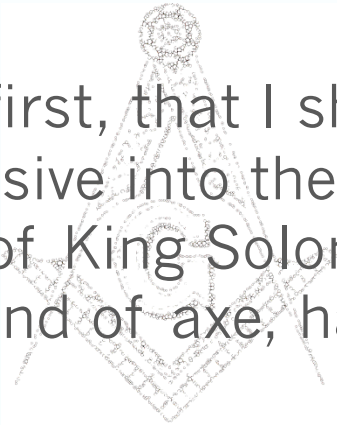


Entered apprentice Lecture II

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

E.A. Lecture II

- Why were you divested of all metals when made a Mason?
- For two reasons: first, that I should carry nothing offensive or defensive into the Lodge with me; second, at the beginning of King Solomon's temple, there was not heard the sound of axe, hammer, or any tool of iron.



E.A. Lecture II

- How could a building of such stupendous magnitude be erected without the aid of some iron tools?
 - Because the stones were all hewn, squared and numbered in the quarries where they were raised; the timbers felled and prepared in the forests of Lebanon, carried by sea in floats to Joppa, and from thence by land to Jerusalem, where they were set up by wooden mauls prepared for that purpose; and when the building was erected, its several parts fitted with such exactness, that it had more the appearance of being the handiwork of the Supreme Architect of the Universe than of that of human hands.

E.A. Lecture II

- Why were you neither naked nor clothed?
 - Because Masonry regards no man for his worldly wealth or honors; it was, therefore, to show that it was the internal and not the external qualifications of a man that should render him worthy to be made a Mason.
- Why were you neither barefoot nor shod?
 - This was according to an ancient Israelit-ish custom. We read in the book of Ruth, that this was the manner in former times concerning redeeming and concerning changing for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his shoe and gave it to his neighbor, and this was a testimony in Israel. This, therefore, was done to show the sincerity of our intentions in the business we were then engaged upon.

E.A. Lecture II

- Why were you hoodwinked and a cable-tow about your neck?
 - For three reasons: first, that as I was then in darkness, so should I keep the world without in the future, as relates to the secrets of Masonry, until they should obtain them as lawfully as I was then about to do; second, that my heart should be taught to conceal before my eyes beheld the beauties of Masonry; third, should I have refused to submit to the forms and ceremonies of Masonry, being found unworthy to be taken by the hand as a brother, I might, by the help of the cabletow, be conducted out of the Lodge without being allowed to discover even the form thereof.

E.A. Lecture II

- Why were you caused to give three distinct knocks?
 - For two reasons: first, to alarm the Lodge and inform the Worshipful Master that I was prepared for initiation; second, to remind me of a certain text in Scripture, "Ask and ye shall receive; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you."
- How did you apply that text to your then situation?
 - I asked the recommendation of a friend to be made a Mason; through his recommendation I sought initiation; I knocked at the door of the Lodge and it was opened unto me.

E.A. Lecture II

- Why were you received on the point of a sharp instrument?
 - It was to signify that as that was an instrument of torture to the flesh, so should the remembrance thereof be to my conscience, should I ever presume to reveal any of the secrets of Masonry unlawfully.
- Why were you caused to kneel and attend prayer?
 - Because no man should ever enter upon any great and important undertaking without first invoking the blessing of Deity.

E.A. Lecture II

- Why were you asked in whom you put your trust?
 - Because, agreeable to an ancient Masonic custom, no Atheist could be made a Mason; it was, therefore, necessary that I should profess my belief in Deity, otherwise no oath would be binding upon me.
- Why were you taken by the right hand, ordered to arise, follow your guide and fear no danger?
 - It was to show that although at that time I could neither foresee nor prevent danger, I was in the hands of a trusty friend, in whose fidelity I might with safety confide.

E.A. Lecture II

- Why were you conducted once about the altar?
 - That the brethren might see I was duly and truly prepared.
- Why were you caused to meet with these several obstructions on your passage?
 - Because in every regular and well-governed Lodge there is a representation of King Solomon's Temple, in which we learn there were guards stationed at the South. West and East gates, to see that none passed or repassed but such as were duly qualified and had their permission. It was therefore necessary that I should meet with these several obstructions, in order that I might be duly examined before I could be made a Mason.

E.A. Lecture II

- Why were you caused to kneel on your naked left knee?
 - Because the left was supposed to be the weaker part of man; it was, therefore, to show that it was the weaker part of Masonry I was then entering upon, it being that of an Entered Apprentice.
- Why were you caused to lay your right hand on the Holy Bible, square and compasses?
 - Because the right hand was supposed by our ancient brethren to be the seat of fidelity, which was said sometimes to be represented by two right hands joined, at other by two human figures holding each other by the right hand. The right hand, therefore, was made use of as a token of our sincerity, and a pledge of our fidelity in the business we were then engaged upon.

E.A. Lecture II

- Why were you presented with the lambskin apron, which is the true badge of a Mason?
- Because the lamb has in all ages been deemed an emblem of innocence; he, therefore, who wears the lamb-skin as a badge of Masonry, is thereby continually reminded of that purity of life and conduct which is essentially necessary to his gaining admission into that celestial Lodge above, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides.

E.A. Lecture II

- Why were you requested to deposit something of a metallic kind?
 - It was to remind me of my then extremely poor and penniless situation; should I ever afterwards meet a friend, more especially a brother, in like circumstances, that I should contribute as liberally to his relief as I could do without inconvenience to myself.
- Why were you placed in the North-east corner, as the youngest Entered Apprentice?
 - Because in operative masonry the first stone of a building is usually placed in the Northeast corner; I was, therefore, placed there to receive those first instructions upon which to build my future moral and Masonic edifice.