

Master Mason Degree Toolbox Item

This Master Mason Degree Toolbox Item focuses upon Lectures that are given to the candidate following the ritual work. The participants are an Elder Brother and a newly raised Master Mason. The setting is a casual meeting of the two Masons in the lodge room. This toolbox item was written by R.W. R. Timothy Martel.

Elder Brother: As you know, the lectures are given at the end of a long evening. The candidate is flooded with new information and many of the details are often missed because the candidate is overwhelmed in the process. This toolbox item is focused upon the lessons that were taught to you during those lectures. We have a lot to cover so let's get started.

Elder Brother: Do you recall what the Worshipful Master's working tools are?

New M.M.: As I recall, the Master has a bunch of working tools.

Elder Brother: Yes he does. In fact, he is responsible for using all of the working tools that have been described in your 1st two degrees (24 inch gauge, common gavel, plumb, square and level) plus the trowel. The trowel symbolizes the spreading of cement, by the Master, that unites Masons into one sacred band or Society of Friends and Brothers which is based upon Brotherly Love and Affection. Every Master's primary goal should be to do whatever it takes to keep peace among the brothers of his lodge. One way to do that is to encourage all members "To Meet Upon the Level and To Part Upon the Square". Do you understand what that last statement means?

New M.M.: Yes, it means that we should be fair and square in our dealings with other Masons and that it is O.K. to disagree but always try to put our differences of opinion aside and to part as friends.

New M.M.: During one of the lectures, I remember seeing some emblems like the three steps, pot of incense, beehive, etc. What was that all about?

Elder M.M.: There are two classes of Masonic Emblems. The Exoteric and the Esoteric. The emblems that you are referring to are the Exoteric and I will briefly explain each.

- The three steps – Three steps represent the three principal stages of a man's life; Youth, Manhood and Age and are symbolized by Masons in the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason Degrees. There are three steps to the Master's station. The number three is revered by Freemasons.
- The Pot of Incense – is an emblem of a pure heart
- The Beehive – is a symbol of industry. Masons are encouraged to be industrious and to always be seeking ways to help others who are less fortunate.
- The Book of Constitutions, Guarded by the Tyler's Sword – Reminds us to be very careful what we say and do, particularly when in the presence of non-Masons.
- The Sword Pointing to a Naked Heart – Reminds us that God knows our every thought, word and deed and in the end, we will be held accountable accordingly.

- The Anchor and Ark – Reminds us that if we work hard, be kind to others and believe in God, we can expect to successfully navigate the trials and tribulations of mortal life and to ultimately find rest in the Celestial Lodge Above.
- The Fort-Seventh Problem of Euclid – An invention by Pythagoras, who was a brilliant philosopher and Master Mason. He thirsted for knowledge and is best known for his work in Geometry. This emblem teaches Masons to be lovers of the Arts and Sciences.
- The Hour – Glass – Is an emblem of Life. How rapidly the sands of time will pass and we will ultimately fall like autumn leaves.
- The Scythe – Is an emblem of Time. No matter who we are or whatever we have accomplished during our mortal lives, we will all be cut down by the scythe of time.

New MM: Well, now that I am a Master Mason have I learned all that there is to learn about Freemasonry?

Elder Brother: Oh my goodness no. You have just scratched the surface with what you were taught during the EA, FC and MM Degrees. I strongly encourage you to seek further light in Masonry at every opportunity.

New MM: Where do I look in order to find further light.

Elder Brother: Good question and the answer is everywhere. That may sound like a flip answer but the resources to learn are all around you. Here are some examples to begin your search for further light:

- Become active in your lodge. There are knowledgeable Masons in your lodge who can answer many of your questions.
- Visit other lodges.
- Your lodge library and the Grand Lodge library have books and videos about Masonry
- The public library has books about Masonry
- Join Scottish Rite and York Rite.
- Buy or borrow books about Freemasonry.
- Never stop your quest to learn the true meaning of the words used in the various degrees.
- Attend Schools of Instruction held in your district.
- Attend classes that are offered by the Masonic College.
- Complete the Grand Lodge “Rookie Program”.
- Become a lodge officer and consider becoming a Grand Lodge Officer when you are ready.
- Your opportunities to learn are endless.

New MM: Thank you for taking the time to answer my questions. I am going to visit my lodge library as soon as possible to see what I can find for books and videos.

