

# Entered Apprentice Mason Questions And Answers

Pollard Booklet #2

## THE ENTERED APPRENTICE

To the newly initiated Entered Apprentice:

Dear Brother:

You are now a Mason. The moment that you assumed your obligation you became a brother among us, and we welcome you to our ancient and honorable Fraternity.

The Entered Apprentice degree which you have just received is the first or lowest in the series of Masonic degrees. It is, however, second in importance to no other degree. Indeed, this degree is in many ways the most important of all, for it is this degree which confers the Masonic status and makes a man a Mason. Moreover, in this first degree the candidate learns some of the most important of all Masonic lessons. He learns the importance which Masonry attaches to prayer. He learns that every Mason must put his trust in God, and that no atheist can ever become a Mason. He learns the nature of a Masonic obligation. He is brought from darkness to light, and sees before him for the first time the three Great Lights in Masonry. He learns that the Holy Bible is the rule and guide of every Mason's faith. He learns the sign, grip and word which enable him to prove himself a Mason. He is invested with the lambskin apron which is the honored badge of Masonry. He learns the symbolic moral uses of the working tools. And finally, in the charge which completes this degree, he has summarized for him the duties which he owes to God, his neighbor, his Country and himself.

It is not the purpose of this booklet further to discuss the ritualistic instruction which you have received. The ritual speaks for itself, and its teachings can best be understood by a careful study of the ritual. This booklet merely seeks to present a little additional information, which is not contained in the ritualistic work.

The degree of Entered Apprentice, like the other two degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry, dates from the Middle Ages, when the Masonic Fraternity was actually an operative guild of architects and builders. The mediaeval Entered Apprentice was a young man or boy actually engaged in learning the trade of an operative stone-mason. Such apprentices were carefully selected, only free-born youths of good character, respectable parentage, and sound physique being accepted. Those chosen were apprenticed to a Master for a term of several years, during which time they were given thorough instruction, not only in both the practical and theoretical phases of operative masonry but also in moral deportment, in good manners, and in their religious duties. They received particularly careful instruction in geometry, for the geometrical principles underlying Gothic architecture constituted the real secret or "mystery" of the mediaeval Craft, whereby the Masonic guild enjoyed a tight monopoly in the construction of such major buildings as castles and cathedrals.

These apprentices were under a rigid discipline. Their moral conduct was strictly supervised. They were forbidden to play at cards or dice, and were not allowed even to enter a tavern or public house unless sent there on business by their Master. When off duty, they always traveled in pairs, so that each could have a witness that he had indulged in no forbidden conduct.

Entered apprentice mason questions and answers are crucial for anyone beginning their journey in Freemasonry. The Entered Apprentice degree is the first step in Masonic initiation, where candidates learn about the values, symbols, and responsibilities of being a Mason. Understanding the foundational questions and answers associated with this degree is essential for both candidates and seasoned members looking to mentor newcomers. In this article, we will explore the key questions and answers related to the Entered Apprentice degree, offering insights into the teachings and values imparted during this initiation.

# Understanding the Entered Apprentice Degree

## What is the Entered Apprentice Degree?

The Entered Apprentice degree is the first of three degrees in Freemasonry. It serves as an introduction to the principles and teachings of Masonry. In this degree, candidates are taught about:

- The importance of moral and ethical behavior.
- The significance of fraternity and brotherhood.
- The value of charity and service to others.

The degree is characterized by a series of rituals and symbols, all designed to impart lessons about personal growth and responsibility.

## Key Themes in the Entered Apprentice Degree

Several key themes are emphasized during this degree:

1. Integrity: The importance of being honest and trustworthy.
2. Brotherhood: The relationship between members and the support they provide to one another.
3. Knowledge: The pursuit of knowledge and self-improvement.
4. Charity: The obligation to help others and contribute to the community.

## Common Questions and Answers

### What are the primary symbols associated with the Entered Apprentice degree?

Symbols play a significant role in Freemasonry, and each degree has its own unique set. For the Entered Apprentice, the following symbols are particularly important:

- The Square: Represents morality and the importance of living a life guided by ethical principles.
- The Compass: Symbolizes self-control and the importance of setting boundaries.
- The Level: Signifies equality among members, reminding Masons that all men are equal in the eyes of the fraternity.

These symbols are not only decorative but serve as reminders of the lessons learned during the degree.

### What is the significance of the "obligation" taken by

## **the Entered Apprentice?**

The obligation is a solemn promise made by the candidate upon receiving the Entered Apprentice degree. It signifies:

- A commitment to uphold the values and teachings of Freemasonry.
- A promise to maintain the confidentiality of Masonic rituals and teachings.
- An agreement to support and assist fellow Masons.

Taking the obligation is a pivotal moment in the initiation process, marking the candidate's formal entry into the fraternity.

## **What does the term "light" mean in Freemasonry?**

In Masonic tradition, "light" represents knowledge, enlightenment, and understanding. During the Entered Apprentice degree, the candidate is said to go from darkness to light, symbolizing:

- The transition from ignorance to knowledge.
- The awakening of the candidate's moral and ethical consciousness.
- The beginning of a lifelong journey of learning and self-improvement.

This concept of light is central to many Masonic rituals and teachings.

## **Preparing for the Entered Apprentice Degree**

### **How should candidates prepare for the Entered Apprentice degree?**

Preparation for the Entered Apprentice degree involves both mental and practical steps. Candidates should consider the following:

1. Research Freemasonry: Understanding the basic principles, history, and values of Freemasonry can provide valuable context for the degree.
2. Reflect on Personal Values: Candidates should take time to reflect on their own ethical beliefs and how they align with Masonic principles.
3. Engage with Mentors: Building relationships with existing Masons can offer insights and guidance through the initiation process.

By taking these steps, candidates can approach their initiation with a thoughtful mindset.

### **What can candidates expect during the initiation ceremony?**

The initiation ceremony for the Entered Apprentice degree is rich in symbolism and ritual. Key elements include:

- Preparation: Candidates are often asked to prepare by undergoing a form of

purification, symbolizing their readiness for the journey ahead.

- **Rituals:** The ceremony includes various rituals, such as the presentation of symbols, the obligation, and the conferral of the degree.
- **Instruction:** After the ceremony, candidates receive instruction from their mentors on the meaning of the symbols and what it means to be an Entered Apprentice.

Candidates should approach the ceremony with an open mind and a willingness to learn.

## **Post-Initiation Responsibilities**

### **What responsibilities do Entered Apprentices have after their initiation?**

Upon becoming an Entered Apprentice, individuals have several responsibilities:

- **Attend Lodge Meetings:** Active participation in lodge meetings helps reinforce the lessons learned during the initiation.
- **Support Fellow Masons:** Engaging with and supporting fellow members promotes the spirit of brotherhood and community.
- **Continue Learning:** The journey does not end with the initiation; Entered Apprentices are encouraged to seek further knowledge and understanding of Masonic teachings.

These responsibilities are fundamental to personal growth and the overall strength of the Masonic community.

### **How can Entered Apprentices further their Masonic education?**

There are several ways Entered Apprentices can continue their Masonic education:

1. **Participate in Study Groups:** Joining or forming study groups can facilitate discussions and deeper understanding of Masonic texts and teachings.
2. **Attend Lectures and Workshops:** Many lodges offer educational sessions that cover various aspects of Freemasonry.
3. **Read Masonic Literature:** There are numerous books and articles available that delve into Masonic philosophy, history, and practices.

By actively engaging in these activities, Entered Apprentices can enrich their understanding and appreciation of Freemasonry.

## **Conclusion**

Entered apprentice mason questions and answers are not just about rote

memorization; they are gateways to deeper understanding and personal development within Freemasonry. The Entered Apprentice degree serves as a foundation upon which a Mason can build a lifetime of learning, ethical living, and community service. By embracing the lessons and responsibilities associated with this degree, new Masons can contribute positively to their lodges and society as a whole. Understanding the core questions and answers of this degree is essential for all who wish to navigate their journey in Freemasonry with confidence and purpose.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the significance of the Entered Apprentice degree in Freemasonry?**

The Entered Apprentice degree is the first degree in Freemasonry, symbolizing the initiation of a candidate into the Masonic fraternity. It represents the beginning of a journey towards personal development and moral improvement.

### **What are the main symbols associated with the Entered Apprentice degree?**

Key symbols include the square and compasses, symbolizing morality and the boundaries of conduct, and the 24-inch gauge, representing the importance of time management and balance in a Mason's life.

### **What are typical questions asked during an Entered Apprentice examination?**

Common questions may include inquiries about the meaning of Masonic symbols, the obligations taken during the degree, and the candidate's understanding of the principles of brotherhood and charity.

### **How does one progress from the Entered Apprentice degree to higher degrees in Freemasonry?**

To progress, an Entered Apprentice must complete a period of education and reflection, demonstrating understanding of Masonic teachings, after which they can be passed to the Fellow Craft degree and eventually to the Master Mason degree.

### **What is the role of mentorship for an Entered Apprentice in Freemasonry?**

Mentorship is vital for Entered Apprentices, as experienced Masons guide them through their learning process, helping them understand the rituals, symbols, and ethical teachings of Freemasonry, fostering a sense of community and support.

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