

Masons as Entered Apprentices

Every man that has the honor of being a Freemason is initiated and becomes an Entered Apprentice Mason. At which point he is a Mason and a Brother.

The Start

When we are first received into a lodge, the way we are received, is to teach us that for every action there is a reaction, whether it be penalty or reward.

We invoke the blessing of Deity, for we shall not go into any great or important undertaking, without doing so.

We are then circled around the Lodge, so that the Brethren can see that we are Duly and Truly prepared. It is also to teach us that, we have a faithful friend that will help us, and to lead us, to the Light, even when we may not be able to see it.

We then knelt at the sacred alter where we find our Masonic Light and took our solemn obligation. Which no man may do so without it being of his "own free will and accord." With our hands in that position, we find the Due-Guard. The Due-Guard is a salute, and as we salute, it teaches us that we should ever remember our obligation and its penalty, and never forget our duty.

We were presented the Three Great Lights. The Volume of Sacred Law teaches us how to act. The Square is a symbol of morality, truthfulness, and honesty. The Compasses is a symbol of restraint, skill, and knowledge.

The Lambskin or white leather apron when properly worn is a great honor upon you and the Craft. For us there is no higher honor in this world.

The working tools being the twenty-four inch gauge and the common gavel, one shows us what we must keep and the other gets rid of the rest.

Most of all, we received that great and honorable title of,

BROTHER

Written by

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This sounds very familiar to all of us, we were all there. So with that we are all Entered Apprentices. When we open the lodge on the Entered Apprentice Degree, are we all not counted as Entered Apprentice Masons? The symbolic lodges are the foundation of all of masonry and I believe that the foundation of the symbolic lodges is that we are all Entered Apprentice Masons. The first stone of our foundation is laid in the north east corner, and as Entered Apprentice we placed in the north east corner of the lodge to symbolize that there is our Masonic foundation. As Entered Apprentice Masons we are we not charged with the duties of spending some time and energy to learning about the histories, symbolism, and philosophy of the Craft. This is something that all Masons must undergo, and I believe it should be a never ending process. The Entered Apprentice is a

Mason in the sense that he is a rough ashlar, in process of being made into a perfect ashlar.

We try to teach our Entered Apprentice and Fellow Crafts about symbolism and some of the philosophies, but why stop there. We have many lodges full of knowledge, and that knowledge needs to be passed on so that it is not lost. It is likely that most of you noticed there is somewhat of a generation gap in Masonry and sometimes it is hard for the generations to communicate. With some of the younger generations it is hard to hear "It has always been done that way that is way we do it." Pass on the meanings and explain our traditions. Freemasonry has traditions that date back to the 16 and 1700s, and many traditions, symbols, and lessons reach back that far. We need to pass on these meanings behind the ways we do things. We all can learn from each other or at least look at something in a new way. We have Brethren that are knowledgeable in different areas, one brother may be interested in Masonic history, and another may be interested in the philosophical aspects of the Craft.

One tradition and purpose of Freemasonry is to provide a place where good men can come together for meaningful growth within themselves. It is often said that Freemasonry "makes good men better." But where is our growth and self improvement? The process of teaching and learning from each other has been lost in some places. Some are not interested and others don't know how to bring forth ideas, and others don't think they know enough about a subject to make a meaningful discussion about it. But how else are we to grow as masons, how are we to become better men?

We must not lose what we are here to do, that is to improve ourselves in masonry.

//Signed//

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