

The Master Mason
By Michael A. Kupsch, 32°

Being a Master Mason is more than simply going through the 3rd degree ritual, or even attending Lodge meetings. In many respects, it is intangible and not easily defined. What makes us Master Masons? Why is it hard to define the requirements?

To answer the last question first, Masonry is many different things to different Brethren. Although we follow the same Masonic principles, rituals and sit in Lodge together, how we interpret the secrets of Ancient Craft Masonry is a very personal proposition. Even to the extent that all within a Lodge may not even worship the same Supreme Architect in the same manner, or even share the same conceptual notions of Deity. We all believe in one supreme Deity, as that is an important factor in uniting us all as the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God. Simply put, we are all traveling on the same journey, but the path on how we get there may not be the same.

Our search for Masonic light all began in our heart; it has to. It was the calling within us to be more than what we are, to be better citizens, and family members; to make a good man even better. It is a calling for a noble living in service to mankind, and it is a calling to better our relationship with the Supreme Architect of all mankind. Masonry and the Blue Lodge is the facilitator in obtaining this desire within us. This is what brings us to the Alter of Masonry and these notions are inculcated within the obligations we each took on our journey of seeking light.

We must note the interpretation of the teachings and rituals are up to the individual, and there is a whole diverse knowledge contained in Esoteric Masonry. The bottom line is no one Brother can clearly define what Masonry is, except for himself. It is far easier to explain what Masonry is not. So how does this help in defining what being a Master Mason is?

Being a Master Mason begins in the same place as our calling to Masonry; it begins in our heart, as alluded to previously. We all stood as an Entered Apprentice in the North East corner of the Lodge as the Worshipful Master explained we were the cornerstone of the Masonic Foundation. One can look at that from the aspect of building up the Lodge as a matter of more Masons to attend Lodge, but it goes even deeper than that. We are the cornerstone foundation of our own Lodge, meaning ourselves. Knowing the teachings, rituals, and attending Lodge will mean nothing if we do not apply the lessons of Masonic principles within the Lodge of our own being. We have to be the Master of our own Lodge within us, and live by the principles of Ancient Craft Masonry before we can even begin to think of ourselves as true Master Masons. For me, that is what constitutes being a Master Mason.

So Mote It Be