

TRAVELING CHARGE

It must be indeed gratifying to know that you are at last a Mason, * and when you have affixed your signature to the constitution and bylaws of the lodge, ** as such, you * will have sealed your allegiance to the grandest and noblest fraternities in existence. One that encircles the globe and one whose influence for good is never ended. The particular reason for you becoming a member this grand and noble order is known only to yourself.

* (omitted when there is no constitution or bylaws to sign)

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It may have been the prompting of idle curiosity. That being true, you are no doubt well satisfied.

It might have been for business reasons. That being true, be at once undeceived for Freemasonry offers no pecuniary benefits to any of its initiates!

It might have been for social aspirations. That being true, you are now afforded the opportunity to acquaint yourself with many intelligent gentlemen whose acquaintance might be of some benefit to you in the business world.

It might be that your father is a mason and expressed his desire that you become one and follow in his footsteps. That being true, it is not only an honor to the fraternity, but to your father and yourself as well.

But be the reason what it may, this great question confronts you: Will you be worth anything or nothing to Freemasonry! (pause) or, will Freemasonry be worth anything or nothing to you!

The answer is in you yourself. For if you apply to your own life the lessons inculcated in the three degrees you have just passed, it will make you the better citizen, the better son, the better father and the fonder husband.

* * * * *

for.....

In Masons lodge with darkened eyes
and cabletow about you
you swore to keep the mysteries
that Masons keep and Masons prize;
The Brothers secret whispered low,
the words they speak, the things they do,
in mystic manner taught you...

“FOR ON YONDER BOOK, THAT OATH YOU TOOK,
AND YOU SHOULD BREAK IT NEVER:
BUT STAND BY THIS (*EA st*), AND THIS (*EA dg*), AND THIS (*EA %*)
FOREVER AND FOREVER.”

You swore to answer and obey
the summons sent you duly,
By Brother's hand or Lodge away
you swore that you would never stray
from ancient laws and rules that bound
Freemasons in the days renowned
but would observe them truly ...

"FOR ON YONDER BOOK, THAT OATH YOU TOOK,
AND YOU SHOULD BREAK IT NEVER:
BUT STAND BY THIS (*FC st*), AND THIS (*FC dg*), AND THIS (*FC %*)
FOREVER AND FOREVER.”

You swore with generous gifts to care
for those in sorrow stricken,
The Brother on the darkened square,
the mourner with disheveled hair
the orphan doomed, alas to stray
along life's cold and cheerless way
whose tears gush forth unhidden...

"FOR ON YONDER BOOK, THAT OATH YOU TOOK,
AND YOU SHOULD BREAK IT NEVER:
BUT STAND BY THIS (*MM st*), AND THIS (*MM dg*), AND THIS (*MM %*)
FOREVER AND FOREVER."

You swore with honesty to deal
with each true heart about you,
that "Honor Bright" should ever be
unbroken bond, twixt him and thee,
not wrong, nor guile, nor cruel fraud
should ever break that holy cord
with which that vow hath bound you...

"FOR ON YONDER BOOK, THAT OATH YOU TOOK,
AND YOU SHOULD BREAK IT NEVER:
BUT STAND BY THIS (*EA st, dg, %*), AND THIS (*FC st, dg, %*), AND THIS (*MM st, dg, %*),
FOREVER AND FOREVER."

You swore the Portals close to guard,
Of the Masonic Temple,
To rid the quarries of their dross,
To build each mystic wall across,
With body perfect, upright heart,
And mind mature in moral art
In Precept and example.

"FOR ON YONDER BOOK, THAT OATH YOU TOOK,
AND YOU SHOULD BREAK IT NEVER:
BUT STAND BY THIS, AND THIS, AND THIS,
FOREVER AND FOREVER." (*Point to 3 lesser lights*)

You swore the chastity to keep
of woman true and tender,
of Mason's widow, wife or child
his mother, sister undefiled
those pure and innocent, whose love
makes Mason's home like that above;
you are the sworn defender...

"FOR ON YONDER BOOK, THAT OATH YOU TOOK,
AND YOU SHOULD BREAK IT NEVER:
BUT STAND ON THIS, AND THIS, AND THIS,
FOREVER AND FOREVER" (*G-H% DIST*)

These are our vows Brethren, our care
and may such light be given,
in answer to our earnest prayer,
that we may do or dare
all that God's sacred laws enjoin,
so when evening shades pass o'er us,
we may be found in heaven...

"FOR ON THIS GREAT BOOK, THAT OATH *WE ALL* TOOK,
AND SHOULD *WE* BREAK IT NEVER:
BUT STAND ON THIS (*point to Holy Bible*),
AND THIS (*point to SQ*),
AND THIS (*point to Cmp*),
FOREVER AND FOREVER."