

Lubbock's Light

The Newsletter of Lubbock Masonic Lodge #1392

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

10 PROPOSITIONS FOR TEXAS FREEMASONRY

By Brother Lance Kennedy

This month, we continue with Brother Lance Kennedy's 10 Propositions for Texas Freemasonry.

5. Enter the Mysteries

The initiatory experience should be a pivotal event in a man's life. We cheapen it by performing a substandard ritual. If we cannot perform a ritual well we should find someone who can do so for us. I have seen a conferring officer laugh during a raising of a Master Mason. I have often seen officers joke during the opening and closing of lodges. This sort of behavior is unacceptable. All ritual work must be undertaken in a serious and reverent manner reflecting the ancient and honorable nature of our Order.

"Proficiency is an essential function of any observant Lodge because we must know both what

we are doing, and why, if we seek to uphold the highest standards of our respective Grand Lodges. It does no good to claim the mantle of excellence if your Lodge is not well versed in the ritual and the Masonic law of your jurisdiction. Masonry is a thing of order, not anarchy. If you wish to keep that order, as well as harmony between your Lodge and the Grand Lodge, you must learn and follow the rules that each brother has obligated himself to observe. An observant Lodge is not a renegade Lodge. It seeks to be an exemplary one."

6. Memento Mori

Masons have always embraced the emblems of death, however, these images have been largely purged from Texas Freemasonry for a variety of reasons. For example, when visiting the Grand Lodge of Texas' building in Waco you may no-

PROGRAMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



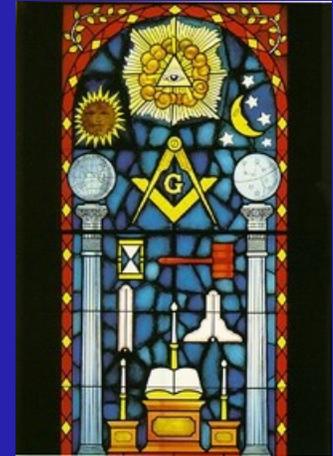
Our District Deputy Grand Master Kevin Rush will deliver his second message from the Grand Master in October.

Our Past Master's Dinner which was originally going to be this month has been postponed to a later date.

Make plans now to attend this year's Officer Leadership Training to be held at the Scottish Rite. Participants in Officer Leadership Training, lead their Lodges with greater confidence, efficiency, and effectiveness. The program will

begin on Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. and finish around 10:00 p.m. Saturday will begin with breakfast at 7:30 a.m., followed by the morning session at 8:30 a.m., Lunch at Noon, afternoon session at 1:00 p.m., and conclude with a Q&A session directed to the Grand Lodge Trustees at 5:00 p.m. A short break, and then a sit-down dinner at 6:00 p.m. will follow, with our R W Deputy Grand Master as the keynote speaker.

"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."

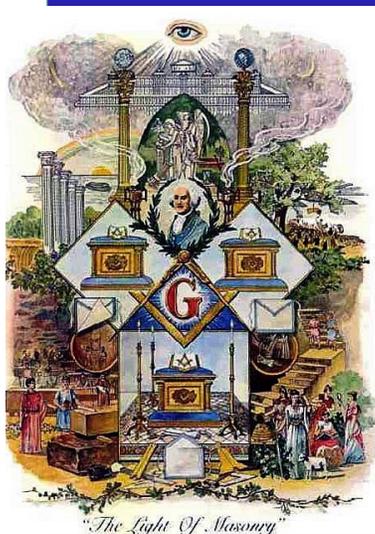
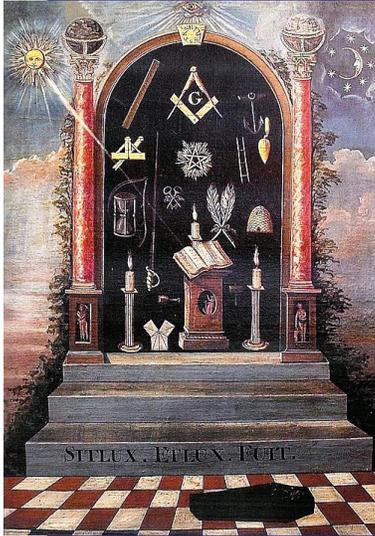


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10 Propositions for Texas Freemasonry—*con't*



tice the seal on the wall that bears the skull and crossbones. This emblem is never used by the Grand Lodge in any publication or proceeding. I have to ask myself why? I would venture to say it has to do with the broader movement to strip Masonry of anything “dark” or “sinister.”

There may be another explanation, but given the opposition to Chambers of Reflection or any trapping that may offend bourgeoisie sensibilities, I conclude this must be the case. I did not become a Mason so I could explain it away to others. I have never cared what my coworkers may or may not think about my affiliation. I do not care what the pearl-clutching ladies at the nearest church think about the Craft. Our symbols are our own and we should embrace the darkness because therein lies the Light.

“We should bring back those things that once were found in our lodges, and which helped create a very unique, contemplative atmosphere for both the candidate and the Lodge. Among these is the use of music, the manipulation of light and darkness, the Chamber of Reflection, and the closing charge which forms what is known as the Chain of Union. Consider that the candidate preparation room is not and was never meant to be a mere dressing room. Consider that the notion of a ‘sacred band of brothers’ might allude to a physical manifestation of that sacredness. Consider that music has always been a part of our ceremonies and that the Book of Constitutions

ends with a collection of songs. All these things are part of who we are; they are not innovations from later jurisdictions or borrowings from European Masonry. Even the use of incense is ritually alluded to in early exposures of the Craft. The idea is to stimulate and manage the sensory experience of the brethren, in the endeavor to create the sense of uniqueness one expects from a Masonic experience. Here again, there is nothing strange about employing the senses in a Masonic meeting. Our rituals teach the importance of each of those senses extensively; to not employ them in our meetings is the greater neglect and error. To refuse the restoration of awe to our rituals is to refuse to acknowledge our own heritage and history, and to deny the proper place and application of the pillar of Beauty to the Lodge.”

7. Tacere

Masonry has thrived in times of persecution. It did not need to advertise to attract members. Proximity was enough to draw the attention of worthy seekers. Its secrecy was the attractor, not its incessant declarations to be a somewhat quirky club that has secret handshakes.

I have often heard it said that Freemasonry is not a “secret society” but a “society with secrets.” If you wish to construct a definition of “secret society” that requires some nefarious motive such as world domination then sure, Freemasonry does not fit the bill. However, if one accepts a more straightforward definition and does not engage in

semantical gymnastics, it is easy to conclude that we are, in fact, a secret society.

Personally, I do not mind this description. Our secrecy is our greatest asset, particularly when dealing with Millennials. Millennials exist in a world where every action is public. Every private act is proclaimed on social media; they crave secrecy, exclusivity, a hidden world. Then give it to them!

We have a ready-made secretive Fraternity bolstered by popular culture (e.g. National Treasure, etc.). Instead of running from what is the Fraternity, embrace it. Being more “open” is not the answer.

8. Männerbund Metaphysics

Masons are a group of men engaged in alchemy. Social functions are extremely important to what we do, however, if we do not yearn for esoteric knowledge, the sort of knowledge that is only grasped through inference and applied study, we might as well join Lion’s Club or Rotary. My concern is that many Masons do not actively engage in esoteric study. While there is a great disparity between the abilities of one brother to another, we can all take it upon ourselves to be better educated, more well-read, and knowledgeable.

I find the Masonic educational portion of our meetings to be highly important and beneficial. To make it even more beneficial we should try to have a different brother give a presentation each week. Not only would it relieve the bur-

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

G. Washington

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den of one brother to produce and give an educational talk it would force brothers to study and present what they have learned to the lodge.

Furthermore, and this suggestion deserves its own plank, I advocate a change to Grand Lodge policy whereby meeting minutes may be emailed to the brethren prior to each meeting and entered without needing to be read aloud. If no one objects to their form in the email they may be entered into the record. This proposal would save untold amounts of time at each meeting and give more opportunity for Masonic education.

“The very origin of Freemasonry itself is in education. Whether it be the practical education in stone-cutting found in the operative craft of masonry, or the search for inner knowledge and science presented to us by the speculative Craft, the foundation of the art is inexorably based in teaching and learning. Without it, there is simply no Freemasonry taking place in a Lodge. Therefore, every meeting of the Lodge should offer some amount of Masonic education, be it through the degrees, or through presentations on the various lessons of the Craft. Even a ten-minute talk focused on the symbolic meaning of a single working tool is far better than a meeting where nothing but donations, dinners, and dues are on the agenda. An observant Lodge values the educational function of Freemasonry in its full bloom; the observant Mason holds the fraternity accounta-

ble to its promise to him to bestow light, and he means to receive it from the Craft in every sense: spiritual, literal, and intellectual. Numerous monitors and manuals from our Grand Lodges, spanning over at least the last two centuries, make plain the injunction to all Masons to seek knowledge. That same injunction extends by the natural progression to each Lodge, and as a result, a Lodge without Masonic education cannot be an observant Lodge and is arguably not any kind of Lodge at all. The search for more light is at the heart of Masonry. The observance is impossible without it.”

9. Remove the Dying Appendages

A wise man once said that when an organization is in decline it must reduce itself back to its most fundamental purpose. Freemasonry is in decline and a large part of the decline may be attributed to misspent resources.

Like the Fraternity as a whole, appendant bodies multiplied in the fertile soil of the post-WWII period. Groups for girls, boys, and women abounded. Social orders popped up or grew in popularity. Along with these organizations rose any number of charitable enterprises requiring their own staffs, facilities, and budgets. With our rapidly declining membership, these organizations and the infrastructure supporting them have become a burden to the Fraternity. Not only that, they misrepresent what Freemasonry is really. It is not a social club. It is not

a family activity. It is an organization for men and men alone.

My suggestion is to do the unthinkable and cut off the dead weight. Job’s Daughters, Rainbow Girls, DeMolay, Eastern Star, anything but the Blue Lodge, Scottish Rite, York Rite, and possibly the Shriners, must go. I would say “sorry” but I am not apologetic.

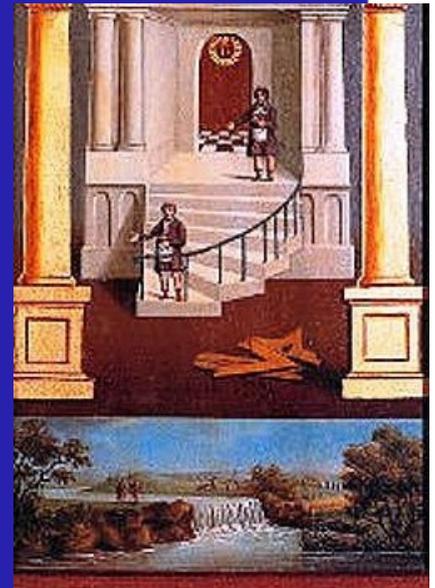
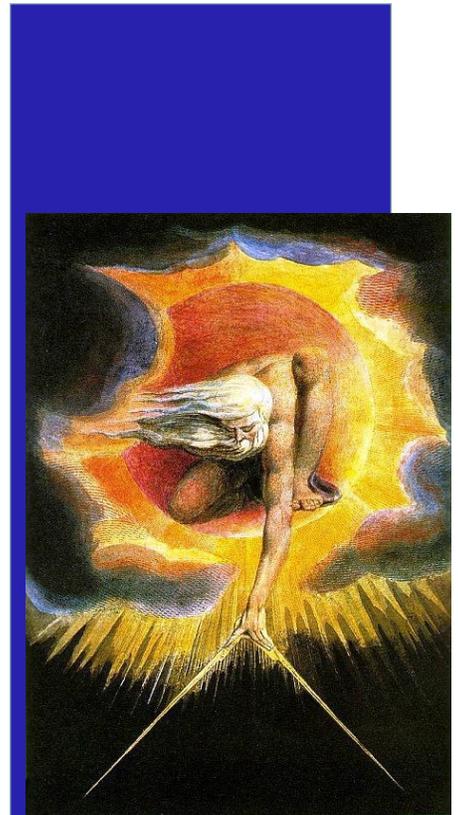
Each time I hear someone in a lodge meeting talk about attending a Job’s Daughters event or helping with the Eastern Star’s monthly fundraiser I think to myself “where does all this spare time and money come from”?

Angry responses will abound. Many will hurl ad hominem attacks at me or construct straw men to flagellate. I know full well that the sacred cows of Rainbow Girls, DeMolay, etc. cannot be approached by any but the bravest soul. Let alone the Masonic Retirement Center or the costly Grand Lodge building.

My point is to highlight a critical issue: We are in decline. We cannot continue to maintain an infrastructure built for a million Masons with a hundred thousand members. And why should we?

To Conclude Next Month

Lance Kennedy is a writer, military officer, attorney, Ivy League graduate, and seventh generation Texan residing in Austin, TX. The preceding is not an endorsement by Lubbock Lodge or their monthly newsletter. It is a multipart series offered to stimulate discussion in lodges, concur with the author’s viewpoint or offer alternative views. Reprinted with permission from MyFreemasonry.net



“Take everything you like seriously, except yourselves.”

Rudyard Kipling



WORSHIPFUL MASTER JERRY HENDRICK
From the East

The Supreme Being. Masons believe that there is one God and that people employ many different ways to seek, and to express what they know of God. Masonry primarily uses the appellation, "Grand Architect of the Universe," and other non-sectarian titles, to address the Deity. In this way, persons of different faiths may join together in prayer, concentrating on God, rather than differences among themselves. Masonry believes in religious freedom and that the relationship between the individual and God is personal, private, and sacred.

Volume of the Sacred Law. An open vol-

ume of the Sacred Law, "the rule and guide of life," is an essential part of every Masonic meeting. The Volume of the Sacred Law in the Judeo/Christian tradition is the Bible; to Freemasons of other faiths, it is the book held holy by them.

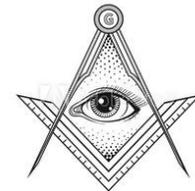


SENIOR WARDEN HEATH MORGAN
From the West

Brethren, we are all blessed to receive the wages of life so that we are nourished, refreshed, and joyous. As all Texans are aware, there are people all over the Gulf Coast who have lost everything. Witnessing the aftermath of Harvey, let all of us bow our heads in humility to the Almighty; let us praise Him for the safety of those that came through the storm, mourn those who it took, and emulate that divine and generous spirit and share what we have to those who need it. With that spirit we may be assured that we will build an environment

together that is even better than it was before.

May God bless those in need, and God bless Texas!



JUNIOR WARDEN JUSTIN ROBBINS
From the South

What does it truly mean to vouch for another brother? While the term "vouch" is often used within the degrees themselves, avouchment also plays a critical role in protecting the lodge from non-masons and those not qualified to attend certain meetings within the lodge room.

of Texas, 2013, p. 162).

Article 381 (Title III- Chapter 60) of the law book of The Grand Lodge of Texas states that "one Mason cannot vouch for another unless he has sat in open Lodge with him, and can so state, or was a member of a Committee appointed to examine such Brother in a Lodge" (The Grand Lodge

It is clear from the law book that vouching for a brother is a major responsibility. When we vouch for a brother, we are stating that know the brother to be a mason and have met one of the three requirements for avouchment as stated by the Grand Lodge of Texas. It is important that we remember the purpose of avouchment and accept the responsibility to the lodge when vouching for another brother.

"Live in such a way that you would not be ashamed to sell your parrot to the town gossip."

Will Rogers



FROM THE SECRETARY HARROLD LOVELESS
Taking Care of Business

Our Past Master's Dinner which was originally going to be this month has been postponed to a later date.

Just a reminder to the Audit Committee that the Minimum Audit Form 71 is due to the Grand Secretary by September 15th. Also, there is a Warden's Retreat September 22nd - 24th at the Scottish Rite. Information can be found on the Grand Lodge website.

Right Worshipful Kevin Rush, DDGM for District 93A, will visit Lubbock Lodge at

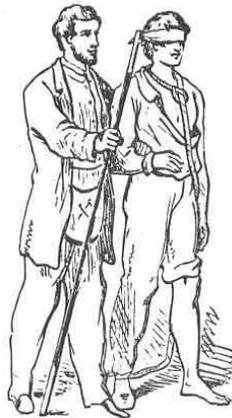
our Stated meeting on October 13th. We will be graded on receiving him as well as on opening/closing the lodge.



FROM THE SENIOR DEACON BRANDON GOULD
Visiting Brothers and Prospects

We would like to thank the brothers and visitors that attended our stated meeting for August. At our stated meeting, we had the following visitors: Bob Clemmons of Yellowhouse Lodge, Roland Pirtle also of Yellowhouse Lodge, and Matthew Reynolds of Emma Lodge.

We hope to see you at our next stated meeting on Friday, September 8th at 7:30 pm (dinner at 6:30 pm) and encourage anyone interested in getting involved with the degree team to attend floor practice every Tuesday at 7:00 pm.



FROM THE SENIOR STEWARD LUIS RAMOS
Food, Flowers & Frolic

The crest and crowning of all good,
Life's final star, is Brotherhood
For it will bring again to earth
Her long lost Poesy and Mirth
Will send new light on every face,
A kindly power upon the race.
And till it comes, we men are slaves,
And travel downward to the dust of graves.

Come, clear the way, then, clear the way:
Blind creeds and kings have had their day.
Break the dead branches from the path:
Our hope is in the aftermath--
Our hope is in heroic men,
Star led to build the world again.
To this event the ages ran:
Make way for Brotherhood--make way for man!



Upcoming Menu for September:

- Sandwich Bar
- Brownies
- Asst drinks

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

Mark Twain

LUBBOCK LODGE SEPTEMBER CALENDAR



Lubbock Masonic Lodge #1392
Masonic Calendar

By-Laws due the GS Office NLT September 1
Lodge Minimum Audit Report 71 is due NLT September 15

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Yellowhouse Stated Mtg By-Laws due the GS Office NLT Sept 1	2
3	4	5 FLOOR PRACTICE Wolfforth Stated Mtg	6	7	8 STATED MEETING	9
10	11 Emma Lodge	12 FLOOR PRACTICE Lubbock OES	13	14 Abernathy Stated Mtg Rainbow Girls	15 Lodge Minimum Audit Report 71 is due NLT September 15	16 Daylight Stated Mtg Texas Tech vs Az State
17	18 Crosbyton Lodge	19 FLOOR PRACTICE Mackenzie Stated Mtg	20 Scottish Rite	21 Slaton Stated Mtg Freedom OES	22	23
24	25 Commandery	26 FLOOR PRACTICE	27	28 Council Rainbow Girls	29	30 Texas Tech vs Ok State
		August 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		October 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		

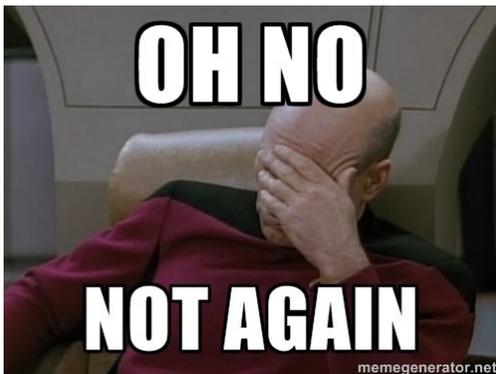
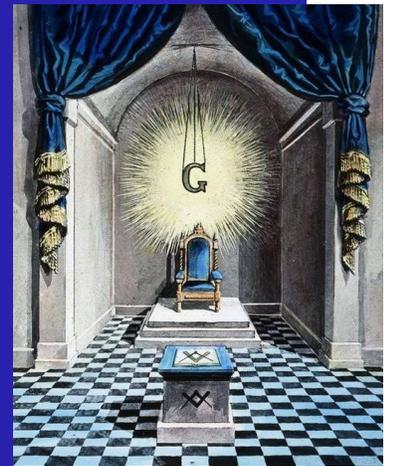
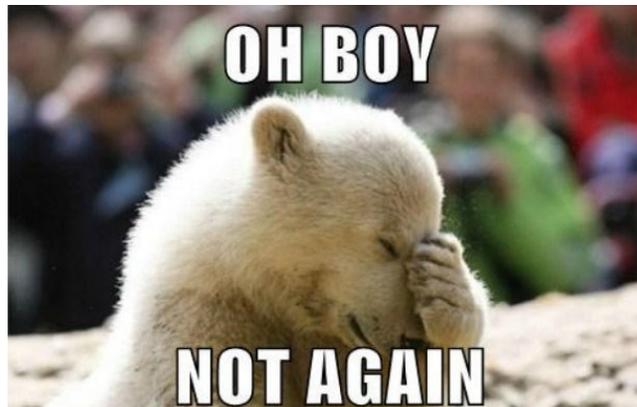
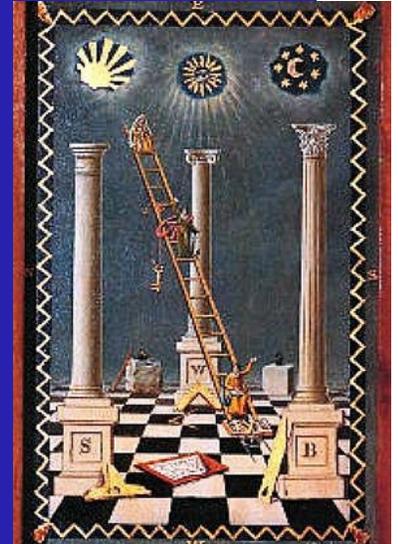
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“Freemasonry is an institution calculated to benefit mankind”

Andrew Jackson

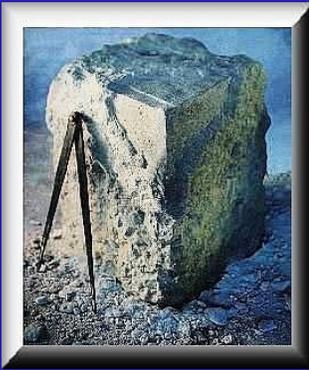
It's our newsletter's
FIFTH BIRTHDAY!



"To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society."

Theodore Roosevelt

LUBBOCK
MASONIC LODGE
#1392
MASONIC DIST 93-A



For more information visit
lubbockmasoniclodge.org



SICKNESS AND DISTRESS



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.

“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

This Month's Brothers' Birthdays

Bobby Day – 9/5
Elmer “Coke” Etgen – 9/7
Henry Housour – 9/10
Bobby Cook – 9/11
Coy Cooper – 9/17

Joe Sanders – 9/17
Ata Sagnak – 9/25
Richard Bruns – 9/25
Dewain Collins – 9/30

4539 BROWNFIELD DR
LUBBOCK, TX
79410-1721

MEETINGS:
SECOND FRIDAY OF EACH
MONTH, 7:30 P.M.
MEAL: 6:30PM
FLOOR SCHOOL:



The Quarry: Our Esoteric Work By Bro. Coke Etgen, PM

WHAT IS AN OATH OR OBLIGATION?

Webster defines obligation as the action of obligating oneself to a course of action (as by a promise or vow). He further defines an oath as a solemn usually formal calling upon God or a god to witness to the truth of what one says or to witness that one sincerely intends to do what one says; a solemn attestation of the truth or inviolability of one's words

The word "obligation" comes from a Latin word obligatio - a binding to, a tie. The same root lig

is to be found in the words, ligament and religion. Masonically, an obligation is more than an oath, it is more than a vow, it combines both. An obligation is a promise made solemnly and under the penalty or sanction of one's religious belief.



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