

Three Distinct Knocks EA "Lecture" ca. 1760

1. **Master:** Brother, is there any Thing between you and I?
Answer: There is, Worshipful.
2. What is it Brother?
Masonry
3. Then I presume you are a Mason?
I am so taken and accepted amongst Brothers and Fellows.
4. Pray what Manner of Man ought a Mason Man to be?
A Man that is born of a Free Woman.
5. Where was you first prepar'd to be made a Mason?
In my Heart.
6. Where was you next prepar'd
In a Room adjoining to the Lodge.
7. How was you prepar'd Brother?
I was neither naked nor cloathed, barefoot nor shod, depriv'd of all Metal, hood-wink'd with a Cable Tow about my Neck, where I was led to the Door of the Lodge in a halting- moving, Posture, by the Hand of a Friend, whom I afterwards found to be a Brother.
8. How did you know it to be a door, you being blinded?
By finding a Stoppage, and afterwards an Enterance or Admittance.
9. How got you Admittance?
By three distinct Knocks.
10. What was said to you within?
Who comes there.
11. Your Answer Brother?
One who begs to have and receive Part of the Benefit of this right worshipful Lodge, dedicated to St. John, as many Brothers and Fellows have done before me.
12. How do you expect to obtain it?
By being free born, and well reported.
13. What was said to you then
Enter.
14. How did you enter, and upon what?
Upon the Point of a Sword or Spear, or some Warlike Instrument, presented to my naked left Breast.
15. What was said to you then?
I was ask'd if I felt any Thing.
16. What was your Answer?
I did, but I could see nothing.
17. You have told us how you was received, pray who received you?

- The Junior Warden.
18. How did he dispose of you?
He deliver'd me to the Master, who order'd me to kneel down and receive the Benefit of a Prayer.
 19. After you had received this Prayer, what was said to you
I was ask'd who I put my Trust in.
 20. Your Answer Brother?
In God.
 21. What was the next Thing said to you?
I was taken by the Right-hand, and he said, rise up and follow your Leader, and fear no Danger.
 22. After all this how was you dispos'd of?
I was led three Times round the Lodge.
 23. Where did you meet with the first Opposition.
At the back of the Junior Warden in the South, where I gave the same three Knocks as at the Door.
 24. What Answer did he give you
He said, who comes there?
 25. Your Answer?
The same as at the Door, one who begs to have and receive, &c.
 26. Where did you meet with the second Opposition?
At the Back of the Senior Warden in the West, where I made the same Repetition as at the Door. He said, who comes here? One who begs to have and receive, &c.
 27. Where did you meet with the third Opposition?
At the Back of the Master in the East, where I made the Repetition as before.
 28. What did the Master do with you ?
He order'd me back to the Senior Warden in the West, to receive Instructions.
 29. What was the Instructions he gave you?
He taught me to take one Step upon the first Step of a right Angle oblong Square, with my left Knee bare bent my Body Upright, my right Foot forming a Square, my naked Right-hand upon the Holy Bible, with the Square and Compass thereon, my Left-hand supporting the same; where I took that solemn Obligation or Oath of a Mason.
 30. Brother, Can you repeat that Obligation?
I will do my Endeavour, with your Assistance, Worshipful.
 31. Stand up and begin,

I, ____ ____, of my own free Will and Accord and in the presence of Almighty God and this right: worshipful Lodge, dedicated to St. John, do hereby and hereon most Solemnly and Sincerely swear, that I will always hail, conceal, and never will reveal any of the, secret Mysteries of Free Masonry, that shall be deliver'd to me now, or any Time hereafter, except it be to a true and lawful Brother, or in a just and lawful Lodge of Brothers and Fellows, or to him or them whom I shall find to be such, after just Trial and due Examination.

I furthermore do swear, that I will not write it, print it, cut it, paint it or stint it, mark it, stain it, or engrave it, or cause so to be done, upon any Thing moveable or immoveable, under the Canopy of Heaven, whereby it may become legible or intelligible, or the least Appearance of the Character of a Letter, whereby the secret Art may be unlawfully obtain'd.

All this I swear, with a strong and steady Resolution to perform the same, without any Hesitation, mental Reservation, or Self-evasion of Mind in me whatsoever, under no less Penalty than to have my Throat cut across, my Tongue torn out by the Root, and that to be buried in the Sands of the Sea, at Low-Water Mark, a Cable's Length from the Shore, where the Tide ebbs and flows twice in Twenty-four Hours, so help me God, and keep me steadfast, in this my enter'd Apprentices Obligation,

TOAST

Brethren, To the heart that conceals, and the Tongue that never improperly reveals, any or either of the secrets or mysteries of or belonging to Free and Accepted Masons in Masonry.

To order, Brethren

All: **“To the heart that conceals, and the tongue that never reveals.”**

32. Now Brother, after you received this Obligation, what was the first [thing] that was said to you?

I was ask'd, what I most desir'd?

33. What was your Answer?

To be brought to Light.

34. Who brought you to Light?

The Master and the rest of the Brethren.

35. When you was thus brought to Light, what were the first Things you saw?

Bible, Square and Compass.

36. What was it they told you they signified?

Three great Lights in Masonry.

37. Explain them, Brother.

- The Bible, to rule and govern our faith; the Square, to square our Actions; the Compasses is to keep us within Bounds with all Men, particularly with a Brother.
38. What were the next Things that were shewn to you?
Three Candies, which I was told were Three lesser Lights in Masonry.
39. What do they represent?
The Sun, Moon, and Master-Mason.
40. Why so, Brother?
There is the Sun to rule the Day, the Moon to rule the Night, and the Master-Mason his Lodge, or at least ought so to do.
41. What was then done to you?
The Master took me by the Right hand, and gave me the Gripe and Word of an Entered Apprentice, and said, rise up Brother, B***
42. What was the next Thing, that was shewn to you?
The due Guard, or Sign, of an enter'd Apprentice.
43. Have you got this Gripe and Word, Brother?
I have, Worshipful.
44. Give it to your next Brother
1st Bro. Gives him the Gripe.
2nd Bro. What is this?
1st Bro. The Gripe of an enter'd Apprentice.
2nd Bro. Has it got a Name?
1st Bro. It has.
2nd Bro. Will you give it me?
1st Bro. I'll letter it with you, or Halve it.
2nd Bro. I'll halve it with you.
1st Bro. Begin.
2nd Bro. No, you begin first.
1st Bro.
2nd Bro.
1st Bro.
2nd Bro. It is right, worshipful Master.
45. What was the next Thing that was shewn to you?
The due Guard, or Sign, of an enter'd Apprentice.
46. Have you got that due Guard, or Sign, of an enter'd Apprentice?
(gives sign)

TOAST

Brethren, to the Keys of the Lodge, those keys by which we gain admittance.
To order, brethren.

All: **“To the Keys of the Lodge”**

47. After all this, what was said to you?

I was order'd to be taken back, and invested with what I had been divested of; and to be brought back to return Thanks, and to receive the Benefit of a Lecture, if Time would permit.

48. After you was invested of what you had been divested of, what was done to you?

I was brought back to the North-west Corner of the Lodge, in order to return Thanks.

49. How did you return Thanks?

I stood in the North-west Corner of the Lodge, and, with the instruction of a Brother, I said; Master, senior and junior Wardens, senior and junior Deacons, and the rest of the Brethren of this Lodge, I return you thanks for the Honour you have done me, in making me a Mason, and admitting me a Member of this worthy Society.

50. What was said to you then?

The Master called me up to the North-East Corner of the Lodge, or at his Right-hand.

51. Did he present you with any Thing?

He presented me with an Apron, which he put on me; he told me it was a Badge of Innocency, more ancient than the Golden Fleece or the Roman Eagle; more honour'd than the Star and Garter, or any other Order under the Sun, that could be confer'd upon me at that Time, or any Time hereafter.

The entr'd Apprentice REASONS.

52. Why was you neither naked nor cloath'd, bare foot nor shod, with a Cable-tow (or Halter) about your neck?
If I had recanted, and ran out into the Street, the People would have said I was mad ; but if a Brother had seen me, he would have brought me back, and seen me done Justice by.
53. Why was you hoodwink'd?
That my Heart might conceal, before my Eyes did discover.
54. The second Reason, Brother?
As I was in Darkness at that Time, I should keep all the World in Darkness.
55. Why was you depriv'd of all Metal?
That I should bring nothing offensive, or defensive, into the Lodge.
56. Give me the second Reason, Brother?
As I was poor any penniless when I was made a Mason, it informed me that I should assist all poor and penniless Brethren, as far as lay in my Power.

Toast

Brethren, To Charity, for while faith is lost in sight, and hope ends in fruition, charity endureth forever.

To order, brethren.

All: **“To Charity”**

57. Brother, you told me you gave Three distinct Knocks at the Door:
Pray what do they signify?
A certain Text in Scripture.
58. What is that Text, Brother?
Ask, and you shall have; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it will be opened unto you.
59. How do you apply this Text in Masonry?
I sought in my Mind; ask'd of my Friend; I knock'd, and the Door of Masonry became open unto me.
60. Why had you a Sword, Spear, or some other warlike Instrument, presented to your naked Left-breast particularly?
Because the Left-breast is nearest to the Heart, that it might be the more a Prick to my Conscience as it prick'd my Flesh at that Time.
61. Why was you led Three Times round the Lodge?

That all the Brethren might see I was duly prepar'd.

62. When you was made an Apprentice, why was your Left-knee bare bent?

Because the Left-knee is the weakest Part of my Body, and an enter'd Apprentice is the weakest Part of Masonry, which I was then entering into.

The Form of the LODGE.

63. Brother, we have been talking a great while about a Lodge; pray what makes a Lodge?
Right Worshipful, a certain number of Masons met together to work.
64. Pray what number makes a lodge?
Three, Five, Seven, or Eleven.
65. Why do Three make a Lodge?
Because there were three Grand Masons in building the World, and also that noble Piece of Architecture Man; which are so complete in Proportion, that the Antients began their Architecture by the same Rules.
66. The second Reason, Brother?
There were three Grand Masons at the building of Solomon's Temple.
67. Why do Five make a Lodge?
Because every Man is endued with Five Senses.
68. What are the Five Senses?
Hearing, Seeing, Smelling, Tasting, and Feeling.
69. What Use are those Five Senses to you in Masonry?
Three are of great Use to me, viz. Hearing, Seeing, and Feeling.
70. What Use are they, Brother?
Hearing, is to hear the Word; Seeing, is to see the Sign; Feeling, is to feel the Grip, that I may know a Brother, as well in the Dark as in the Light.
71. Why should Seven make a Lodge?
Because there are Seven liberal Sciences.
72. Will you name them, Brother?
Grammar, Rhetorick, Logick, Arithmetick, Geometry, Musick, and Astronomy.
73. Brother, what do those Sciences teach you?
Grammar teaches me the Art of writing and speaking the Language, wherein I learn according to the First, Second, and Third Concord.
74. What doth Rhetorick teach you?
The Art of Speaking and discoursing upon any Topick whatsoever.
75. What doth Logick teach you?
The art of reasoning well, whereby you may find out Truth from Falsehood.

76. What doth Arithmetick teach you?

The Virtue of Numbers.

77. What doth Geometry teach you?

The Art of measuring, whereby the *Egyptians* found out their own land, or the same Quantity which they had before the overflowing of the River *Nile*, which frequently us'd to flow to water their Country; at which Time they fled to the Mountains till it went off again, which made them have continual Quarrels about their Lands; for every Man thought he was robb'd and had not his Right, till *Euclid* found out Geometry, and measured every Man his Due, and gave them Plans of each Man's Ground, with the just Quantity that belong'd to him; then they all were satisfy'd; and the same Rule is continu'd in all Nations to this Day.

78. What does Musick teach you, Brother?

The Virtue of Sounds.

79. What doth Astronomy teach you?

The Knowledge of the Heavenly Bodies.

TOAST

Berthren, To Geometry, the fifth of the liberal arts and sciences, and the ancient name of our craft.

To order, brethren.

All: **"To Geometry"**

80. Why should Eleven make a Lodge, Brother?

There were Eleven Patriarchs, when Joseph was sold into Egypt, and supposed to be lost.

81. The second Reason, Brother?

There were but Eleven Apostles when Judas betrayed Christ.

82. What Form is your Lodge?

An Oblong Square

83. How long Brother?

From East to West.

84. How wide Brother?

Between North and South.

85. How High Brother?

From the Earth to the Heavens.

86. How deep Brother?

From the Surface of the Earth to the Center.

87. Why is your Lodge said to be from the Surface to the Center of the Earth?

- Because that Masonry is Universal.
88. Why is your Lodge situated East and West?
Because all Churches and Chapels are; or ought to be so.
89. Why so Brother?
Because the Gospel was first preached in the East, and extended itself to the West.
90. What supports your Lodge?
Three great Pillars.
91. What are their Names?
Wisdom, Strength and Beauty.
92. Who doth the Pillar of Wisdom represent?
The Master in the East.
93. Who doth the Pillar of Strength represent?
The Senior Warden in the West.
94. Who doth the Pillar of Beauty represent?
The Junior Warden in the South.
95. Why should the Master represent the Pillar of Wisdom?
Because he gives Instructions to the Crafts to carry on their Work in a proper Manner, with good Harmony.
96. Why should the Senior Warden represent the Pillar of Strength?
As the Sun sets to finish the Day, so the senior Warden stands in the West to pay the Hirelings their Wages, which is the Strength and Support of all Business.
97. Why should the Junior Warden represent the Pillar of Beauty?
Because he stands in the South, at high Twelve at Noon, which is the Beauty of the Day, to call the Men off from Work to Refreshment, and to see that they come on again in due Time, that the Master may have Pleasure and Profit therein.
98. Why is it said that your Lodge is supported by those Three great Pillars, Wisdom, Strength and Beauty?
Because Wisdom, Strength and Beauty is the Finisher of all Works, and nothing can be carried on without them.
99. Why so, Brother?
Because there is Wisdom to contrive, Strength to support, and Beauty to Adorn.

TOAST

Brethren, To Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty.

To order, brethren.

All: **“To Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty”**

100. Had you any Covering to your Lodge?

Yes, a cloudy Canopy, of diverse Colours, or the Clouds.

101. How blows a Mason's Wind, Brother?

Due East and West.

102. What is it o'Clock, Brother?

High Twelve.

WM: Call the Men off from Work to Refreshment, and see that they come on again in Due Time.

TOAST

WM: Brethren, to all Freemasons, where so ever dispersed over the face of the Earth.

To order, brethren

All: **"To all Freemasons, where so ever dispersed over the face of the earth"**

Song:

"The Entr'd Apprentice Song"

T H E
Enter'd 'PRENTICES SONG.

By our late BROTHER

Mr. MATTHEW BIRKHEAD, deceas'd.

To be sung when all *grave Business* is over, and with the
M A S T E R ' S *Leave*.

I.

C O M E let us prepare,
We *Brothers* that are
Assembled on merry Occasion ;
Let's drink, laugh, and sing ;
Our *Wine* has a Spring :
Here's a Health to an *Accepted* M A S O N .

II.

The *World* is in pain
Our *Secrets* to gain,
And still let them wonder and gaze on ;
They ne'er can divine
The *Word* or the *Sign*
Of a *Free* and an *Accepted* M A S O N .

III.

'Tis *This*, and 'tis *That*,
They cannot tell *What*,
Why so many G R E A T M E N of the Nation
Should *Aprons* put on,
To make themselves one
With a *Free* and an *Accepted* M A S O N .

IV.

Great KINGS, DUKES, and LORDS,
Have laid by their SWORDS,
Our *Myst'ry* to put a good Grace on,
And ne'er been asham'd
To hear themselves nam'd
With a *Free* and an *Accepted* M A S O N .

V.

Antiquity's *Pride*
We have on our side,
And it maketh Men just in their Station :
There's nought but what's good
To be understood
By a *Free* and an *Accepted* M A S O N .

VI.

Then join *Hand in Hand*,
T'each other firm stand,
Let's be merry, and put a bright Face on :
What *Mortal* can boast
S O N O B L E A T O A S T ,
As a *Free* and an *Accepted* M A S O N ?

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(From Anderson's Constitutions, 1723, Page 84)