I Am Symbolic Masonry

I was born in antiquity, in the ancient days when men first dreamed of God. I have been tried through the ages and found to be true.

The crossroads of the world bear the imprint of my feet, and the cathedrals of all nations mark the skill of my hands. I strive for beauty and for symmetry.

In my heart is wisdom and strength and courage for those who ask. Upon my altar is the Volume of the Sacred Law, and my prayer is to an Almighty God. My sons and daughters believe in God. They seek me of their own free will. I accept them and teach them to use my tools in the building of men, and always to teach immortality, as I raise men from darkness to true Masonic Light, I am a brother.

My sons are free men, tenacious of their liberty and alert to lurking dangers. As the end I commit them to God.

The crossroads of the world bear my mark, the Cathedrals of all nations show the skill of my hands. My sons believe in God, and they seek me of their own free will. I accept them and teach them to use my tools in the building of men.

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New Masonic Temple a Tribute to Perseverance

Hermitage Lodge No. 610, located at Hermitage Township in Mercer County, was constituted on April 7, 1978, following years of struggle. Almost as a matter of physical proof that the lodge designed by the officers of the Grand Lodge on April 6, 1978, one day short of a year from the date of its creation, construction began with the excavation for the foundation of the temple on April 8, 1978. The Grand Master, Bro. Walter P. Wells, participated by taking the controls of a diesel shovel.

The temple and its lodge room were completed in record time. The members of the lodge were able to hold their first meeting in the building on September 12, 1978. There were 120 warrant members present on the day the lodge was constituted.

The impact of the lodge building on the community is evidenced in that fact that 42 lodges have been made Masonic in Hermitage Lodge No. 610 in its first year of existence.

Portable Exhibit Provides Lodge Cultural Treasures

A portable, travelling exhibit of Masonic articles is available through Grand Lodge for use by Symbolic Lodges throughout the jurisdiction. The exhibit, which is arranged by the Committee on Masonic Culture, consists of two display cases of artifacts in the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia. The museum has one of the finest collections of Masonic treasures in the world.

Equipped with lighting fixtures, the folding cases measure four by six feet when opened for showing. The exhibit also contains a framed facsimile of Bro. George Washington's Masonic apron. The original apron is considered Grand Lodge's most priceless possession. The apron was embroidered by Madame Lafayette, and her husband, Bro. Mesq-uitte Lafayette, presented it to the Grand Lodge in August 1784.

For viewing purposes, the display cases may be placed on the same site which comes with the exhibit. LODges desiring to use the travelling exhibit should make the request through their District Deputy Grand Master.

The lodge must arrange for transportation of the portable cases and assume responsibility for their security until they are returned to the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia.

Grand Lodge Officers' Schedule

The schedule for Grand Lodge officers, meeting, Committee on Masonic Lodges, January 27, 1978.

May 12 - Grand Master, 100th Anniversary, Meyersdale Lodge No. 554, Meyersdale.

May 25 - Grand Lodge officers, meeting, Committee on Masonic Lodges, Elizabethtown.


June 3 - Grand Lodge officers, Special Communication, Dedication of Lodge Room, Claysville Lodge No. 447, Washington.

June 6 - Grand Lodge officers, Quarterly Communication, Scottish Rite Cathedral, Conshohocken.

June 19 - Grand Lodge officers, Special Communication, Cornerstone Laying and Dedication of Lodge Room, Mount Union Lodge No. 688, Mount Union.

June 22 - Grand Lodge officers, meeting, Committee on Masonic Lodges, Elizabethtown.

June 23 - Grand Lodge officers, Special Communication, Cornerstone Laying and Dedication of Lodge Room, Tyrone Lodge No. 517, Lewis Green.

July 27 - Grand Lodge officers, meeting, Committee on Masonic Lodges, Homes, Elizabethtown.


September 3 - Grand Lodge officers, Quarterly Communication, Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia.

September 22 - Grand Master, 125th Anniversary, Emmaus Lodge No. 95, Emmaus.

September 26 - Grand Lodge officers, meeting, Committee on Masonic Lodges, Elizabethtown.

October 10 - Grand Master, 79th Anniversary, Acacia Lodge No. 565, Derry.

October 17 - Grand Master, 125th Anniversary, Sayre Lodge No. 280, Sayre.

October 20 - Grand Lodge officers, meeting, Committee on Masonic Lodges, Elizabethtown.

October 26 - Grand Lodge officers, meeting, Committee on Masonic Lodges, Homes, Elizabethtown.
**Deserved Recognition for a Mason Who Cares**

Bro. Paul S. Stewart, a past master and former secretary of Crescent Lodge No. 455, Philadelphia, was the recipient of a special award certificate issued by the Masonic Service Association of the United States for his completion of ten years of continuous service as our first field agent for the Veterans Hospital Visitation Program provided by the M.S.A.

The presentation was made by Bro. William E. Riley, District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District "H," at the stated meeting of Crescent Lodge No. 455 held February 14, 1979.

Bro. William A. Carpenter, R.W. Grand Secretary, participated in the presentation and spoke briefly of Dr. Stewart's many Masonic accomplishments and his services.

Bro. Stewart was appointed the first field agent for the Veterans Hospital Visitation Program in Pennsylvania on October 2, 1968. He has only served continually at the Naval and Veterans Hospitals in Philadelphia, but has been most active in training other field agents who have served and still serve seven other Veterans Hospitals included in the program throughout the state.

We congratulate Bro. Stewart for his long and dedicated service in the name of Freemasonry.

The endless hours devoted to helping and assuring others has been a busy life for Bro. Paul's retirement from his post at the office in the name of Freemasonry.

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Senior Members May Need Help on Dues

Retirement on fixed incomes and ever increasing costs in this inflationary age make it extremely difficult for many of our senior members to pay their dues. If not, the lodges can find ways and means to reduce such a condition. This would be Masonic charity at its best.

**Another Father and Son Act**

Bro. Elmer Paul Spalti, who served as Worshipful Master of Elysian Lodge No. 341, Newville, in 1970, has had the privilege of conferring all three symbolic degrees on his son, Bro. Bradley W. Spalti, and on December 14, 1978, had the pleasure of installing his son as Worshipful Master.

Bro. William A. Carpenter  R.W. Grand Secretary  

**When Is A Man A Mason?**

When is a man a Mason? When he can look up over the trees, the hills and the sea horizon with a profound sense of his own littleness in the vast scheme of things, and yet have faith, hope and courage. When he knows that down in his heart every man is as noble, as divine, as diabolic, and as lonely as himself, and seeks to know, to forgive, and to love his fellow man. When he knows how to sympathize with men in their sorrows, yes, even in their sins — knowing that each man fights a hard fight against many odds, when he has learned how to make friends, and to keep them, and above all, how to keep his faith in himself. When he loves flowers, can hunt the birds, can fish the streams — and an old forgotten joy when he hears the laugh of a little child. When he can be happy and high-minded amid the meaner drudgeries of life! When he has kept faith with himself, with his fellow man, with his God; in such a man, whether he be rich or poor, scholar or unlearned, famous or obscure, Freemasonry has wrought her sweet effect.

**Another First for Our Grand Lodge**

Bro. Walter P. Wells, R.W. Grand Master, (front and center) is shown flanked by a few of his Grand Lodge officers who braved a snow storm on Wednesday, February 14, to attend the stated meeting of Eulalia Lodge No. 342, Conshohocken, to confer the Fifty Year Past Master Degree on Bro. Luther M. Bittner, a member of Crescent Lodge No. 455, Philadelphia. Bro. Wells is the First Grand Master to receive this coveted emblem while in office, Shown in the first row (left to right) are Samuel C. Billin, R.W. Senior Grand Warden; Bro. Larry J. Boardman, Worshipful Master of Eulalia Lodge; the Grand Master; Bro. John W. Wells, R.W. Grand Secretary; and Joseph E. Trink, R.W. Deputy Grand Master. Shown in the second row (left to right) are Bro. William A. Carpenter, R.W. Grand Secretary; Robert W. Cooney, D.D.G.M. for the 50th Masonic District; Bro. John K. Young, R.W. Past Grand Master and Past Grand Treasurer.

Residential Renovation Project Maintains Schedule

Renovation of two residential guest buildings at the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown is proceeding according to schedule and budget. The program is expected to be complete by year end.

The renovation project, authorized by the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Homes, is designed to bring guest quarters in the Dauphin County and John Henry Daman Memorial buildings in line with all modern life-safety standards.

The contractor, Warel Construction Co. of Lancaster, is now in the process of installing stair towers and elevator shafts in the Dauphin building. The Daman building, however, is being completed by midsummer with work on the elevator shafts in the Dauphin building. The renovation of the two residential guest buildings at the Masonic Homes is designed to improve the quality of life for the Masonic Village residents.

A complete gutting of the interiors of both buildings is being accomplished without altering the stone facades or noshells in order to maintain aesthetic harmony with other buildings in the complex.

Both the Daman and Dauphin buildings (dating to 1914 and 1922, respectively) were constructed of Holmesburg granite and trimmed with Indiana limestone. It is that material and the architectural integrity of the buildings that is being preserved.

Both buildings were constructed in keeping with the style of the period; meaning residential guest suites were designed to share certain facilities, particularly baths.

As indicated in the accompanying drawings prepared by the architect for the project, John Hoffman, each renovated guest suite will have its own private bath facilities. (See below)

All rooms will be air conditioned and fully carpeted. The drawing of the furnishings (see page 4) is accurate in that it depicts the style to be used. The cost of the furnishings is not included in the cost of the project indicated above and the Committee on Masonic Homes will be pleased to receive any contributions, large or small, to help defray the additional expense. The total cost of furnishing a single room is estimated at $5,500 and at $2,500 for a double room.

Those individuals, lodges or organizations who wish to take part in this great work of Masonic charity and responsibility are invited to send their contributions to the Office of the Grand Master in the Masonic Temple, 1300 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19107.

All contributions are tax deductible and will be gratefully acknowledged.

The current renovation project is being conducted in a plan that the Committee on Masonic Homes hopes to extend eventually to all residential buildings in the complex.

Consideration should be given to the support of the Masonic Homes, as the committee intends to renovate the remaining units in the Allegheny County, Paul Leiva, Lancaster County and Berks County memorial buildings as well as the Edward V. Kuhlenkemper Memorial Village and the McKee Cottage in future years.

Others Are Watching

The non-Mason may never have the opportunity or the inclination to read a book on Freemasonry, or study the history of Freemasonry, but the conception of Freemasonry gained by the non-Mason is largely from what he sees in us as Freemasons.

It is generally known by the outsider that although Masons are bound together by the strong ties of brotherly love, reverence for the Almighty be it as, and that Masons are men of integrity, men with whom our daily life is, is due to The Great Light of Freemasonry.

Those are the things that the non-Mason is aware of and are important to the welfare of Freemasonry, especially in this day and age. How well we carry out our obligations, how well we demonstrate in our lives the effectiveness of Masonic teachings, will always be the measure by which the outside world judges Freemasonry.

The habit of speaking well of others, speaking especially of our brethren in the craft, of having a just concept for their happiness and welfare, of having the proper respect for the opinions of others, and our unyielding belief in the greatness of God are ways in which we communicate Freemasonry.

June Quarterly, Dinner-Dance Set for Coudburst

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has accepted an invitation from the Valley of Coudburst to hold the June Quarterly Communication in the Scottish Rite Cathedral, East Second Street, Coudburst.

The invitation was issued by the Valley as a means to honor those who are planning to attend the event. The Valley wants to make sure that everyone who plans to attend is aware of the event and plans to attend.

The communication will begin on Wednesday, June 6 at 8:00 p.m. and will take place in the cathedral auditorium. The Grand Master urges every Mason to attend. It is not required that you be a member of the Grand Lodge.

Tickets are available for Masons and their ladies to attend a dinner that evening to be followed by entertainment and dancing. The cost of the dinner has been established at $6 per person and reservations will be accepted on a first reserve basis due to limited seating.

Because the auditorium is limited to approximately 1,100 seats, it will be necessary for those persons wishing to attend only the entertainment to have a ticket for admission.

There is no charge for the entertainment, but the annual dinner will have priority seating. The remaining entertainment tickets, if any, will be sold after all dinner reservations have been completed.

The dinner will be served on a continuous basis with the first sitting scheduled for 5:30 p.m. The system is one developed by the valley during its class reunions and works well.

It is suggested that those who are unable to make the first sitting plan to arrive for dinner no later than 5:00 p.m. There will be open seating for those waiting to dine who will have use of the lounge area.

Motel accommodations are limited in the immediate area of Coudburst. It is suggested that those planning to stay overnight on Wednesday, June 6 make reservations in the adjacent communities of Kansas, Wellesley, Stratford, Galon, Emporium and other towns enroute to Coudburst.

Those planning to take part are requested to complete the coupon form on this page, marking it and your check as indicated. Please be sure to enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The entertainment, beginning at approximately 8:00 p.m., will be provided by the Chopin Singing Society, a 130-voice choir based in Buffalo, New York. The society, organized in 1906, is composed of Polish Americans from every walk of life. It is dedicated to the preservation of Polish culture in general, and Polish music and song in particular.

The Chopin Society was invited by the Polish Ministry of Culture to present a series of concerts in various cities in Poland in 1975 and was so well received that it was invited to return in 1977.

The choir has performed in major cities throughout the United States. The music for dancing following the entertainment will be provided by the orchestra of 30 Joe Martin.

The Chopin Singing Society will entertain at the June Quarterly Communication in Coudburst on Wednesday, June 6. Free tickets are available at the White House Inn, 1447 N. Broad Street.

The entertainment will begin at 8:00 p.m. and will be followed by a dinner that evening to be attended by all. The cost of the dinner is $6 per person and reservations must be made in advance.

Tickets are available at the White House Inn, 1447 N. Broad Street. The cost of the dinner is $6 per person and reservations must be made in advance.

It is suggested that those planning to stay overnight on Wednesday, June 6 make reservations for motel accommodations. Motel reservations are limited in the immediate area of Coudburst. It is suggested that those planning to stay overnight on Wednesday, June 6 make reservations in the adjacent communities of Kansas, Wellesley, Stratford, Galon, Emporium and other towns enroute to Coudburst.

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