

WHAT IS A LODGE?

Worshipful Robbie L. Robinson

If our Brothers would take a moment to stop and think about what their Lodge means to them and what they get from attending their Lodge, they should at once realize that their Lodge is only the result of what they labor and strive to do to make it a wholesome Lodge.

Our Lodge must always be dedicated to Masonry and its ritual, where peace and harmony will prevail no matter what happens in Lodge, but most of all full of brotherly love and affection and willing to go the extra step to insure the traditions of the Fraternity are never violated. A Lodge must have understanding and kindness among all of its members. Brothers must put aside petty differences while in Lodge and greet each other on the Level, act by the Plumb, and never depart with hard feelings toward another Brother, but rather depart upon the Square.

A Brother's Lodge must have well informed members who are willing to share their knowledge with less informed Brethren who will always appreciate those members who unselfishly give of their time, talent and energy to instill knowledge and welfare

among those who are as eager to receive as informed Brethren are eager to give. Brothers must never forget that being an Ancient, Free and Accepted Mason is an honor and a privilege, not a right, and this is important to instill in less-informed members.

This Lodge is a place where Brothers acquire Light in the beginning path of their Masonic life and later on in their Masonic career they receive more Light. Here in Lodge, Brethren can readily advance into the Chairs on their long journey to the East where the Sun rises and the Craft is set to work, ever remembering the important responsibilities of those positions and the proficiency that is required of those members who occupy those important places. Bear in mind that a lot of study and determination is required to be the best you can be because there is more to Masonry than the ritualistic rules and ceremonies, although these are very important to our Fraternity.

Our Lodges have a duty to arrange a system of instruction for the Brethren at every occasion that they gather, whether it is at practice sessions, Called Communications or stated communications. There is always a Brother who is willing to pass on important information about this great Fraternity of ours,

so its members can become more knowledgeable of Freemasonry. In having an educational system like this, our members can grow in their Masonic knowledge, therefore making our Lodges stronger, with more dedicated Brethren able to take our Lodges well into the future. Our Fraternity depends on having well-informed Brethren who will continue to carry the Light of Freemasonry well into future generations.

Our Lodges should always strive to be a fraternal refuge with an atmosphere of reverence and dignity, ever remembering the tradition of Ancient landmarks, tools and implements of Architecture and Symbolic emblems most expressive that are so important in keeping with the Plan of Masonry for all of our candidates for initiation.

When a profane petitions a Lodge, we must be particularly careful when we investigate that petitioner for the degrees, so we may be completely sure the petitioner is well-qualified, a man of good report, and is the right material, so when we accept him, it will add strength to our Lodge and to Masonry in general. We must never admit a petitioner just to add to our membership roll, if we are not satisfied he will be an asset to his Lodge and will uphold the tradition of Freemasonry. We want petitioners that will strive as

we do, to think, act and walk in the footsteps of our Masonic forefathers, that will be worthy of membership in our Fraternity, and therefore make our Lodges the continuation of the traditions that have been passed down to us by our predecessors.

Bearing all of this in mind, then we can feel safe and secure that Masonry will survive in our Lodges, and it will continue to be a place where Masons can meet, socialize, and have solid Masonic fellowship where peace and harmony will prevail among its Brothers. This should be the goal of every good, faithful, and true Mason.

May the Supreme Architect of the Universe be ever so watchful over us and our Fraternity. May brotherly love prevail and every moral and social virtue unite and cement us into one sacred band of friends and Brothers, where neither discord nor envy can separate us.