

Entered Apprentice 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 questions and answers are essential for those who are beginning their journey in Freemasonry. The Entered Apprentice degree is the first of three degrees in Freemasonry, and it lays the foundation for the teachings and lessons that will be explored in the subsequent degrees. Understanding the questions and answers related to this degree is crucial for new Masons, as it helps solidify their knowledge and prepares them for further advancement within the organization. This article will delve into the most common Entered Apprentice questions and provide detailed answers to help guide new members.

Understanding the Entered Apprentice Degree

The Entered Apprentice degree is not merely a ceremonial initiation; it encompasses a rich array of teachings, symbols, and moral lessons that are integral to the Masonic experience. During this degree, candidates learn about the values of brotherhood, charity, and personal development. Below, we explore some common questions related to the Entered Apprentice degree and their answers.

Common Entered Apprentice Questions

1. What is the significance of the Entered Apprentice degree?

The Entered Apprentice degree serves as an introduction to Freemasonry. It represents the first step taken by a candidate toward moral and intellectual enlightenment. The degree encapsulates the core principles of Freemasonry: brotherly love, relief, and truth. It also emphasizes the importance of self-improvement and the pursuit of knowledge.

2. What are the main symbols associated with the Entered Apprentice degree?

Symbols play a pivotal role in Masonic teachings. Here are some key symbols associated with the Entered Apprentice degree:

- **The Square:** Represents morality and the importance of conducting oneself ethically.
- **The Compasses:** Symbolizes the ability to keep one's desires in check and to act within proper limits.
- **The Level:** Represents equality among all Masons, regardless of their social or economic status.
- **The Plumb:** Signifies integrity and uprightness in one's actions and decisions.

3. What is the role of the Worshipful Master during the

Entered Apprentice degree?

The Worshipful Master is the presiding officer of the lodge and plays a crucial role during the Entered Apprentice degree. Their responsibilities include:

- Conducting the initiation ceremony.
- Delivering the lecture on the principles and symbols of Freemasonry.
- Providing guidance and support to the newly initiated Entered Apprentice.
- Encouraging the new member to engage with their fellow Masons and participate actively in lodge activities.

4. What are the obligations of an Entered Apprentice?

As a new member, the Entered Apprentice has specific obligations that they are expected to uphold. These include:

1. To maintain the confidentiality of the Masonic teachings and rituals.
2. To attend lodge meetings regularly and participate in activities.
3. To foster a spirit of brotherhood and camaraderie with fellow Masons.
4. To pursue knowledge and personal development through Masonic education.
5. To support charitable initiatives and contribute to the welfare of others.

Preparing for the Entered Apprentice Examination

New Masons often undergo a series of examinations to assess their understanding of the teachings and symbols associated with the Entered Apprentice degree. Here are some tips on how to prepare effectively:

1. Study the Masonic Texts

Familiarize yourself with the Masonic ritual book, as it contains valuable information about the Entered Apprentice degree. Pay particular attention to the lectures, symbols, and moral lessons presented.

2. Attend Lodge Meetings

Regular participation in lodge meetings will enhance your understanding of Masonic principles. Engage with experienced Masons, ask questions, and seek guidance.

3. Form Study Groups

Consider forming study groups with fellow Entered Apprentices. Discussing the material and quizzing each other can reinforce your understanding and retention of the teachings.

4. Utilize Online Resources

There are several online platforms and forums dedicated to Freemasonry. These resources can provide additional insights, study materials, and answers to your questions.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. How long does the Entered Apprentice degree last?

The duration of the Entered Apprentice degree varies by lodge. Typically, the initiation ceremony can last anywhere from one to two hours, followed by additional meetings for education and fellowship.

2. Can an Entered Apprentice attend lodge meetings?

Yes, Entered Apprentices are encouraged to attend lodge meetings. However, their participation may be limited in certain aspects of the rituals and discussions reserved for higher degrees.

3. What is the next step after becoming an Entered Apprentice?

After completing the Entered Apprentice degree, members typically progress to the

Fellowcraft degree. This advancement involves a deeper exploration of Masonic teachings and further development of moral and ethical principles.

4. What should I do if I have questions about the Entered Apprentice degree?

If you have questions or need clarification on any aspect of the Entered Apprentice degree, do not hesitate to reach out to your lodge's officers or experienced members. They are there to provide mentorship and support as you navigate your Masonic journey.

Conclusion

In summary, **entered apprentice questions and answers** play a vital role in understanding the foundational principles of Freemasonry. This degree serves as the starting point for personal growth, moral development, and active participation in the Masonic community. By familiarizing yourself with the key symbols, obligations, and teachings associated with the Entered Apprentice degree, you will be better prepared to embark on your journey within Freemasonry. Remember, the path of knowledge and brotherhood is a lifelong pursuit, and the lessons learned as an Entered Apprentice will serve as a guiding light throughout your Masonic experience.

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 into the Masonic fraternity and representing the beginning of a journey of moral and spiritual development.

What are the key symbols associated with the Entered Apprentice degree?

Key symbols include the square and compasses, the rough and perfect ashlar, and the letter 'G', which represent morality, the importance of self-improvement, and the geometric principles of architecture.

What is the primary purpose of the Entered Apprentice examination?

The primary purpose of the Entered Apprentice examination is to assess the candidate's understanding of the teachings and principles of Freemasonry introduced during the initiation ceremony.

What topics are typically covered in Entered Apprentice questions?

Topics usually include the history of Freemasonry, the meanings of Masonic symbols, the obligations of an Entered Apprentice, and the values of brotherhood, charity, and integrity.

How can candidates prepare for Entered Apprentice questions?

Candidates can prepare by studying Masonic literature, attending lodge meetings, engaging with mentors, and practicing the questions and answers commonly associated with the Entered Apprentice degree.

What is the role of the Worshipful Master during the Entered Apprentice questioning?

The Worshipful Master oversees the questioning process, ensuring that the candidate demonstrates a proper understanding of the Masonic teachings and upholds the values of the fraternity.

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