

The Master Mason Degree



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Now that you have received the three Degrees of Freemasonry, you have experienced firsthand a bit of the unique fascination the fraternity holds for its members.

<p>Allegory of the Master Mason Degree</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Simple story◆ Limitless teachings◆ Lessons are open to those who seek them◆ Legend of Hiram Abif◆ Lost word
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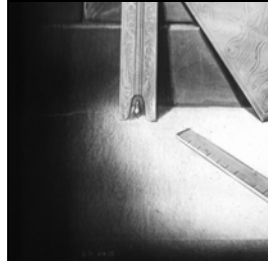
The deeply moving allegory you have witnessed may be one of the simplest stories ever recorded by man, and yet is limitless in its profound teachings. No man who receives the Master Mason Degree ever forgets it.

This Degree, like the two which preceded it, presents its many lessons quickly and at times almost in passing. Yet the number of books written about Masonic history, philosophy, and ritual could fill many libraries and represent many lifetimes of research. Therefore, you may wonder, “If Freemasonry is so complex, how will I ever acquire enough knowledge to properly appreciate or understand it?”

It is true that Freemasonry is very complex when looked at through the eyes of the Masonic student. It seems to stretch away on all sides like a vast and unknown continent. However, in its more obvious aspects, Freemasonry is not that complicated. The messages it has to impart can be perceived and understood by anyone who will seek them. It is the sincere hope of your Brethren that you will feel the desire to delve far more deeply into them on your own, and, of course, with the willing help of your mentor and your Lodge Education Officer.

The focal point, around which this Degree’s allegory centers, is the legend of Hiram Abif. The lost word is perhaps the most important symbol of this allegory. A missing or lost word is a common motif in the histories of many ancient cultures, especially the ancient Hebrews.

In Freemasonry the lost word has become a symbol of the never-ending search for light, or truth, which is another way to say the search for unity or oneness with God.

Duties and Responsibilities	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Constitution, laws, and edicts◆ Masonic offense◆ Real penalties: reprimand, suspension, and expulsion◆ Penalties of the obligation are symbolic only◆ Compliance with obligation

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Now that you are a Master Mason, you have the full rights and privileges of membership in our fraternity. However, you also have the responsibilities of that membership.

As a Master Mason, you should be aware of what Masonic offenses are, and how they are punished. A Freemason is obliged to abide by the Constitution, laws, and edicts of the Grand Lodge, and by the By-Laws of his particular Lodge.

A Masonic offense is defined as “any act unbecoming a good man and true.” Upon being brought to trial and found guilty, the offender may be punished in one of three ways: by reprimand; by suspension; or by expulsion. The penalties of the Obligation you recited are merely symbolic, to illustrate that a Freemason’s word of honor is so important that he would rather suffer extreme punishment than to perjure himself.

Among your duties as a Master Mason are strict compliance with your Obligation; loyalty to your Lodge and the Fraternity; prompt payment of your annual dues; obedience to the laws, written and unwritten, of Freemasonry, and to be an affiliated Mason – that is, a member in good standing of a Lodge.

Privileges	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Recommend a man for membership◆ The Ohio Masonic Home◆ Masonry as a family affair

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It is also your privilege to recommend a man to be made a Freemason. Once more, however, you are cautioned not to recommend him unless you are satisfied that he will conform to the principles of our Fraternity and be a credit to the Craft.

As a Master Mason you and certain members of your immediate family, in case of need, may become eligible to reside at one of our state's Masonic Homes. Details may be obtained from the Secretary of our Lodge.

Freemasonry can and should be a family experience. Because of your membership, other members of your immediate family can also now enjoy aspects of Masonic fraternalism. The activities of our Lodge are announced at Lodge meetings and published in our bulletin that is mailed to you from time to time.

Sources of Further Information



- ◆ Lodge libraries
- ◆ Grand Lodge of Ohio's webpage; www.freemason.com
- ◆ Conversing with well-informed Brethren

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The Grand Lodge has many educational articles about Freemasonry and information of Grand Lodge programs on the Grand Lodge's web page, www.freemason.com. Our Lodge also has a web page, _____ . We also have several Masonic books in our library.

You might consider making contributions to the Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation and the Grand Lodge Scholarship Foundation. Information on these tax deductible foundations can be obtained on the web page or through the Grand Lodge Office in Worthington.

By attending our Lodge meetings, visiting other Lodges, and talking with your Brothers, you will come to know why Freemasonry is the world's oldest and largest fraternity.

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You are now a Master Mason and have begun your new Masonic life. You, and only you, can build upon this foundation. If you use your God-given faculties to search after more Light, you will certainly arrive at the end of your road with the full and happy satisfaction of a well-spent life.

As in the previous two Degrees, you will be required to demonstrate your knowledge of the modes of recognition of the Master Mason Degree in open Lodge. While there was no time limit attached for the other Degrees, you must present yourself before the Lodge this time within 60 days of receiving the Master Mason Degree. We will, of course, again help you to achieve this.

Our Lodge has its Stated or Business Meetings on the _____ . Special Meetings are called from time to time to confer Degrees and do such other work as the Worshipful Master may deem necessary. You are entitled to attend all these meetings and are encouraged to do so.

Congratulations and Welcome my Brother!