

Mr. Carl C. Corbin  
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6 July, 2009

154<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication  
All Grand Lodge Officers, Past Masters, Worshipful Masters, Senior and  
Junior Wardens & Brothers of  
Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge  
Free and Accepted Masons  
State of California, Incorporated

Attn: Grand Lodge Session

Subject: Appeal of Unlawful Suspension

The first three degrees and the lectures, obligations and the charges at opening and closing is a guide for every good man and mason to become better. Justice is that standard or boundary of right which enabled us to render to every man with or without distinction his just due. This virtue is not only consistent with divine and human laws(**Constitution of the United States for ALL CITIZENS**), but is the very cement and support of civil society; and as justice is a great measure which constitutes the real good man, so should it be the invariable practice of every mason never to deviate from the minutest principles thereof.

Since the close of our 153<sup>rd</sup> Annual Communication, I have lost family members and friends near and dear to my heart which has affected me greatly. During this time, I received the letter from the Most Worshipful Grand Master informing me, that I was suspended from masonry for contumacy which is defined as stubborn refusal to submit to authority (Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge), especially that of a law (MWPHGL Constitution and By-Laws), court (Lodge/Grand Lodge In Session); insubordination; disobedience (to Worshipful Master/Grand Master) (See attachments).

I plead Not Guilty.

## WIN WITH CLASS/LOSE WITH CLASS

It is with regret that a very well respected Past Master from Pennsylvania and United Supreme Council North, Past Secretary General of the Holy Empire, SGIG Winston O. Williams, a family member and my advisor, has been called to rest without knowing what part of our constitution did I violate that would warrant an automatic suspension without a trial, commission or hearing/plea. I have read our constitution and by-laws several times and have yet to find anything in regards to an automatic suspension without due process.

On 15 April 2009 (See Attachments), I requested a copy of the attested charges which distinctly specify the particular nature of the conduct, time and place of its commission which is said to be contumacy concerning the Grand Lodge. I have not received a response as of this date. The accused should be furnished with an attested copy of the charge or charges and at the same time informed of the time and place for the trial, commission or hearing/plea. The charge should set forth the offence with clearness and certainty, and it must distinctly specify the nature of the offence. No one can be prepared with evidence to rebut that of which he is ignorant. No man or mason should be taken by surprise; but there is no more certain mode of doing so than to call him to answer to an indefinite charge, the particulars of which are only to be made known at the moment of trial, commission or hearing/plea.

During the last 26 years, we (Carl C. Corbin, wife Patricia, mother and family) faithfully gave to this Grand Lodge our heart and soul, time and support to this Grand Lodge. It was not for me but for the betterment of this Grand Lodge and the Prince Hall Family because we believe in the organization. This automatic suspension has drastically affected me and my family, more especially my wife, who are members of the Prince Hall Family.

I learned a long time ago, from very well respected members of this jurisdiction (past and present) and other jurisdictions when I became a mason, that this is not an I organization but a WE organization. I have held that to heart and through out my travels, it was sent loud and clear to all that attended the workshops that I facilitated. I was not going to write an appeal because I did not do anything to harm our Grand Lodge before or after my

last appearance at the altar and the close of Grand Lodge 2008 to the date of suspension.

After leaving Grand Session in Ontario, CA last year, the MWGM Charles E. Tyner, called to let me know that he had no intention of suspending me. However, Should I have been questioned by the Grand Master or Investigating Committer before this suspension? Would I be found guilty because I did not respond? How can my suspension be put before the Grievance and Appeals Committee without my rebuttal? Am I allowed to speak for myself before a sentence is rendered? Am I allowed to question allegations/charges? Am I allowed to be represented? Am I allowed to have a detailed copy of charges/allegations stating dates and time of contumacy against the Grand Lodge? What happened to innocent till proven guilty? Why am I suspended till after the close of this session? Is there a place for hate and ego in masonry? Is there a guide or reference book for a sentence/punishment? Is this masonry at its best or worst? Are we allowed to exercise our constitutional right as men and masons without the fear of reprisal? Can we stand up as men and masons for what we believe without the fear of reprisal? What is the real reason for all of these suspensions? Is it because they second my nomination at the 153<sup>rd</sup> Grand Lodge Session? Is it really worth being a member anymore? When do we correct as men and masons injustice? Do we rubberstamp approval of injustices because we fear reprisal? Why all of a sudden there are so many suspensions? Do we have the right as men and masons to determine our future? I am sure that questions can keep going into infinity. You do not know what it feels like to come home and there is a suspension letter waiting for you. This is an issue for all masons assembled at the 154<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication to address. If you believe that I have a right to stand and speak for myself in front of Grand Lodge Session or the Grievance and Appeals Committee, please call me at 323-730-1917 and I would take the time to address this matter with you.

Finally, as a character reference, consider the service I have rendered to this Grand Lodge and the Prince Hall Family with an overwhelming approval of stewardship reports as Junior & Senior Grand Warden and Deputy Grand Master. It was always my intention to work in the best interest of this Grand Lodge and promote peace and harmony with the Prince Hall Family and not what is best for me. Too Err is human; To Forgive is Divine, if in fact I did err?

Carl C. Corbin