



HOW TO BECOME A FREEMASON



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MASONIC WORDS & PHRASES YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT (& WHAT THEY MEAN)

Before delving into the core content, it is essential to acquaint oneself with several essential Masonic terminology and expressions featured in this publication, along with their respective meanings. This will facilitate a deeper comprehension of the references made and provide a foundational understanding for those aspiring to join the Freemasons.

Free-Mason:

A free-mason is a reference to the free (not enslaved) stone masons of ancient times.

The origins of Freemasonry can be traced back to the ancient guilds of stonemasons, who shared secrets and knowledge while constructing many of history's most renowned temples and architectural marvels. It is from these practices that the fundamental concept of Free-Masonry emerged.

Masonic Lodge:

A Masonic Lodge serves as a designated meeting place for Freemasons. These lodges are established in various locations worldwide and are often identifiable by the prominent Square & Compasses Symbol displayed on their entrance. The Square & Compasses holds universal significance as the symbol representing Freemasonry.

Masonic Grand Lodge: _____

A Masonic Grand Lodge serves as the governing body for a collection of Masonic Lodges within a specific jurisdiction. Some Grand Lodges oversee local Lodges, such as The Grand Lodge of New York, while others, like The United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE), hold authority over Lodges worldwide that adhere to the English Constitution.

Brethren/Brother:

The term "Brethren," frequently referenced in this guide, is the antiquated plural form of "Brother" as used within the context of Freemasonry. Upon initiation into Freemasonry, every member is regarded as a "Brother" by all other Freemasons worldwide, just as every other Mason will similarly view you as a "Brother."

GAOTU (God):

The following passage contains important information to remember:

"In Freemasonry, the term "Great/Grand Architect of The Universe" is used to reference God. It is important to note that both "Great" and "Grand" can be used when pronouncing GAOTU."

These are the fundamental concepts to grasp in order to follow this guide effectively. Next, we will proceed to examine...

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU BECOME A FREEMASON

As you are currently perusing this communication, I presume that you have already committed to the decision of joining the Freemasons.

However, have you thoroughly considered this decision? Are you fully cognizant of the commitment you are about to undertake?

It would be regrettable to proceed with the entire initiation process only to realize that it may not align with your expectations and aspirations.

Your Family Must Approve of You Becoming A Freemason

It is important to note that explicit approval from your family is a notable prerequisite when considering membership in Freemasonry. This requirement is in place to ensure that your involvement with the organization does not conflict with your familial responsibilities.

Prior to petitioning to join a Masonic Lodge, it is advisable to engage in open dialogue with your family members, be it your spouse, parents, or significant others, and apprise them of your intentions. Their support is integral to a seamless integration into the fraternity. Should any hesitation or concerns arise from your family, it is essential to address them earnestly, seeking mutual understanding.

Furthermore, while not universally practiced, some Lodges may request to meet with your family members as part of the initiation process. This serves as a means for the Lodge to establish a connection with your family and vice versa.

By proactively involving your family in your decision-making process, you can help ensure a harmonious balance between your personal pursuits and family commitments within the context of Freemasonry.

You Must Believe In A Supreme Being

We are frequently asked the question, "Is Freemasonry similar to a religion?" The answer is no. Freemasonry is not a religion; however, it does necessitate a belief in a Supreme Being. This entails acknowledging the existence of something greater than our everyday experiences. As long as one believes in a Higher Entity, a Creator, or a Grand Architect, among other similar beliefs, it suffices.

Furthermore, Freemasonry accommodates all religions and deities. During the initial stages of Masonic initiation, individuals are required to swear an oath on a Holy Book of their choosing, irrespective of their religious affiliation.

We are also often asked whether being "agnostic" is sufficient for joining Freemasonry. For those unfamiliar with the term, "agnostic" refers to a person who believes that the existence or nature of God is unknown or unknowable. Those falling under this category are indeed eligible to become Freemasons. However, acceptance may vary among different Lodges, although such instances are rare. The most appropriate course of action is to truthfully convey one's beliefs when questioned and allow the members of the Lodge to make a decision.

It is important to note that as a man aspiring to become a Freemason, one should consistently uphold honesty and integrity.

Do You Have A Clean Record?

One additional requirement, which will be addressed explicitly, is the necessity of maintaining a clean record. Minor infractions such as parking tickets are unlikely to impact your application; however, serious offenses such as burglary or drug trafficking will likely result in rejection. It is worth noting that the passage of time is also a factor. For instance, a blemish on one's record from their teenage years may be viewed differently than a recent offense. It is advisable to be forthcoming when questioned and allow the Lodge to determine the suitability of your application.

Freemasonry Does Not Make You Rich

If one believes that joining the Freemasons will lead to wealth, power, or celebrity status, it is important to clarify this misconception. Freemasonry does not guarantee financial gain or fame. Its fundamental purpose is the cultivation of moral and personal development.

While it is true that prominent individuals such as celebrities, Presidents, and members of royal families are part of the organization, their success and status are not attributed to their affiliation with Freemasonry. Additionally, there is no financial compensation for being a Freemason.

However, being part of this esteemed fraternity provides the opportunity to network and engage with exceptional individuals, which may lead to outside opportunities that could be financially advantageous. It is crucial to emphasize that financial gain should not be the primary motivation for seeking membership, as this expectation is likely to result in disappointment.

You Have To Pay To Become (& Remain) A Freemason

The concept of Freemasonry is commonly associated with notions of wealth and liberty, yet the reality differs. Prospective members are required to allocate financial resources to join and sustain their membership. It is advisable to seek familial consent before pursuing membership, as the financial obligations may impact the family's well-being. The initiation fee varies across different Lodges and is not standardized. Additionally, members are subject to annual dues ranging from \$100 to \$500+ in the United States. These financial contributions support the local Lodge and the overarching Grand Lodge, which in turn allocate funds to charitable endeavors. Furthermore, members are often expected to participate in fundraising events and communal gatherings, aimed at supporting various philanthropic causes.

It Involves “Work” & It Requires Time

When considering membership in Freemasonry, it's essential to understand that it is a lifelong commitment that demands ongoing dedication, effort, and study. Prospective members are required to invest time and energy into comprehending the rituals associated with the organization in order to confidently recite them during Lodge meetings. Additionally, a level of comfort with public speaking is necessary, as members are expected to deliver these rituals in a public setting. While this may initially seem daunting, it is a skill that can be developed over time. It is important to recognize that this requirement is standard for all members and that support is available to help individuals overcome any challenges associated with public speaking.

Beware Of Fake Freemasonry

Prior to concluding this section, it is imperative to address the issue of "Fake Freemasonry."

Numerous dubious individuals, primarily from Asian and sub-Saharan African regions, operate online posing as "recruiters for Freemasonry" and/or "The Illuminati."

It is crucial to understand that these are fraudulent activities aimed at persuading individuals to send a certain amount of money in exchange for promises of wealth and power.

It is disheartening to acknowledge the frequency with which we receive distressing accounts of individuals falling victim to such deceitful practices.

To become a Freemason, it is essential to follow the guidelines provided in this manual. There is no alternate method for membership, and it is not achievable through online platforms.

Before proceeding to address frequently asked questions, it is vital to revisit the key considerations prior to pursuing membership in Freemasonry:

- Inform and secure the support of your family regarding your decision to join the Freemasons.
- It is mandatory to hold a belief in a "Higher Being."
- Freemasonry does not guarantee wealth or fame.
- Membership in Freemasonry involves financial obligations.
- Active participation and commitment are integral to being a Freemason.
- Remain vigilant against fraudulent Masonic activities.

6 FAQs PEOPLE HAVE ABOUT BECOMING A FREEMASON

Why Should You Become A Freemason?

There are numerous motivations that may lead individuals to pursue membership in the Masonic fraternity. Having delineated the reasons against seeking Masonic membership solely for financial gain, I will now elucidate several compelling reasons why one might consider joining the fraternity.

Tradition:

The enduring tradition of Freemasonry remains a source of strength in a world characterized by exaggerated claims and increasing divisions. The practice of ritual work, integral to Freemasonry, preserves ancient traditions that have endured for centuries and continue to command reverence in modern times.

Self Improvement:

An additional compelling reason to engage in Freemasonry is for the purpose of self-improvement. As one progresses through Freemasonry, profound insights into oneself, the surrounding world, the enigmas of life, the comprehension of nature and the sciences, and more, are acquired. While it is emphasized that Freemasonry should not be pursued solely for personal gain, it undeniably serves as a means for individual refinement, aligning with the core ethos of Freemasonry, which is the pursuit of personal betterment.

Meet Like-Minded Men:

The Masonic Lodge provides a shared initiation experience for all its members, fostering a sense of fellowship and mutual learning. By actively engaging in Lodge meetings and collaborating with like-minded individuals, Masons not only fortify their bonds of companionship but also uphold moral and metaphysical principles. In today's society, the establishment of fraternal connections among men holds profound significance.

Fraternity:

Freemasons encompass a diverse range of individuals from various backgrounds, encompassing different races, and professions, among others. As a Mason, you will have the opportunity to engage with individuals of varied backgrounds, presenting learning opportunities, and a sense of brotherhood among them.

Esoteric Education:

In the course of your involvement and instructional sessions within the Freemason community, you will engage in an in-depth exploration of esoteric knowledge, concealed information, and phenomena that have been obscured over time. This pursuit will contribute to an enhanced comprehension of both yourself and the surrounding world.

The Charity Work:

As a member of the Masonic community, engaging in charitable work is an integral part of the commitment. The annual membership dues contribute to the Lodge's ability to carry out commendable charitable initiatives within the local community and on a global scale.

How Long Will It Take To Become A Freemason?

The timeline for attaining the rank of "Master Mason" varies based on multiple factors and differs among different Masonic Lodges.

Attaining the rank involves progressing through the first three degrees, namely:

1. The Entered Apprentice Degree
2. The Fellow Craft Mason Degree
3. The Master Mason Degree

Each degree necessitates a distinct ceremony, and the scheduling of these ceremonies is determined by the Lodge. Your opportunity to progress will coincide with an available slot in the Lodge's ceremony schedule.

Typically, Lodges convene at least once, and sometimes twice, a month. As a result, the initiation process could take a few weeks or even several months, contingent upon the Lodge's calendar.

Rest assured, the Lodge will provide detailed explanations during the petitioning process, ensuring a clear understanding of the timeline and procedures for joining.

Is Freemasonry A “Political” Organization?

Freemasonry maintains no affiliation with politics. It is advisable to abstain from engaging in political discussions within the fraternity, much like discussions on religious matters. The rationale for this restraint is rooted in the potential for unnecessary conflicts and the potential jeopardy they pose to the unity of the Lodge when Brethren find themselves at odds. Consequently, Freemasonry does not align with political activities, and as a member, it is prudent to avoid involvement in heated political debates with fellow Masons.

Do You Have to Change Your Religion to Become a Freemason?

It is important to note that individuals are not required to change their religion in order to join Freemasonry. As previously discussed, Freemasonry does not align itself as a "political organization" and is not a religion. Therefore, during the petitioning process to become a Freemason, one will never be requested to alter their religious beliefs or political perspectives.

How Old Do You Have To Be To Become A Freemason?

In order to qualify for Masonic membership in Nevada, individuals must be of at least 18 years of age.

Can You Stop Being A Freemason?

This comprehensive guide would be incomplete without addressing the process of terminating or temporarily suspending one's affiliation with Freemasonry.

Is it permissible to resign from Freemasonry?

The answer is yes, and no adverse repercussions will ensue.

Members are entitled to cease their active participation in Freemasonry at any time, and may also opt to take a hiatus as necessary, often due to professional or familial obligations.

Should one intend to renounce their membership entirely, the individual must formally notify their Lodge, ensure all financial obligations are fulfilled, and subsequently follow the Lodge's guidance on the subsequent steps.

Upon expressing the desire to permanently withdraw, it is typical to engage in discussions aimed at encouraging the member to reconsider. Nonetheless, one can depart from Freemasonry without discord should they wish to do so, whether due to necessity or other reasons.

It is imperative to note that the knowledge acquired during one's tenure as a Freemason should be upheld with utmost confidentiality, in line with the obligation to safeguard the organization's secrets from those not privy to them, as befitting an individual of exemplary moral conduct.

WHAT IS EXPECTED FROM YOU AS A FREEMASON?

If you are rapidly scrolling in search of guidance on how to commence, I recommend taking a moment to pause. I assure you that the information you seek is not far off.

Prior to delving into the specifics, it is important to outline the expectations placed upon individuals upon their induction into the Mason community.

While we have already touched upon certain aspects such as dues payment and ritual familiarization, there are additional factors that warrant consideration before committing to this endeavor, specifically, the responsibilities that will be entrusted to you.

Visit The Lodge Regularly

The Masonic Lodge serves as the primary meeting place for the Brethren and is where individuals typically undergo their initial 3 degrees of Freemasonry. Upon becoming a Freemason, regular attendance at Lodge meetings or practices is anticipated, although not mandatory for every session. The frequency of meetings varies among Lodges, with some convening weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly.

Consistent attendance is imperative as the strength of a Lodge is directly correlated with the participation of its members. A lack of attendance can lead to the dissolution of a Lodge. Therefore, it is essential to allocate sufficient time in one's schedule to fulfill this commitment.

Furthermore, it is expected that members adhere to their commitments...

Study & Work The Rituals

During every Masonic gathering, it is customary to carry out specific rituals. To ensure the precise execution of these rituals, participants will be expected to adhere to the following guidelines:

Take part in it: It is important to avoid having the same team members consistently working on identical tasks, as this can lead to monotony and fatigue.

Study the ritual well (& visit the Lodge for practice meetings).

The objective is to execute the ritual with utmost precision, acknowledging that occasional errors may occur, which are acceptable and should be anticipated.

To achieve this, it is necessary to invest several hours in studying, rehearsing, and committing the ritual to memory in order to effectively impart the ritual's principles to subsequent Brethren.

(Thus, the tradition is perpetuated from one generation of Masons to the next).

Start Your Journey “To The East”

A Masonic Lodge comprises numerous members, known as Brethren, and is overseen by Lodge Officers. These officers are:

- *The Chaplain
- *The Lodge Education Officer
- *The Secretary
- *The Treasurer
- The Tyler
- The Junior Steward
- The Senior Steward
- The Junior Deacon
- The Senior Deacon
- The Junior Warden
- The Senior Warden
- The Worshipful Master

The positions within the lodge are assigned on a rotating basis, typically changing annually (or biennially in certain lodges).

In essence, this entails that as a Lodge Officer, you will commence as a 'Tyler', progress to Junior Steward the following year, then to Senior Steward, and so on.

The ultimate objective is to eventually assume the position of "King Solomon's Chair" in the East, signifying the role of Worshipful Master of the Lodge.

Attaining the position of Worshipful Master is widely regarded as the highest honor for a Mason. As evident, reaching this level demands years of unwavering commitment and dedication.

The initial four roles listed with an asterisk (*) do not typically adhere to the aforementioned succession pattern. These roles are usually reserved for Past Masters and/or individuals possessing extensive knowledge and experience

within the Lodge, often long-standing members.

It is important to note that the specifics outlined may vary depending on the specific Lodge, state, country, jurisdiction, and the current needs of the Lodge. However, this represents the commonly accepted approach, although alternative methods may be encountered.

You do not have to go through this entire process if you don't want to, but it is *expected* from you to go through this entire process.

HOW TO START YOUR JOURNEY IN FREEMASONRY

If one perceives the process of initiating into Freemasonry as a complex endeavor that traditionally necessitates having connections and referrals, there is encouraging news. While this may have been the case in the past, the contemporary landscape allows individuals to commence their journey from the convenience of their own homes, facilitated by a straightforward Google search. Allow me to elucidate.

Freemasonry does not recruit members.

To gain admission into the Freemasons, a prospective member must seek out an existing member and express their interest. To gain admission into the Freemasons, a prospective member must seek out an existing member and express their interest "2B1ASK1". It is a fundamental principle that Freemasons do not actively recruit individuals; rather, membership is pursued of one's own volition. If an individual is acquainted with a Freemason, it is advisable to approach them for guidance. They can provide comprehensive information, offer insights into the organization, and facilitate introductions to other members for further exploration of the fraternity.

In the event that an individual does not have a connection to a Freemason, they may consider contacting the Grand Lodge or a local Masonic lodge to express their interest. These entities can offer guidance on the process of seeking membership and potentially connect the individual with a suitable

sponsor or mentor within the fraternity. It is a fundamental principle that Freemasons do not actively recruit individuals; rather, membership is pursued of one's own volition. If an individual is acquainted with a Freemason, it is advisable to approach them for guidance. They can provide comprehensive information, offer insights into the organization, and facilitate introductions to other members for further exploration of the fraternity.

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Find A Masonic Lodge

In the past, I would have advised you to consult the YellowPages to locate a Masonic Lodge in your vicinity. However, with the advent of Google, finding a Lodge has become a simple task. It is essential to select a Lodge that is conveniently located, ensuring regular attendance without undue travel burden. Ideally, the Lodge should be situated in one of the following areas: your place of residence, work, or study.

It is important to consider proximity to your location and personal affinity when choosing a Lodge. If a Lodge is not available near your residence, you may consider joining one near your workplace or educational institution. Additionally, ensure that the meeting times are compatible with your schedule. Most Lodges convene their meetings at 6, 7, or 8 pm, accommodating members who work until 5 pm.

To commence the search for a Lodge online, simply input "Masonic Lodge in your location" into a search engine, specifying your residence, workplace, or educational institution as the location. This search will yield a list of nearby Lodges, many of which have websites providing information on their opening hours, activities, meeting schedules, and membership details.

Locating a Lodge and commencing the process of becoming a Mason is a

straightforward endeavor. Your chosen Lodge will provide detailed guidance on the subsequent steps, as the procedures may vary among different Lodges. Typically, you will be invited to visit the Lodge during its opening hours, during which time any queries you may have can be addressed.

Going Through Your First Three Degrees

The following text contains important information pertaining to Freemasonry rituals and degrees, emphasizing the significance of experiencing these rituals firsthand without seeking prior knowledge through external sources. It underscores the value of preserving the mystique and magic associated with these rituals and advises against conducting online research for a more enriching and authentic experience.

The text also sheds light on the Entered Apprentice Degree, the first and pivotal Masonic ritual, highlighting its symbolic representation of an individual's initiation into Freemasonry. It assures individuals of a safe and respectful environment during the ritual, dispelling any misconceptions and emphasizing the profound nature of the experience.

Furthermore, it encourages individuals to eventually witness an Entered Apprentice degree ritual firsthand to fully comprehend its depth and symbolism, emphasizing the transformative and enlightening nature of the experience.

The Fellowcraft Degree

The Fellowcraft Degree constitutes the second degree and initiation ritual within Freemasonry. Typically following the Entered Apprentice degree, this ritual is conducted approximately 1 to 2 months thereafter, although specific timelines may vary among different Lodges.

During this stage, individuals delve deeper into the ancient mysteries offered by Freemasonry, gaining knowledge of the fellow craft grip, passphrases, and their significance.

The Master Mason Degree

Upon completion of the third degree, one attains the status of a Master Mason. This grants the following privileges:

- Attendance and participation in all Lodge activities and meetings.
- Voting rights for new member admissions.
- Ability to propose ideas and events to the Lodge, and the opportunity to hold an office.
- Permission to visit other Lodges and observe their degree ceremonies, typically involving the three initiation degrees.

3 FINAL THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

Can You Join More than One Lodge?

Certainly, you are permitted to join more than one Masonic Lodge. However, the initial lodge you join will be recognized as your "Mother Lodge". This is where you undergo the rituals to attain all three degrees. While it is not uncommon for a Mason to depart from his Mother Lodge, it is generally advisable to remain affiliated with it throughout your Masonic tenure.

It is important to note that if you choose to join another Lodge, you will not need to undergo the three degrees again. However, you will be required to undergo a specific process, details of which cannot be disclosed here.

NB: Joining a second Lodge will also come with a second set of responsibilities + expenses.

Can You Leave One Lodge To Join Another?

It is possible to join another Lodge, but it is important to note that the first Lodge an individual joins is referred to as their “Mother Lodge.” Typically, it is not customary to leave one's Mother Lodge to join another, unless there is discord within the original Lodge. While it is technically feasible to join another Lodge, it is advisable to consider the significant time and financial commitments that this dual membership would entail. If one wishes to join another Lodge, it is recommended to strive to maintain membership in both, acknowledging the substantial dedication required.

Do You Get A Masonic “Uniform”?

In the course of your research on Freemasonry, you have likely encountered depictions of Freemasons adorned in their distinctive regalia, notably the apron and, at times, a sash.

During your initiation into Freemasonry, encompassing the first and second degrees, you will be presented with a white apron to be worn throughout these stages. Upon completion of the third degree, you will have achieved the Master Mason's status and will be entitled to wear the characteristic apron associated with Freemasons.

NB: The officers of the Masonic Lodge typically wear distinct aprons to denote their respective positions within the organization.

NB: You will eventually need to also buy your apron and sash. These cost around \$100, but you get to keep them “for life”.

A LIST OF MASONIC GRAND LODGES AROUND THE WORLD

Last but not least, we want to share with you a list of Masonic Grand Lodges around the world.

Wikipedia has already done a great job at curating this list so we won't be repeating it here as it's quite an exhaustive list.

To see the Grand Lodges in your country/area, please check the following Wikipedia pages:

- [Africa](#)
- [Asia](#)
- [Australia \(& Oceania\)](#)
- [Europe](#)
- [Central & South America](#)
- [North America \(& Caribbean\)](#)

Many of the Grand Lodges will find will have a website (in which case you can try and find it on Google)

Once on their website, you should see helpful information about their process for membership and most modern websites will also have a “Lodge Finder” which will curate for you a list of Masonic Lodges under their jurisdiction based on your location.

If they don't have a website, please use the Google method described above to find a Lodge that is close to your desired location.

THE END