, and make a complete system of Freemasonry.

The twenty-nine degrees of The Scottish Rite are expressive of the liberalizing forces of a thousand struggling years; they exemplify broadened aspirations of the Apprentice, the Fellowcraft, and the Master Mason; they mark progressions of intellectual and cultural attainment; they fortify the institutions of the New world America.

The heritage of history, philosophy, religion, morality, freedom and toleration, inspire the Scottish Rite degrees. The portrayal honors the martyrs of progress who have suffered and died that others may enjoy and live.

## This Will Make You Smile

A young boy had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said to him, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your bible a little, and get your hair cut, then we will talk about it."

A month later the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss his use of the car.

His father replied, "Son I'm real proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you've studied your bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut!"

The son waited a moment and replied, "You know dad, I've been thinking about that. You know Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair."

His father replied, "Yes son, you're right, and they walked everywhere they went."

