



J. F. Swartsel lodge No. 251 F. & A.M. Trestleboard

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Welcome back to J.F. Swartsel Lodge my Brothers!

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On behalf of the WM Feldman and the Officers of JFS, we hope you have a safe and happy Holiday season!

Your Catechism Instructors for the three symbolic degrees in Freemasonry are:

W. Jerry M. Snell, Jr. - W. Stephen Edson – Br. Raymond Ciunci – Br. Allan A. Jenkins

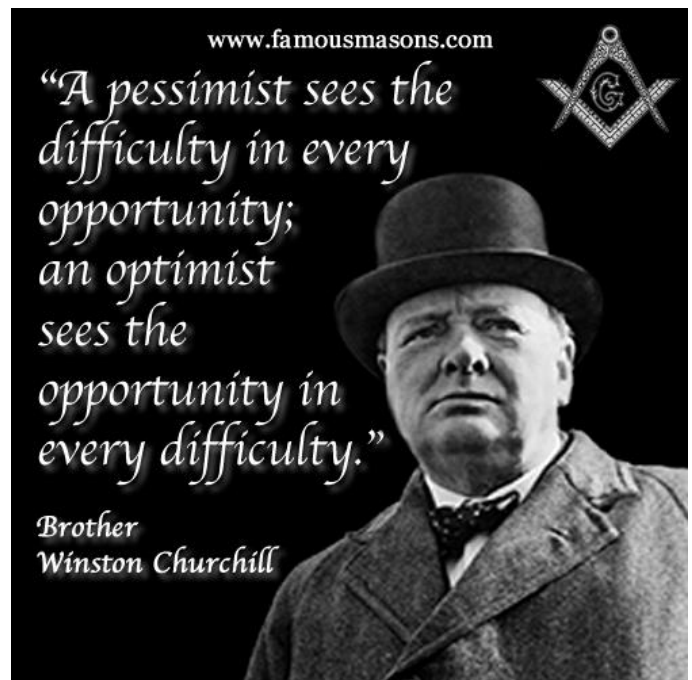
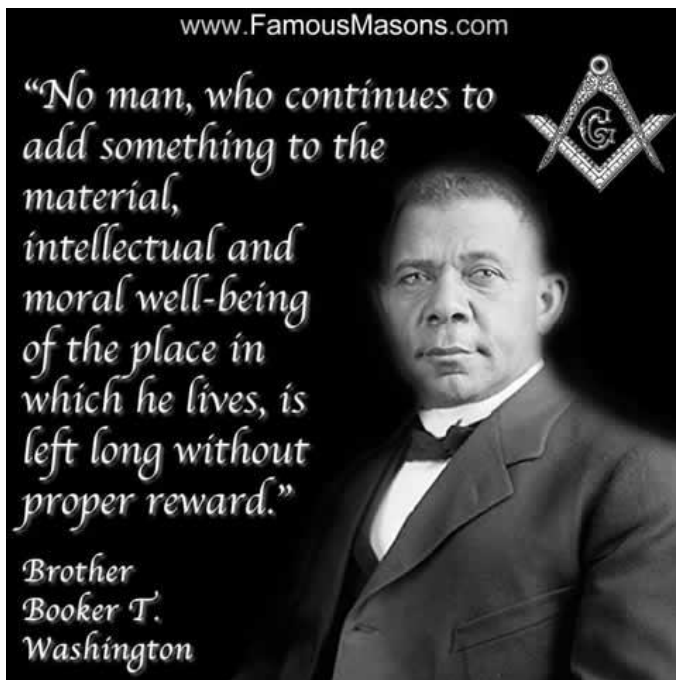
Who does J. F. Swartsel Lodge support in the community?

DONATE \$\$\$ DONATE 🕒 = \$ DONATE 😊

The Lutz Fire Department TOPS (take off pounds sensibly) Lutz chapter 56 BSA (Boy Scouts of America) pack and troop 12; Lutz Lutz Little League Baseball Awards college scholarships in N.W. Hillsborough County McKittrick Elementary “Helping Paws Program” Rainbow Assembly (Hillsborough County) De Molay (Hillsborough County) Shriners’ Hospital Lifepath Hospice Jobs’ Daughters Monthly Bingo jackpots at the Florida Masonic Home in St. Petersburg

Freemasonry will make you a better man... but it is up to the efforts of men like us to make this a better Fraternity!

To the Brothers of Districts 19 and 20:
Look what we have... Come and get it!



A very special thank you to all of J.F. Swartsel's Past Masters - Who laid the foundation for us to build upon

The Past Masters of J.F. Swartsel that are still with us today, and continue to carry the torch of Light on behalf of Freemasonry

1965 W •Thomas B. Daughtey - 1976 W •Phillip V. Getz -1981 W •Edward B. Wilson - 1985 W •Charles Inman –
1986 W •Gary F. Gentry - 1992 W •Floyd A. Dozier - 1995 R •W •Donald R. Bell, PDDGM - 1998 W •Gary A. Richey - 1999 W
•David B. Lambert, Sr. - 2000 W •David B. Lambert, II - 2001 W •James R. Lambert - 2002 W •Gregory A. Lambert - 2003 W •Joseph
E. Fara, Sr. - 2007 W •William L. Boortz - 2008 W •Gregory L. Savage - 2009 W •Drew M. Keenan - 2011 W •Richard D. Sego - 2012
W •Jerry M. Snell, Jr. - 2013 W •Gregory L. Savage - 2014 W •Jeffrey T. Sklet - 2015 R •W •Charles C. Osborne, PDDGM - 2016 W •
Danilo O. Valdez . - 2017 R •W •Charles J. "Sam" Pesola, PDDGM - 2018 W •Martin A. Greif - 2019 W •Jerry M. Snell, Jr.



Recommended & Required Practices to Employ when Returning to Lodge Operations

- **MASKS**: As of the time this Trestleboard was published, **Hillsborough County requires us to ensure compliance by denying admittance to any indoor location to people who aren't wearing a face mask, or removing people from our Lodge who aren't following the mandate.** Once you are seated at appropriate distances in the dining room or Lodge Room, masks can be removed.
- **SICK? STAY HOME.**: *If you are sick in any way, have a fever, and especially if you have any symptoms of sickness related to COVID-19, stay home and do not attend functions.*
- **AGE & CONDITIONS**: Members classified as *“senior citizens” aged 65 or older and members with significant underlying medical conditions* (such as chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immunocompromised status, cancer, diabetes, severe obesity, renal failure and liver disease) are *strongly encouraged* within the Florida Governor's Executive Order 20-112 *to stay at home and take all measures to limit the risk of exposure to COVID- 19*. If attending events, *extreme caution* should be employed. Such individuals are known to have the most likeliness of potential *severe illness or death* from the illness.
- **SOCIAL DISTANCING**: No individuals should stand, sit, meet, or congregate in groups without appropriate recommended *6 foot spacing & distancing*.
- **TESTING**: It is recommended to be *tested for COVID-19* at any of the local, free test sites. See www.hillsboroughcounty.org, click the “STAYS SAFE” link at the top for COVID-19 info, then click the button for “Getting tested for COVID-19” to find free testing sites. If you are found to be positive, remain home in quarantine for 14 days or as directed by health officials.
- **BE EDUCATED**: Know the *basics on what to do, and not do*, concerning interactions. Resources are available at <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov>.
- **HAND WASHING**: *PROPER 20 second hand washing* as described on posters is required as frequently as possible (before entering the dining room & Lodge Room, during breaks).
- **HAND SANITIZER**: It is recommended to obtain (if possible) and *carry a small bottle of hand sanitizer* in your pocket to use frequently.
- **HAND SHAKING**: Hand shaking as a greeting should be *discontinued* at all times.

**Wash your hands, cover your face, and keep your
distance... subdue your passions**

Your 2020 J. F. Swartsel Officers are as follows:

Worshipful Master W : Adam Scott Feldman
Senior Warden Brother Samuel McPherson
Junior Warden Brother Raymond Joseph Ciunci
Treasurer R : W : Chuck Osborne (pro tempore)
Secretary W : David Bruce Lambert Sr.
Chaplain W : Jerry Marvin Snell Jr.
Marshall Brother William Joe Schmidt
Senior Deacon Brother Wade Edward Angel
Junior Deacon Brother Dennis Morgan Victor Martin
Senior Steward Brother Brian Andrew Reach
Junior Steward Brother Allan Arthur Jenkins
Tyler W : Danilo Orlando Valdez
Musician Brother John Nagy
Historian W : Jeffrey Thomas Sklet



Your Amazon purchases can be helping the Fraternity!

Next time you need something, go to smile.amazon.com instead of www, and select “the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, Inc.” , and ½% of your purchase will be donated to provide help, aide, and assistance to the residents of the Masonic Home!

The link is <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-2740213>



Please remember your Lodge boosters and thank them!

R.:W.: Ronald E. Stanley - R.:W.: Donald R. Bell - Mark L. Lager - Daniel Allen - Brad Sollberger - Ernest P. Sidlow

Chair Chatter

From the Secretary: Worshipful David Lambert, Sr.

Brethren,

Please look at your Dues cards, if you do not have a current 2020 Dues card please send in your Dues or give me a call if you need help paying your Dues. **Brothers take care of Brothers.**

Calendar of Important Lodge Dates:

December 2020

- 1st 6:30 - Degree Practice @ J. F. Swartsel.**
2nd 6:00 – MLT & District School of Instruction @ John Darling No. 154.
3rd Stated Communication (Election of Officers) of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.
8th 6:30 - Degree Practice @ J. F. Swartsel.
11th 7:PM - Masonic Park Board Meeting @ Tampa 240.
15th EA Degree @ J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Degree begins at 7:30 PM.
17th Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.
18th 6:30, Hillsborough County Master Masons Association @ John Darling 154, with Memorial Lodge to follow.
22nd 6:30 - Degree Practice @ J. F. Swartsel.

January 2021

- 2nd 10:AM – Open Installation of Officers @ J. F. Swartsel Lodge No. 251. (9:AM Officer's will Open the Lodge).**

From our Lodge Mentors

My Brothers,

Now that we're many months into the COVID-19 pandemic, many of us are feeling the emotional toll of the uncertainty, worry and dramatic changes to our habits and our lives. If you feel this way, you are not alone. And that is the main message of this article, You Are Not Alone. You have many, many Brothers that care about you.

If you are sad or depressed, reach out to a Brother to talk. If you are in a good place, reach out to a Brother to talk. We all need each other more than ever!

So let me ask this, when was the last time that you called a Brother to check in on him? As many Brothers are staying home due to the pandemic a friendly voice checking in can be the difference between loneliness and hope. This is something we should do regardless of the pandemic, but I would suggest that it is even more important right now.

If there is a Brother that you would like to reach out to, but don't have their phone number, just ask. I am sure that any of the offices would be happy to help you to get in touch with any particular Brother.

And if we can be of assistance in any way, please don't hesitate to ask!

From the Worthy Matron: Elizabeth McAbee

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It was wonderful to see so many of our Sisters and Brothers at our November meeting! Our December meeting will be E.S.T.A.R.L. (Eastern Star Training and Religious Leadership) night. This fund provides scholarship money for

individuals going into ministry. Please remember that masks are required. We will have sanitizer available for your use and will maintain social distancing.

Because of COVID-19, this year's plans have changed significantly. If you wish to participate to honor our deceased veterans by laying wreaths as part of Wreaths Across America at Bay Pines National Cemetery on Saturday, December 19, please use the following link to register for a specific time slot.

<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/15627/overview/?relatedId=0#:~:text=Across%20America%20Page.,On%20December%2019%20at%2008%3A15%20am%20to%201%3A45,each%20and%20every%20veteran%20aloud.>

Masons in good standing and their female relatives are eligible for membership in the Order of the Eastern Star. Information and petitions are available by request.

Praying you're blessed...

Elizabeth C McAbee
Worthy Matron
813/494-6210



Worshipful Master: Brother Adam Feldman

First, I would like to congratulate Brother Sheehan, for taking his next step in Freemasonry by being passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft! The Farmer's Degree was a great success, and the Brothers of J.F. Swartsel performed the Ritual wonderfully. Special congratulations to Br. Wade Angel, for his excellent performance in the East!

Our November Lodge Visit was to Tarpon Lodge No. 112, where we were inadvertently in attendance for their DDGM Official Visit. My Brothers, I hope you make it a point to travel Masonically whenever you are able, because traveling to other Lodges allows you the opportunity to glean insights as to how your own Lodge can improve... while simultaneously instilling pride in how strong, successful, and proficient our particular Lodge already is!

Last month, I was honored to be selected to give the Grand Master's Welcome Address at his Official Visit, and echoed his vision of Communication, Accountability, and Unity. Our Lodge has improved tremendously over my time as a Mason in all three areas, but none more so than Unity. The Lodges who have cliques and choose to separate into factions are not long for this world, but Lodges like J.F. Swartsel will survive past the time when we are all called to the Celestial Lodge above if our members continue to remember that we are all Brothers, and ... regardless of how many "letters" or "dots" we put before our names... we are all equals.

As my tenure in the East comes to a close, I want to thank you for the distinct privilege of allowing me to serve as your Worshipful Master for 2020. Despite finding myself stewarding our Lodge through a "once in a century" pandemic, I am pleased to say that we had a surprising successful year! I say "we", because any success our Lodge has had during my tenure should rightfully be attributed to the hard work and perseverance of the Brothers of J.F. Swartsel... who braved every conceivable (and dare I say justifiable) reason to stay home in order to effect positive change at our Lodge. Know that your selfless and tireless devotion to our gentle Craft did not go unnoticed, and you have my sincerest thanks! I

would like to give a special thank you to my Officers, especially Worshipful David Lambert. His organization and hard work made me look like I knew what I was doing up there! Whatever your stipend, it is not enough for what you do for us.

As a Lodge, we have been firing on all cylinders in 2020! This year we approved plans to improve the comfort of those in the kitchen with an additional AC, obtained second section MM costumes, created a digital Lodge calendar to track JFS events and the birthdays of our members, repaved the parking lot, had music at every meeting (via a new Bluetooth adapter for the organ), deep cleaned the Lodge while the pandemic had our doors closed for 10 weeks, got magnolia trees planted to beautify the property, purchased new frames for Mr. Joseph Swartsel's portrait and our Charter, and will have completed the Famous Mason hallway... and I may have even forgotten a couple things! J.F. Swartsel Lodge has become the strongest in our District, and with our active membership and incoming Officer line, I am supremely confident that we will continue to improve.

Lastly, I want to offer my sincerest congratulations and support to our Worshipful Master-elect, Sam McPherson! He will be leading the 6 PM Officer meeting on 12/8, and I urge you to attend and offer your aide if you are able.

May Brotherly love prevail, and every moral and social virtue continue to cement us. Thank you all!

From the Senior Warden: Brother Samuel McPherson

Brethren,

It has been an honor and a privilege to be your Senior Warden this year. It has been a very unprecedented year, but we will move forward into 2021 with the intention of making it a year of great achievements. I want to congratulate our new Brothers on their journey in Masonry. I want to thank the Brethren who braved the elements to keep our Lodge fully functional. Thank you!

Here is an article I found masonic world. I will share: What is Freemasonry?

Freemasonry is a fraternity. Freemasonry is the oldest, and by far, the largest fraternal order in the world. Its lodges stretch around the globe, and like the British Empire, it might well be said that the Sun never sets upon the masonic Lodge.

Fraternity means an association of Brothers, and that is exactly what Freemasonry is- a society of friends and Brothers. The origins of Freemasonry date back to the dawn of civilization. The Egyptian practiced many of the operative skills as guilds formed in Europe during the Tenth Century. Written records of modern Freemasonry have been kept since 1717 with the formation of a general governing body called a Grand Lodge in England.

It is not a secret in that its Temples are openly marked and almost everyone in the community knows where they are located. The grand Lodge publishes a roster of the members of every Lodge in the Jurisdiction, many of the Lodges have individual bulletins or newsletters which carry the names of the officers and members as well. Thus, it is in the strictest sense of the word, a society with secrets, and these are limited to its obligation, its modes of recognition such as passwords or grips, etc. and certain parts of its rituals. It is religious in character but is not a religion. It is founded upon the basic principle of the Brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God. Everyone who comes to its lodges must express a particular belief about God, for this is the privilege of each individual and is not infringed upon by our Fraternity.

Freemasonry practices selective charities founded on the principle of brotherly need which is applicable in all cases that appear similar. No member has a specific claim upon the society for its charity, for this is not a right acquired by becoming a member of the society, rather it is a privilege.

I hope you have enjoyed the article this year, so to all the brethren and their families I wish you very safe Holidays and a prosperous new year most of obey the social distance and whatever laws are put in place to protect each other thank you brothers all.

From the West
Bro. McPherson

From the Junior Warden: Brother Ray Ciunci

Well its December Brothers, and greetings from the South!!

As the year comes to a close, let us all thank the Grand Master above for guiding us and protecting us. Let us continue to pray for our Brothers who have departed and welcome with open arms the new Brothers who will be raised during the coming year.

May our work please the Grand Architect of the Universe above and may we continue to be kind to each other. I hope you have enjoyed the meals that were served during the year. I am again thankful for the help of all who assisted me.

Finally, I ask you to continue to pray for the repose of the soul of Worshipful Graff. Lastly, but most importantly, let us pray for our medical personnel and please stay safe!

Below, you will find a small poem dedicated to the jewel that I have proudly worn this past year.

Brother Ray Ciunci

THE PLUMB

By BRO. NEAL A. McCauley

(From The Builder, Anamosa, Iowa, August, 1915)

Build up your life like the temple of old
With stones that are polished and true.
Cement it with love, and adorn it with gold
As all Master builders should do:
Upon a foundation, well-chosen and strong,
Build now for the ages to come:
Make use of the good, while rejecting the wrong-
And test all your work with the plumb.

York Rite Lessons

Companions and Sir Knights,

Of what importance is the Altar to the Lodge?

The Altar is undoubtedly the most importance piece of furniture in the Lodge. In all the religions of antiquity, it was the usage of the priests and the people, to pass around the Altar in the course of the sun, that is to say, from the east, by way of the south, to the west, singing hymns of praise to Deity as part of their worship. See "Great Paschal Hallel," of hymn of praise, consisting of Ps 113 to 118

"As every thread of gold is valuable, so is every moment of time." J. Mason

Of what is the Anchor an emblem?

The hope of glory, or of the fulfilment of all God's promises to our souls, is the golden or precious anchor, by which we must be kept steadfast in the faith, and encouraged to abide in our proper station amidst the storms of temptation, affliction, and persecution. Heb 6: 19

"Just as the wave cannot exist for itself, but must always participate in the swell of the ocean, so we can never experience life by ourselves, but must always share the experienced of life that takes place all around us." Albert Schweitzer

Who built the Ark of the Covenant and of what was it composed?

The Ark of Covenant was a chest originally constructed by Moses at God's command, in which were kept the two tables of stone, on which were engraved the ten commandments. It was at first deposited in the most sacred place in the tabernacle, and afterwards placed by Solomon in the Sanctum Sanctorum of the Temple, but was lost upon the destruction of that building by the Chaldeans. Ex 25: 10

'You cannot teach children to take care of themselves unless you let them try. They will make mistakes; and out of these mistakes comes wisdom.'

H. W. Beecher

Fraternally, Zealously, and Courteously

Right Excellent Companion

James F. (Robby) Robertson, KYCH

Grand King, Grand Chapter of RAM of Florida

Laus Deo

Your humble and obedient servant

What have we been up to?

11/3: Our Brothers ran 2 polling stations and 3 Drop sites for the General Election. Thank you to all who participated... this was a fantastic fundraising effort for our Lodge!



We had our Annual Donald E. Belcher Farmer's Degree on 11/7 and were happy to be joined by many Brothers from Holyrood Lodge. A special thank you to WM Roscoe Love for the Lecture and Charge!





WM Adam Feldman was recognized alongside the other 2020 Masters from the Valley of Tampa on 11/9



On 11/12, we traveled to visit our District 18 Brothers for Tarpon Lodge No. 112's DDGM Official Visit





Brothers from JFS participated in the Annual Outdoor Degree (indoors due to Hurricane Eda) on 11/13, and the very next day we hosted an MLT session in person and via zoom for Zone 4 and beyond!



Districts 19 and 20 came together for the Grand Master's Official Visit on 11/21. Our WM Adam Feldman was honored to deliver the 2020 Welcome Address to the GM on behalf of both Districts.





A Random Assortment of Masonic History (Part IV)

Article credit: theeducator.ca

Topic suggestion: Brother Brian Reach

- In Maryland, Tennessee and Penn. there is no lodge with the number 1.
- Masonic Place Names in the US: Anchor, IL, Beehive, MT, Boaz, AL, Charity, MS, Circle, MT, Cowan, TN, Emblem, WY, Eureka, WV, Faith, SD, False Pass, AK, Fidelity, IL, Five Points, AL, Freeborn, MN, Grand Pass, MS, Hiram, MA, Hope, AK, Jachin, AL, Justice, IL, Lodge, SC, Mason, KY, Masonic Home, KY, Masontown, WV, Square, MT, Steward, IL, Symbol, KY, Temperance, MI, Tyler, TX.
- Hiram Abiff Boaz, born Dec. 18 1866 in Murray, KY. Received his degrees in 1922 before an unusually large crowd and served as Grand Chaplin (TX) in 1953.
- Joseph A. Gilmore (1811-1867), former governor of N.H. was made a Mason at sight on April 28, 1863. He received Scottish Rite degrees and was awarded 33rd degree on May 7, 1863 – only 9 days later.
- Between 1890 (when it became a state) and 1951, every Governor of Wyoming, except one, was a Mason. The one, Mrs. William A. Ross, was the wife of a mason and a member of Eastern Star.
- Every President from Tenn. was a Mason (Jackson, Johnson, Polk).
- President FDR raised two of his sons on the same night, Nov 7, 1935 – Architect Lodge #519 in NY.
- In 1951, while President, Harry Truman served as Master of his lodge.
- Sacramento Chapter #3, Royal Arch Masons has supplied 4 governors of (J. Neeley Johnson, Lantham, Pacheco, Hiram Johnson)
- William Hesketh Lever Lodge #2916, England was the only lodge in England named for a non-mason. The first Viscount of Leverhulme (the soap manufacturer) who was first initiated there later formed Leverhulme Lodge #4438.
- Paul Revere was a Mason, as was his cohort, Robert Newman, who hung the lantern in the Old North Church.
- Angelo Soliman, was born in Africa in 1721 and brought to Europe as a slave at the age of ten. He was educated, married, and became a favorite in the royal court in Vienna. Somewhere before 1771 he became a mason. When he died 1776, the Emperor had his body stuffed and mounted in the Natural History Museum, becoming not only the first black of African birth to become a mason, but the also the first mason to be stuffed, mounted, and displayed.
- John Aasen of Highland Park Lodge No. 382 in Los Angeles, CA was the largest known MM ever raised. At the time he was 8.5 feet tall and weighed 536 pounds.
- Charles Stratton, a.k.a. Tom Thumb, was 24 inches high and weighed 16 pounds when raised in 1862.
- Theodore Parvin was Grand Secretary for Iowa from 1844 to 1901, except for 1852- 53 when he was Grand Master.
- When asked of Masonry, President William McKinley explained: “After the battle of Opequum, I went with the surgeon of our Ohio regiment to the field where 5,000 confederate prisoners were under guard. As soon as we passed the guard, the doctor shook hands with a number of prisoners and began passing out his roll of bills. On the way back to camp I asked him, ‘Did you know those men?’ ‘No’ ‘But you gave them a lot of money, do you expect to get it back?’ ‘If they are able to pay me back, they will. It makes no difference to me; they are Brother Masons in trouble and I am only doing my duty.’ I said to myself, ‘If that is Masonry, I will take some of it myself.’”



Please remember to support your Trestleboard advertisers. They will appreciate knowing where their business is coming from and continue their sponsorship.



Soft and safe be the earthly bed of our Brother; bright and glorious be his rising from it. Fragrant be the acacia sprig which shall flourish there. May the earliest buds of spring unfold their beauties over his resting place, and, in the bright morning of the world's resurrection, may his soul spring into newness of life and expand into immortal beauty in realms beyond the skies. Until then, dear Brother, Farewell!

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