EMESSAY NOTES

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Short Talk Bulletin Podcast Note

My name is David Dyke, I am a Freemason from Missouri, Sparta Lodge No. 296 A.F. & A.M. where I currently hold the Junior Steward seat.
I discovered the Short Talk Bulletin podcast from the MSANA website several months ago, and it has been life changing. I have listened to a new podcast every day, sometimes two or three a day.
This has been one of the most profound things to happen to me in my Masonic journey. I have learned more about the craft in a few months than I did in fifteen years of going to Lodge.
I recently subscribed to the Short Talk Bulletin monthly and am encouraging my lodge brothers to listen as well.
I will wrap up here by saying thank you for providing this service, it is greatly treasured.
Very respectfully
Dave Dyke

The Ten Commandments of Suit Style
by Angel Millar
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As Freemason, author and playwright Oscar Wilde once said, “It is only shallow people who do not judge by appearances. The true mystery of the world is the visible, not the invisible.” But if you want to embody the mystery, you’ll need to do it with taste and style. Below are ten tips to help you dress with a little more sophistication both inside and outside of lodge.
(1) Think about the fit. Men sometimes choose to wear a suit because they think it will signal that they are professional or that they’ve “made it.” However, the point of clothing is not to draw attention to it, but to draw attention to the person wearing it. An ill-fitting, oversized suit with shoulders that seem to hang over the arms will only have everyone noticing what’s wrong. Get yourself measured and get your suit adjusted so that it shows you off.
(2) Think about the fabric. A suit made from plain, slightly shiny navy fabric isn’t very interesting and can make you look like a security guard or a waiter. Think about twill, herringbone, pinstripe, or another slightly textured fabric. This is more visually interesting and appealing. If you really want a shiny suit then try silver, gray, or black.
(3) Think about your height and size. Suit details will have a different effect on shorter men than they do on taller men, and a different effect on stockier men than on slimmer men. The point, of course, is to keep details in proportion with the suit. In general, if you’re slimmer, you can keep the lapels a little thinner. If you have a wider girth, go with a slightly wider lapel.
If you're a little shorter, forego the belt. This will only visually break up your body and will make you look shorter. If you're very tall, however, a belt might be a good idea, since it will visually break up the length of your body.

(4) Pant breaks—yes, or no? Pants come to an end with a full-break, half-break, or no break. The "break" is the crease in the bottom of the front of the pant leg. The longer the pants relative to your legs, the more of a break you will get. Shorter men can get away with shorter pants, i.e., no break (it looks intentional) but shouldn't wear a full break since it just makes it look like you're wearing a suit that is too big for you. Conversely, if you're tall, shorter pants are going to make you look like you're so freakishly tall that you can't fit into a regular-sized suit, so go with a half or full break (that will look intentional on you).

(5) Vents—single, double, or none? Double vents on the back of a suit jacket are traditional. No vents can look cheap, and if you put your hands in your pants pockets while wearing a suit jacket with a single vent it can open and look unflattering from behind, drawing attention in the wrong way. In general, stick with double vents.

(6) Pockets. The pockets are often stitched closed on a new suit. If you intend to use your pockets or intend to wear a pocket square, you can unpick the stitching. Otherwise, leaving pockets closed will keep the suit in better condition.

(7) Remove the tag. Another thing you'll often find on a new suit is a fabric brand name tag on the outside of the suit. They're often sewn onto the sleeve, near the buttons. Sometimes men leave the tag on after they've purchased a suit. And, of course, it can be tempting to show the world that you're wearing a Hugo Boss. But, like price tags, brand tags are supposed to be removed. Leaving them on will only make you look like you don't know what you're doing.

(8) Don't do up every button. Moms always want to make sure their little boys do their coats up properly. But you're a man. On a two-button suit, you should only do the top button up. Leave the other undone and show your relaxed confidence. On a three-button suit, it's traditional to only do up the middle button. (Personally, since I like to look a little more regimental, I often do up the top two, leaving only the bottom undone. It's the sartorial equivalent of drinking red wine with fish. But you can always get away with breaking a rule if you know why you're breaking it—especially if you studied menswear at Saint Martin's College, London.) In general, you should only do up every button on a suit jacket if it has only one.

(9) Avoid ties with lovable children's cartoon characters. You might think a tie covered with a print of your favorite cartoon character shows your personality. It doesn't. No one can be lovable and quirky all day long. You need to make serious decisions and speak with people professionally. Also, you're an adult. Try a classic stripe, houndstooth, or small, woven polka dot. Introduce a little more texture and go for a grenadine, dobby, or jacquard weave. Or be a little more daring (in an adult way) with a printed floral or a woven paisley tie.

(10) What goes for ties, goes double for socks. Get some decent dress socks. These are thinner than your everyday pair and perfect for a few hours socializing on your feet. Dress socks come in a range of colors, motifs, and patterns, from woven textures to stripes and herringbone. In general, go with a pattern that's subtle, sophisticated, and works with your suit. A little pop of color often works well but avoid garish colors, brand logos, and cartoon characters.