

So, you've just been raised a Master Mason. Now what?

Having been raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, you have reached a level where you're able to vote, hold office, visit other lodges, and benefit from all of the rights and privileges associated with being a Master Mason. You can enjoy the satisfaction of having experienced a unique set of degrees the purpose of which is to provide you with the essential elements of a philosophy of living day to day life. The brothers of this Lodge have invested many hours in teaching you basic principles, lectures, and other important material to support this end.

It quickly becomes clear that you have discovered the tip of a very large iceberg. We all know the essence of Freemasonry is contained within the lectures and experiences of the first 3° and should remember the lessons of the Fellowcraft degree admonishing us to approach each challenge as a student of the Liberal Arts and Sciences always endeavoring to study, learn, and grow as a Mason.

To continue your Masonic Education, you should attend Lodge regularly to again witness the work being presented and pay particular attention to the lectures. You should ask questions of those around you and consult with knowledgeable brothers about Freemasonry. You should expand your reading list to see what other great minds have said about Freemasonry and be prepared to discuss your readings with those around you to help determine what elements of truth are contained within those writings as well as which writings have been written from a misguided or misinformed view of Freemasonry.

In operative masonry, the entered apprentice is trained in basic skills eventually moving to the level of journeyman or 'fellow of the craft' to be a productive worker in the shop of the master where he performs tasks assigned to him by the master. During that time, the virtuous journeymen will take time on his own to begin to explore his own designs, experiment with various techniques, and improve himself in his craft. He will soon be able to produce a work of his own that reflects not only the technical skills that he has been taught and developed through experience, but also the ability to innovate, to plan, and to create with his own resources. This piece, if found worthy, is deemed his "masterpiece" and this 'fellow of the craft' then becomes a true master of the craft and is given the privilege of training new apprentices. This process requires initiative on the part of the craftsman to explore, pursue, and learn without being directed.

As the newest Master Mason to join our ranks, it becomes your responsibility to demonstrate the initiative to seek more light in masonry, ask questions, pursue existing knowledge, and begin to think your own thoughts and develop your own understanding of Freemasonry. This is, indeed, a lifelong process as you continue to work at constructing your personal "Masterpiece" which will be presented to the Great Architect of the Universe when we are called from this lodge to the grand lodge above.

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