

THE WALKING CHARGE

Bro (*name*) it must indeed be very gratifying for you to know that you are now a Master Mason and have sealed your allegiance with one of the grandest and noblest fraternities in existence, one that encircles the globe and whose influence for good is never ending.

Your particular reason for becoming a member of this grand and noble order is known only to yourself. It may have been the prompting of idle curiosity. That being so, your curiosity is now satisfied in part and for the time being, for should you so choose, Freemasonry has much more for you to discover.

It may have been for business reasons. That being so, be at once undeceived, for Freemasonry offers no pecuniary advantages to any of its initiates. It may have been for social aspirations. That being so, you are now afforded the opportunity to meet many knowledgeable and distinguished brethren whose acquaintance might be of some benefit to you.

It may have been because your father was a Mason and expressed a desire that you should follow in his footsteps. That being so, it is an honour both to yourself and to the fraternity. But be the reason what it may, this question now confronts you; will you be worth anything or nothing to Freemasonry, or will Freemasonry be worth anything or nothing to you?

The answer lies with you alone, my brother. But I tell you this of a truth: if you allow to pass into your life the teachings inculcated in the three degrees, you will become a more responsible citizen, a more compassionate father, a more dutiful son, a fonder husband, but above all, a more complete and honourable man.

For.....

In Masons' Lodge with darkened eyes
And cable-tow about you
You swore to hele all mysteries
That Masons keep and Masons prize
The brothers' secrets whispered low
The words they speak, the things they do,
In mystic manner taught you.

On yonder book (*indicate VSL*) that oath you took and you should break it never, but stand by this, (*take Sp*) and this, (*E.A Sn*) and this, (*cut sign*) forever and forever.

You swore to answer and obey
The summons sent you duly
By brother's hand in Lodge array
You swore that you would never stray
From laws and rules that bound
Freemasons in the days renowned
But would observe them truly.

On yonder book (*indicate VSL*) that oath you took and you should break it never, but stand by this, (*take Sp*) and this, (*FC Sn*) and this (*cut sign*) forever and forever.

You swore in charity to care
For all with sorrow smitten
The brother on the darkened square
The widow full of grief and care
The sorrowing orphan doomed to stray
On life's cold path and cheerless way
While tears gush forth unbidden.
On yonder book (*indicate VSL*) that oath you took and you should break it never, but stand by
this (*take step*) and this, (*P Sn of MM*) and this (*complete Sn to recovery and drop hand*)
forever and forever.

You swore to deal in honesty
With each true heart around you
That honour bright should ever be
The unbroken bond twixt him and thee
Nor wrong, nor guile, nor cruel fraud
Should break or loose that holy cord
With which these vows have bound you.

You swore the chastity to shield
Of women true and tender
A brother's wife, a brother's child,
His sister, loved one, undefiled
Those, pure of heart, whose love
Makes Masons' homes like heaven above
You are their sworn defender.

On yonder book (*indicate VSL*) three oaths you took and you should break them never, but
stand by this (*take Sp EA sign, cut sign*) and this, (*take Sp FC sign, cut sign*) and this, (*take
Sp, P Sn of MM, complete Sn to recovery and drop hand*) forever and forever.