

Charge at Lodge Opening

As useful knowledge is the great object of our desire, we ought to apply ourselves with zeal to the practice and profession of Freemasonry. The ways of wisdom are beautiful, and lead to pleasure. Knowledge is attained by degrees and cannot everywhere be found. Wisdom seeks the secret shade and the lonely cell, designed for contemplation. There enthroned she sits, delivering her sacred oracles. There we are to seek her and to pursue the real bliss. Though the passage is difficult, the farther we trace it the easier it will become.

If we are united, our Fraternity must flourish. Let all private animosities, therefore, if any should exist, give place to peace and good fellowship. Uniting in the same grand design, let us be happy ourselves and endeavor to contribute to the happiness of others. Let us promote the useful arts and by that means mark our superiority and distinction. Let us cultivate the moral virtues and improve in all that is good and amiable.

Let the genius of Freemasonry preside over our conduct, and under her sovereign sway, let us preserve a nobleness and justness of understanding, politeness of manners, and evenness of temper. Let our recreations be innocent and pursued with moderation; and never let us suffer irregular indulgences to expose our character to derision and contempt. Thus shall we act in conformity to our precepts and support the name we have always borne, of being a respectable, regular, and uniform Fraternity.

Charge at Lodge Closing

You are now about to quit the sacred retreat of friendship and virtue, to mix again with the world. Amidst its concerns and employments, forget not the duties you have heard so frequently inculcated and forcibly recommended within this lodge. Be, therefore, diligent, prudent, temperate, discreet.

And remember, also, that around this Altar you have solemnly and repeatedly promised to befriend and relieve, with unhesitating cordiality, so far as shall be in your power, every Brother who shall need your assistance; that you have promised to remind him, in the most tender manner, of his failings, and aid his reformation; to vindicate his character when wrongfully traduced; and to suggest in his behalf the most candid, favorable, and palliating circumstances, even when his conduct is justly reprehensible. If you faithfully observe these duties, the world will observe how Freemasons love one another, in obedience to the will of God.

Remember always, Brethren that these solemn rites, of which you have been partakers, and your parts in them, are as binding on your consciences out of the lodge as within it. They are links in that chain made in life, for eternity.

And these generous principles are to extend farther. Every human being has a claim upon your kind offices. So that we enjoin it upon you. Do good unto all, while we recommend it more especially to those who are of the household of the faithful.