

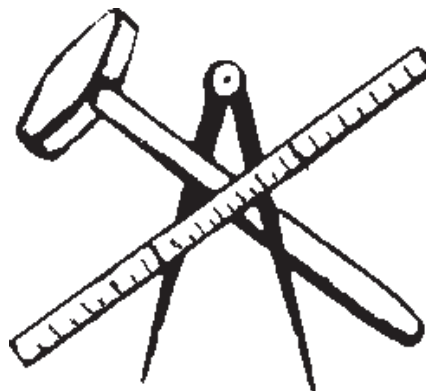
IOWA

SYSTEMATIC

MASONIC

ENLIGHTENMENT

COURSE



**ENTERED
APPRENTICE
DEGREE**



IMPORTANT

To be given to the new brother
immediately following the
conferral of the degree.

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME!

We heartily congratulate you on being accepted into the Masonic Fraternity! The lodge to which you recently submitted a petition (application) for membership has elected you to receive the degrees of Freemasonry and your journey into the Fraternity is about to begin. The procedure for becoming a Mason may have been explained to you by a member(s) of the lodge before taking your petition and, if so, the review that follows this introduction will probably sound familiar. The petition you submitted with your application fee was read to the members at a monthly Stated Communication (business meeting) of the lodge. According to our regulations, it was necessary to read it again at the following monthly Stated Communication (business meeting), after which it was voted upon by all the eligible members present. The fact that you are receiving this information now indicates that you not only passed the election with flying colors, but, in fact, you were elected unanimously as all are who join the Fraternity.

WHAT IS FREEMASONRY?

What is Freemasonry? It is an important question for you to ponder. There have been a great number of definitions put forth throughout the years and there are nearly as many definitions of Freemasonry as there are Masons. One common definition is: "Freemasonry is a system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols." The system of morality to which we refer as Freemasonry is that which every Mason is bound to profess and practice. The elementary principles of Freemasonry are exemplified in the three degrees of the lodge. In joining a local lodge you become a part of the world's largest Fraternity with a membership of approximately 4,000,000 worldwide, nearly 2,000,000 men in the United States, and 31,000 in Iowa. Each lodge in the State of Iowa operates by authority of a Charter granted by the State organization called "The Grand Lodge." There is no international or national organization of Symbolic Masonry nor is there a single spokesman for Freemasonry. While we cannot categorically define what Masonry is, we can say with assurance what it is not. It is NOT a cult, a religion, a secret society, or a political group. While Masonry is not a religion it is religious in nature. Belief in a Supreme Being is a fundamental requirement for becoming a Mason. Masonry is a charitable organization, an organization dedicated to strengthening a man's character, improving his moral and spiritual outlook, and broadening his mental horizons. Masonry seeks to make good men better; not better than others, but better than themselves.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY

In relating this brief history of the Fraternity of Freemasons reference is made only to documented information.

The oldest verifiable Masonic document is called the Regius Manuscript or Halliwell Poem. It is believed to have been written in the area near Germany in approximately 1390. The earliest existing Lodge minutes are from Edinburgh Lodge No. 1 in Scotland and are dated 1599. The Grand Lodge of England, from which most of the Grand Lodges in existence today have descended, was formed in 1717. The first officially warranted lodge on record in America is St. John's Lodge of Boston founded in 1733.

The lineage of the Grand Lodge of Iowa is as follows. The Grand Lodge of North Carolina received its Charter from the Grand Lodge of England in 1787. The Grand Lodge of Tennessee received its Charter from the Grand

Lodge of North Carolina in 1813. The Grand Lodge of Missouri received its Charter from the Grand Lodge of Tennessee in 1821 and the Grand Lodge of Iowa received its Charter from the Grand Lodge of Missouri in 1844.

The first four lodges which formed the Grand Lodge of Iowa Ancient Free and Accepted Masons in 1844 were: Des Moines Lodge No. 1 at Burlington; Iowa Lodge No. 2 at Muscatine; Dubuque Lodge No. 3 at Dubuque; and Iowa City Lodge No. 4 at Iowa City.

WHAT DO MASONS DO?

By example, a Mason extends the sphere of influence of moral values to his own community and nation. Masonry emphasizes personal responsibility for one's own conduct. Masons become better men by the positive reinforcement of association with men of like mind the values of honesty, integrity, brotherly love, and the pursuit of truth. Masonry inspires men to stand firm against oppression, tyranny, fanaticism, usurpation of power, intolerance, and similar evils, from whatever source, that threaten our freedoms. One way that Masons, in their quiet way, fight against these evils is by supporting public education and offering scholarships for continuing education. Equal opportunity of education for all is a basic freedom Masons strenuously support. Throughout history Masons have done a great deal in the advancement of humanity and society at large.

One of the most important things we do as Masons is to provide a working plan for good men to become even better men. Masonry provides excellent opportunities to develop both dramatic and public speaking abilities. It helps to develop leadership skills. Masonry moves quietly to increase the stature of men and women as children of God. Creeds have their rightful function in every land. Yet it is not creed but action that Masonry emphasizes. Masonry reinforces the good works of all religions in community service. Men of all faiths wear the "Square and Compass" of this Fraternity.

MASONIC CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY

Oftentimes, members of the Masonic Fraternity are either the present leaders or future leaders in their communities. In fact, it has been said that every time someone new joins the Masons, their community benefits. Many of America's leaders, past and present, public and private, have been members of our Fraternity. Fourteen United States Presidents have been Freemasons. Freemasons have served with honor in the several branches of the United States Government and Military, several have been Supreme Court Justices, and numerous have been Members of Congress. Many signers of the Declaration of Independence were Masons. The principles of Freemasonry were prominent in the framing of the Constitution of the United States. Masonry is a strong supporter of public education, constitutional government, and equality. We as Masons believe strongly in freedom of religion and expression. Masonry is not a service organization but Masons are responsible, charitable members of their communities. Where there is a need Masons traditionally attempt to fill the void. Masons are active supporters of the several faiths of which they are members and many hold positions of leadership and service in their churches.

MEANING OF THE TERM APPRENTICE

As you have taken your first step in Masonry, you are now called an “Entered Apprentice.” You will never forget your experience in the First Degree. A degree in Masonry is not an isolated event, but it is a continuing privilege. Your possession of the degree is complete; you can continue to enjoy it as long as you live; and the more you study it, the more it will mean to you. The word “apprentice” means “learner” or “beginner,” one who is taking his first step in mastering a trade, an art, or a profession. In the operative stonemason guilds of Scotland a man worked as an apprentice until he was admitted to or “entered” the lodge. This title acknowledged change in status.

Now that you have received your first degree and are an Entered Apprentice there are some mechanisms and procedures of which you need to be informed.

When the term “lodge” is used, to what do we refer?

The term “lodge” refers to a group of Masons with a charter or warrant legally empowering them to assemble to reinforce the principles of Freemasonry. It is an individual local organization of Freemasons in your community. It may also refer to the membership of a Masonic Lodge.

Who are the officers of a lodge and what is their rank?

There are five elected officers in a lodge. In order of descending rank they are:
The Worshipful Master who is seated in the symbolic East presides at the meetings of his lodge.
The Senior Warden who is seated in the West assists the Worshipful Master.
The Junior Warden who is seated in the South is in charge of the members when at refreshment.
The Treasurer who is seated on the right of the Worshipful Master is in charge of lodge funds.
The Secretary who is seated on the left of the Worshipful Master keeps the lodge records.

There are seven appointed officers, the Chaplain and Marshal being optional positions.

In order of descending rank they are:
The Chaplain who is seated on the left of the Worshipful Master.
The Marshal who is seated on the left in front of the Worshipful Master.
The Senior Deacon who is seated on the right in front of the Worshipful Master.
The Junior Deacon who is seated on the right of the Senior Warden.
The Senior Steward who is seated on the right of the Junior Warden.
The Junior Steward who is seated on the left of the Junior Warden.
The Tyler who is seated outside the door.

How are the officers of a lodge selected?

In November an election of officers is held by secret ballot. Each elective officer is selected separately beginning with the Worshipful Master. In order to be elected Worshipful Master, you must have served as a Junior or Senior Warden. The seven appointive officers are selected by the incoming Worshipful Master.

Which meetings am I eligible to attend?

As an Entered Apprentice you are entitled to attend any meeting which is open on the Entered Apprentice or First Degree in the lodge of which you are a member. You may also visit another lodge that is open on the Entered Apprentice Degree with the permission of its Worshipful Master, provided that a brother is present who has sat with you in open lodge and will vouch for you.

Am I required to attend the meetings of the Lodge?

Your attendance at the meetings of your Masonic lodge is not required but it is strongly recommended.

How do I enter or leave a meeting of the Lodge in process?

If you arrive at a lodge meeting after it has opened the Tyler will announce your arrival to the Junior Deacon, who informs the Worshipful Master. You will then be instructed to go West of the Altar facing East or to the Senior Warden facing West, give the Due Guard and Sign to the appropriate officer and be seated. To leave a meeting in process go West of the Altar facing East or to the Senior Warden facing West give the Due Guard and Sign to the appropriate officer and retire. When addressing the Worshipful Master in open lodge give his title, the sign only, and continue your statement.

Why do we say "So Mote It Be" after prayer?

This is an old English wording which means literally "So May It Be." or "So be it."

What is a "cowan or an eavesdropper?"

In speculative Freemasonry any man, woman, boy, or girl who has never been regularly initiated is, in our nomenclature, a profane. If a profane is inquisitive and listens to lodge activities or looks through a keyhole or a hole in the blinds, he is an eavesdropper. If he has never been regularly initiated in a duly constituted lodge but nevertheless endeavors to palm himself off as a regular Mason he is a cowan.

Why don't we walk between the Worshipful Master and the Altar in open lodge?

According to Masonic tradition the Worshipful Master should always have an unobstructed view of the three Great Lights of Masonry which rest upon the Altar. Therefore, no one should walk between the Worshipful Master and the Altar except in the performance of a duty assigned to him by the Worshipful Master.

Why is the Master of a lodge addressed as Worshipful?

The word "Worshipful" is derived out of the Middle Ages and is a title of respect or high honor and is still in use in England to this day. It means the same as addressing a judge as "Your Honor."

Why does the Worshipful Master sound the gavel and what is its significance?

The Worshipful Master will sound the gavel once to assemble or settle the lodge.

According to the situation one knock will also raise or seat the deacons.

One knock seats the entire lodge. Two knocks raise the principle officers. Three knocks raise the entire lodge.

How should I dress at meetings?

Dress varies according to the custom of the individual lodge. Dress should always be tasteful and respectful.

THE PRINCIPAL TENETS

To understand this subject clearly we must first get a definition of the word “tenet.” A “tenet” is a theory or teaching so universally accepted that no one questions its truth. The principal tenets of Masonry are Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Let us briefly consider each of them separately.

Brotherly Love - Brotherly Love is one of the closest associations that could possibly exist between two people. In the Masonic sense we must be willing to overlook or forget petty grievances or peculiarities. We must strive to see the good things in our brethren that will make us love them. We must cast aside our passions and prejudices and remember that “all men are my brethren.” We must remember that, “By the exercise of brotherly love we are taught to regard the whole human species, the high and the low, the rich and the poor, as one great family; and that we must aid, support and protect each other.”

Relief - The most common interpretation of relief is some form of charity. Masonic relief has still another meaning. A person may be distressed in many ways other than financial. He may have a business or a family problem that discourages him, and a helpful suggestion may give him the relief he needs. He may be lonely because he lacks proper associations; then a cheerful word may give the relief he seeks. We claim that there are many ways of giving relief. To relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent on all men. To sympathize with them in their misfortunes, to console them in their sorrows, and to restore peace to their troubled minds - these are the great aims we have in view. We, as Masons, must be alert to recognize these opportunities and offer our services in the way that will best bring relief.

Truth - We commonly think of truth as the opposite of falsehood. When a person’s word is as good as his bond, he is classed as being truthful. To be good and true is one of the first lessons we are taught in Masonry. Unless a person has a reputation of being truthful, he is not morally qualified to become a member of our order. Truthfulness is one of the fundamental requirements of good citizenship. Without truth there would be no foundation for trust and fellowship. Freemasonry’s motto is; “Let there be Light.” In this sense truth has a much deeper meaning. In Masonry there is a never-ending search for more truth and light. There is a great storehouse of truth for every Mason to explore. It cannot be transferred from person to person in the same manner in which we communicate our Ritual and our secrets. It must be found by personal search. To each person it presents a different interpretation. With this in mind we urge you to consider carefully the teachings of the Craft as you progress in your Masonic journey.

SYMBOLS OF THE APPRENTICE

Each of the symbols, emblems, and allegories of the First Degree has a meaning, which contains a lesson of the degree. The length of the cable-tow is frequently referred to in the language of Freemasonry. Formerly a cable-tow was deemed to be the distance a man could travel in an hour, which was assumed to be about three miles. Today, this is any reasonable distance from which a summons may be answered, health and business permitting. Each Mason is bound to all other Masons by a tie as long and as strong as he determines that his ability permits. All through Masonry you will find that light has a great symbolic meaning. Before your Initiation you were in darkness concerning Masonry, but later you were partially enlightened; and in this sense light is a means of discovery. The Three Great Lights in Masonry are the Holy Bible, Square, and the Compass. The Holy Bible represents the will of God as understood by man, the Square is the emblem of virtue, and the Compass signifies moral and spiritual life. The Word and Grip are our means of recognition when among strangers and in distant places. The Rite of Salutation, the respectful salute given by candidates and members, is a means of signifying their acceptance of the authority of the principal officers. The Worshipful Master is a symbol, as well as the executive officer of the lodge. His title signifies that he has by service, training, and responsibility, earned the reverence, respect, and obedience of the brethren. The Lambskin or White Leather Apron is an emblem of innocence and is the distinctive badge of a Mason. As a badge of a Mason, the apron signifies that Masons are workers and builders, not drones or destroyers. The Northeast Corner was traditionally the place where the cornerstone of a building was laid. You, an Entered Apprentice, one of the noblest symbols of the Craft, stood there as a cornerstone of the future Craft. The twenty-four inch gauge and common gavel are the Working Tools of an Entered Apprentice and represent the moral and spiritual virtues, habits, and forces by which a man reshapes the crude and often stubborn materials of his nature to adjust himself to the requirements of human society.