

Entered apprentice Lecture I

M.W.P.H.G.L. Virgin Islands & Its Jurisdiction
F. & A.M.

E.A. Lecture I

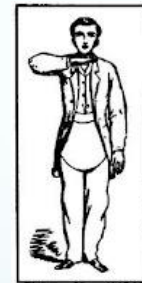
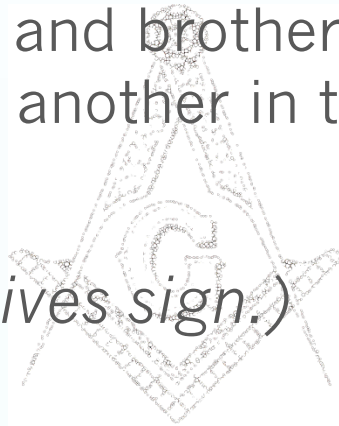
- As an Entered Apprentice, from whence come you?
 - From the Lodge of the Holy Saints John at Jerusalem.
- What come you here to do?
 - To learn to subdue my passions and improve myself in Masonry.
- Then I presume you are a Mason.
 - I am so taken and accepted among brothers and fellows.
- What makes you a Mason?
 - My obligation.

E.A. Lecture I

- How do you know yourself to be a Mason?
 - By having been often tried and never denied, and am willing to be tried again.
- How shall I know you to be a Mason?
 - By certain signs, a token, a word, and the perfect points of my entrance.
- What are signs?
 - Right angles, horizontals and perpendiculars.

E.A. Lecture I

- What is a token?
 - A certain friendly and brotherly grip whereby one Mason may know another in the dark as well as the light.
- Give me a sign. (*Gives sign.*)
- Has that an allusion?
 - It has; to the penalty of my obligation.



E.A. Lecture I

(Taking the right hand as in ordinary hand shaking.)

- Give me a token? I hail.
 - I conceal.
- What do you conceal?
 - All the secrets of Masons in Masonry to which this token alludes. *(At the word "token" the grip performed.)*
 - I conceal.



E.A. Lecture I

- What is that?
 - The grip of an Entered Apprentice.

Here follow five questions and answers which refer solely to certain landmarks.

- Where were you first prepared to be made a Mason?
 - In my heart.
- Where next?
 - In a room adjacent to a just and lawfully constituted Lodge of Masons.

E.A. Lecture I

- How were you prepared?
 - By being divested of all metals, neither naked nor clothed, barefoot nor shod, hoodwinked, and a cable-tow about my neck; in which situation I was conducted to the door of the Lodge by a friend, whom I afterward found to be a brother.
- How did you know it to be a door, being hoodwinked?
 - By first meeting resistance and afterwards gaining admission.
- How gained you admission?
 - By three knocks.

E.A. Lecture I

- What was said to you from within?
 - Who comes here?
- Your answer?
 - A poor, blind candidate, who is desirous of being brought from darkness to light, and receiving a part of the rights, lights and benefits of this Worshipful Lodge, erected to God and dedicated to the Holy Saints John, as many a brother and fellow has done before him.

E.A. Lecture I

- What were you then asked?
 - If it was of my own free will and accord; if I was duly and truly prepared; worthy and well qualified. All of which being answered in the affirmative, I was asked by what further right or benefit I expected to gain admission.
- Your answer?
 - By being a man, free born, of lawful age and well recommended.

E.A. Lecture I

- What followed?
 - I was directed to wait with patience until the Worshipful Master was informed of my request and his answer returned.
- What answer did he return?
 - Let him enter and be received in due form.
- How were you received?
 - On the point of a sharp instrument at my naked left breast.

E.A. Lecture I

- How were you then disposed of?
 - I was conducted to the center of the Lodge, and caused to kneel and attend prayer.
- After attending prayer, what was then said to you?
 - In whom do you put your trust?
- Your answer?
 - In **God**.

E.A. Lecture I

- What followed?
 - My trust being in God, my faith was well founded. I was then taken by the right hand, ordered to arise, follow my guide and fear no danger.
- Where did you follow your guide?
 - Once about the altar to the Junior Warden in the South, where the same questions were asked and like answers returned as at the door.
- How did the Junior Warden dispose of you?
 - He directed me to the Senior Warden in the West, where the same questions were asked and like answers returned as before.

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- How did the Senior Warden dispose of you?
 - He directed me to the Worshipful Master in the East, where the same questions were asked and like answers returned as before.
- How did the Worshipful Master dispose of you?
 - He ordered me to be reconducted to the Senior Warden in the West, who taught me to approach to the East, advancing by one upright, regular step, my feet forming the right angle of an oblong square, my body erect to the Worshipful Master in the East.

E.A. Lecture I

- What did the Worshipful Master then do with you?
 - He made me a Mason.
- How?
 - In due form.
- What is that due form?
 - Kneeling on my naked left knee, my right forming a square, my body erect, my naked left hand supporting the Holy Bible, square and compasses, my naked right resting thereon, in which due form I took the obligation of an Entered Apprentice.



E.A. Lecture I

- Repeat it.
- I, A. B., of my own free will and accord, in the presence of Almighty God, and this Worshipful Lodge erected to Him and dedicated to the Holy Saints John, do hereby and hereon most solemnly and sincerely promise and swear that I will always *hail*, forever conceal, never reveal any of the secret arts, parts or points of the hidden mysteries of Masonry which may have been heretofore, or shall be, at this time, or at any future period, communicated to me as such, to any person or persons, whomsoever, except it be a true and lawful brother Mason, or within the body of a just and lawfully constituted Lodge of Masons; nor unto him or them until, by strict trial, due examination, or lawful information, I shall have found him, or them, as lawfully entitled to them as I am myself.

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I furthermore promise and swear that I will not write, print, paint, stamp, stain, cut, carve, show, mark, or engrave them on any thing movable or immovable capable of receiving the least impression of a sign, word, syllable, letter or character, whereby they may become legible or intelligible to any person under the canopy of heaven, and the secrets of Masonry be thereby unlawfully obtained by my unworthiness. All this I most solemnly and sincerely promise and swear, with a firm and steadfast resolution to keep and perform the same, without the least equivocation, mental reservation or secret evasion whatsoever; binding myself under no less penalty than that of having my throat cut from ear to ear, my tongue torn out by its roots, and buried in the sands of the sea, at low-water mark, where the tide ebbs and flows twice in twenty-four hours, should I, in the least, knowingly or wittingly violate or transgress this my Entered Apprentice obligation. So help me God, and keep me steadfast.

E.A. Lecture I

- After taking the obligation, what were you then asked?
 - What I most desired.
- Your answer?
 - Light.
- Did you receive it?
 - I did.
- How?
 - By order of the Worshipful Master and assistance of the brethren.



E.A. Lecture I

- On being brought to light, what did you first discover?
 - The three Great Lights of Masonry, by the light of the three lesser.
- What are the three Great Lights of Masonry ?
 - The Holy Bible, square and compasses.
- What do they Masonically teach?
 - The Holy Bible is the rule and guide of faith; the square, to square our actions; and the compasses, to circumscribe and keep us within due bounds with all mankind, but more especially with a brother Mason.

E.A. Lecture I

- What are the three Lesser Lights?
 - The Sun, Moon and Master of the Lodge.
- How are they explained as such?
 - As the Sun rules the day and the Moon governs the night, so ought the Worshipful Master to rule and govern his Lodge with equal regularity.
- How are they represented?
 - By three burning tapers placed in a triangular position in the Lodge.

E.A. Lecture I

- What did you then discover?
 - The Worshipful Master approaching me from the East, under the due guard and sign of an Entered Apprentice; who, in token of his brotherly love and friendship, presented me with his right hand, and with it the grip and word of an Entered Apprentice, and bid me arise and salute the Wardens as such.

E.A. Lecture I

- After saluting the Wardens, what did you then discover?
 - The Worshipful Master approaching me from the East a second time, who presented me with the lamb-skin or white leather apron, and informed me that it was an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason; more ancient than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle; more honorable than the Star and Garter, or any other order that could be conferred on me at that time or at any future period by king, prince, potentate, or any other person, except he be a Mason; and which he hoped I would wear with equal pleasure to myself and honor to the fraternity; and bade me carry it to the Senior Warden in the West, who taught me how to wear it as an Entered Apprentice.

E.A. Lecture I

- After being taught to wear your apron as an Entered Apprentice, what were you then informed ?
 - That, agreeable to an ancient custom in all regular and well governed lodges, it was then necessary that I should be required to deposit something of a metallic kind, not for its intrinsic worth or value, but that it might be laid up among the relics in the archives of the Lodge as a memorial that I was therein made a Mason, but, upon strict examination, I found myself entirely destitute.

E.A. Lecture I

- How were you then disposed of?
 - I was ordered to be reconducted to the place from whence I came, there be re-invested of what I had been divested, and return to the Lodge for further instruction.
- On your return to the Lodge, where were you placed, as the youngest Entered Apprentice?
 - In the North-east corner, my feet forming the right angle of an oblong square, my body erect, to the Worshipful Master in the East, who was pleased to say that I then stood as a just and upright Mason, and gave it me strictly in charge ever to walk and act as such.

E.A. Lecture I

- What did the Worshipful Master then present you with?
 - The working tools of an Entered Apprentice, and taught me their uses.
- What are the working tools of an Entered Apprentice?
 - The twenty-four inch gauge and the common gavel.



- What are their uses? (click on tool)

24 inch gauge

The twenty-four inch gauge is an instrument made use of by operative masons to measure and lay out their work; but we, as Free and Accepted Masons, are taught to make use of it for the more noble and glorious purpose of dividing our time. It being divided into twenty-four equal parts is emblematical of the twenty-four hours of the day, which we are taught to divide into three equal parts, whereby we find eight hours for the service of God and a distressed worthy brother, eight hours for our usual avocations, and eight hours for refreshment and sleep.

Common gavel

The common gavel is an instrument made use of by operative Masons to break off the corners of rough stones, the better to fit them for the builder's use; but we, as Free and Accepted Masons, are taught to make use of it for the more noble and glorious purpose of divesting our minds and consciences of all the vices and superfluities of life, thereby fitting our bodies as living stones of that spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.