



Your Quest for Light

**Important Counsel for
the Entered Apprentice
Candidate**

Foreword

You may have wondered at the length of time which has elapsed since you filed your petition seeking membership in the Masonic Lodge of your choice.

Some of the questions you have been required to answer since then *may* have seemed to you almost impertinent.

Now that you have been elected, by unanimous ballot, to receive your Masonic instruction in this Lodge, which holds jurisdiction under the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Michigan, you may know in part the reason for such circumspection. For if even one ballot had been cast against you - had there been one member of this Lodge not fully satisfied that you were a proper character to be made a Mason - this privilege of initiation neither would nor could have been yours.

Your reputation, the manner in which you have conducted yourself in your daily vocation, in your business or profession, in your family circle, in your civic life - all have influenced the decision made by these men soon to be your brethren.

The Worshipful Master of the Lodge which has elected you to receive your Entered Apprentice degree in Masonry, sends you this booklet. It is designed to help you approach the so-called Mysteries of the Fraternity in the proper frame of mind, so that *you may* get the utmost from this experience soon to be yours, and better understand the honor which is to be conferred upon you.

THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE
STATE OF MICHIGAN

Committee on Service and Education

Your Quest for Light

"How shall I prepare myself for Masonry?"

Probably every man who has been elected to be made a Mason has asked this same question. It is a proper one *for you* to ask.

The path you will follow in your initiatory degrees will be identical with that trod by every other Mason. You will wear the same garb. You will be asked the same questions. You will be required to take the same vows. Likewise, you will be accorded the same honors. Whatever you do experience, be assured that every Master Mason has experienced it before you.

Freemasonry traces the derivation of many of its basic teachings and traditions back to a place where they are lost in the uncertain mists of antiquity. Parts of your obligations may seem strange to you, because of their ancient origin.

As an organization of *good men and true*, there is a well-defined line directly connecting Masonry with the Operative Masons or Guilds, which built the great churches of England, the antecedents of whom were the Cathedral Builders of the middle ages.

Speculative Masonry, as we now know it, had its revival in England in the early part of the 18th Century. From this time dates Freemasonry in its present form.

We tell you these things so that you may better

understand the reason for that which is soon to be unfolded to you. For Masonry is a great philosophic system of morality, or ethics, interpreted by allegory and the use of ancient symbols.

Better defined, Masonry is a fellowship of men of like minds in their search for Truth, each working to aid the other in his efforts to attain finite perfection within himself and in every phase of his personal environment.

Your first step toward becoming a member of this Fraternity, was to ask a friend for a petition, and he vouched for you as a person not prompted in this action by mercenary motives or by the improper influence of others.

You asked this friend to whom you turned, to carry your petition to his Lodge. In other words, you requested him to introduce you into the intimacy of what has been to him a happy and cherished fellowship. In so doing you implied that you hoped to be admitted into this circle and similarly enjoy the brotherhood of such association.

You promised to conform to the established usages and conventions of the Order.

You stated your desire for knowledge.

You indicated your interest in better serving those you touch in your every walk of life.

But most important of all, you expressed your steadfast belief in God. For no atheist can be made a Mason.

By "God" is meant the Supreme Architect of the Universe, the Supreme Being, maker and sustainer of all. Encircling the world will be found Masons of many creeds, races and nationalities. But in every instance, they are one in their belief in this great Eternal Spirit which pervades and animates all creation.

All this - the confidence you reposed in your friend, the fact that a firm belief in God is the very foundation upon which Masonry rests, the solemnity of this especial relationship between respected and reputable men whom you know in your daily life... all must have suggested to you that Freemasonry is not just another club of good fellows, an organization to be joined for the purpose of obtaining special privilege.

To a Mason, his Lodge is his Masonic home.

You will find that Masonry is dignified and inspirational in its manifestation to you who will soon knock at the inner door of the Lodge. *It should, and will, play a vital part in all your future life, if you will but open your heart and mind, and let it.*

Well-meaning, but thoughtless friends may have suggested that there is contained within your initiatory work some phase which you will find embarrassing. You may have been regaled with stories of "riding the goat", and similar practical joking at the expense of the candidate.

Have no fear! There is nothing in a Master Mason's Lodge which does not have a direct bearing

upon the lessons to be unfolded for your instruction. There is no mental or physical anguish awaiting you; no levity; no horse play; and no embarrassment.

Put all thought of this from your mind. Be alert to all that happens as you progress upon your way. Remember that you have entrusted yourself to friends, friends in whom you can place the utmost trust and confidence.

Bear in mind that the role you portray as an aspirant is the identical role every Mason has played since time immemorial. Your experiences have been theirs, and theirs will be yours.

Lustration, or the washing with water, was a rite practiced by our ancient Brethren, before any act of devotion. It symbolized the dissolution of past error and transgression in preparation for the beginning of a new life phase.

As you bathe, cleansing your body before you come to your initiation, think of the laving water as a symbol of such purification. Put on your freshest linen. Come as a suppliant.

But come also with supreme confidence of intention. Before you take one further step, you should know that Masonry has no place for the irresolute, the timid, or the craven. Be certain that you have determination to attain *your quest for light*, and more light as you progress.

Search your heart before you go to your investiture.

Is there aught of hate, envy, meanness of spirit there? If so, do all that lies within your power to be rid of it. If you have any misunderstanding with any man which can be corrected, do what you can to set this aright before you enter the Temple.

If you are guilty of transgression or misdeed, make a sincere effort to amend it before you knock at the door of the Lodge.

Do not be ashamed to have a quiet period in the privacy of your own room, before you leave home. In your own way, implore God's blessing on this undertaking into which you are about to enter. Thank Him for this privilege which is yours - a free man in a free land. Ask that He *may* grant you understanding and perception, that in your new association you may experience a true rebirth of all those high ideals which mark a good man and a useful citizen.

If you will so approach Freemasonry, you will find it everything that you have anticipated - and more.

We welcome you, Brother-soon-to-be, as you begin your Masonic journey, and promise that you will recall this step in years to come with ever increasing gratitude and satisfaction.