


The  
Fellowcraft  
Degree



Slide One

No text

Introduction



- ◆ Nothing is without purpose
- ◆ Contemplation and reflection
- ◆ Lessons for a lifetime
- ◆ Globes, 5 senses, liberal arts and sciences

## Slide Two

In Freemasonry, nothing is done without purpose. In the Fellow Craft Degree, the significance of the teachings, though perhaps a bit more obscure, can be understood through contemplation and reflection. Even though you may eventually be raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, the lessons taught here are of importance and will always be significant to you.

The Mason who has just received his Fellow Craft Degree often finds himself a little puzzled at the emphasis on the globes, the five human senses, and the seven liberal arts and sciences. In our modern ritual they are expressly symbols, as will be explained later. We owe the form of the Fellow Craft Degree Lecture to a man named William Preston, who lived in England during the latter half of the 18th century.

## Fellow Craft Degree Lecture



- ◆ William Preston
- ◆ Knowledge is the answer to all things.
- ◆ Preston included many elements of a formal education.
- ◆ Prestonian Lectures were adapted by Thomas S. Webb to fit American Ritual.

### Slide Three

Preston believed that one of Freemasonry's principal duties was to bring light to a Candidate by actually educating him. Because he believed that knowledge was the universal solution for the problems of the world, Preston included within the Fellow Craft lecture as many elements of a formal education as possible—hence the emphasis on the globes, the senses, the liberal arts and sciences.

The original “Prestonian Lectures” were adapted and condensed by Thomas Smith Webb in 1797 to more closely fit the Degrees of Freemasonry in America. Webb actually resided for a time in Ohio, and the lectures used by the Grand Lodge of Ohio are based on his work. They are often referred to as the Preston-Webb Lectures.

<p>Fellow Craft Degree Lessons</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The Fellow Craft represents man in adulthood.</li> <li>◆ Experience</li> <li>◆ Education</li> <li>◆ Wisdom</li> <li>◆ The Middle Chamber</li> </ul>
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Slide Four

The lessons of the Entered Apprentice Degree are directed to the heart. The lessons of Fellow Craft Degree, continuing your Masonic instruction, are directed to the intellect. While the Entered Apprentice symbolically represents a youth standing on the threshold of life, the Fellow Craft is a man in his adulthood--tried and experienced by the hardships of life. Now he must be properly prepared for all that faces him. The Fellow Craft Degree tells us that he can be so prepared in several ways.

First, he must learn through his own actual experience--through what he hears, sees, feels, tastes and smells--by direct contact with life through the five senses. To this personal experience, we must add the knowledge derived from the learning of others--formal education. Accordingly, the seven liberal arts and sciences are introduced into the lecture as symbols of the knowledge we gain through these teachings.

That which is imparted to us through the senses we call experience. That which we receive by formal training we call education. Yet greater than either, is wisdom, which is symbolized in the Fellow Craft Degree by the Middle Chamber.

You will recall that you did not reach the Middle Chamber directly. You didn't even know if you would be permitted to reach it at all. In the same way, the Fellow Craft must, regardless of his uncertainty, meet the problems of the day with courage and wisdom, fortified by faith in God's plan for the Universe.

## Fellow Craft Degree



- ◆ The lessons of the Master Mason lie ahead.
- ◆ Freemasonry is a progressive science, whose lessons are for a lifetime.

### Slide Five

As a Fellow Craft you have received much of the symbolic knowledge taught by Freemasonry. However the important lessons of the Master Mason Degree still lie before you.

Keep in mind that Freemasonry is a progressive science. Its study and practice continues as long as you live. In spirit, you will be a Fellow Craft for the rest of your life, and as such, you stand as a living symbol of enlightenment and wisdom, which reveres and treasures the knowledge you have attained.

Just as you did after the Entered Apprentice Degree, you must again stand in open Lodge and demonstrate to the Brethren that you have learned the modes of recognition of the Fellow Craft Degree before you can receive the Master Mason Degree. We will again assist you to achieve this.