

MOST EXCELLENT MASTER'S DEGREE

Bible: 2 Chronicles vii

M E M: ** / Brother Senior Deacon,

S D: (*Stands, Gives sign*)

M E M: you will take with you suitable assistance and prepare the candidate to be received in the first section of the Most Excellent Master's Degree in due and ancient form.

S D: *retires, prepares Candidate, returns to station)*

M C: ** ** **

S D: (*Rises*) Most Excellent Master, (*sign*) there is an alarm at the inner door.

M E M: Brother Senior Deacon, you will attend to the alarm and report the cause.

S D: (*At inner door*) ** ** **

M C: *

S D: * (*Opens door*) Who comes here?

M C: A Worthy Brother who has been regularly initiated an Entered Apprentice Mason, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft, raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, advanced to the honorary degree of Mark Master, regularly seated in the Oriental Chair, and now prays for further light in Masonry by being received and acknowledged a Most Excellent Master.

S D: My Brother, is it of your own free will and accord you make the request?

Candidate: It is.

S D: Brother Master of Ceremonies, is the candidate duly and truly prepared, worthy and well qualified?

M C: He is.

S D: By what further right does he expect to gain admission into this Worshipful Lodge of Most Excellent Masters?

M C: By benefit of the password.

S D: Has he the password?

M C: He has it not, but I his conductor have it for him.

S D: Advance and give it.

M C: G_____.

S D: The password is right. The candidate will await the time with patience until his request shall be made known to the Most Excellent Master and his answer returned. (*At Altar*) Most Excellent Master, (*sign*) the alarm at the inner door was caused by a Worthy Brother who has been regularly initiated an Entered Apprentice Mason, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft, raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, advanced to the honorary degree of Mark Master, regularly seated in the Oriental Chair, and now prays for further light in Masonry by being received and acknowledged a Most Excellent Master.

M E M: Brother Senior Deacon, is it of his own free will and accord he makes the request?

S D: It is.

M E M: Is he duly and truly prepared, worthy and well qualified?

S D: He is.

M E M: By what further right does he expect to gain admission into this Worshipful Lodge of Most Excellent Masters?

S D: By benefit of the password.

M E M: Has he the password?

S D: He has it not, but I his conductor have it for him and will give it at the proper time.

M E M: It is my order that the candidate be permitted to enter and be received in due and ancient form.

S D: (*Opens ante-room door*) It is the order of the Most Excellent Master that the candidate be permitted to enter and be received in due and ancient form. (*Senior Deacon backs up but does not touch Candidate*)

My Brother, you will halt. The manner of your reception in the preceding degrees has already been explained to you. In this Most Excellent Master's Degree, you are received upon the apex of the keystone applied to your naked breast (*done*) which is to teach you that as the keystone completes the arch, so is this Most Excellent Master's Degree founded in the completion and dedication of the Temple by King Solomon to the service of Almighty God. Most Excellent Master, the candidate has been received in due and ancient form.

M E M: Brother Senior Deacon, it is my order that the candidate be conducted six times around the Lodge and caused to halt at the West and East.

(Senior Deacon conducts Candidate six times around lodge leaving Altar on the right.)

S D and Candidate: *(In West, RWSW rises, SD & Cand. give E.A. Sign)*

R W S W: *(Returns E.A. Sign) **

M E M: *(MEM rises and uncovers.) I WAS GLAD WHEN THEY SAID UNTO ME, LET US GO INTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.*

S D and Candidate: *(In East, MEM rises, SD & Cand. give E.A. Sign)*

M E M: *(Returns E.A. Sign) **

S D and Candidate: *(In West, RESW rises, SD & Cand. give F.C. Sign)*

R W S W: *(Returns F.C. Sign) ***

M E M: *(MEM rises and uncovers.) OUR FEET SHALL STAND WITHIN THY GATES, O JERUSALEM. JERUSALEM IS BUILDED AS A CITY THAT IS COMPACT TOGETHER.*

S D and Candidate: *(In East, MEM rises, SD & Cand. give F.C. Sign)*

M E M: *(Returns F.C. Sign) ***

S D and Candidate: *(In West, RWSW rises, SD & Cand. give M.M. Sign)*

R W S W: *(Returns M.M. Sign) ** **

M E M: (*MEM rises and uncovers.*) WHITHER THE TRIBES GO UP, THE TRIBES OF THE LORD, UNTO THE TESTIMONY OF ISRAEL, TO GIVE THANKS UNTO THE NAME OF THE LORD.

S D and Candidate: (*In East, MEM rises, SD & Cand. give M.M. Sign*)

M E M: (*Returns M.M. Sign*) ** *

S D and Candidate: (*In West, RWSW rises, SD & Cand. give MK.M. Sign*)

R W S W: (*Returns MK.M. Sign*) ** **

M E M: (*MEM rises and uncovers.*) FOR THERE ARE SET THRONES OF JUDGMENT, THE THRONES OF THE HOUSE OF DAVID.

S D and Candidate: (*In East, MEM rises, SD & Cand. give MK.M. Sign*)

M E M: (*Returns MK.M. Sign*) ** **

S D and Candidate: (*In West, RWSW rises, SD & Cand. give P.M. Sign*)

R W S W: (*Returns P.M. Sign*) ** ** *

M E M: (*MEM rises and uncovers.*) PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM: THEY SHALL PROSPER THAT LOVE THEE. PEACE BE WITHIN THY WALLS, AND PROSPERITY WITHIN THY PALACES.

S D and Candidate: (*In East, MEM rises, SD & Cand. give P.M. Sign*)

M E M: (*Returns P.M. Sign*) ** ** *

R W S W: ** ** *

M E M: (*MEM rises and uncovers.*) *FOR MY BRETHREN AND COMPANIONS' SAKES, I WILL NOW SAY, PEACE BE WITHIN THEE. BECAUSE OF THE HOUSE OF THE LORD OUR GOD, I WILL SEEK THY GOOD.* ** ** *

S D and Candidate: (*In West*)

S D: ** ** *

R W S W: ** ** * (*Rises*) Who comes here?

S D: A Worthy Brother who has been regularly Initiated an Entered Apprentice Mason, passed to the Degree of fellowcraft, raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason, advanced to the honorary Degree of Mark Master, regularly seated in the Oriental Chair and now prays for further light in Masonry by being received and acknowledged a Most Excellent Master.

R W S W: My Brother, is it of your own free will and accord you make the request?

Candidate: It is.

R W S W: Brother Senior Deacon, is the candidate duly and truly prepared, worthy and well qualified?

S D: He is.

R W S W: By what further right does he expect to gain admission into this Worshipful Lodge of Most Excellent Masters?

S D: By benefit of the password.

R W S W: Has he the password?

S D: He has it not but I his conductor have it for him.

R W S W: Advance and give it.

S D: G_____.

R W S W: The password is right, he has my permission to pass.

S D and Candidate: (*In East*)

S D: ** * * *

M E M: ** * * * (*Rises*) Who comes here?

S D: A Worthy Brother who has been regularly Initiated an Entered Apprentice Mason, passed to the Degree of fellowcraft, raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason, advanced to the honorary Degree of Mark Master, regularly seated in the Oriental Chair and now prays for further light in Masonry by being received and acknowledged a Most Excellent Master.

M E M: My Brother is it of your own free will and accord you make the request?

Candidate: It is.

M E M: Brother Senior Deacon is the candidate duly and truly prepared, worthy and well qualified?

S D: He is.

M E M: By what further right does he expect to gain admission into this Worshipful Lodge of Most Excellent Masters?

S D: By benefit of the password.

M E M: Has he the password?

S D: He has it not but I his conductor have it for him.

M E M: Advance and give it.

S D: G_____.

M E M: The password is right. It is my order that the candidate be reconducted to the Right Worshipful Senior Warden in the West, who will teach him how to approach the East, the place of Masonic Light, in due and ancient form.

(Senior Deacon conducts Candidate 6 paces West of Altar, then to RWSW station on square lines.)

(If one candidate, SD takes one side step to North as RWSW comes down from station. RWSW goes South of and beyond candidate then returns between candidate and SD, pivots counter clockwise until facing East. If more than one candidate, SD takes one side step to South and RWSW moves directly into vacant space and directs candidates and SD to face the East. (All turn to left.)

RWSW instructs candidates (SD takes steps with them), reports and returns to station. SD closes on candidates as RWSW leaves Altar.)

S D: Right Worshipful Senior Warden, (RWSW rises) it is the order of the Most Excellent Master that you take charge of the candidate and teach him how to approach the East, the place of Masonic Light, in due and ancient form.

(Right Worshipful Senior Warden in charge of Candidate.)

R W S W: My Brother, you will step off on the left foot, bring the heel of the right to the hollow of the left, step off on the right foot, bring the heel of the left to the hollow of the

right, step off on the left foot, bring the heel of the right to the heel of the left, step off on the right foot, bring the heel of the left to the toe of the right, step off on the left foot, bring the heel of the right to the toe of the left, step off on the right foot and bring the left parallel with the right, body erect. Most Excellent Master, the candidate awaits your pleasure.

M E M: (*Stands*) My Brother, it becomes my duty to inform you that you cannot proceed further without taking upon yourself a solemn obligation appertaining to this degree, while I take pleasure in informing you that there is nothing contained in it which will interfere with the duties you owe to God, your country, your family, or yourself. With this assurance upon my part, are you willing to proceed?

Candidate: I am.

M E M: Brother Senior Deacon, you will place the candidate in proper position to receive the obligation.

S D: (*SD steps to South side of altar and faces North.*) My Brother, you will kneel on both knees and place both hands upon the Holy Bible. (*Done; SD returns to a position adjacent to Cand., faces East and reports.*) Most Excellent Master, the candidate is in position and awaits your pleasure.

M E M: *** (*Goes to Altar*) My Brother, you will announce your name and repeat after me:

I, _____, % m on fr wl @ ac, in t prs % A G, @ ths wfl :: % M E Ms, erc t Hm @ ddc t K S, do hb @ hn mst sl pr @ s, tt I wl nt cmc t scs % ths d t an on exc it b in a rg :: or to a kn wr br M E M, @ nt unt aft stc tr, d ex, o lfl mc inf I sh hv fnd hm or thm jsly entl t rc t sm.

An I ms sl pr @ s, tt I wl std t @ ab b t b-ls, rls, @ rglis % ths or ay ot :: % M E Ms % wh I m bc a mb, @ wl suprt t cnstn, rsltns, @ edcs % t Gr Ch und whs jrsdcn I ma b, s fr as

thy ma cm t m knl @ r nt subvr % t prnc @ grwk % Fmy;
@ wl ob al du sgs @ sms snt or hnd t m fm a rg :: or by a kn
wth br M E M, if wthn lgh % m c-t.

An I ms sl pr @ s tt I wl dsps tr Mc lt @ knl to al ls infd
bn, whrvr dsp, thy mkg aplcn to m @ I fdg thm wr.

An I ms sl p @ s tt I wl nt wrg a :: or a b M E M t th vl %
anth, nr prmt i t b dn if wthn m pr t prv it.

T al % wch I m sl pr @ s, wght an eqv, slf evs, or mn rsvn
wtev, bndg msl und t pn % hvg m br tn op, m hr @ vt tkn thc
@ thrn upn a dh t rt, shd I wlfl vl an pt % t sl ob % a M E M; s
hl m G.

In token of your sincerity, you will kiss the book before you
which is the Holy Bible.

Brother Senior Deacon, you will release the Brother from the
cabletow as he is bound to the fraternity by stronger ties.

(Returns to East) *

My Brother, you now observe me as Most Excellent Master of
this Lodge approaching you from the East upon the step, under
the due guard, and sign of a Most Excellent Master. (*Takes
step*) This is the step, this the due guard, and this the sign. It
alludes to the penalty of the obligation wherein you said you
would have your breast torn open, your heart and vitals taken
thence and so forth. It is also the working sign of the degree,
the sign to be given on entering or retiring from a Lodge of
Most Excellent Masters.

As a further token of my brotherly love and esteem, I extend
to you the right hand of fellowship, and with it the pass grip
and password of this degree. (Raises Cand. on North side of
Altar facing South) You will take me as I do you. Here I left
you and here I find you; will you be off or from?

S D: From.

M E M: From what to what?

S D: From the grip of a Past Master to the pass grip of a Most Excellent Master.

M E M: Pass

S D: From a grip to a span.

M E M: From a span to a grip. A threefold cord is not easily broken.

S D: A fourfold cord cannot be broken; a threefold cord is not easily broken.

M E M: A fourfold cord cannot be broken, what is this?

S D: The pass grip of a Most Excellent Master.

M E M: Has it a name?

S D: It has.

M E M: Will you give it to me?

S D: I did not so receive it, neither can I so impart it.

M E M: How will you impart it?

S D: I will syllable it with you.

M E M: Syllable and begin.

S D: You begin.

M E M: The word is with you, begin.

S D: L__

M E M: G__

S D: G__

M E M: L__

S D: G__

M E M: G__ is the password, and this is the pass grip of a Most Excellent Master. Will you be off or from?

S D: From.

M E M: From what to what?

S D: From the pass grip of a Most Excellent Master to the grip of the same.

M E M: Pass. (*Done*) What is this?

S D: The grip of a Most Excellent Master.

M E M: Has it a name?

S D: It has.

M E M: Will you give it to me?

S D: I did not so receive it, neither can I so impart it.

M E M: How will you impart it?

S D: I will syllable it with you.

M E M: Syllable and begin.

S D: You begin.

M E M: The word is with you, begin.

S D: B_

M E M: R_

S D: N_

M E M: B_

S D: R_

M E M: N_

S D: R_____

M E M: R_____ is the word and this is the grip of a Most Excellent Master. Prior to the dedication of the Temple while the chief priests and elders were assembling in the hall of audience, our Grand Master Solomon passed through the different apartments to see if the work had been completed in accordance with divine command given by God to his father David. Finding the work complete in all its parts, he came forth and grasping the Master Architect in this manner, hailed him R_____ which means Most Excellent, or Good Master.

This is called the covering grip, and as it covers all the other grips from the Entered Apprentice Degree up, so should we, as with a mantle of charity, ever endeavor to cover up the faults, foibles, and follies of a Brother Most Excellent Master, ever esteeming it our duty and privilege not only to remind him of his errors, but to aid in his reformation. (*Senior Deacon conducts Candidate North center of lodge room facing South*)

(*Confusion*)

M E M: * Right Worshipful Senior Warden, (*RWSW rises*) what is the cause of all this confusion among the craft in and about the Temple?

R W S W: Most Excellent Master, it is the day set apart for the celebration of the capstone and dedication of the Temple.

M E M: Right Worshipful Senior Warden, this being the day set apart for the celebration of the capstone and dedication of the Temple, it is my order that you assemble the craft in procession in the South, facing the East to assist in those solemn ceremonies.

R W S W: *** Craftsmen, it is the order of the Most Excellent Master that you assemble in procession in the South, facing the East to assist in the solemn ceremonies of the celebration of the capstone and dedication of the Temple. Brother Marshal, you will form the procession.

MAR: (*At his station, presents swords (RWSW does not return salute) upon receipt of order, and marches to a position south of altar and gives order.*)

Fall in Craftsmen, fall in.

(*Craftsmen form 2 lines, facing East. AOC is not in procession, but placed in southwest corner of room. Mar. side steps 1 pace North, presents sword (RWSW does not return salute and reports.)*)

Right Worshipful Senior Warden, the procession is formed.

(*Mar. faces East after report.*)

R W S W: Forward march.

(*MAR marches on left of head of procession. Procession makes 3/4 round per stanza for first two stanzas (head of procession in West at end of 1st stanza, in North at end of 2nd stanza.*)

At beginning of third stanza, MAR moves directly to center West, facing West, and divides ranks on each side of Altar. Columns halt as head reaches East and face inward.

Lines may extend all the way from East to West. MAR takes station at West end of South line.)

(All sing)

*ALL HAIL TO THE MORNING, THAT BIDS US
REJOICE;*

*THE TEMPLE'S COMPLETED, EXALT HIGH EACH
VOICE,*

THE CAPSTONE IS FINISHED, OUR LABOR IS O'ER;

*THE SOUND OF THE GAVEL SHALL HAIL US NO
MORE.*

*TO THE POWER ALMIGHTY, WHO EVER HAS
GUIDED*

*THE TRIBES OF OLD ISRAEL, EXALTING THEIR
FAME;*

*TO HIM WHO HATH GOVERNED OUR HEARTS
UNDIVIDED,*

*LET'S SEND FORTH OUR VOICES TO PRAISE HIS
GREAT NAME.*

COMPANIONS ASSEMBLE ON THIS JOYFUL DAY.

*(THE OCCASION IS GLORIOUS) THE KEYSTONE TO
LAY.*

*FULFILL'D IS THE PROMISE BY THE ANCIENT OF
DAYS.*

*TO BRING FORTH THE CAPSTONE WITH
SHOUTING AND PRAISE.*

*(RWSW brings keystone up on North side of Altar,
holding it high enough to see under it.)*

*(MEM gives all blows on center of top of keystone. RWSW
remains in East until keystone is seated, then returns to place
in procession in West.)*

Most Excellent Master: ** G__ ** T__ ** and
T__.

(As RWSW returns to West, MAR takes an assistant, deposits sword, secures AOC and places in procession in front of RWSW.)

(South line faces East, North line faces West. MEM enters procession in East and procession resumes. MEM and RWSW stay 180 degrees opposite each other.)

(SD and candidate do not remove aprons. MAR and assistant wait to remove aprons until after AOC is seated.)

THERE'S NO MORE OCCASION FOR LEVEL OR PLUMBLINE, (remove aprons)

FOR TROWEL OR GAVEL, FOR COMPASS OR SQUARE;

OUR WORKS ARE COMPLETED, THE ARK SAFELY SEATED, (seat ark)

AND WE SHALL BE GREETED AS WORKMEN MOST RARE.

NOW THOSE WHO ARE WORTHY, OUR TOILS WHO HAVE SHAR'D,

AND PROVED THEMSELVES FAITHFUL, SHALL MEET THEIR REWARD.

**THEIR VIRTUE AND KNOWLEDGE, INDUSTRY AND SKILL,
HAVE OUR APPROBATION, HAVE GAIN'D OUR GOOD WILL.**

(MEM then others give candidate(s) grip of MEM.)

WE ACCEPT AND RECEIVE THEM, MOST EXCELLENT MASTERS,

INVESTED WITH HONORS AND POWER TO PRESIDE,

AMONG WORTHY CRAFTSMEN, WHEREVER
ASSEMBL'D,

THE KNOWLEDGE OF MASONS TO SPREAD FAR
AND WIDE.

(As circle halts, SD places candidate(s) in circle next to
MEM and stands on right of candidate(s).)

M E M: THEN SAID SOLOMON, "THE LORD HATH SAID
THAT HE WOULD DWELL IN THE THICK DARKNESS.
BUT I HAVE BUILT AN HOUSE OF HABITATION FOR
THEE, A PLACE FOR THY DWELLING FOREVER."

AND THE KING STRETCHED FORTH HIS HANDS AND
TURNED HIS FACE, AND BLESSED THE
CONGREGATION OF ALL ISRAEL, AND ALL THE
CONGREGATION OF ISRAEL STOOD. THEY THEN
KNEELED DOWN AND PRAYED. (*Lights out*)

O LORD GOD OF ISRAEL, THERE IS NO OTHER GOD
LIKE THEE, EITHER IN HEAVEN ABOVE, OR UPON THE
EARTH BENEATH. BEHOLD, HEAVEN, AND THE
HEAVEN OF HEAVENS CAN NOT CONTAIN THEE; HOW
MUCH LESS THIS HOUSE WHICH I HAVE BUILT.

HEARKEN THOU, THEREFORE, TO THE SUPPLICATION
OF THY SERVANT, OF THY PEOPLE ISRAEL; HEAR
THOU FROM THY DWELLING-PLACE, EVEN FROM
HEAVEN, AND WHEN THOU HEAREST, FORGIVE.

NOW WHEN SOLOMON HAD MADE AN END OF
PRAYING, FIRE CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN AND
CONSUMED ALL THE BURNT OFFERINGS AND
SACRIFICES, AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD FILLED
THE LORD'S HOUSE.

WHEN ALL THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL SAW HOW FIRE
CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN, AND THE GLORY OF THE
LORD UPON THE HOUSE, THEY BOWED THEMSELVES
DOWN TO THE GROUND, WITH THEIR FACES ON THE
PAVEMENT AND WORSHIPPED AND PRAISED THE
LORD, SAYING,

All: *FOR HE IS GOOD; FOR HIS MERCY ENDURETH
FOREVER.*

*FOR HE IS GOOD; FOR HIS MERCY ENDURETH
FOREVER.*

*FOR HE IS GOOD; FOR HIS MERCY ENDURETH
FOREVER.*

*FOR HE IS GOOD; FOR HIS MERCY ENDURETH
FOREVER.*

*FOR HE IS GOOD; FOR HIS MERCY ENDURETH
FOREVER.*

*FOR HE IS GOOD; FOR HIS MERCY ENDURETH
FOREVER.*

*FOR HE IS GOOD; FOR HIS MERCY ENDURETH
FOREVER.*

(*Lights on, rise and give Grand Hailing sign) R_____.*

{*Optional*}

M E M: {*ALMIGHTY JEHOVAH, DESCEND NOW AND
FILL*

*THIS LODGE WITH THY GLORY, OUR HEARTS WITH
GOOD WILL;*

*PRESIDE AT OUR MEETINGS, ASSIST US TO FIND
TRUE PLEASURE IN TEACHING GOOD WILL TO
MANKIND.*

THY WISDOM INSPIRED THE GREAT INSTITUTION,

*THY STRENGTH SHALL SUPPORT IT TILL NATURE
EXPIRE;*

*AND WHEN THE CREATION SHALL FALL INTO RUIN
ITS BEAUTY SHALL RISE THROUGH THE MIDST OF THE
FIRE.}}*

M E M: The Lodge will now stand at ease for the purpose of clearing the Altar and resuming clothing. (*In East*) * The newly made Brother will approach the East.

My Brother, you doubtless remember when you were first permitted to enter upon the threshold of freemasonry and were presented with the lamb skin or white apron and taught its emblem; also when you were permitted to pass between the two columns at the outer porch and by a winding stairway were conducted into the middle chamber, where you learned the wages of a Fellowcraft and had your name recorded as such; also when you were caused to represent the tragical scene connected with the premature death of our Grand Master Hiram Abif, one of the noblest men and Masons whoever lived, who fell a martyr to his Masonic fidelity; also when you were remanded to the quarries and ordered to resume your labors and continue them until you had learned to bring up good and square work, just such work as would stand the test of the Grand Overseers square.

The Temple being completed in all its parts except placing the keystone to complete the arch, our Grand Master Solomon with his chariot and suite went out to Gibeon, five miles North of Jerusalem, and took all the Holy vessels under cover and brought them to the Sanctum Sanctorum or Holy of Holies, and there offered that, the first house ever built by Masons to the Supreme Grand Artificer of the Universe for his acceptance and consecration.

And when our Supreme Grand Master condescended to receive the house a miracle was wrought, fire came down from heaven and consumed all the burnt offerings and sacrifices and the Glory of the Lord filled the Lord's house. When all the children of Israel saw how fire came down from heaven and the Glory of the Lord upon the house, they exclaimed R_____, which means Good Master.

This is the ceremony we have endeavored to represent in conferring upon you the Most Excellent Master's Degree, a degree regarded by Masons as one of the most sublime in Masonry.

You have already been informed that the ceremonies of this degree are intended to represent the solemn ceremonies connected with the final completion and dedication of the Temple, which occurred subsequent to the death of our Grand Master Hiram Abif, consequently he was not present on that interesting occasion; hence, we have no Junior Warden in this degree, as you will observe, that seat is now vacant.

You will now receive the charge.

(Charge)

OUR MYSTIC TEMPLE IS NOW COMPLETED. THE PRICELESS KEYSTONE BINDS THE LAST ARCH TOGETHER, AND THE ARK HAS BEEN SEATED IN ITS RESTING PLACE, UNDER THE EXTENDED WINGS OF THE CHERUBIM IN THE MOST HOLY PLACE, AND FOR YOUR ZEAL AND FIDELITY TO THE CRAFT, YOU HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND ACKNOWLEDGED MOST EXCELLENT MASTER.

AS SUCH, NEW DUTIES AND NEW OBLIGATIONS ARE IMPOSED UPON YOU, WHICH YOU ARE EXPECTED TO MEET AND FULFILL WITH EQUAL PLEASURE TO

YOURSELF AND HONOR TO THE FRATERNITY. YOU ARE INVESTED WITH POWER TO TRAVEL INTO FOREIGN COUNTRIES, WORK, AND RECEIVE MASTER'S WAGES, AND DISPENSE TRUE MASONIC LIGHT AND KNOWLEDGE TO ALL LESS INFORMED BRETHREN.

THE MYSTIC TEMPLE REPRESENTS OUR PRESENT LIFE; THE FOREIGN COUNTRY INTO WHICH A MASON IS EXPECTED TO TRAVEL IS THAT "UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY FROM WHOSE BOURNE NO TRAVELER RETURNS." THE WAGES WHICH HE IS TO RECEIVE ARE THE REWARDS OF A WELL SPENT LIFE, AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF DIVINE TRUTH, WHICH THE GRAND MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE WILL BESTOW UPON ALL WHO FAITHFULLY PERFORM THEIR TASK.

YOUR ADMISSION TO THIS DEGREE OF MASONRY IS A PROOF OF THE GOOD OPINION THE BRETHREN OF THIS LODGE ENTERTAIN OF YOUR MASONIC ABILITY -- BELIEVING THAT YOU WILL BE A TRUE BROTHER, BECOME A PERFECT ASHLAR AND A MASTER WORKMAN. LET THIS CONSIDERATION INDUCE YOU TO BE CAREFUL OF FORFEITING, BY MISCONDUCT, OR INATTENTION TO OUR RULES, THAT ESTEEM WHICH HAS RAISED YOU TO THE RANK YOU NOW POSSESS; PUTTING ASIDE ALL PERSONALITIES, JEALOUSIES AND ENVIES KEEN, WHICH IMPEDE YOUR PROGRESS TOWARD VIRTUE AND HAPPINESS, AND SOW THIS LIFE WITH THORNS.

LET IT BE YOUR UNREMITTING STUDY TO ACQUIRE SUCH A DEGREE OF KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION AS WILL ENABLE YOU TO DISCHARGE WITH PROPRIETY THE VARIOUS DUTIES INCUMBENT UPON YOU, AND PRESERVE UNSULLIED THE TITLE, NOW CONFERRED UPON YOU, OF MOST EXCELLENT MASTER.