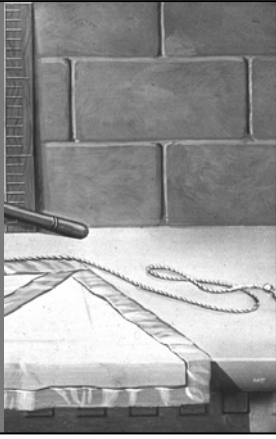


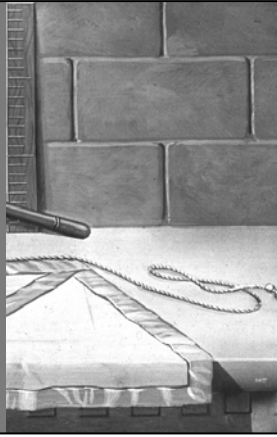
The Entered  
Apprentice  
Degree



Slide One

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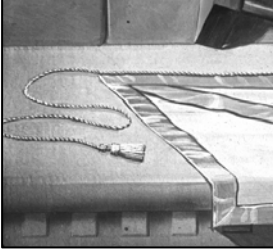
Nothing  
lighthearted  
in  
Freemasonry



Slide Two

You are now an Entered Apprentice. Now you realize that this undertaking which you have embarked on is indeed solemn and serious, with nothing lighthearted in its nature. Even though you were carefully investigated and admitted to membership by a unanimous vote of the Brethren before you could receive the Entered Apprentice Degree, you were required to make several important declarations.

## Essence of Freemasonry

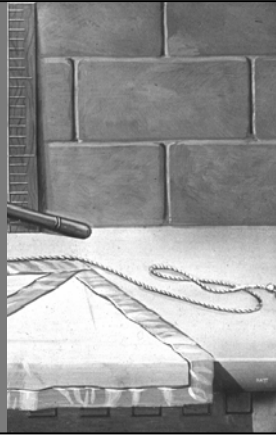


- ◆ Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of Man
- ◆ Man seeks Masonry, not Masonry the man
- ◆ Service to others
- ◆ Conformity to the laws of Freemasonry

Slide Three

Those simple statements contain much of the essence of Freemasonry: Belief in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man; that the man must seek Masonry, and not the reverse; service to others; and conformity to the laws of the institution, written and unwritten.

The Entered  
Apprentice  
is a "learner"



Slide Four

The Entered Apprentice is “a learner,” a beginner. In the Middle Ages, it was customary for master workmen to train young apprentices, so that skilled workers would continue to be available as the work progressed. These apprentices were usually ten to fifteen years of age. They had to be of sound body, in order to perform the hard labor required; alert in mind, so they could be taught the secrets of the master mason’s art; and willing to serve faithfully during the long years of apprenticeship.

In return, the Master Mason was responsible for the Apprentice’s care and his training, providing him with food, lodging and spiritual upbringing. When they had proven their fitness for training, they were enrolled in the records of the operative Lodge as Entered Apprentices.

<p><b>Symbolism in the Entered Apprentice Degree</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The Lodge represents the world.</li> <li>◆ Entering from the West</li> <li>◆ Casting off ties with the old world</li> <li>◆ The Cable-Tow</li> <li>◆ Being brought to light</li> <li>◆ The Volume of Sacred Law</li> <li>◆ The Square and the Compasses</li> </ul>
	

Slide Five

Many of the lessons of Freemasonry are taught through symbols. There is a good reason why symbolism is used in Masonry; a mere statement seldom takes hold in the mind and heart. But when an idea is connected to a tangible object which logically symbolizes it, the lesson becomes clearer and more enduring.

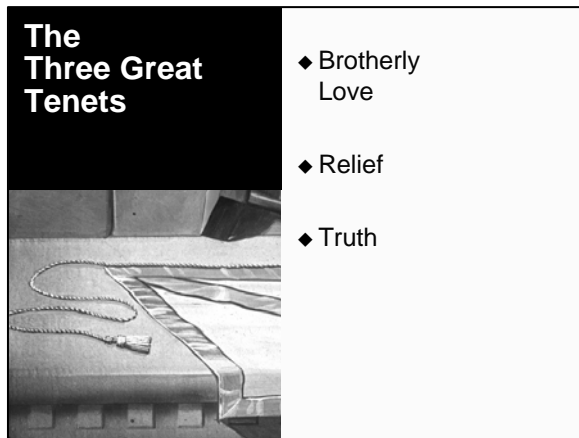
The Lodge symbolically represents a new world--the world of Freemasonry.

When you passed through the door, you were casting off all ties with the old world and entering into a new life. You were not made free in the Lodge immediately; you were symbolically restrained in your actions by the cable-tow. It was removed only after you had bound yourself by an even stronger bond—your obligation.

The manner in which you were “brought to light” was deliberately a bit startling, to strongly impress upon you the fact that, the instant your obligation made you an Entered Apprentice, you were admitted to the light of Masonry. All along your Masonic journey, you will find this central symbol of light, whether it be the light of knowledge, the light of truth, or the light which radiates from Deity.

Upon the Lodge’s altar are the three Great Lights of Masonry. One of these Great Lights is the Holy Book of your faith, which is sometimes called the Volume of Sacred Law. All Masonry centers on this Great Light. The specific holy book varies from country to country and Lodge to Lodge, depending upon the religious faith of its members. The fact that Freemasonry’s sole religious requirement is a belief in Deity is a striking example of its support for the individual’s right to his own religious convictions.

The other Great Lights of Freemasonry are the square and compasses. The square reminds us to “square” our actions and the compasses to circumscribe our desires and keep our passions within due bounds, for the benefit of all mankind.



Slide Six

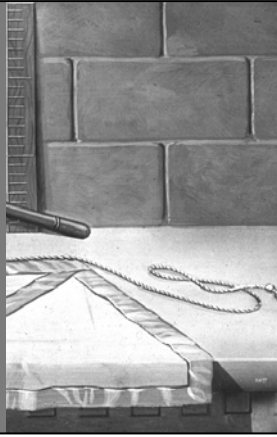
You were told that the three great tenets of Freemasonry are Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. They are three of the firm and everlasting pillars which support the structure of the fraternity.

When we speak of Brotherly Love, we mean the true spirit of Brotherhood: respect, tolerance and unity. Soon you will experience this within the Lodge.

Just as we accept Brotherly Love as a tenet, we also cherish Relief. Masonic relief is more inclusive and far-reaching than simple financial aid. It can be an understanding hand on a shoulder during a time of grief, assistance with duties which have temporarily become too pressing, or good counsel in a time of crisis. Of course, it may also take the more conventional form of financial assistance.

Truth is a divine attribute. It is the foundation of every virtue. To be good men and true is the first lesson we are taught in Freemasonry. Unless we could depend on our Brethren around us as men to whom truth is an instinctive characteristic, the Fraternity could not long endure. Thus we accept Truth as the third great tenet on which our fraternity so firmly stands.

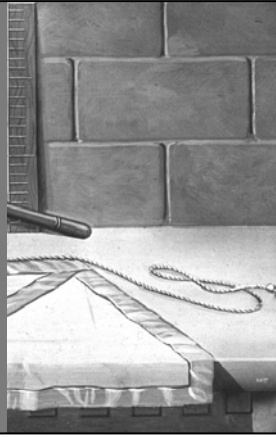
Guard The  
Secrets  
Of The  
Order



Slide Seven

All of this being said, you should be cautioned as you begin your journey through Freemasonry. The mere fact that a stranger you meet may wear a Masonic ring or emblem is no guarantee that he is a member of our Fraternity. Be guarded and watchful in your conversations, especially among strangers. The secrets and affairs of Freemasonry are for its members alone.

The Entered  
Apprentice  
is a "learner"



Slide Eight

In conclusion, it is the desire of the Lodge that you become a well-informed Brother within the scope of this Degree. Remember that the title Entered Apprentice means "learner." It should be as a learner that you approach your travels in Freemasonry as well as through life.

Before you can advance to the next Degree, that of Fellow Craft, you must demonstrate to the Brethren of the Lodge that you have learned the modes of recognition that the Entered Apprentice Degree teaches. We will help you in this process so that you can present yourself well and not be embarrassed when you are asked to repeat and demonstrate them in the Lodge.