

The Discoverer

The Monthly Newsletter of The Lodge of Discovery

In this Issue	
Freemasonry, a view	2
Pedestals, Porch	3
What is Freemasonry	4
I Believe	5
Quiz	6
Old Tiler Talk	7
Perfect Points of Entrance	8
To Try and Adjust	9
Humour	10

Greetings Brethren,

By courtesy of the Craft Masonry Education Website for all Freemasons in New Zealand I now have access to a host of Masonic Education material and this month starts off a series of quizzes with the answers being printed the following month. Have a good attempt at it and see how much you know—or don't know. This emphasizes Freemasonry Universal. Enjoy!

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Freemasonry, a View

Author unknown: Published in THE TRACING BOARD: GRS; July, 1969.

Masonry has a great tradition, but it is not enough to sit complacently in contemplation of that fact. Whatever has had merit in the past and can be made applicable to present day condition is, of course, desirable to be preserved and utilized.

However, if Masonry, of the present, is to keep abreast of the best in its past, then its membership must be selected with due regard to having the type of members who will be a credit to the fraternity. This means that quality of membership must be regarded as of far more importance than mere quantity of members.

Masonry's doors are open to the good and the true, but no one is ever asked to join. Each one who desires to become a member must seek membership of his own volition. But once admitted to membership, it rests upon each of the older members to make the new members feel what Masonry stands for, and to make him feel that he is among friends and not merely one more stone in a vast building.

Masonry is vibrant with all that is fine and uplifting in life, and each new member must be made to feel that the atmosphere of Masonry and the lodge to which he has recently been admitted contains the ozone of health and moral uplift.

A mistaken but prevalent idea in some circles today is that membership in a Masonic lodge completes the necessary qualifications of a Mason – a conception of Freemasonry totally out of harmony with the fact.

Membership in a Freemason's lodge no more makes a man a Mason than membership in a musical club makes him a musician. The character of a man and a Mason is determined not by any society of which he is a member, and of which he may be a member in name only; but rather by the ideals controlling his life, the affection ruling his heart, and the voluntary thoughts which guide his conduct.

We meet with several types of men in this great fraternity, such as those who are Masons in name only; those who are Masons by nature, and those who are Masons both in name and in nature. The last named class is large and influential and, happily, they are the predominating class.

Every sincere Mason will ever have before him that striking symbol – a point within a circle – one of the most arresting symbols reiterated and emphasized every time Master Masons enter on the sublime degree of a Master Mason. That point symbolizes every individual brother; and the circle, the boundary line of his duty toward God and man, beyond which he should never suffer his passions, interests or prejudices to betray him. The circumference of this circle – the boundary line of his duty – is clearly Freemasonry.

Masonry is not a religion, nor is it a substitute for religion. Its teachings contain profound religious truths, and the fraternity is composed of millions of religious men. But Masonry has no doctrinal creed; it has no system of theology; it does not seek converts. We must be convinced, however, that a Mason who understands and practices his obligations will find his loyalty to his church strengthened and his fidelity to his creed deepened.

The genius of Masonry is that it has lived as an influence for good for many, many years, because it

represents a method of living that is based on those principles of truth and right that will abide forever.

Although we may be discouraged by happenings of our times, we should never abandon our faith in the eternal truth that the promises of the Great Architect of the Universe.

Comment by The Educator

This short article was written almost 60 Years ago, however, the sentiments and opinions expressed apply equally today as they did in 1969.

Freemasonry continues to be the largest Fraternal body in the World and attracts men who truly believe that Brotherly Love; Relief and Truth are standards to live by.

Invitations are NEVER extended.

Membership must be sought and be of the seekers own choice and opinion!!!!

PEDESTALS

It is generally agreed that the Master of a lodge has had a pedestal or desk in front of him from the beginners of speculative Freemasonry.

On the other hand the introduction of such an item of furniture for Wardens seems to have become general following the union of the Grand Lodges of the Antients and Moderns in 1813.

The Wardens' pedestal serve merely as tables on which the ashlar and columns are positioned, and to facilitate use of the gavel.

In the case of the Master's pedestal, however, the pedestal represents a combination of table and altar on which the Volume of the Sacred Law rests and on which obligations are taken. In some of our temples, there is a separate altar in front of the Master's pedestal.

PORCH

The dictionary meaning of the word 'porch' is the covered entrance to a building.

In the Masonic ritual reference is made on several occasions to the 'porchway or entrance' to King Solomon's Temple.

It is considered that, strictly speaking, 'porchway' should relate not to the covered entrance but to the intangible passage through the entrance which should be called the porch.

However, 'porchway' is probably so ingrained in Masonic usage these days that no real harm is done by the use of the term.

WHAT IS FREEMASONRY??

Freemasonry is one of the world's oldest secular fraternal societies.

Freemasonry is a society of men concerned with moral and spiritual values. Our members are taught its precepts by a series of ritual dramas which follow ancient forms, and use stonemason's customs and tools as allegorical guides.

The essential qualification for admission into and continuing membership is a belief in a Supreme Being.

Membership is open to men of any race or religion who can fulfil this essential qualification and who are of good repute.

For many years Freemasons have followed three great principles:

- **Brotherly Love** – every true Freemason will show tolerance and respect for the opinions of others and behave with kindness and understanding to his fellow creatures;
- **Relief** – Freemasons are taught to practice charity and to care, not only for their own, but also for the community as a whole, both by charitable giving, and by voluntary efforts and works as individuals;
- **Truth** – Freemasons strive for truth, requiring high moral standards and aiming to achieve them in their own lives.

Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth are ethical principles acceptable to all good men. They support the 'Golden Rule' – to do unto others as you would wish them to do unto you.

In other words – it teaches each member to act and live in such a way that he will always strive to become a better man, not better than someone else, but better tomorrow than he is today.

Freemasons believe that these principles represent a way of achieving higher standards in life.

The stonemason's tools and principles of architecture are used in a symbolic way by Freemasons to teach the basic moral truths and impress on us the virtues of Faith, Hope, Charity, Prudence, Fortitude, Temperance and Justice.

Masonic ceremonials form the basis of teaching the Masonic philosophy which leads to a better understanding of the purpose of life and the need for care and concern for others.

Masonic teachings promote personal growth of character, and encourage Freemasons to lead an active life in the community.



I BELIEVE

Birth Certificates show that we were born, A Death Certificate shows that we died.

Have a seat==Relax==And read this slowly!!!!

1. I believe that just because two people argue. It doesn't mean that they don't love each other, and just because they don't argue, it doesn't mean they do love each other.
2. I believe that we don't have to change friends if We understand that friends change.
3. I believe that no matter how good a friend is they are going to hurt you, every once and a while, and you must forgive them for that.
4. I believe that true friendship continues to grow. Even over the longest distance. The same holds true for Love
5. I believe that you can do something in an instant that will give you heartache for life.
6. I believe that it's taking me a long time to be the person that I want to be.
7. I believe that you should always leave loved ones with Loving Words. It might be the last time you see them.
8. I believe you can keep going long after you think you can't. I believe we are responsible for what we do, no matter how we feel.
9. I believe that we either control our attitude or it controls us.
10. I believe that heroes are the people, who do what has to be done, when it needs to be done. Regardless of the consequences!!
11. I believe that my best friend and I can do anything or nothing and still have the best of times.
12. I believe that sometimes the people you expect to kick you when you are down, will be the ones to help you get back up.
13. I believe that sometimes, when I'm angry, I have the right to be angry, but that doesn't give me the right to be cruel.
14. I believe that maturity has more to do with the types of experiences you've had, and what you have learned from them, and less to do with how many birthdays you've celebrated.
15. I believe that it isn't always enough to be forgiven by others. Sometimes you have to learn to forgive yourself.
16. I believe that no matter how bad your heart has been broken, the world doesn't stop for your grief.
17. I believe that our background and circumstances may have influenced who we are, but we are responsible for who we have become. I believe that you shouldn't be so eager to find out a secret. It could change your life forever.

18. I believe that two people can look at exactly the same thing and see something entirely different.
19. I believe that your life can be changed in a matter of hours by people who don't even know you.
20. I believe that even when you believe you have no more to give, when a friend cries out to you, you will find the strength to help!!!!
21. I believe that credentials do not make you a decent human being.
22. I believe that the people you care about most in life are taken from you too soon.
23. I believe that you should share this with people you care about.

I JUST DID!!!!!!



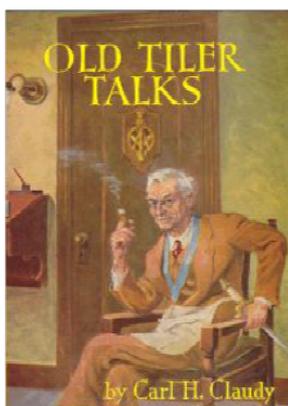
OCTOBER QUIZ



As part of your Masonic Education there will be a quiz each month—the answers will be published in the following month

- Q 1. How many Masonic symbols are there on your Lodge room 1st Degree Tracing Board?
- Q 2. On that same Tracing Board how many rungs can be seen on the ladder?
- Q 3. At which chapter of the VSL does your Lodge open the book when opening your Lodge in the 1st Degree?
- Q 4. Which chapter of the VSL tell us the dimensions of King Solomon's Temple?
- Q 5. Why did King Solomon build the Temple and not King David?
- Q 6. Name King Solomon's mother.
- Q 7. What is the difference between the Jewels of the Lodge and the Furniture of the Lodge?
- Q 8. We lock up our secrets with fidelity - what is fidelity in this context?
- Q 9. What is it that we are supposed to learn from the chisel in the 1st degree working tools?
- Q 10. Why does the Master of the Lodge get the Senior Warden to close the Lodge instead of doing it himself?

With acknowledgement to the Craft Masonry Education Website New Zealand



Old Tiler Talks— JUDGE NOT

"Well, they'll have to show me!" cried the New Brother to the Old Tiler, on guard in the anteroom with sword in hand.

"Who will have to show you what?" inquired the guardian of the door.

"The committee appointed to investigate a couple of petitions for reinstatement on the rolls of this lodge!" answered the New Brother. "Old Brother Godfrey was dropped for nonpayment of dues thirty-six years ago. He has never petitioned this or any other lodge for membership since. Now he wants to reinstate himself. A brother Jenkins I never heard of, who was raised forty years ago and took a demit thirty-one years ago, wants to come back -- he's never affiliated in all that time."

"I've heard of those cases," mused the Old Tiler. "I helped raise them both."

"You can't tell me they haven't put their eyes on our Masonic Home! Having reached an age which shows them some practical use for the fraternity, they now propose to pay a year's dues, and then get into the Home to be taken care of for the rest of their lives! But not if I can stop it!"

"Softly, softly, my brother!" warned the Old Tiler. "It is against the laws of the Grand Lodge to disclose to any one how you have voted or intend to vote on any application for membership."

"Well, and I won't then!" cried the New Brother. "But they won't get in!"

"Are you not previous in judgment?" inquired the Old Tiler, gently. "Seems to me you'd better wait and hear what the committees have to say on the matter."

"What could the committees say? I won't let any softhearted committee pull anything on me. I love the lodge too much!"

"Don't love her so much you forget that the 'greatest of these is charity!' " warned the Old Tiler. Nor that these whose motives you judge are yet your brethren, sworn to the same obligations.

"I happen to know something about these cases. Brother Godfrey was a spoiled child. As a young man he had so much money that he didn't know what to do with it. It was just carelessness that he allowed himself to be dropped N.P.D. He didn't care for Masonry. He was all for travel, a good time, balls and parties and races and such. About ten years ago his wife died -- he had a good wife and he was very fond of her. It changed him. He felt differently about many things. He commenced to do something for some one beside himself. He still has more money than he can spend. There is no possibility of his becoming a charge on the lodge. And I happen to know why he wants to come back."

"Why is it?"

"He's ashamed of himself!" answered the Old Tiler. "He offered to pay all the back dues, with interest. I told him we couldn't accept that; that he couldn't buy his way back into the lodge. But he is no worse off than another in like case. If he tells the committee what he told me, that he is old enough to know better and to value brotherhood; that he wants again to be a part of our gentle Craft and to make up for what he has lost all these years, they will doubtless report favorably. This lodge will not override its committee unless someone has something personal against him. "

"Oh, well, that's different, of course!" The New Brother looked a little ashamed. "How about Brother Jenkins?"

"Well, he's different, too!" smiled the Old Tiler. "Brother Jenkins was a young man full of promise, fire and energy. He had a good position, a good income, a fine wife and four little children. Then he fell and hurt his head; he was two years under the doctor's care. They had no money, she went to work. Of course the lodge helped. He got his wits back and went to work again, but he couldn't do any but physical labor. Something was gone from his mind. He was not crazy, but he couldn't think hard or long. So he became a carpenter. He paid back to the lodge every penny it had spent on him. Then he took his demit. He couldn't afford the dues and he wouldn't let us carry him. Somehow he brought up his children; they are all happily married now. The wife is dead, worn out. He is alone, with an income quite sufficient for his simple needs, and four stalwart children to care for him if it isn't enough. Now that he can afford it, he wants to come back into the lodge he loved and left."

"Oh, you make me so ashamed! I'm a first-class moron and no Mason at all, to judge before I knew!" The New Brother looked at the Old Tiler remorsefully.

"It never pays," grinned the Old Tiler. "I don't believe any one will want to drop a black cube for Brother Jenkins, do you?"

"Not I" cried the New Brother.

"Didn't I tell you not to tell how you would vote?" chided the Old Tiler. But his eyes smiled.

PERFECT POINTS OF ENTRANCE

The answer to be given by candidates indicating that 'the perfect points of my entrance' represent one of the means by which a brother may prove that he has been made a Freemason in a regular manner is not explained in the ritual.

The expression was used in early manuscript as part of an answer to what was a type of proficiency test but no clarification of its meaning was provided. Towards the end of the 18th century, however, two leading Masons of the day—William Preston and John Browne—endeavoured to give some rational meaning to the expression by 'catchword' methods.

Preston suggested that the points should be taken as 'Off', 'At' and 'On'. He proposed that 'Off' could be taken as referring to the form of attire at initiation, "A' to the door of the lodger, and 'On' to an initiate's left knee.

Browne suggested "Of", "At" and "On", the extended meaning of which could be 'Of my own free will and accord, at the door of the lodge and on the p. of a s. i. No further satisfying explanations have been offered subsequently.

TO TRY AND AJUST

The word try is often misinterpreted in Charges given from our Freemasons ritual book. There are a number of different meanings to the word 'try' such as:

try to reach a target – try meaning to make an attempt

try a jacket on – try meaning see if it fits.

try and break it – try meaning have a go

a man was tried in court – try meaning investigate and decide

try me and prove me – try meaning test me and see what happens.

It is this last one that we mean in,

“The square is it try, and adjust rectangular corners ...”

The corner is tested to see if it is exactly 90 degrees – and if it is not it is adjusted by mallet and chisel until it is exactly as required.

An operative stone-mason would try his square periodically on the perfect ashlar which was known to be exactly square, i.e. test his square for exact squareness.

So, when giving a Charge, pause after the word try to emphasis that you are not trying to adjust but you are testing and afterwards adjusting as necessary.

btw - another place in our ritual where people make a mistake is when saying just upright and free. Pause after the just (there is a comma in most ritual books) to give the meaning "just" as in upright and trustworthy - not "just upright" meaning about to fall over.

News from the South

Lodge Birthdays

Rex Kersley	20
Ian Martin	17
Bryan Death	9
Andrew Hibgame	7
Mike Piggott	4
Greg Walton	2

Later in the month our Senior Warden, Bro. Shaun Gilchrist , will be travelling to London to attend the UGLE festivities for the Tercentenary celebrations.

Then we look forward to sending a delegation to Suva, Fiji, for the visit of the Assistant Grand Master R. W. Bro. Sir David Wootton late in November.

Humour

Imagine if major companies from all around the world started producing or sponsoring condoms. They would become fashionable and companies would probably advertise more openly.

- Nike Condoms :::: Just do it
 - * Toyota Condoms :::: Oh what a feeling
 - * Ford Condoms :::: The ride of your life
 - * Optus Condoms :::: Yes!
 - * Duracell Condoms :::: Keep going & going & going
 - * Pringles Condoms :::: Once you pop you can't stop
 - * Hyundai Condoms :::: All day, every day
 - * Tip Top Condoms :::: Good on ya mum (available in Tasmania only)
 - * Panasonic Condoms :::: Even more than you expected
 - * VB Condoms :::: As a matter of fact, I've got one now
 - * Swan Lager Condoms :::: They said you'd never make it
 - * Vegemite Condoms :::: Puts a rose in every cheek
 - * Levi Condoms :::: Do you fit the legend?
 - * Nescafe Condoms :::: It brings you together.

The following brands wouldn't sell so well.....

- * Goodyear Condoms :::: If it only saves you once a year.
- * RTA Condoms :::: Speed kills
- * Nobby's Condoms :::: Nibble Nobby's Nuts
- * Bolle Condoms :::: Put them on your face
- Aussie Homeloans Condoms :::: We'll save you