

# The Discoverer

The Monthly Newsletter of The Lodge of Discovery

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## Greetings Brethren,

This month I bring you a thought-provoking article on Our Attitudes—see Page 8

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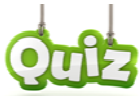
www.LOD8737.org

## Brotherly Love

We value respect, freedom, kindness, tolerance, and our differences - religious, ethnic, cultural, social, generational, and educational - and strive for harmony in our individual lives, in our lodges, and in the global community

### Membership e-mail address list

A list of current members and their e-mail addresses is available on request.



## AUGUST ANSWERS



- 1) What order of architecture is the pillar that stands on the Senior Wardens pedestal? **Doric - named after the ancient Greek town of Doris whose inhabitants were reputedly solemn.**
- 2) In the 1st Degree you were hoodwinked for several reasons, name two of them. **That the mind should conceive before the eye should see. That you cannot see the people inside the Lodge in-case you change your mind before taking the S.O.**
- 3) Of the seven liberal Arts and Sciences name the Sciences. **Astronomy, Arithmetic, Geometry, Logic**
- 4) How many knocks are there in closing a Lodge in the 1st Degree after the Master says, Brethren, assist me to close the Lodge? **19 but this may vary in your Lodge dependent on what the IG and Tyler do right at the end.**
- 5) Name the Father and Mother of King Solomon. **His father was King David, his mother was Bathsheba.**
- 6) We know ourselves to be Masons by the regularity of our initiation. What is this regularity? **Of; At and On: of your own free-will; at the door of a Masonic Lodge; On the point of a sharp instrument.**
- 7) How many times does the Candidate walk round the Lodge during a 1st Degree Ceremony? **Two complete circuits and then up the middle.**
- 8) The four corners of the square pavement represent the virtues of Temperance, Prudence, Fortitude and Justice, describe the characteristics of the virtue Prudence. **Careful to avoid unintended consequences and/or excesses.**
- 9) In the Charge after Initiation you were congratulated on being admitted a member of our ancient and honourable Institution - what makes it honourable? **Because it leads/encourages members to be honest, trustworthy, upright citizens who practice moral and social virtues.**
- 10) Name the three distinguishing characteristics of a good Freemason (Hint - see page 84 in your Blue Book). **Virtue, Honour, & Mercy.**

*With acknowledgement to the Craft Masonry Knowledge Website New Zealand*

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Why is a certain square in Masonry termed an "oblong square"?

An oblong square has its greatest length from east to west, its breadth from north to south. During the Solomonic era the world was supposed to have that oblong form. On the map of the world inscribe an oblong figure whose boundary lines circumscribe and include that portion known to be inhabited in the days of Solomon; these lines, running a short distance north and south of the Mediterranean Sea, and extending from Spain in the west to Asia Minor in the east, form an oblong square, including the southern shore of Europe, the northern shore of Africa, and the western district of Asia, the length of the parallelogram being about 60 degrees from east to west, and its breadth being about 20 degrees from north to south.

This oblong square enclosing the whole of what was then supposed to be the habitable globe represents what is symbolically said to be the form of the lodge.

"Oblong Square" has been objected to by purists as a contradiction in terms; they insist that an oblong is a rectangle with unequal sides and perpendiculars while a square is a rectangle with equal sides and perpendiculars.

The word "square" did not originally denote a figure with four equal sides, but any figure which has right angles at all four corners. Later, "square" came to mean not only "right-angled" but a figure enclosed by four equal length lines adjoining two of which formed a right angle. "Oblong Square" then means anciently what "oblong" (noun) means today.

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### Why do the stairs in the Second Degree wind?

In I Kings VI;8 appears "The door from the middle chamber was in the right side of the house; and they went up with winding stairs into the middle chamber, and out of the middle into the third".

The Fellow Craft climbs the winding stairs to reach the middle chamber where are paid the wages he has earned in corn, wine and oil. Symbolists find an especial significance in the "winding" of the stairs, denoting the necessity for a courageous ascent. Stairs which wind do not disclose what is ahead as does a straight stair. He who climbs a winding stair in confidence does so because he is a man grown, no weakling, but one able to face even an unknown future with courage. The Fellow Craft degree as whole is a symbol of manhood, so it is appropriate to its teachings that winding stairs denote courage. The Entered Apprentice degree as a whole is a symbol of youth and the Master Mason degree as whole a symbol of age.



## Common Masonic Phrases

Please do remember, if you aren't a Mason, you shouldn't try to pretend you are one.

These are simply informal greetings (which is why they are available on the net and in other publications).

Freemasons have other ways to determine if you are, in fact, the real deal.

### Token

A token is a grip or handshake that is used by Freemasons to identify each other. Each of the degrees of Masonry has its own handshake that identifies the level of proficiency attained by a member. It enables one Mason to silently know another one without either of them calling attention to himself.

### Hoodwink

Today, this term has come to mean "to trick" or "to deceive". But in a Masonic lodge, it's a very old term used to describe a blindfold which means "cover," and means "close the eyes."

While being led through portions of the three degrees of the Masonic lodge, the candidate is hoodwinked to prevent him from seeing certain features of the room until the proper time in the ceremony, to focus his attention on the words he is hearing, and to symbolise the search for or knowledge. It does not mean he is being tricked or lied to.

### Cowan

The Tyler's job is to keep out all "\_\_\_\_s and eavesdroppers". The origin is unknown, but it may be early Scottish. It was used of a man who practiced Masonry, usually of the roughest character as in the building of walls, who had not been regularly trained and initiated, corresponding in some sense to "scab" as used by labour unions.

If a man has learned the work by some illegal method he is a \_\_\_\_\_. An "eavesdropper" is one who spies on a Lodge, and may be such without having learned anything about it before. A "clandestine" is one who has gone through initiation ceremonies but not in a regular Lodge.

### Worshipful Master

The primary officer of a Masonic Lodge is called the Worshipful Master.

This does not mean that Freemasons "worship" him as the position is more like that of a president in other organisations. The term comes from Old English and is used to mean "greatly honoured."

Mayors of English and Canadian cities are still referred to as "Your Worship". Because Masonry has its origins during the Middle Ages, the term has been passed down through the centuries and has been retained.

## On the Square

When a stonemason cuts a block to use in the construction of a building, it must be perfectly shaped so that it will support the other blocks that surround it. The block's sides must all be perfectly straight with no faults, so that it will do its part as just one small piece of a much larger building.

To check the reliability of his workmanship, the stonemason uses a tool shaped like a right angle, to determine whether the sides and angles of the stone are perfect.

Freemasons use the term to describe their trust in each other. A man who is on the square is honest and reliable, and is a strong part of the whole community around him. The term is also used to mean "just between you and me." When one Mason tells another Mason something he'd like to be kept private, he'll often say "This is \_\_\_\_\_."

## On the Level

To a Freemason, on the level means just that. All Freemasons are Brothers who meet on the same level, regardless of their social or economic status outside the Lodge. Princes, presidents, and captains of industry are no better or more important than bus drivers, plumbers, and paper boys when they sit in the Lodge together. Masonry does not detract from a man's accomplishments, nor does it exalt him above his Brothers because of his status or position outside the Lodge.

## The Third Degree

No, this is not like your Dad trying to find out what you did to deserve detention. The third degree is the highest degree or level of ceremony conferred in a Masonic Lodge and is commonly known as the Master Mason degree. The two that come before it are; the Entered Apprentice and the Fellow Craft degrees. You may encounter other Masonic degrees that have higher numbers, bestowed by some other branches within Freemasonry, but they are not more important or of any higher rank than the Master Mason degree.

### FROM LIFES LITTLE INSTRUCTION BOOK

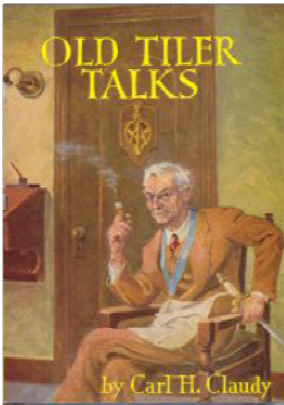


1. Keep a tight rein on your temper

2. Surprise loved ones with little unexpected gifts

3 Make the best of bad situation





## Old Tiler Talks— SUPREME BEING

"The time has come Old Tiler," the Petitioner said resolutely, "I'm ready for you."

"Oh really" said the Tiler with mock fierceness, "how so?"

"I'm not afraid of you anymore after today."

"Why on earth would you be afraid of me?"

"Because after our conversation, you may decide to decline my petition and keep me out of the Masons."

"Now I really am concerned." the Tiler said with sincerity. "Sit down and tell me what's on your mind."

"Okay. It's time for me to provide 'full disclosure' on whether I believe in a Supreme Being or not."

"Do you?"

"Yes. Absolutely with all my heart and reason. But I also have to say that I am also an atheist, and agnostic, a heretic and a pantheist."

"Well you've certainly chosen some provocative words. And, if I judged things at face value, perhaps I would reject you on that. But I don't judge things on face value and I know you to be a thoughtful well-intentioned man, so why don't you tell me what you mean."

"Well, first, I'm an atheist, because I don't ascribe to God the characteristics of personhood that we humans have. I do believe that God has Intention, but I don't believe he has hopes, fears, or neuroses. I don't believe he has a gender, though I use he from the patriarchal habit. And I don't believe he hates or chooses the way people do or the way some religions say he does."

"Second, I'm an agnostic, because I believe that the nature of God is like the wave-particle duality of matter. Sometimes God acts like a Person, who interacts with humans and treats people as individuals. Sometimes God acts like a blind impersonal force, something that is 'not a respecter of persons'. So if you ask me, what do I think God is 'really' like, what is his True Nature, I must say with all honesty, 'I don't know and I'm not certain I can find out before I die'."

"Third, I am a heretic. The religion I grew up believing in teaches that only members of one special group are in God's favor and will survive death."

While I keep many of their beliefs and study their systems, I don't believe that God chooses among his children. I have two children, each with different gifts and I will never choose between them. Even if one commits unspeakable acts I will love them as my child forever. The God I believe in feels that way for all men and will either bring all men Home or none. I believe this regardless of what my 'religion of origin' may teach."

"Lastly, I'm a pantheist. I believe that there is nothing so small that God cannot enter, and nothing so large that God cannot fill. I believe that if you sum up all that exists, all that ever existed, all that will exist, and all that does not exist you have God. For me, God is the complete set of "I AM" and "I AM NOT". He is the Alpha and the Omega. He is the All and the Nothing, the eternal Yin and Yang."

"So, do I believe in a Supreme Being? Yes, and passionately. But I worship him by trying as hard as I can to see him clearly for what he really is, knowing full well that I will never even come close. I worship him by rejecting any limiting definition of what he may ultimately be. So, I stand today for who I am and who I imagine God to be and not to be. My beliefs may confuse some, but I will not be afraid any longer."

The Old Tiler was silent for some time. Finally he looked at the Petitioner and said, "Son, I believe with all my heart that there is nothing you've said that makes you unfit to be a Mason, and I know that there are many Masons who would be proud to call you their Brother. Stand firm in yourself and let the votes come as they may. And remember that there are many doors into the Temple. If this one closes, you may still find Light through another door."

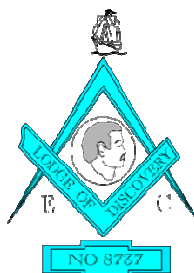
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## RESIGNATION

No brother may resign from a lodge otherwise than by notice in writing to the Master or Secretary.

Provided the brother has paid his dues or has satisfied the lodge in respect thereof and has no complaint lodge against him, his resignation should be accepted and a clearance certificate issued to him in the form required under the Book of Constitutions.

If a brother has resigned from a lodge without having complied with its by-laws, or the laws, rules and regulations of the Craft, he is deprived of all Masonic privileges until he has given such compliance.



## Our Attitudes

Our attitudes are like our shadows, they follow every thinking individual in his total activities. They are impelling forces in action, they shape our purposes & they largely determine our policies and practices. They are the very foundation of our many decisions, decisions which affect us personally, our families, our relations to others in society, and our actions as citizens.

They are to human conduct what gunpowder is to a rifle shot, yet how many times do we give them much thought? Hardly if ever do we bother to ascertain what our attitudes are, how we acquire them, or where they are leading us. That we acquire them is a certainty. We acquire many of them unconsciously from the four corners of our existence and are not aware of them unless we are confronted with a problem or a decision.

They are crystallized in our minds on the basis of what we **hear, see, feel and learn** by contact with our fellow man. They are the result of our studies and our search for knowledge.

Many of our attitudes are by necessity, transitory, temporary, and fleeting.

Many are inherited from friends, parents and associates.

Others are created by our environment; some are fundamental and permanent, permeating our entire existence. They stay with us for life, and shape our acts, our thoughts and react upon our personality for good or bad.

They may constitute our philosophy whether we realize it or not, and their existence is a part of our approach to every problem or activity we confront. They are of vital importance and of immeasurable importance to us. We cannot conceive the influence they have upon us and those surrounding us.

While we cannot trace their source we can and should at least, to some extent, attempt to analyze our attitudes toward life and direct them in paths that will be most productive for good.

Do we ever stop to ask if our attitudes are proper and wholesome? Could it be, that they are influenced by our prejudices, or if they are tempered by intolerance? Are they based upon unwarranted conclusions, and insufficient knowledge of the facts.

It is of course impossible to catalogue all the ingredients of a proper wholesome attitude, but we can point to a few positive qualities that should be a part thereof:-

They should be the result of careful thought.

They should be tempered by moderation and tolerant understanding.

They should be composed of the benevolence that readily concedes that practically every human problem has two sides to his/her personality and consequently at least two viewpoints.

They should be permeated by morality and seasoned by the spiritual teachings of our religion.

On the other hand our attitudes are often a matter of indifference and complacency.

They are steeped in the notion of luck as a substitute for industry of chance rather than planning. They are often influenced by the growing desire among us to cultivate the idea of getting something for nothing. They are influenced by the prevalent notion that it is necessary to eliminate the struggle from life to acquire happiness.



When we reflect that, as exercise is necessary to the muscles to acquire physical strength, struggle or degrees of it are strengthening influences in the development of personality and character. Strength and struggle go together physically and spiritually.

In that connection it has occurred to me that we are attempting, to a greater degree than is good for us, to eliminate struggle from life. There is a continued notion, now apparently gaining ground that it is the business of Government to provide prosperity for all.

While the attitude of average individuals may not change the course of great events, they are greatly important. A great many examples could be cited to show that the attitude of one man or woman has changed not only the course of that individual's life, but the course of life for their fellowmen & for their state or nation.

Attitudes defy description, they are as varied as the thoughts of men, yet they are ever present and determinative of our actions. This assertion or expression of an attitude, no matter how worthy of attainment sometimes is delayed for years while it takes roots in the hearts of men.

But an individual attitude if pervaded by conviction, born of truth, based on morality and right will ultimately prevail. History points to hundreds of examples. How many peoples of the world yearn for that today?

I know of no more important job in our lives than developing attitudes. The moral and spiritual aspects of these attitudes not only influence us individually but they affect our marriage, our business successes, our ability to rear families and influence our friends and our neighbors.

Let's look at our attitudes; they are much more important than we think. The attitudes we develop as we proceed through life can either become stumbling blocks or great building materials.

### **Which shall they be?**

With God's help we can make them wonderful building materials.

*With acknowledgement to The Educator*



## Moments of Reason

Old age in winter, alas, for many people, but for those who are wise and optimistic, it is the happy and fruitful time of harvest.

As long as one continues to be amazed, one can delay growing old.

The entire life of a human being depends upon a "YES" or a "NO" uttered two or three times between the ages of sixteen and twenty five.

Old age arrives suddenly, as does the snow, one morning, on awakening, one realizes that everything is white. It is by growing old that one learns to remain young.

If someone declares that he is able to do everything at sixty, that he was able to do at twenty, then he was not doing much when he was twenty!!!

Old age embellishes everything, it has the effect of the setting sun on the beautiful twilights of autumn. As one grows old, one generally rids himself of his shortcomings, because they no longer serve any useful purpose.

There are four great periods in the life of a man; the one where he believes in Santa Claus, the one where he no longer believes in Santa Claus, the one where he is Santa Claus and the one where he looks more and more like Santa Claus.

The good side of this, as old as one might be, is that one is always younger than he will ever be. The person who considers himself too old to learn something has probably always been that way.

### Lodge Birthdays

<b>Ross McDonald</b>	<b>36 (J)</b>
<b>Jean-Luc Bador</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Maurice Masuino</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Geoff Elvy</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Dan Garrigan</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Ollie McArthur</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Calvin Fitzpatrick</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Wayne Lance</b>	<b>1</b>

### News from the South

At the completion of work at our August meeting the ladies were escorted into the Lodge and given an explanation of the duties of the respective officers and explanations of some of our symbols. After question time we indulged on refreshments in the South.



## SEPTEMBER QUIZ

1. After the WM has asked members to assist him in opening the Lodge, how many knocks will be heard when opening in the first degree?
2. The words in the ritual tell us that fit and proper persons to be made Masons have to be 'just'. If you were talking to a non-mason how would you describe being *just*?
3. The blindfold is used as a symbol of being in a state of darkness and to teach you what?
4. When investing a newly-made Mason with the distinguishing badge of an EA he is told it is more ancient than what two things?
5. More honourable than what two things?
6. Being the badge of what two things?
7. The newly-made EA is entrusted to wear this badge with pleasure to himself and which two other things?
8. After being invested with the badge of an EA the candidate is told of two kinds of preparation, internal and external. Internally he was prepared in his heart by what two things?
9. During the 1st degree prayer we ask TGAOTU to endue the Candidate with a competency of Divine wisdom to do what?
10. The ritual tells us that Masonry is founded on the purest principles of piety and virtue – what does each of these principles mean in modern life?

*With acknowledgement to the Craft Masonry Knowledge Website New Zealand*



## Humour

Grand Lodge Above No.1

Q. Why can't Brethren working in Antarctica pass to the Grand Lodge Above?

A. Because they're not dead.

Grand Lodge Above No.2

Q. Why couldn't the absent-minded Brother enter the Grand Lodge Above?

A. Because he forgot to bring his regalia.

Hiram and the Sheriff

Q. What do Hiram Abiff and Gary Cooper have in common?

A. They both faced murderous ruffians at high noon.

Hiram et al

Q. What do Hiram Abiff, George Washington and a tombstone cutter have in common?

A. They're all monumental masons.

King Solomon's Temple

Q. Where was King Solomon's Temple located?

A. On the side of his head.

Lodges and Pubs

Q. What do Masonic Lodges and pubs have in common?

A. The longer you stay the more enlightened you become.

Masonic Apron

Q. Why do Freemasons wear aprons?

A. Just in case they have to do the washing up.

Masonic Beavers

Q. What's the first thing a colony of Masonic beavers would do?

A. Build a grand lodge.

Masonic Colours No.1

Q. What's black, white, blue and green?

A. A seasick Freemason.

Masonic Colours No.2

Q. What's black, white, blue, green and red?

A. A sunburnt, seasick Freemason.

Masonic Colours No.3

Q. What's black, white, blue, green, red and yellow?

A. A sunburnt, seasick Freemason in a bowl of custard.

Masonic Dad

Q. What did the Freemason say when his kids covered him with sand at the beach?

A. Don't put a sprig of acacia on top!