

# Fraternal Reflections of our Masonic Family



Poems by  
RW David P. Newcomb



# Fraternal Reflections of our Masonic Family

R.W. David Newcomb



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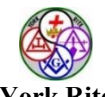
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## Who Are These Men?



We're men of a great fraternity and proud of our thoughts, words and deeds  
Our goals in life are simple for we attend to people's needs  
For the next few moments, close your eyes and hear these thoughts of mine  
I'll tell you of a society that's been here for a long, long time

You've heard of the Great King Solomon and a Temple built with stone  
Since way back then, through all these years our society has grown  
You remember the dates and places and the men and what they've done  
But learn little of our society from where these men come from

Solomon, Pythagoras, Revere and Washington  
Our neighbors, friends and relatives, our fathers and our sons  
Yes, each and every one of us, at an altar, knelt, that we might  
Receive guidance, love and fellowship and be given further light

There's historical instruction that we call our three degrees  
Of many beautiful lessons learned, the greatest is Charity  
We compassionate, we sympathize, the unhappy we aim to soothe  
The tenets of our society - Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth

Temperance and Justice, Prudence and Fortitude  
We learn of these in the First Degree, our Cardinal Four Virtues

The next degree, symbolically, a journey, so we say  
We learn of the Middle Chamber and much more along the way  
It's here we learn to appreciate the sciences and arts  
And how much in our daily lives these things all play a part

The next and final step we take, we call the Third Degree  
We learn Brotherly Love and Affection and so much more, you'll see

It's symbolism that we use, the Compasses and Square  
The Beehive and All Seeing Eye, the Trowel and the Prayer  
The Hourglass, the Sword, the Spade, all represent ideas  
The timeless lessons they help teach haven't changed throughout the years

Who are these men who make the time to improve themselves each day?  
And enrich the lives of others with contentment as their pay?  
We're the Masons - a fraternal group and in all the world you'll find  
Not a better organization or society of any kind

The moral lessons that we learn lay the groundwork for our plan  
We visualize a better life for all across the land

Tall Cedars, Grotto, Shriners, the York and Scottish Rites  
Yes, each and every one of these is a Mason, day and night

Now if you are a member of our ancient Brotherhood  
Stand Tall. Be Proud. Remember - we serve the common good  
And if you want to join us and assume our common task  
There's only one thing you must do, very simply you must ask

David P. Newcomb, circa 1990

## The Compasses and The Square



There comes a time in a good man's prime  
He thanks his Lord in prayer,  
His travels found Masonic ground,  
The Compasses and the Square.

He spent his days in youthful ways  
Yearning for something more,  
Until the day he took his oath  
And on The Book, he swore,

To guard the secrets - hand to hand  
Or whispered, breast to breast.  
On bended knee for all to see  
He pledged a lifelong quest.

He promised to obey the laws,  
The rules and regulations  
And govern himself accordingly,  
In all his grades and stations.

The Cardinal Virtues - guide his life  
Temperance and Fortitude,  
Prudence and Justice direct him,  
Faith and reason conclude.

Architectural wisdom from  
Cathedrals built with stone  
Symbolize the principles  
Of truth and fairness and home.

His eyes are opened to the arts  
The sciences revealed;  
Related to his daily life  
With wondrous, new appeal.

The three degrees in Masonry  
Will educate and teach.  
The goal in every Masons' life  
To practice what we preach.

We vow to help, aid, and assist,  
Respecting womanhood.  
Here Charity, Hope and Faith abide;  
The lessons within - all good.

Lectures, lessons and ritual  
Tell Master Hiram's tale.  
Our secrets and our wages  
Are Masonry's Holy Grail.

One knocks and enters on the first,  
The second, he doth pass.  
The third - he's raised - the Lord God praised,  
A Master Mason at last.

Life within our quarries is  
A Brotherhood we share;  
A guiding light that shines so bright,  
The Compasses and The Square.

David P. Newcomb, 2012

## To The Ranks You Will Return

Officers come and officers go  
And lodges will carry on  
Rough ashlar, once in quarries  
Superfluous parts now gone

Symbolic tools for labor are  
Presented in each degree  
The compasses guard our desires  
And the square guides our destiny

The level, gauge and trowel  
The plumb and Master's gavel  
All used by brother Masons  
On the paths in life we travel

Initiative has gained you respect  
Effort has helped you learn  
From the ranks, you now have risen  
To the ranks you will return

David P. Newcomb, circa 2005

## Acting Masonic



What makes a man a Mason?  
The lapel pin that he wears?  
The symbols on his stylish ring  
Of Compasses and Square?

For a man to be Masonic  
It's a life-long, noble quest.  
To serve the world around him  
A Mason gives his best.

He holds the door for strangers.  
He'll offer a lady his seat.  
He's truthful, courteous, fair and square  
To all those he might meet.

He cares how others prosper  
And is quick with words of praise.  
He shares his smile more than once in a while,  
And follows the Good Book's ways.

A Mason stands for respectfulness;  
He's helpful to those in need.  
Faith and Hope will guide his life  
With Charity to all – indeed.

He believes in religious liberty;  
He tolerates different views;  
The tenets of his fraternity  
Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

These qualities may be familiar.  
These virtues – sacred to few.  
The way to that end is seeking new friends.  
Masonry's here for you.

Remember:

It's not the symbol on the coat  
Or decals that adorn the car.  
Acting Masonic - no matter who's watching  
Reveals the true Mason you are.

David P. Newcomb, 2012

## Continue Thee Steadfast

Remember your obligation.  
T'was a promise, vow, or debt;  
A duty; yes, a contract,  
You paid without regret.

When you became a Mason  
You assumed an honored role,  
To carry on traditions  
Symbolically carved in stone.

You knelt upon an altar  
And held within your hands,  
The Three Great Lights of Masonry,  
The truths we understand.

You became a Master Mason,  
And vowed to seek the Light;  
To keep the secrets secret,  
And always do what's right.

You vowed to live by all our laws,  
To follow the regulations,  
And the Constitution of Grand Lodge,  
Your fraternal affirmation.

You vowed to answer all due signs  
And summonses - sent or given.  
Consider well the cable-tow,  
Your abilities lie within.

You vowed to help, aid and assist  
The poor and the distressed;  
To have our widows and our orphans  
Once again be blessed.

You vowed to honor women;  
To treat them with respect;  
To offer the gift of Masonry;  
Being wise, yet circumspect.

On bended knee for all to see,  
Your right hand on those pages,  
You vowed to be a Mason  
Forever, through the ages.

Upon that book, those vows you took,  
Your promises meant to last.  
With God above and brotherly love,  
Continue thee steadfast !!!





## To Thine Own Self - Be True



Did you freely and voluntarily  
Offer yourself to be  
A candidate for the mysteries  
Of the Masons fraternity?

Did you seriously, on your honor,  
With witnesses there to see,  
Declare your desire and sincere wish  
To serve humanity?

Do you stand to and abide by  
Our rules and regulations?  
Will the tenets of Freemasonry  
Be transmitted through generations?

Do you remember all the orphans?  
Let the widows know you care?  
Are our Masonic mysteries  
Justly and lawfully shared?

Would you wrong or cheat a Brother,  
Knowing him such to be?  
Or defraud a Lodge of Masons,  
Throughout eternity?

Will you answer signs and summonses  
Within your cable-tow?  
Will you offer to help, aid or assist  
A Brother that you know?

Questions were asked and answered  
To be a Mason and Brother.  
Pledging a lifetime commitment,  
For a lifestyle like no other.

Temperance, fortitude, prudence, justice;  
Our cardinal virtues, to wit:  
Temperance is a self-restraint;  
Fortitude, courage and grit.

Prudence is a cautiousness.  
Justice is reasonableness.  
The Grand Artificer's guides for life,  
Virtues to bring out our best.

It's not the words or the ritual,  
Or the titles or the jewels,  
It's learning and living the lessons,  
With Masonic guide and rule.

In public or in private,  
Your actions tell a story.  
A Masonic man with The Builders plan  
To Him, our Father's glory.

"Be faithful to your obligations."  
It's all that's asked of you.  
You'll live respected and die regretted.  
To thine own self – be true.

*Pretty much, anyone can  
BECOME a Mason.  
The true test is whether or not  
you act like a Mason.  
Take due notice thereof,  
Govern Yourself Accordingly !!!*

David P. Newcomb, 2015

## The Promises

These things I remember from my youthful times and days  
The promises made over a martyr's grave in the Order of DeMolay.

I promised to do good in life – to make my brothers better;  
To follow all instructions and the secrets, keep forever.

I promised to be a better son than ever I'd been before;  
To love and serve my fellow man and God forevermore.

I promised to wear the crown of youth, adorned with seven jewels  
The guide to righteousness in life and to living by the rules.

I promised to repay the love my parents gave to me  
The first jewel in this crown of life my eyes were blessed to see.

They represented love for God and courtesy towards men;  
Then comradeship – our way of life – a Brotherhood of friends.

Fidelity or faithfulness – a discharge of obligation  
A clean mind and clean body – clean living, our foundation.

The seventh jewel – an American rule in our land of liberty,  
Devotion to Patriotism in the home of the brave and free.

I promised to honor womanhood – and with tolerance to be,  
Forever faithful to my Brothers every trust in me.

To defend American freedoms - these promises I vowed,  
And to revere the memory of DeMolay – every day, then and now.

To never cheat or wrong a Brother, helping him in need  
Display my loyalty to him in troubled times indeed.

Our Order is based on service, not mere and empty forms.  
Our lessons and our purposes are promised, vowed and sworn.

The teachings of our worldly Order lead our youth today.  
Promises are promises. The reason - DeMolay.

David P. Newcomb, 2012



## The Ancient Arabic Order of The Nobles of the Mystic Shrine

There's a place of fun and frolic,  
Where good men spend their time  
The Ancient Arabic Order of  
The Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

Some drive antique autos;  
Others drive little cars.  
They're enthusiasts of every kind.  
That's who the Shriners are.

It's the playground of Freemasonry  
With cycles, trucks and clowns:  
Riding and marching, dazzling the crowds  
With integrity and renown!

One hundred forty years ago  
Master Masons had a need:  
They wanted an outlet with pageantry  
Where works became noble deeds.

A different kind of fraternity,  
Where efforts would be fun.  
The members are "the nobility"  
And "kids" are "Number One."

When a man becomes a Shriner  
He must cross the desert sands  
To earn the right to wear the fez  
For children throughout the land.

The Red Fez of a Shriner,  
It's honor, steeped with pride:  
Adorned with crescent, scimitar, and sphinx  
Black tassel on the side.

There are units, clubs and gatherings  
Middle Eastern adorned attractions.  
There's singing and playing, purely creating  
Real joy and satisfaction.

The scimitar represents members,  
The claws, the philanthropy.  
The star for the children helped by us;  
Their care is our destiny.

The goal of Shriner Nobles;  
Treat crippled kids each day.  
Whether burned or orthopedic,  
Shriners soothe those wounds away.

Twenty-two hospitals in our charge;  
Kids who need to be saved;  
Prayers will be answered. Lives will change.  
The reason - Shriners gave.

Our hospitals serve the children.  
Of this, we're proud to say,  
We'll treat any child, no matter  
What the family's means to pay.

Our nobles have many perspectives;  
Our eyes see different things.  
For me, through my eyes as a Shriner Clown  
Here's what our effort brings.

We bring peace to troubled families,  
Watch the crippled walk once more,  
Heal pains and wounds and scars from burns  
Their smiles are our reward.

There is scenery, pageantry, music, and flair;  
Mediterranean accents and flair.  
Be enthused and amused  
by the costumes and mirth  
From that proverbial, oriental chair.

The décor boasts pyramids, camels, and sand.  
Like an oasis along the Nile,  
You'll hear, "Es Salamu Aleikum"  
Peace be with you - Egyptian style.

Do you yearn for rewarding camaraderie?  
Do the desert sands whisper to you?  
When you hear, "Es Selamu Aleikum."  
Reply: "ALEIKUM ES SELAMU !"

**"Es Selamu Aleikum!"**  
Peace be with You  
**"Aleikum es Selamu"**  
With you be peace



David P. Newcomb, 2013

## The Order of The Eastern Star



Who are the members of Eastern Star?

What are they about?

A fraternity much like Masonry,  
With spiritual lessons throughout.

They are ladies adorned with beautiful gowns

Together with tuxedo-clad gents.

All serving the Order of Eastern Star

With great passion and excellence.

Spiritual values abound in this group -

Loving kindness, charity and truth.

The Five Points on the Eastern Star;

Martha, Esther, Adah, Electa and Ruth.

Adah stands for fidelity and love.

Ruth, she is steadfast and true.

Esther is loyal to family and friends.

Martha, beauty and immortality too.

Electa represents fervency and zeal;

Her passions are charity and love.

Her heroism endureth all things, right or wrong,

With patience and guidance from above.

The Scriptures lay within the Star

Its center, your journey leads there.

Wisdom and knowledge await for those

Whose steps first started in prayer.

Along the path of the labyrinth

You'll meet heroines of biblical times.

Their stories bring unity to this world of ours,

God's Fatherhood, Man's Brotherhood - combined.

A socially spirited gathering

Of quality ladies and men,

They boast of good members whose goals include

Love and Charity - again and again.

The men are referred to as Brothers.

The women are Sisters to all.

The bonds to Freemasonry - evident here;

It's time to answer their call.

Are you searching for something for ladies and men?

Their chapters are found near and far

Discover the beauties to be found therein

The Order of The Eastern Star.

David P. Newcomb, 2013

## The Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite

When a man becomes a Mason, he begins a lifelong quest,  
To make himself a better man and strive to be his best.

Freemasonry has three degrees which start a search for light.  
But, there is so much more to learn. Discover the Scottish Rite.

There are four parts to the Scottish Rite. The first is Lodge of Perfection.  
The ineffable degrees, 4th to 14th, your Deity contemplation.

Meet Solomon, King of Israel, and Hiram, King of Tyre.  
Witness parables of life with lessons we admire.

The Council of Princes of Jerusalem ensues,  
Known as the historical degrees with self-sacrifice and patience views.

Conviction from your loyalty. To Duty - Fidelity.  
To Truth from your devotion - All lights of destiny.

Next is the Chapter of Rose Croix, the 17th and 18th degrees,  
The philosophical lessons - learn tolerance of others in these.

Observe the life and teachings of Jesus the Nazarene,  
An inspiring example for all men, The Good Book reconvened.

The Consistory of Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret concludes.  
Chivalric and traditional, as it reaches for higher truth.

See Washington the Mason as history unfolds,  
Through twentieth century Freemasonry as Brothers tales are told .

A double-headed eagle is the symbol and the crest.  
"My Hope Is In God," the motto, spoken, "Spes Mea in Deo Est."

Meetings are called reunions. There, degrees are conferred.  
Opportunities are unlimited. Brotherhood is assured.

Climb to a higher level, to the 32nd degree.  
Expand your appreciation and comprehension of Freemasonry.

The place where Master Masons go to furthermore unite,  
Is a College of Freemasonry. Join the Scottish Rite.

David P. Newcomb, 2014





## **The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls**

There's a wonderful organization for young women of today,  
Where prospects for friendship and service are prominently displayed.

The International Order of the Rainbow. It's for Girls.  
A place for youthful character building, known all over the world.

The colors represented, red, orange, yellow and green,  
Blue, indigo and violet - creating a beautiful scene.

The colors stand for life's lessons, the virtues are ours to learn,  
For gaining desirable character, with love and respect in return.

Red stands for Love in all its forms, of God, our families and friends,  
A love of people in spite of their faults is the message that Rainbow sends.

Orange stands for Religion, a faith-based forgiveness and love,  
So important to be a part of our life, to honor Our Father - above.

Yellow stands for Nature, and the world in which we live.  
We all must protect our environment, an honorable gift to give.

Green stands for Immortality - a life after death, the concept.  
A spiritually accepted and righteous belief that members hold from the onset.

Blue stands for Fidelity, to be honest, reliable and true,  
With care to observe one's duty of loyalty, a gift to others from you.

Indigo stands for Patriotism; for country: devotion and pride.  
Respect and defend your nation's flag, good citizenship is your guide.

Violet stands for Service, which ties all the lessons together,  
The basis of the Order of the Rainbow for Girls, a sisterhood forever.

The Sisters of Faith, Hope and Charity bring knowledge, insight and more,  
Lessons we learn from Scriptures, more impressive than ever before.

These colors of our rainbow lead towards the pot of gold.  
It's found in the heart of every girl where treasures of life unfold.

The gifts within the pot of gold, sacred to every girl.  
Discover the Order of the Rainbow - the best in all the world.

David P. Newcomb, 2015

# The York Rite of Freemasonry

As a Brother and Master Mason, you've had all three degrees,  
And wonder, "Is that all there is? And, "What's waiting next for me?"

A Master Mason marches on in search of further Light;  
The journey brings you to the door of the Ancients and York Rite.

An integral part of Freemasonry as the history unfolds,  
Brothers discover the Royal Arch and the rest of the story is told.

Your journey begins in the "Red Lodge," The Capitular Degrees:  
Regularity, discipline, honor, reverence and lessons of harmony.

You'll start at the building of Solomon's Temple. This is Royal Arch Chapter.  
Four degrees, where Blue Lodge left off; then - of what came after.

In the Cryptic Degrees, known as Council, stand as Hiram Abif.  
Learn why the word had once been lost and what its secret is.

A sacred deposit of Truth is found in a secret vault below.  
Your journey in Ancient Craft Masonry and the word that was lost, you'll know.

The Commandery of Knights Templar is the capstone of York Rite.  
It's here, a Christian Mason completes his quest for Light.

In the Order of the Red Cross, a lesson of Truth is told.  
The Order of Malta, a lesson of Faith, of that which Christians hold.

The Order of the Temple, self-sacrifice and esteem,  
Creates you a Knight Templar, and culminates your dream.

The reverent man with the Master's Plan, travelling as a Brother.  
On Masonic search of Eastern Light, a journey like no other.

Chapter, Council, Commandery –the quest for further Light,  
Beckons the eastward traveler. Discover The York Rite.

Witness the history of long ago, from Solomon to the Crusades  
And complete your Masonic journey. You will not be dismayed.

David P. Newcomb, 2015



# "The Grotto"

## The Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm



Known simply as The Grotto,  
The mystic place of mirth,  
Here, hearts are touched with companionship.  
It's the best place to be on earth

The Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets  
Of the Enchanted Realm – it's near,  
For the Travelling Man with many paths.  
The road to Good Fellowship is here.

The Enchanted Lantern, their symbol,  
The Black Fez is their hat.  
A bright, red tassel on the side,  
With a Mokanna head. What's that?

It's a well-known ruler of fiction,  
Or a secret, Grotto thing,  
Whose presence excites all Masons  
Who then make the welkin ring.

In modern times, the Grotto stands  
For Masonry's place for fun,  
Where pleasure and amusement prevail  
And the sun shines on everyone.

Membership in The Grotto means  
Your Blue Lodge values are shared.  
It's where men can get together  
And forget about their cares.

There are rituals in The Enchanted Realm  
Where the Prophets spread their cheer.  
From the solemn lessons learned in lodge  
To their revelry, most sincere.

Along with the fun in the Grotto,  
The Prophets have work to be shared.  
The charity of the Enchanted Realm  
Revolves around dental care.

Dentistry for Special Needs,  
Children with Muscular Dystrophy,  
Mental Retardation, Downs Syndrome  
And also Cerebral Palsy.

Even Shrine Hospital patients  
After cleft lip or palate correction,  
Are children who may benefit  
By the Grotto's charitable connection.

Regardless of race or color or creed  
One simply must be a child.  
Under eighteen years, with the primary goal  
To be blessed with a beautiful smile.

The Greatest Fraternity that Friendship Built  
It's The Grotto – the place of mirth.  
Find your path to the Enchanted Realm.  
It's the best place to be on earth

David P. Newcomb, 2015



# The Order of the Amaranth

The Order of the Amaranth  
A co-ed fraternity  
Its virtues inherent in truth and faith  
And in wisdom and charity.

Comprised of Masons and Ladies,  
It's a social organization.  
A lodge, it is not. It's known as a court,  
With a charming reputation.

Sir Knights and Honored Ladies  
Behold, The Amaranth Court,  
Devoted to Diabetes Research  
It's the charity they support.

The Order fulfills a basic need  
For social companionship  
The members all care for each other  
With compassionate fellowship.

Gentlemen don their tux and gloves,  
They call the men, "Sir Knight."  
Ladies wear dresses and evening gowns.  
The courts are a beautiful sight.

The symbol of the fraternity,  
The Amaranth Wreath, green and gold.  
The laurel, encircles a crown and sword  
For fraternal friendship untold.

It's a service to humanity,  
Built upon fraternal love  
With respect and understanding  
And the Word of God above.

The Hand of Fraternal Friendship,  
Which members come to know,  
Reaches out to those distressed  
In their hours of sorrow.

The precepts of the Amaranth  
Among its many jewels  
Are to always serve their fellowmen  
And belief in the Golden Rule.

Its Diabetes Foundation  
For thirty six years and counting,  
Raised millions for the charity.  
The donations keep on mounting.

A world of wonderful people  
Who share a common goal.  
Hands of Fraternal Friendship  
The Amaranth heart and soul.

If it's service, love and friendship  
That you're seeking to embrace,  
The Order of The Amaranth  
Is bound to be the place.



David P. Newcomb, 2016

## The Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America (LOSNA)

There's a women's organization with a purpose, oh so fine.  
Have fun while helping others; Ladies Oriental Shrine.

Founded more than a century ago, in nineteen hundred and three,  
Their goals are betterment, fellowship and sociability.

When the Shriners founded their hospitals in nineteen twenty two  
The ladies pledged to support their friends and their philanthropy, too.

They'd be a part of something bigger than themselves, they claim;  
To enrich the lives of children and their families as their aim.

The Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America. Yes!  
Their passion is all about helping kids. That's what they do best.

It's a separate and distinct Order, not a Shriners auxiliary.  
Bringing hope and faith and lots of love, and possibilities.

They have courts across America that support the Shriners' cause,  
Earning appreciation and respect, and a well-deserved applause.

Craft bazaars, dances, bake sales, outings, cookouts, dinners and more.  
The LOS has lots to do, more than ever before.

Sewing projects, research projects, raising funds all year,  
Serving as hospital volunteers while bringing smiles and cheer.

One long time member says it well. "I'm proud of the work we do.  
The friendships made have enriched my life. I'm a better person, too."

Simply visit their website for membership information,  
Or contact any member for a personal conversation.

A better life for children is the ladies goal each day.  
The Ladies Oriental Shrine. Come join with them today.

David P. Newcomb, 2016



<http://www.ladiesorientalshrine.org>

## The Tall Cedars of Lebanon

To Master Masons everywhere,  
We have some information,  
About an opportunity  
In another organization.

The Tall Cedars of Lebanon of North America  
Offers to Master Masons  
A place to enjoy a richer life  
Filled with fun and relaxation.

It is similar to many fraternities  
With ritualistic degrees,  
Referencing biblical stories  
Like the legend of Tall Cedar trees.

It started all the way back in time  
In eighteen forty three,  
When an creative Master Mason  
Created a Tall Cedar Degree.

King Solomon had to rely on help  
From King Tyre's Hewers of Wood,  
To prepare the Tall Cedars of Lebanon  
As only those Fellowcraft could.

It was brought to Pennsylvania  
Or New Jersey, as some believe.  
It was known as the Ancient and Honorable  
Rite of Humility.

The epitome of frivolity,  
"The Sidonian Degree" you'll get;  
Where bedlam may reign  
but the fun still remains,  
As the saplings are planted. You bet !!!

This Masonic organization  
Endeavors to find a cure,  
For severely dreadful diseases like  
Muscular dystrophy, for sure.

For more than eight thousand members  
The priority of every one,  
Is for victims of neuromuscular disease  
To have their own "place in the sun."

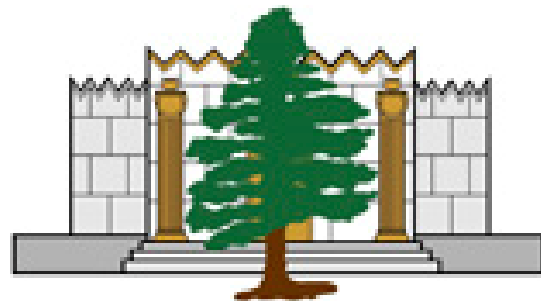
Their creed - "Fun, Frolic and Fellowship,"  
For members, families and friends.  
Membership in this fraternity  
Has wonderful dividends.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt,  
Arnold Palmer, Gerald Ford,  
Tall Cedars names on our membership rolls.  
Will our future rolls have yours?

Tall Cedars all are gentlemen  
Whose goals are joy and laughter.  
Heed the call of the forest  
If these are what you're after.

Adorn yourself with a pyramid,  
The symbol of their troupe.  
Join in the mirth and merriment  
And enjoy this happy group.

David P. Newcomb, 2017





## **The Colonial Craftsmen's Club of Colonial Massachusetts**

Hear ye! Master Masons. Travel to the past,  
To Colonial Massachusetts, where history was cast.

Behold, the Colonial Craftsmen's Club, a reenactment team  
Representing Masonic life with a 1770's theme.

Some Masons shared an interest in the American Revolution,  
And they formed a Master Masons club, a brotherly solution.

The American Union Colonial Degree is done to great acclaim.  
Bringing masonic history to life is its claim to fame.

Its colorful history started in nineteen seventy-three,  
Their "On the Square: 1775" is for Brothers only to see.

They reenact a Third Degree, performed colonial style  
For Master Masons only, in a lodge room, suitably tiled.

Over the years, the club has performed all three masonic degrees,  
Color guard duties and installations, attired appropriately.

The purpose of the Colonial Craftsmen – inform and entertain;  
Historical enlightenment, masonically explained.

These Colonial Craftsmen brethren are symbolically alive,  
Performing a raising, centuries old. It's history revived.

The co-ed club has a Distaff Side for a ladies presentation.  
They give a glimpse of colonial life with a feminine explanation.

They've visited lodges throughout the states, Canada, England as well.  
Inquire about their experiences and the stories they have to tell.

These Masonic presentations offer ritual, strong and loud.  
Brothers Warren, Revere and Washington would likely all be proud.

Witness Colonial Masonry. Attend their lodge today.  
Proclaim, "Huzzah!" and celebrate, the Colonial Craftsmen's way.

David P. Newcomb, 2016

## A Mason's Holiday Message

There's a priceless holiday message  
Hidden in plain view,  
That we should try to understand  
About folks like me and you.

To some of us, the holidays  
Bring recollections past,  
Of spiritual places with heavenly graces,  
Reminiscing unsurpassed.

There are parties and get-togethers  
With families and friends,  
All filled with joys and happiness;  
The gift of love transcends

Some folks share a secret.  
They feel friendless and alone.  
Outside, they may seem carefree.  
Inside it's an empty home.

Their loneliness at holidays  
Holds sadness and despair.  
Not everyone is there for them  
For times they used to share.

A Brother hears isolation;  
Instructive sounds to his ears.  
He restores a peace to troubled minds;  
His task throughout the years.

Tried and true Master Masons  
Have pledged to answer the call,  
By giving aid and assistance  
To widows and orphans all.

This year, hear their calling.  
It's a message from above.  
Give a priceless gift this year.  
Give the gift of love.

Take the time to send a card.  
Pick up your phone and call.  
Remember someone this holiday.  
It's the most perfect gift of all.

Shopping isn't necessary  
And nothing really to spend  
This year, **YOU** can **BE THE GIFT** !!!  
The gift of love transcends.

David P. Newcomb, 2017





## **Politics, Religion and Freemasonry**

It's a great, long standing tradition, and part of our history,  
That politics and religion aren't discussed in Freemasonry.

Why would Masons make such a rule? What benefits might be gained?  
One answer is quite simple. Peace and harmony are maintained.

The topic of religion in a tiled lodge, won't be found;  
This unwritten, accepted practice provides a common ground.

A Book of Holy Scriptures may be prominently displayed,  
But talks about religion in the lodge room won't be made.

Religious freedom does exist within our hallowed halls,  
And harmony in Freemasonry exists for one and all.

The other subject, politics, in lodge remains unspoken.  
Our forefathers said peacefulness should always be unbroken.

Everyone has an opinion. Some differ from our own.  
Accepting them with wisdom will set the proper tone.

Our brotherhood learns prudence. Be sensible, careful and wise,  
Concerning thoughts and actions. That's what prudence implies.

All of us have heard the words, "to everything a season."  
Our Brethren have a motto. Quite simply, "Follow reason."

As politics and religion give pause for some reflection,  
Just remember those truly Masonic virtues, silence and circumspection.

The character of the brother is what a Mason builds.  
It's a better way of living, thus, a Mason's life fulfilled.

The message in these verses has wisdom from the past.  
Our strength and support is harmony, one reason Freemasonry lasts.

David P. Newcomb, 2017

## What Seek You?



Men live different lives these days with tension, fears and stress.  
They find themselves in crowded rooms and experience loneliness.

For those who yearn for something more, whatever should you do?  
For most good men, the question then, is simply, “What seek you?”

Seek and ye shall find it. To be given to you, just ask.  
Knock and the door will be opened. These three are your task.

Masonry answers questions. Seek out the lodge room door,  
Where so it seems men share their dreams,  
and discover something more.

Freemasonry has blessed the world for countless generations.  
Millions of respectable men have masonic associations.

Membership in this brotherhood is worth its weight in gold.  
So where did Masonry come from and what secrets does it hold?

The popular assumption is, it started as a guild,  
Centuries ago by workers of stone, with cathedrals yet to build.

These builders of cathedrals shared knowledge known to few.  
Their tools and implements symbolized distinctive points of view.

They use specific working tools, trowels, levels and squares,  
To demonstrate life’s lessons and ascend life’s winding stairs.

It’s a system of morality, symbolically illustrated,  
Veiled in allegory, divinely illuminated.

To belong to such a society, you must be qualified,  
Of good report, well recommended, otherwise, you are denied.

We’re told that it’s for good men, yet better, they wish to be.  
The path that good men follow is a journey - Freemasonry.

What makes Masons different, and stand out from all others?  
It’s being with friends as family, where members are your brothers.

“What seek you?” is the question. What are you looking for?  
Perhaps your answers may be found behind the lodge room door.

## The Master's Keys \*

A Master's work is demanding. What came you here to do?  
The trestle board yearns for your designs. Much is expected of you.

Lodge is like a business. All brothers play a part.  
As Master, use the Three Great Lights and the Working Tools.  
Be smart.

All those tools have functions. The compasses and square,  
The gavel, level, plumb and gauge hold answers hidden there.

Soon, you'll set the craft at work with the square upon your breast,  
Giving necessary instruction, a Master's noble quest.

Your title, "Worshipful Master." The top hat, your chapeau.  
Entrusted with the charter, you're the lodge's CEO.

Observe your duties for widows, orphans and others in distress,  
By the Three Great Lights and the Working Tools -  
the keys to a Master's success.

You've worked within the quarries, ascended winding stairs,  
And earned respect of brethren, to assume the Master's Chair.

Accept your place in history as a bearer of the square,  
While carrying on traditions of the Oriental Chair.

With ritual - so important, more than titles or jewels,  
Live respected. Depart regretted. Use the Working Tools.

The implements of Masonry, wielded with expertise,  
Are the Three Great Lights and the Working Tools.  
These are the Master's keys.

With them, you're a leader, and a mentor - nothing less.  
May the wisdom of King Solomon abide with you. God bless.

David P. Newcomb, 2018

*\* ( Appropriate for use with Charge in a Lodge of Qualification )*



## The Empty Chair



The roll of the workmen has been called.  
One Brother answered not.  
He's passed on to another place  
And left us deep in thought.

With earthly toils completed,  
And work on earth now done,  
In the undiscovered country,  
His eternity has begun.

Our Brother is with The Grand Architect,  
Yet not entirely gone.  
He will, forever, be with us,  
While his memory lives on.

He shared his happiness with us,  
Joys and jubilations.  
He shared his disappointments too,  
Trials and tribulations.

As sands of time pass swiftly by,  
You'll see that empty chair.  
Think about our Brother  
And the Brotherhood we share.

Whether that chair holds gladness,  
Or is lonely with despair,  
Consider the sprig of acacia,  
And the Brother who once sat there.

That empty chair – it speaks to us.  
In a gentle, quiet tone,  
Reminding us, fraternally,  
That we never are alone.

May it be your inspiration,  
For his eternity.  
And may harmony and peace prevail.  
God bless his memory.

David P. Newcomb, 2019

## The Pursuit of the Perfect Ashlar

He knocked at the door, a stranger,  
In search of knowledge and light.  
Yearning for self-improvement,  
Freemasonry seemed just right.

He entered a room full of symbols,  
Compasses, level and square;  
The working tools of Freemasons,  
And a blueprint for manhood was there.

When a man becomes a Mason,  
To master himself is his quest,  
To be more than a better person,  
To be his level best.

He started as an Apprentice,  
Then passed on through the degrees,  
Being handed the jewels, known as working tools,  
That Masters wield with ease.

One lesson in the First Degree  
Gives pause for much reflection;  
Two Ashlars, one rude and natural,  
The other one at perfection.

The Rough Ashlar represents a man  
In need of work and refinement.  
By using Masonic Working Tools,  
The Ashlar shapes into alignment.

His goal is the Perfect Ashlar,  
Which demonstrates fulfillment,  
Of the man all Masons hope to be,  
Perfectly polished and brilliant.

The Ashlar's rough and superfluous parts  
Are fashioned by knowledge and skill;  
Hewn smooth and squared, sublimely prepared,  
As a masterful craftsman will.

By using their tools and following rules  
A Freemason works his plan.  
He improves the world around himself  
And becomes a better man.

When pursuing your Perfect Ashlar,  
Pay heed to the Master's advice.  
Divest your heart and conscience  
Of superfluity and of vice.

Your perfect ashlar will slowly appear.  
Its roughness now forsaken.  
Spiritually, morally and Masonically,  
A better brother, awakened.

The pursuit of the Perfect Ashlar,  
That structure, oh so rare,  
Is our spiritual building  
Made level, plumb and square.

Take a new look at your ashlar,  
The rough and superfluous parts.  
Engage your gavel and chisel,  
Look well to the East, and start.

It's time to shape our Ashlar,  
Until perfectly, smooth and unflawed,  
For use by the Most High Builder,  
The Supreme Grand Architect – God.

Our moral, masonic edifice,  
Built level, plumb and square,  
Was hidden beneath the surface  
Of the once rough ashlar there.

By using all your working tools  
Your ashlar matures with style,  
Becoming the perfect Ashlar  
That's been there all the while.



David P. Newcomb, 2019

## Serving Again As Past Master



Greetings, Worshipful Brethren!  
Welcome to the ranks.  
With your status as Past Master,  
You've earned our utmost thanks.

Now, you're a Worshipful member  
In the renowned Past Masters guild.  
The journey eastward carries on  
With your legacy yet to build.

It's proven. You're a lover  
Of our great fraternity,  
Deserving paramount respect  
For all eternity.

Worthy, duly and truly prepared,  
In the brotherhood of man,  
The time has come to share the light.  
Forget not where you began.

You're part of the Worshipful leadership  
That makes a blue lodge strong.  
With developed skills, it's hoped you will  
Find time to pass them along.

One thought we ought remember,  
A lodge has just one Master.  
Too many cooks may spoil the broth,  
A recipe for disaster.

Our service now is different;  
It's a teaching and guiding position.  
We've left the Oriental Chair  
With a Master's intuition.

What are Past Masters' duties?  
Do Past Masters play a part?  
Remember your promise to propagate  
The knowledge of the art.

It's up to you to lend support  
And offer wise opinion.  
Your lodge will reap rewards for years  
From your Worshipful dominion.

Serve on a committee.  
Display your motivation.  
Act as mentor, advisor, sage,  
Or an elder inspiration.

Be quick to lend a helping hand  
Be slow to criticize.  
Be positive with counsel and  
Strategically advise.

Continue to participate  
For many years to come.  
Your presence there in lodge affairs  
Was never "one and done."

Good morals, true and trusty,  
A brother with great skill,  
With knowledge, understanding  
And experience to instill.

Counselor and confidante,  
It's your worshipful destiny.  
Your calling then is serving again  
As Past Master. So mote it be.

David P. Newcomb, 2019