

Volume 2 Issue 7

July 1, 2013

THIS MONTH'S FEATURE STORIES

Learning and Memorizing Ritual—Part 1

The Hangman



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Learning and Memorizing Ritual—Part 1

Ritualist's Corner

One of the problems that most often plagues Masonry is poor ritual. By this, I don't just mean getting the words wrong -- I mean ritual that is drab and uninspiring, which fails to actually *teach* a candidate. Ritual is often mediocre, and it doesn't have to be; anyone can do ritual well, provided he knows a little about acting.

It isn't hard, actually; it's mostly a matter of knowing how to do it, plus a lot of practice. This article is intended to impart some guidelines on how to do Good Ritual. It doesn't demand a lot of time, or any particular talent, just a little drive to do well. Read it and play with it. With some practice, you should be able to use these techniques to good effect in your Lodge. The course is specifically aimed at dealing with

the longer speeches, but much of it is also relevant to shorter pieces; I commend it to junior officers.

This is adapted from a lecture that I worked up for my own lodge; having done that, I figured I should try to spread these tips around for the common weal of the Craft. (Caveat: I do assume that you have some kind of cypher book, with encoded ritual. If your jurisdiction doesn't use this, you'll have to adapt these lessons.)

1: Figure out the Words

The first step of learning any ritual is to know what you're saying! This should be obvious, but is often overlooked, because brethren are afraid to admit that they don't already know the right words. Don't be afraid to admit your own lim-

its -- I've never met *anyone* who gets every single word right every time.



Start out by listening to someone say the speech, preferably several times. (You should be doing this the entire previous year, listening to your predecessor.) Listen carefully, and make sure you understand what's being said; ask questions if you don't. (After Lodge, of course.)

Programs & Announcements

Elections last month yielded the following new slate of officers for 2014-15: WM - Glenn Fant; SW - Kevin Rush; JW - John Rosser; Treasurer - Finus Branham; Secretary - Jerry Hendrick; Senior Deacon - Charles Straub; Junior Deacon - Allen Jolly; Senior Steward - Luis Ramos; Marshal - Heath Morgan; Chaplain - Dwayne Collins; Tiler - James

Urban. Be sure and congratulate them and wish them well for the upcoming year. Installation was held on June 28. We still need a Junior Steward if anyone is interested.

As of press time our monthly dining out has not been firmed up. We are looking at Chili's and will pass the info along as

soon as it is put together.

Don't forget, the Lubbock Gun & Blade Show is Saturday, July 26, 2014 at 9:00am - 5:00pm and Sunday, July 27, 2014 from 10:00am to 5:00pm. We will set up on Friday, sometime between 12 and 8pm.



And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. Genesis 1:3



From the East
Worshipful Master Glenn Fant

Brethren,
I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as Master of Lubbock Lodge #1392. I view this as a great honor and a privilege. Be assured that I am dedicated to making this a productive year and I am fully aware that I can only do this with your help. The Lodge will need the help of all the newly elected officers more than ever to continue the legacy and success we have en-

joyed during the past two years. For the second year in row, we have earned the coveted Vanguard Award, and though it will not be officially presented to the Lodge until December, we should be eligible for the second consecutive year in a row.

We are starting the year out well with two new Entered Apprentice Masons. I am hopeful this trend will continue throughout the next

year. Congratulations to all the newly elected officers and members. I look forward to working with you.

MAY THE PRINCE OF PEACE CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU WITH WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING!



"The grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race"

Washington



From the West
Senior Warden Kevin Rush

I want to express my deep and sincere gratitude to the members of Lubbock Lodge for allowing me to serve this year as your Senior Warden. I promise to do my very best to be worthy of the trust that you have put in me.

A new Masonic year is upon us with new hope, new opportunities and new challenges . . . and some new members! We have had a busy and reward-

ing year and I want to congratulate Brother James Urban for his efforts in the East this past year.

As with any organization such as ours, with each new slate of officers comes new ideas, new directions and new triumphs. I also want to take this opportunity to encourage you to support the new Master of the Lodge during this upcoming year and become

involved in the activities of your lodge. NOTHING happens without the support of all. Please don't be a Mason in name only. If we haven't seen you lately, please accept this as a personal invitation for you to return to Lubbock Lodge. We value your membership and hope you will join us again in the work.

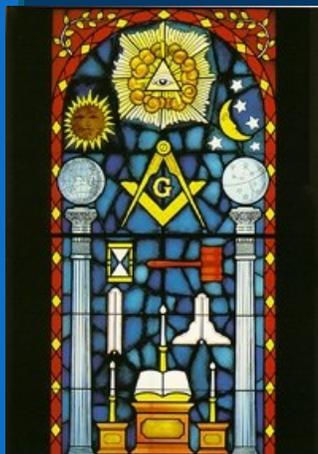


From the South - What is Freemasonry?
Junior Warden John Rosser

Freemasonry is a voluntary, fraternal organization, composed of men of good will, good character and good reputation who believe in an Almighty Creator and practice the spirit of universal brotherhood to man. They are loyal to their country and devote their time to the principles of friendship and fellowship. Their focus is to be of service to all mankind. For many men, Freemasonry fulfills a part of themselves that they

intrinsically felt was missing. Whether it be the social, the philosophical, the spiritual, the historical or simply a sense of community with others. Free Masons help to build a better world through a unique and worthy process of building better men to live in it. Free Masons believe in the practice of brotherly love for all, charitable relief for those who may be in need, morality and good citizenship in every community. Freemasonry

acts as a charitable, fraternal, educational, social and character-building society. Masonry's active ideal is the brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God.



"Remember not only to say the right thing in the right place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment."

Benj. Franklin



From the Secretary Jerry Hendrick
Taking Care of Business—What us the Due Guard?

DUE GUARD: What is the Due Guard? What is its purpose?

It is a symbol of obligation; a reminder by him who uses it to all who see him do so that he remembers his promises. Masonic authorities are not in complete agreement as to the derivation of the words,

although they unite as to what the words signify. Albert G. Mackey (1807-1881) thinks the words mean to duly guard against. Other authorities are convinced the phrase has a French derivation coming from Dieu Garfe, or God Guard (me or you).

It is universally use as a

salute to the Master before the altar and to the Wardens during the conferring of the degrees.



From the Senior Deacon Charles Straub
Visiting Brothers & Prospects

At our June stated meeting we had the following visitors: Bob Clemmons, 33°, PM Rolan Pirtle, both of Yellowhouse.

On June 17 we put on an EA degree.

June 28 was our installation and Bob Clemmons,

33°, PM was our installing Marshal.

As the new Senior Deacon for Lubbock Lodge, I look forward to the year ahead and serving the lodge in introducing visiting brethren and preparing, receiving and conducting new candidates. This year

promises to be one of great opportunity for our lodge!



Let us endeavor so to live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry.

Mark Twain



From the Senior Steward Luis Ramos
Food, Flowers & Frolic

Brothers, we are already half way through 2014! How time flies. The 4th of July just passed and our next stated meeting this week.

The best way to get brethren together and just simply get to know

one another is with food. Lubbock Lodge will have its monthly stated meeting this month on July 11th, 2014 with a meal to start at 6:30pm.

As always, this poor steward needs your

help... Please contribute to the cause and put a few dollars in the jar. Please join us at the Lubbock Lodge for food, conversation and brethren friendship



Upcoming Menu for July:

- Chicken Enchilada
- Casserole
- Spanish Rice
- Pinto Beans
- Dessert
- Beverage

Why Masonry Must Teach by Symbols con't from page 1



Next, go through your cypher or code book carefully, and see how much you can read. Mark words that you can't figure out, or that you're unsure of -- this is the point to catch any mistakes you may be making. Then call or get together with a Ritualist or a reliable Past Master, and talk through it, reading out of the book slowly. Have him correct any mistakes, and fill in the words you don't know. Take notes (preferably somewhere other than in the book), because you will forget the corrections as soon as you're on your own.

2: Understand the Speech

This step gets overlooked even more often than the previous one. Read through the ritual a couple of times, and make sure you really grasp it. Don't just know the words -- know what it's talking about. Find out who the characters being talked about are. Again, ask questions.

Now, start trying to understand the speech structurally. Any ritual is made up of components, separate pieces that are linked together. For example, a section may be talking about symbols, with three paragraphs per symbol: concrete meaning, abstract meaning, and purpose. Figure out what these pieces are -- you'll use them later.

The next step is especially useful for long speeches -- visualize the speech. Any speech can be thought of in terms of movements, places, rooms, stuff like that. Words are hard to remember in order; places are easy. The canonical example is the Middle Chamber Lecture, which walks through King Solomon's Temple. That's no accident -- that path is easily visualized, and makes a good example of how to learn

ritual, which is probably why it is the first major speech an officer learns. This is why we use symbols in the first place: because they are easy to learn and internalize. Use them.

3a: Small-Scale Memorization



This is never anyone's favorite part; anyone can do it, but no-one finds it simple. It's considerably easier if you do it right, though.

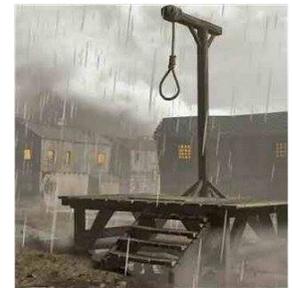
Start out by reading the speech over and over. Don't move on to the next step until you can read it from the cypher quickly, without breaks or hesitation. Read it *out loud*, when you get the chance.

This step is particularly important, and skipped more often than any other. Don't skip it -- this is how you get your brain and mouth trained to the words. It may sound silly, but it really matters -- the mental pathways used to talk are distinct from those used to read.

Now, start trying to learn sentences. Just sentences. Read the first word or two of the sentence, then try to fill in the remainder from memory. Don't fret if you can't do it immediately; it will probably take at least 5 or 10 times through before you're getting most of the sentences. You'll find some that are hard -- ham-

mer those ones over and over (but don't totally neglect the rest while you do so). Again, get to the point where you're doing reasonably well on this, before going on to the next step.

Wor. Mark Waks
Master, Hammatt Ocean Lodge -
Saugus, MA
Part 2 Next Month
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The Hangman

A man had been convicted of murder and was about to be hanged. Just before the sentence was executed, the hangman asked the condemned man if he had any last words. "Yes", came the reply, "I hate Masons!"

"Why do you hate Masons?" asked the hangman.

"The man I killed was a Mason", exclaimed the murderer, "the Sheriff who hunted me down was a Mason, the Prosecutor who tried my case was a Mason, the Judge who presided at the trial was a Mason, and all the men on the jury who found me guilty and said I should be hanged were Masons!"

"Is that all?", asked the hangman.

"Yes", replied the convicted murderer.

"Then you will advance one step with your left foot . . ."

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Lubbock 1392 in Action Installation of 2014-15 Officers BBQ Winner!

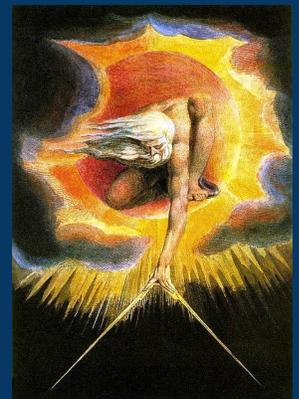


Part of the incoming line of officers for the 2014-15 year. L-to-R PM James Urban, Tiler; PM Dewain Collins, Chaplain; John Rosser, Jr. Deacon; Kevin Rush, Sr. Deacon and Glenn Fant, Worshipful Master.

WM Glenn Fant being congratulated on his installation by Installing Master, PM Joe Sanders.



Bro. John Rosser receiving the traveling award plaque for Craftsman Griller (2nd Place) from Bro Glen Ashcraft of Yellowhouse Lodge. Yellowhouse sponsored their Second Annual Cook-off open to all Masons in the local area.



LUBBOCK MASONIC LODGE #1392

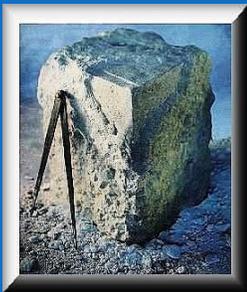
MASONIC DIST 93-A

4539 Brownfield Dr
Lubbock, TX
79410-1721

Meetings:
Second Friday of each
month, 7:30 p.m.
Meal: 6:30pm

Floor School:
Every Tuesday @ 7p.m.

lubbockmasoniclodge.org



Brotherly Love, Relief & Truth

This Month's Sickness & Distress



George Buchanan



Please take the time to visit our sick and distressed; send them cards or call them on the phone, and be sure to keep them in your prayers.

If you know of sickness or distress with a brother or his family, please let us know.

This Month's Brothers & Birthdays

Jerry Eastham 7/25
Michael Hooten 7/27

*The Quarry:
Our Esoteric Work
By Bro. Bob Clemmons
District 93A Instructor*



More Light

I want to continue to encourage you to work toward obtaining certificates this year. As a reminder:

- Class "C" Certificate: Opening & Closing MM, FC, & EA Lodges, & MM Lodge of Sorrow (all parts); Tiler's Oath, Questions & Answers in all 3-Degrees;
- Class "B" Certificate



- Class "A" Certificate (Class C & B requirements plus the Lectures of all 3 Degrees)

The examinations this year will be October 18 beginning at 8:00AM at Yellow-house Lodge.



The things a man has to have are hope and confidence in himself against odds, and sometimes he needs somebody, his pal or his mother or his wife or God, to give him that confidence. He's got to have some inner standards worth fighting for or there won't be any way to bring him into conflict. And he must be ready to choose death before dishonor without making too much song and dance about it. That's all there is to it."

Blaise Pascal

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