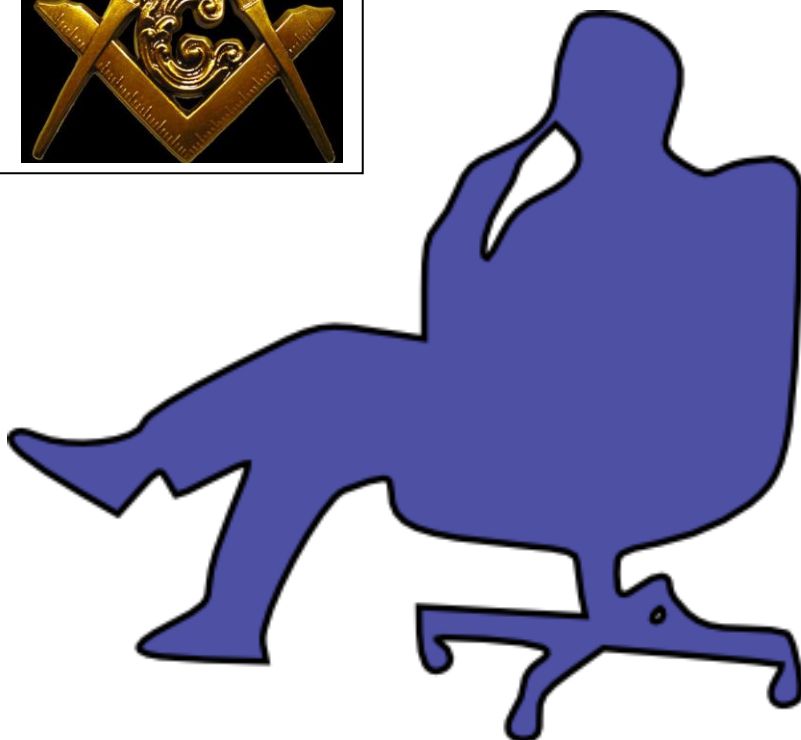
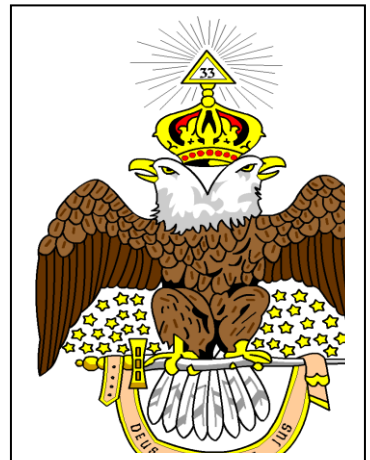


**Becoming a Master Mason.  
“Situational Analysis”  
Created by  
William C. Jacobson 33°  
Cedar Rapids Scottish-Rite Valley  
Applying the Lessons in the  
Scottish-Rite Degrees.**



## **Becoming a Master Mason**

**A serious student of Masonry uses life situations to define and practice the moral values that guide his decisions. There is much confusion regarding what it takes to become a Master Mason. Some believe it involves lodge attendance and the perfect presentation of the ritual. Some believe intense research and study of all aspects of Masonry will accomplish the task. Others think it is becoming a Grand Lodge Officer. In reality, mastery involves using the Masonic myths, traditions, and symbols to guide personal decisions. Being a Master Mason means one has mastered himself and understands the art of thinking like a Mason.**

**Mastery in a Mason's life requires a careful application of the myths, traditions and symbols of Masonry at a level which explains their deeper meanings. A Master Mason uses these Masonic teachings to guide decisions that impact his life.**

**A Master Mason lives by a personal standard of right and wrong. *Daily he strives to be better than he was yesterday.* No one's past reveals actions that were always right. A Master Mason commits errors, learns, and changes next time. Life is a perpetual school house of daily challenges. Masonry provides a connection that helps us make better decisions. Each Master Mason finds a creative way to make the tough decisions he encounters. His decisions produce the results of his choices.**

**The Scottish-Rite degrees, like those of other Masonic Bodies, are designed to further define what it means to be a Master Mason. The following situations are framed around the lessons of the Scottish-Rite degrees. The intention of these situations is to provoke a discussion with a group of Masons to determine a course of action a Master Mason would take in that circumstance.**

**Things that are easily learned are often simple, sometimes occur unexpectedly, are clearly a dilemma, relate to situations that actually happen, contain emotions, and are illustrated by a story. These things are easily remembered because they get one's attention. That is the reason this information is presented in a situational, decision-making format.**

**Every story has a plot. The plot can be a challenge, a connection to a Masonic principle, and it can be presented creatively. Life presents actual situations that are meaningful because they are concrete. They are not presented as abstract statistics or generalized principles that are easily forgotten. We remember stories that challenge us, that connect us to the meaning of Masonry, and force us to creatively make a decision we think to be the best we can come up with at the moment.**

**In the third degree of Masonry a brother is challenged to become a Master Mason. He is warned of the perils of his journey, and he is admonished to place his trust in God. These expectations extend beyond the completion of the degree. Life presents further challenges, it involves a need for connections, and its presentation represents elements of creativity.**

**Situations are not absolutes, as right and wrong answers are best evaluated by discovering what happens next. A Master Mason's decisions can be categorized as good, better or best. It takes time and experience to find the best response. We decide who and what we are by making decisions as we live until we come to our common end, death in this lifetime.**

**While our body dies, our spirit continues with the benefits we have acquired from the decisions we have made. We learn as we live. A Master Mason discovers ~~MASTERY~~ by confronting the situations in his life. These situations challenge you to discover who and what you are as you live this life.**

**William C. Jacobson 33°**

## **Educational Program Guide**

**These situations are designed as discussion topics for a group of Mason seeking greater light. The acquisition of greater light occurs when groups consider questions without right or wrong answers. There are things to be learned from listening to the thoughts of others.**

### **Suggested Strategies:**

- 1. These situations can be utilized in a small group, six or less, or a large group 10 or more. They will work well in both settings.**
- 2. Begin each discussion by having someone read aloud the situation.**
- 3. Allow anyone to offer answers to the questions.**
- 4. In a small group, this can be done with the whole group participating. In a large group, have each participant get a partner and discuss what each considers an appropriate answer.**
- 5. The group leader needs to monitor the discussion, Keep things moving, and make sure each person is given a chance to contribute. There are no right or wrong answers. Solutions are either good, better or best.**
- 6. The goal of each discussion is for each person to formulate a vision of what it means to be a Master Mason in the process of day to day decision making.**

**Enjoy the journey, as you aim for the destination:**

**Expanded light in Masonry.**

## **4<sup>th</sup>. Degree: Duty**

**Each Mason Must Perform his Duty as a man.**

**Doing your DUTY in different situations defines your character.**

**Masonic Tools: Plumb, Square and Level.**

**Situation 1. A Duty to Whom? A Mason has worked for a company for twenty years. He has supported it even though he questioned the legality of some of its actions. He always believed that he had a duty to his employer. Recently, he discovered that the company has been using accounting practices to deliberately cheat the government on accounts payable submissions. He looks around and discovers that he was part of great sin committed in the name of duty.**

**What should this Master Mason do?**

**Situation 2. Challenge or Opportunity. A Mason Walks to his car in a parking lot and finds an envelope on the ground containing \$5000.00 in cash. There is a deposit slip for a bank with a business name on it. No one can trace the money as it is all cash-no checks. The Mason is unemployed and needs cash to feed his family. No one sees him pick up the envelope. He ponders his good fortune.**

**What should this Master Mason do?**

**Situation 3. Situational Ethics. What are a Master Mason's Personal Ethics? A Mason runs a car repair shop. A woman brings her car in for service. She is ignorant of cars and appears to be well off. The Mason inspects the car and determines that extra money can be made by telling her she needs unnecessary repairs. He doesn't know the woman, and he needs extra money to pay his property taxes as business has been slow. He can easily charge her \$500.00 for unneeded repairs which she would pay without question. No one would ever know as he would do the work himself.**

**What should this Master Mason do?**

**Situation 4. Drinking Problem. A brother, who you brought into the lodge, lost his driver's license by driving drunk. He asks you to take him to lodge as he cannot drive. You are together in Lodge when he gets a phone call that his wife has an emergency at home. His wife is having an asthma attack and can't find her medicine. You are scheduled to take a major part in a degree that no one else can do. He asks if he can borrow your car to go home and take care of it.**

**As a Master Mason, what would you do?**

## 5<sup>th</sup>. Death:

The Best preparation for death is to live well today.

Are there things in life much worse than DEATH?

Masonic Tool: Trowel.

**Situation 1. Widows and Orphans.** A brother dies in an auto accident leaving his wife and 6 children all under the age of ten. The brother has no life insurance, and his wife does not work outside of the home. She does not ask the lodge for help. You know the family has no extra resources. The desperate need of the family is evident to the lodge and many of the brothers. You are attending a regular lodge meeting that night. The lodge has some extra money, and applications to the Grand Lodge special Financial Aide fund are available. This program assists Masons and their families in need.

**As a Master Mason, how would you respond to this situation?  
What do you owe to a deceased brother?**

**Situation 2. – Distress.** A brother is dying. He asks you to conduct his Masonic Funeral. You have never done this before, and are not sure you can control your emotions if you agreed to do it. You have many negative feelings associated with funerals. You know him, but are not close. You are not sure what you would say. He made this request of you in front of his family.

**As a Master Mason, what would you do?**

**Situation 3: Illness and Disease. A Mason has a serious illness. He doesn't know why he is ill. He believes illnesses exist as a response to his previous actions. He knows complex challenges are part of living in a physical body.**

**He doesn't know what caused this illness, or if he will survive. All he can do is pray for help to the God within. Any illness provides a Mason an opportunity to use his spiritual powers to heal the body, the mind, and the spirit. It can also teach ways to prevent more illness in the future.**

**Some suggest we attract our illnesses to learn from them. A Master Mason's biggest challenge is to learn why things happen. A Mason is admonished to ask knowing it shall be given, to seek knowing he will find, and to knock knowing doors will be opened unto him.**

**The way a Mason handles an illness can define and display his character to others. The illness can make him a positive or negative example for others by his attitude, the things he does, and always by what he says. Each physical or mental health challenge is there for a reason. Handling illness is a part of life.**

***How does a Master Mason deal with illness and death?***

## 6<sup>th</sup>. Degree: Zeal

*Learn to subdue your passions and improve yourself in Masonry. A Mason learns to live by the spirit more than the letter of the law.*

*Masonic Tool: White Leather Apron.*

**Situation 1: Good Counsel.** A Master Mason promises to help, aide and assist a worthy brother in distress his widow or orphan. A brother has been negligent in taking care of his family. He spends all of his time in his business. His wife is desperate as the teenage children are getting in trouble on a regular basis. He blames his wife for not taking care of the kids. He never attends his children's events, and he is not providing emotions support to them. Others see his actions, but he doesn't. This brother attends lodge regularly and takes part in degree work.

**As a Master Mason, how can you help this brother?**

**Situation 2: Proper Initiation.** The Grand Lodge has voted to take away all proficiency requirements for brothers to prove they are qualified to advance in Masonry. Many Masons now pass from one degree to another without any instruction that requires significant effort. You think this is a mistake, because a Mason only gets out of Masonry what he puts into it. You believe Masonry has been harmed.

**As a Master Mason, what would you do in this situation?**

## 7<sup>th</sup>. Degree: Mercy

Do not judge another until you understand the situation. Detecting the sins of others doesn't make you a better Mason.

The Supreme Architect ultimately Judges what we think, believe and do. How can we know what that judgment will be?

### Masonic Tool: The Balance Scale

**Situation 1: Direct Assistance.** A brother asks to borrow \$100.00 from you and promises to pay it back. You lend him the money. After that he avoids you, and never pays back the money. He hasn't attended lodge in two years. The Brother dies. He had requested a Masonic Funeral. You think it would be inappropriate. The Lodge meets that night and you plan to attend.

**As a Master Mason, what would you do?**

**Situation 2: Brotherhood.** Your Masonic Brother of 20 years is your friend and attends Lodge regularly. He has a Heart Attack and dies. After his funeral, another Lodge Brother tells you he has had an affair with the departed Brother's wife for the last 5 years and now plans to divorce his wife, leave his children and marry her. You have always respected the deceased brother's wife. The other brother asks for your blessing.

**As a Master Mason, what would you do?**

## 8th. Degree - Education

When the student is ready to learn, a teacher arrives.

The only sin is ignorance. Buddha

Masonic Tools: The Square. The White Leather Apron.

The Plumb. The Gavel.

**Situation 1: Fraternal Assistance: The Lodge you belong to has always given scholarships to students who make an application. The amount is established by the lodge at a regular meeting. The market downturn has caused many of the Lodge Resources to disappear. Several Brothers in the lodge have children who plan to apply for the scholarships this year. To continue the program will seriously deplete this fund.**

**What would be your position, as a Master Mason?**

**Situation 2: Long Term Consequences: A young Mason is in his junior year of college. He is working his way through with a goal of getting doors to open for better employment opportunities. His life is busy and difficult. His girlfriend wants him to quit college, get married, and start a family. He has resisted her suggestions. She advances their intimacy, quits taking her birth control pills, gets pregnant, and insists the he marry her. She wants the baby, and plans stay home to raise the baby. She sees herself as the ideal mother. She is two months pregnant.**

**If you were that Mason, what would you do?**

**Situation 3. Politics: At a regular Lodge Meeting a brother suggests that the lodge contribute \$100.00 to a campaign to remove some of the Supreme Court Justices who had made same sex marriages legal. He explained that Masonry sanctions a relationship between a man and a woman as the only right form of marriage. The brother expounds on his beliefs and feelings and is unwilling to give up the floor when reminded that this is not an appropriate discussion in a Masonic Lodge.**

**As a member of the Lodge, what would you do?**

**Situation 4. Masonic Education. A Senior Warden in preparation to attend Grand Lodge casually reads the Masonic Code. He was intrigued by the document and decided that the lodge would benefit by knowing all the material in that document. He informs the lodge he intends to focus on reading through the Masonic Code section by section at every regular meeting during his year as Master. He thinks that is the best way for the brothers to know and understand the code.**

**As an officer and member of the lodge, what would you do?**

**How will the brothers of the lodge respond to his plan?**

## 9th. Degree - Knowledge

Knowledge is power. A Master Mason seeks to know more today than he did yesterday. Paradoxically, too much knowledge can hinder progress? *{How Can That Be?}*

Masonic Tools. The level. The light and dark floor tiles.

**Situation 1: Formal Education:** As a young boy you were repeatedly told that those with advanced educational degrees knew best. The more knowledge one has the better prepared he is to make decisions. Adults in his life insisted that the only way to true learning was through formal education. Now you are in your late 40's, you have just been diagnosed with incurable cancer. Your Doctor, who has a Medical Doctor Degree in family medicine, tells you that you have three months to live. He also said there is a new operation that had been successful in some cases. He tells you he has read about it, but has never done it. He offers to do it on you as a last resort.

As a Master Mason, what would you do?

**Situation 2: Diagnosis and Prescription.** On a vacation in New Orleans you have a reading by a psychic who tells you that you have a serious illness that will take your life unless you change your thoughts, words, and actions. You paid \$20.00 for this reading. The psychic suggests you have the power to heal yourself. He advises you to seek assistance through a spiritual church where you can learn how to call for spiritual assistance. He suggests that your spirit is strong and capable of healing your body.

As a Master Mason, what would you do?

## 10th. Degree – Equanimity

**A Master Mason seeks to be KIND rather than being RIGHT!**

**A true Master Mason controls his Temper!**

*When you treat others as if they were what they ought to be, they become that. Johann Wolfgang Goethe.*

**Masonic Tool: Smoothing a Rough Ashlar into a Perfect Ashlar.**

**Situation 1: Spiritual Assistance.** A man and his wife are driving on vacation outside Los Angeles. This is their first trip to the city. A hitchhiker is on the side of the road. The man stops to pick him up against the advice offered by his wife. They take the man 100 miles down the road to his destination. In gratitude, he gives the couple a detailed map of Los Angeles which shows them how to navigate the freeway system. They used that map and have a successful trip finding the right exits on the freeways.

**Was this an accident?**

**Situation 2: Perceptions.** While in a restaurant, the waitress appears inattentive and is obviously upset. Your party wants to leave. You smile, ask how to pronounce her name, and thank her for helping provide a good dining experience. The waitress smiles and others decide to say things to connect and make her feel important. Things change. The dining experience that started out badly, changes to a wonderful time.

**What Masonic principle was at work here?**

## 11<sup>th</sup>. Degree: Truth.

All Sin is Ignorance of Cause and Effect. Buddha

Masonic Tool: The Level.

**Situation 1: Wealth.** A wealthy man took his son to visit a poor family in the country. On the way back, he asked the boy what he had learned. " I saw that we had one dog, they had four, We have a pool, but they have a creek that has no end. We have a patio, but they have the whole horizon. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property for protection, but they have friends who protect them. The boy then said to his father. Thanks Dad for showing me how poor we are."

**How does this story illustrate Masonic Truth?**

**Situation 2: Secret Truths.** In one Masonic jurisdiction, after a man finishes the first degree, they ask him to write down what he has learned by participating in this degree. He pauses, thinks and starts to write out his response. As he starts to write, they take away his pen and remind him he is not to write, print, or paint any of the secrets of a Mason. They have been doing this as a regular practice in their lodge for each new Mason. Most new Masons are unaware of the meaning of this part of the obligation.

**Is this a proper application of that phrase for each new Mason?**

### **Situation 3: When is a man ignorant?**

**Masonic Tool: The Volume of Sacred Law.**

#### **A Man is Ignorant When he:**

- ❖ **Doesn't have or use the ability to plan**
- ❖ **Doesn't know his future requires a plan.**
- ❖ **Doesn't understand cause and effect.**
- ❖ **Lets impulsivity over ride consequences.**
- ❖ **Can't control feel good activities or their cost.**
- ❖ **Can't set worthwhile Goals .**
- ❖ **Can't do what it takes to accomplish goals.**
- ❖ **Does not seek or accept the advice of others.**

**These are questions to consider when examining each new candidate  
for the mysteries of Masonry?**

**Can this man become a Mason?**

**Can Masonry help such a man?**

**Can all men become Master Masons?**

## 12th. Degree - WISDOM

A Mason understands in every situation that WISDOM is what works. Nothing is guaranteed. Life is what happens to us while we are busy making other plans.

Masonic Tools: The Trowel. The Balance Scale.

**Situation 1: Reality.** A Mason has been approached for the third time by a brother seeking financial assistance. He has lost his job again because he can't get to work on time. Previous discussions have not produced any change in his behavior. The 3<sup>rd</sup>. Degree obligation includes the promise to help aide and assist a worthy brother in distress. To become a Master Mason, each brother must answer in his own mind the following questions.

**What does Distress mean?**

**What does it mean to help?**

**When is a man worthy to accept appropriate Aide?**

**Situation 2: Advice.** You are planning a vacation. So far you and your wife have not picked a destination. After Lodge another brother gives you a glowing account of a Cruise he has taken. He claims it will be an unforgettable experience. You know this Brother tends to exaggerate to get others to do what he thinks is best. You followed his advice once before, and it was a disaster. You want the vacation to be a memorable experience.

**As a Master Mason, what would you do?**

**Situation 3: Tradition. It has been a long standing tradition in your Lodge to award the outgoing Master with a past master's apron. Membership and resources have declined. Several Brothers rise in a regular meeting and suggest the practice be stopped as it is no longer affordable. The Past Masters present object. They remember that it has always been done, and that it is just compensation for being the Master of a Masonic lodge.**

**The Lodge Membership has declined every year for the last 10 years. The suggestion that each past master buy his own apron was voted down.**

**As a Master Mason, who is an immediate past master, what would you do?**

**Is this situation a symptom of a bigger problem that isn't being addressed by the brothers of this lodge?**

**When does a brother demonstrate the courage to do the right thing even when it is against established traditions?**

## 13th. Degree - Virtue

Virtue is not what you say, it is what you DO!

*Is there anyone who has never given in to temptation?*

The remorse of past performance can guide future choices when we understand cause and effect!

Masonic Tool: The Trowel. The White Leather Apron. The Plumb.

**Situation 1: Expectations.** On the first day of practice Iowa's Head football coach, Hayden Fry, presented his football teams two lists. One was the things they had to do to win. The other was the things that would cause them to lose. The winning list had his expectations for every player who wore the Iowa Uniform. They were clear and precise. The losing list was also specific. No ear rings, shirts tucked in, no frequenting local bars, and no problems with the law. Hayden said, that if they did these things, they wouldn't be on his football team.

He said experience had taught him as a coach that most players took great pride in knowing what they could do and what they couldn't do.

**Does a Master Mason live by a list of virtues?**

**What happens if he doesn't follow them?**

**Why does it matter?**

**Situation: Chastity. A young single Mason in his twenties is on a business trip for his company. He meets a single young lady on this trip also in her twenties. They have a drink at the hotel bar, dance several dances, and appear compatible. They are attracted to each other.**

**He invites her to his room where things get more intimate. As he is taking off his shirt, she comments on his Masonic ring and says her Dad has one he wears all the time.**

**As a Master Mason, what should he do?**

**Situation 2: Honesty. A Mason in his thirties is responsible for collecting the money for a lodge social. Many attend and he collects a large amount of money. A cash bar is part of the event and he collects all the money from it.**

**Having just lost his job, he takes twenty dollars from the fund to use to pay his babysitter when he gets home. As no regular method has been established to verify the receipts no one will know. He turns in the money less the \$20.00.**

**At the next regular meeting he pays back the money saying he found it in his pocket after the event and it belongs to the lodge.**

**Has a Masonic Offense been committed?**

## 14th. Degree - Faith

As a Master Mason, in whom do you put your TRUST?

What is a Constant awareness of God? Where is it found?

Masonic Tool. Volume of Sacred Law.

**Situation 1: Words.** Communication is the key to being a Master Mason. Each of us uses many words each day. Words reveal the character of the person who speaks them. Reflecting on the choice of words and their impact, **WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS QUOTATION** by Rudyard Kipling, "Words are the most powerful medicine known to man."

**How does a Master Mason interpret this?**

**Situation 2: Work.** Each Mason is given five balls in his lifetime. One is rubber and the other four are glass. The four glass balls are Integrity, Family, Friends and Health. **IF BROKEN THEY CANNOT BE REPAIRED.** Work is referred to as a rubber ball, **WHY?**

**What does this mean for a Master Mason?**

**Situation 3: Motivation.** After a diagnosis of cancer, A Mason changes his thinking patterns, he changes his circumstances, and he believes that he will be cured. He seeks the power within to heal his cancer. Next month, during his next check-up the cancer is gone.

**What happened?**

**Situation 4: Synchronicity.** You are tired of your job, and your dream is that you would be able to establish a business of your own. You share with others that you want to be in your own business. You keep this as a dominant thought for the next 21 days. On the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Day you get a call from a person who wants to sell you the business you dream of, and that individual is willing to finance it.

**What has the Master Mason done to bring this about?**



## **Lodge of Perfection Conclusion**

**These situations have covered the Lodge of Perfection in the Scottish-Rite Degrees. These degrees are designed to sustain the body, relax the mind, and release the spirit to allow each Master Mason to advance in life. Masonry includes a Masonic trinity. This is our sub-conscious mind, our conscious mind and our super-conscious mind. A Master Mason learns to use these to increase his personal awareness of who he is, what he is here to do, and the resources he can call upon to complete his journey.**

**Mastery acknowledges an unlimited potential that we all can use when needed . We refer to that at the Grand Architect of the Universe. That power is available when we ask, seek, and find it.**

**Every Master Mason is different. One brother can't always do what another brother can. We each travel a different road. Each Master Mason has a personal life chart, a plan for his life which was determined before he was born, which provides the internal guide that presents many different opportunities for him to make choices that use Masonic Principles. There are many roads to extended light in Masonry.**

**Perfection is not an attainable goal. It is a standard that recognizes behaviors just beyond our present ability to reach. If we attain a new level, we discover a higher standard exists above that. Becoming a Master Mason remains a progressive process. We learn the next thing beyond that which we already know. A Master Mason makes his choices and lives with the consequences. In the process he changes. That change is the great Masonic secret.**

**The second degree introduces the circular staircase which leads to the Middle Chamber where we are to receive our wages. Our wages symbolically consist of corn, wine and oil.**

**Corn represents growth, wine reflects the refreshment growth provides, and oil becomes the joy of personal accomplishment. We learn to climb our circular staircase each day. The journey is never complete. We continue climbing to advance our understanding. It takes courage to confront the unknown that exists just around the bend.**

**These situations are just a sample of the challenges present on each stair step. Each day others will appear. A Master Mason advances with confidence, faith, and the love required to make the effort. In his ascent up the stairs he discovers the journey is more important than the destination.**

**Transcendence occurs when we reach the middle chamber of his Temple where answers are provided. A Master Mason's daily challenge is to continue his journey in all circumstances striving to receive more light.**

**William C. Jacobson 33°**

## Becoming a Master Mason



### Lodge of Perfection Exercise

The Goal of a Mason is to become a better person by learning to think and act like a Master MASON-One who Masters Himself.

Directions: Place the letter of the response in the blank before each number that BEST satisfies the opening statement. More than one may be right, but one is better than the rest as it aligns with the lessons of the degrees.

*Answers with page references to Morals and Dogma or Bridge to Light are included at the end of this document.*

**“Good words are worth much and cost little.”  
George Herbert**

\_\_\_1. Pike identifies the Masonic Ten Commandments. Which of the following is NOT one of them?

- A. God is eternal, all powerful and ever present. He is within.
- B. One’s soul is immortal and should not be degraded or abused.
- C. Man should always make his passions his Master.
- D. Studying other men helps a Mason to know himself.
- E. A friend must become a second self to be able to be a friend.
- F. Hear much, speak little, act well, forgive, and seek good.

**“Man is of three parts. Virtuous, he is free of anxieties; wise he is free from confusion, bold, he is free from fear.”  
Confucius**

\_\_\_2. How can you BEST assess the character of another man?

- A. Ask others about his values and behaviors.
- B. Observe whether he attends lodge on a regular basis.
- C. Discover the amount of money he gives to charity.
- D. Observe his actions and how he treats others when he thinks no one is watching.

**"Your life becomes what you think."**

**Marcus Aurelius**

**\_\_\_3. A Mason is what he thinks about all day long. A Mason's thoughts must be based on:**

- A. An unwavering faith in a just, wise, and merciful God.**
- B. His intellectual ability to reason his way to the right answer.**
- C. An application of the scientific method to prove reality.**
- D. Reason which is God's guide in moral and political science.**

**"Ask not what you can expect from life; ask what life expects from you?"**

**Viktor Frankel Man's Search For Meaning.**

**\_\_\_4. Masonic Truth appears to be hidden. It is NOT easily revealed because:**

- A. It can only be attained by those who are ready to receive it.**
- B. Many are not ready and remain unwilling to receive it.**
- C. Truth is awarded only to those of demonstrated net worth.**
- D. One must belong to a lodge to acquire Masonic truth.**

**"Education is finding what you look for; in good or evil, in problems or solutions."**

**John M. Templeton**

**\_\_\_5. Masonry embodies education. Education is:**

- A. A revelation of that divine spark that exists in some men.**
- B. A process to eliminate greed and the fear of poverty.**
- C. Impossible to define as it is always a personal experience.**
- D. Always limited in its results to a man's intellectual ability**

**"The only way to have a friend is to be a friend."**

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

**\_\_\_6. Which of the following BEST describes the uses of Masonry?**

- A. It provides personal growth through brotherhood.**
- B. It provides moral instruction that develops one's soul.**
- C. It identifies friends and brothers in different places.**
- D. It provides life solutions through *brotherly interactions*.**
- E. All the above.**
- F. None of the above.**

**"You are more defined by what comes out of your mouth than what goes in."**

**Jacob Aarnevig**

**\_\_\_7. According to Plato, rhetoric is the communication art of ruling the minds of men. Rhetoric differs from idle chatter because:**

- A. Too much talking and too much thinking can destroy action.**
- B. Wisdom, always loquacious, is a gift of the wise.**
- C. Keeping one's thoughts private is the best path in life.**
- D. Analysis of actions often leads to excess talking.**

**"If you are moving in the right direction, just keep walking."**

**Buddist Proverb.**

**\_\_\_8. Masonry advances man by providing increased light. To advance a man must:**

- A. Stop learning because it is confusing and frustrating.**
- B. Withdraw completely from society and live by Walden Pond.**
- C. Do only what others have done to acquire wisdom.**
- D. Gain the wisdom that comes through one's experiences.**

**"Keep your *focus* on where you want to go instead of where you have been."**

**Wayne Dyer Ph.D.**

**\_\_\_9. Masonry offers an enlightened path. To travel that path, a Masons must remember that:**

- A. When a man reflects, he learns to think differently.**
- B. True enlightenment is an impossible task in one lifetime.**
- C. Enlightenment comes by learning from all life's experiences.**
- D. Enlightenment is always doing what others won't do.**

**"The dark night provides the contrast needed to learn in the light of day."**

**John Templeton**

\_\_\_ 10. "Let not the expedient be profane, or if it be profane, let it not be expedient." This means.

- A. Make your word your bond and act accordingly.
- B. Take appropriate action by limiting excessive thought.
- C. Profanity has no place in Masonic thought or action.
- D. The expedient must be handled at all costs immediately.

**"Nothing is interesting if you are not interested."  
John Templeton**

\_\_\_ 11. The soul's purpose in life is best explained by which of the following statements. A Mason must:

- A. Acquire the material goods needed to survive.
- B. Meditate, reflect, and withdraw to acquire personal truth.
- C. Learn soul lessons through life's experiences.
- D. Force the body even when the mind says no.

**"Not what we have, but what we use; not what we see but what we choose, determines our happiness."  
Joseph Fort Newton The Builders**

\_\_\_ 12. A Mason's duty is first and always:

- A. To avoid that which deceives and that which is false.
- B. To deal with all Masons equally and honestly.
- C. To never break a ritual, a law or a societal custom.
- D. To be true to others and never be false to your superiors.

**"He who displays compassion to others will receive compassion from heaven."**

**The Talmud.**

\_\_\_ 13. Life has temptations. If one hasn't fallen it is only because he hasn't been sufficiently tempted. A Mason:

- A. Condemns NOT as he in like circumstances he could also fall.
- B. Avoids all temptation which allows him to avoid mistakes.
- C. Removes serious temptations from all aspects of his life.
- D. Avoids all people who provide temptations in his life.

**"It is more important to know where you are going than to get there quickly. Do not mistake activity for achievement."**

**John Wooden**

\_\_\_ 14. The world is filled with toils and troubles. A Mason understands that God's one remedy for all the ills of the world is:

- A. An aggressive spirit that confronts all situations.
- B. A contented spirit that balances life's opposites.
- C. A retiring spirit that withdraws from conflict.
- D. A spirit that always accepts what can't be changed.

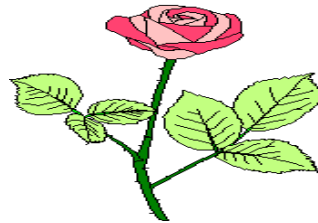
**Answers and source material on next page:**



## **Chapter Rose Croix 15<sup>th</sup>. - 18<sup>th</sup>. Degrees.**

**These degrees expand a Master Mason's focus. They are religious, historical, moral and philosophical. They exist to reveal the power of faith, hope, and love.**

**There is much to absorb when searching to understand Masonry. Life is progressive. We move from what we know to discover the things we still need to learn. These degrees focus on the concepts of perseverance, justice, loyalty, and love. These are qualities that expand when a Master Mason applies them to situations in his daily life .**



**The Rose is the symbol of the Chapter of Rose Croix. The Rose is protected by the thorns on its stem. In the village of Assisi in Italy there exists a form of the Rose that grows without thorns. Assisi was the home of St. Francis the Patron Saint of animals. Ironically, when that Rose is taken from that location and planted elsewhere, it develops thorns. The Rose symbolically teaches a Master Mason to grow so he can eliminate his need for thorns.**

## **15th. Degree – Perseverance**

**Work with a sword in one hand and a trowel in the other! A Mason lives by the law of the farm. As you sow, so shall you reap!**

**Masonic Tool. Common Gavel.**

**Situation 1. *Awareness.* A Mason on a business trip was in a bar where he was approached by a beautiful lady. He offered to buy her a drink. That was the last thing he remembered until he woke up disoriented, lying in a bathtub where his body was submerged in ice. He had a note on a table beside him telling him to use the cell phone beside it to call 911. The operator seemed familiar with his situation, and told him to see if a tube was protruding from his lower back. He found a tube and asked what that meant. She told him one of his kidney's had been harvested. She said a ring of organ thieves was operating in the city and he was one of their victims. She told him to stay put as paramedics were on the way to take care of him.**

**How might this Mason have prevented this?**

**Situation 2. *Length of his cabletow.* A Mason wanted to be involved as an officer of his lodge. He had a job, a family, and a limited amount of time. Everything tells him he could not do it, but he feels strongly about the ways it might benefit him. He wants to get more involved with Masonry. It meets an inner need that is driving his soul.**

**How could he resolve his dilemma?**

## **16th Degree-Justice**

**Your Masonic TEMPLE is built by the way you treat others.**

**To Understand another, walk a mile in his or her shoes.**

**Masonic Tool. The Balance Scale:**

**Situation 1. Planning. A Master Mason plans for his future. He understands why the U.S. Army trains its officers to understand the limits of plans. The army contends that no plan survives contact with the enemy. That means in every life situation there are surprises. A Master Mason's character is revealed by the way he handles surprises.**

**Every plan has a core objective. That is the thing that is desired. It can be understood best when it is presented in its simplest form. A design engineer's definition of simplicity states that perfection is achieved in core planning *when there is nothing left that can be taken away*. Unnecessary things can be taken away because they do not help, and will do no harm if removed.**

**In this context a Master Mason must ask these questions as he plans to live as a Mason.**

- 1. What is the core value of Masonry?**
- 2. Can that core value become a personal guide?**
- 3. How does simplicity apply to Masonic Justice?**

## 17th. Degree - Loyalty

A Mason owes a debt to his family, his brothers, his lodge, and his country. Loyalty can repay part of that debt.

Masonic Tools: The lesson of the Ruffians. Lack of Patience.

**Situation 1. *Family.*** A Master Mason has given his word that he will be loyal to his family. Recently, he has become distant from his wife, and has ignored his children. Another woman has started to fill the emotional void he feels. She is single and available. She fills all the needs he thinks are unmet in his marriage and his family. His children are teenagers and need his guidance to steer through some difficult times. He looks at his situation and contemplates divorcing his wife to be with the woman who meets his current needs.

**What should this Master Mason do?**

**Situation 2. *Employment.*** A Master Mason has been with his employer for 15 years. He joined him at a time when he needed the job. During his tenure he has become accomplished in his ability to do the work required. He is noticed by others in the same kind of work. Another employer has an opening for which he is well qualified. He offers him the job at a substantial raise. He is torn between loyalty to his current employer and the chance to make more money.

**What should this Master Mason do?**

**Situation 3. *Thoughts and Actions.*** Life presents many different plots as we live out the dramas created by our choices. These plots can be classified in three categories, challenges, connections, and creativity. Every Master Mason faces challenges in many different forms. Every Master Mason develops connections to others that assist him. Every Master Mason must apply personal creativity to the methods he uses to meet challenges and make connections. These become apparent as daily life unfolds with all its twists and turns. The stories we tell and remember can fall in these three categories. A valuable exercise for any Master Mason is to relive certain events in his life to determine what caused the outcome. This replay can serve as a guide to future decisions. It is human nature to repeat what has worked and sometimes what hasn't because cause and effect aren't always evident.

**How does a Master Mason avoid what hasn't worked in the past?**

**Situation 4. *Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice.*** A Mason loses his temper, has several drinks and decides to drive home. He has trouble staying on the road. He is picked up and charged with drunk driving. It is expensive and causes a suspension of his driver's license. He has driven drunk before, but has never been caught.

***What could the Mason have done in this instance to become a Master Mason?***

***Who is to blame for this outcome?***

## **18th. Degree-Love**

True love of another does not require love in return.

Love is greater than Faith or Hope.

When the thirsty and hungry are fed, we who feed them are also fed.

Masonic Tool: Trowel

**Situation 1. *The Challenge of Love.*** A Master Mason raised two children. One did everything to please him, while the other followed a road that caused him despair. In all his dealings with his daughter his only outcome was personal conflict. He read a proverb of Buddha which said, "When you are in a personal hell, keep walking in the right direction." One day at a later time his daughter admitted herself to a drug rehabilitation center where she began to turn her life around. He kept a connection with her as she went through this personal hell. His abiding love helped transform her to start becoming a different person. The Master Mason never abandoned her.

**Why was it necessary for this Master Mason to go through this?**

**Situation 2. *The connection of Love.*** A Master Mason lost his wife at an early age. He watched her die by a disease that slowly removed her from him. When she was gone, he vowed he wouldn't go through that pain of loss and separation again. In his head he believed it was best to avoid the pain associated with any form of intimacy or love. One day he met a woman who annoyed and attracted him. She met a need he didn't know he had. He tried to keep his vow, but was drawn back to her.

**What should this Master Mason do?**

**Situation 3. *Power of Love.*** A Master Mason married the wrong person. Everything he did to make it work was not effective. They produced two children, but it was not a happy home. He finally had enough and left home. She filed for divorce and was granted exclusive custody of the children which included child support paid by him. He had strong positive feelings for his children, but that was corrupted by the things their mother put in their heads. He created a new life, paid his child support, and watched his children from a distance. His first wife contacted a fatal disease and died. The children were teenagers at the time. He had a new wife and one young child. The older children were placed in his custody, but were antagonistic to him and his new family. The children were rebellious, his new wife was upset, and things were going poorly at their school. The man was devoted to being a good father. A social worker assigned by the court suggested the children be placed in a foster home.

**What should this Master Mason do?**

**Situation 4. *Brotherhood.*** An elderly couple lived next door to a Master Mason and his wife. Their children were grown, and they were nearing retirement. This neighbor was constantly finding ways to help them. Soon his wife died, and as they had no children, he was alone. He was a retired policeman and a fellow Mason. He became an important part of this couple's lives. The neighbor had a stroke, and could no longer live alone. He had no money for any outside assistance. The couple had extra space in their home.

**What should this Master Mason do?**

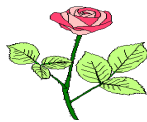
## **Chapter Rose Croix Conclusion**

**The Chapter of Rose Croix connects a Master Mason with the trials of life, and the experiences they provide. A common theme in all forms of religious thought is the practice of applying faith, hope and charity (love) to all of life's experiences.**

**The cross has many symbolic meanings that existed before the advent of Christianity. In Masonry it applies to circumstances that test our endurance as we are challenged to live by our Masonic principles. The vertical shaft represents a connection to the spiritual world. The horizontal bar represents life in the material world. The crosses we bear represent our material and spiritual conflicts.**

**The symbolism of the sword is a part of these degrees. It represents the limits we place on the behavior of others and the damage conflict can cause a Master Mason's body, mind, and spirit. Everyone has standards they will not violate. A Master Mason's challenge is to raise his standards to reach a step above his current level.**

**Life presents challenges and opportunities. Each challenge provides an opportunity to test our personal standards by assessing the results of our personal decisions. Our choices reveal what it means to be a Master Mason who demonstrates faith, hope and love to his fellow beings.**



**William C. Jacobson 33°**

**Rose Croix Quiz: What does a Mason learn from these degrees that will make him a Master Mason?**

**"Better to return and make a net, than to go down to the stream and wish for fish."**

**Chinese Proverb**

**\_\_\_15. There is a difference between preferences and principles. The BEST explanation of this difference is:**

- A. Preferences are temporary sensations while principles provide guidance and long term peace of mind.**
- B. Preferences focus specifically, while principles always guide one to the right behavior and conclusion.**
- C. Preferences endure long term, while principles have a short shelf life.**
- D. Preferences are things that make you do good, while principles are things that make you feel good.**

**"I will study and get ready and some day my chance will come."**

**Abraham Lincoln**

**\_\_\_16. All Words define things we need to understand. "Cross" is such a word. A traditional cross unites the vertical with the horizontal. **Why is the cross called a symbol of perfection?****

- A. Because crosses crucify and remove man's imperfections through life's necessary suffering.**
- B. Because a cross unifies vertical (spiritual) and horizontal (physical) characteristics.**
- C. Because Christ's death on the cross created the only way to personal salvation.**
- D. Because personal suffering on our crosses is God's requirement for personal spiritual salvation.**

**“The wheels of justice grind slowly, but they grind very fine.  
The night is filled with many stars.**

**We will live tomorrow in this dimension, or in the next.**

**It is always darkest just before the dawn.”**

**A definition of Karma– Author Unknown.**

**\_\_\_ 17. A Mason spends time in darkness before being brought to light. Why is this necessary?**

- A. Reflection is required to understand the seriousness of any obligation one is about to take.**
- B. It provides for an awareness of the dark forces that can entice man to do evil things.**
- C. A man goes into darkness to examine the inner thoughts of those who are conferring the degree.**
- D. It is in the dark that all things are ultimately resolved by true light that is always revealed.**

**A true Mason learns to reflect on the deity as he learns the principles inherent in the degrees of the Lodge of Perfection.**

**Paraphrase of Rex Hutchins, Bridge to Light.**

**\_\_\_ 18. The Kingdom of heaven is attainable while on earth. A Mason comes to understand:**

- A. Where the actual location is of heaven on earth.**
- B. That heaven and earth are abstractions without meaning.**
- C. That the heaven within is experience that advances his soul.**
- D. That earth involves this life, and heaven for all, the next life.**

**“It is the duty of every Sublime Mason to cherish his faith. Faith is the light that shines within him.”**

**Albert Pike.**

**Answers to Questions 15-18**

**15. A. Page 150. Principles control our conduct. We must understand to be able to master them.**

**16. B. Page 98. Hutchins explanation in Bridge to Light**

**17. A. Page 101 Hutchins explanation in Bridge to Light**

**18. C. Page 233 Pike's understanding of these words.**

**Masonic Educational Program**  
**“Situational Analysis”**  
**Created by**  
**William C. Jacobson 33°**  
**Cedar Rapids Scottish-Rite Valley**  
**Council of Kadosh**  
**&**  
**Consistory**



## **Council of Kadosh - 19<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>. Degrees**

**Kadosh is a word that describes the separation between the living and the dead. This section describes virtues that are "holy." These situations address the mysteries of life and death. There is always an opportunity to grow by understanding how and why decisions are made.**

**These degrees are both religious and philosophical because they explain life's mysteries. Our religious and philosophical beliefs determine the choices we make. We grow when we observe the impact our choices have on us and others.**

**A Master Mason must learn the virtues inherent in Masonry. These virtues are explained in the Council of Kadosh. The goal of each of these degrees is to help good men become better men.**

**The situations described in this section are paradoxical. What is right for one person may be wrong for another. The challenge of becoming a Master Mason is to know why we chose one path over another. We disclose our philosophy and our religion at the moment we decide what we will do. We learn as we live.**



## **19<sup>th</sup>. Degree -“Bridge Builder”**

**A Master Mason builds bridges that assist others regardless of race, creed, or location. He finds a way to be helpful in each situation life provides.**

**Trust your intuition, rather than technology, to protect you from harm. When you connect to your source, things are revealed.**

**Masonic Tools: Plumb, Square, Level, and Trowel.**

**Situation 1. (Non-Masons) A new Master Mason is ridiculed by others who aren't Masons. They mock him, and snidely refer to him as the Worshipful Master. *He remembers a verse in the Bible that reminds us not to cast pearls before swine.* He thinks his obligations prevent him from sharing Masonic Secrets with those who are not Masons. He believes strongly that Masonry could be helpful to some of his co-workers who ridicule him. He wants them to understand what Masonry is doing for him, and what it might do for them. He would like to help others benefit by becoming Masons.**

**What should this Master Mason do?**

**Situation 2. (Entitlement) A Mason believes his membership in a Masonic Lodge entitles him to certain rights and benefits. He believes he is entitled to a good deal by a brother who is a merchant. He believes Masonry will open doors for him at a brother's bank that had been closed before he became a Mason. He believes that if he violates the law, Masons who are in law enforcement, will help him escape punishment. He believes his Masonic friends in high places will keep him out of trouble. He follows this philosophy: Ask not what I can do for Masonry, rather ask what Masonry can do for me.**

**Will these thoughts make this man a Master Mason?**

## 20th. Degree - EXAMPLE

We learn by Example. *Each Master Mason is someone's image of a Mason.*

*At all times our behavior is an example for all who are watching.*

*Masonic Tools: All the working tools of a Master Mason.*

**Situation 1. (Consistency)** A brother is faithful in his lodge attendance, takes part in all the degrees, does all the work he is assigned. He is studying to become proficient in the ritual. He brags to others that he is a just and upright Mason as he attends lodge and pays his dues on time. At home he is not faithful to his wife and family. He spends many evenings in a local casino drinking and playing card games. And, He regularly steals from his employer thinking what he takes will never be missed. *A Master Mason is admonished to work to restore Masonry to its original primitive purity by the example he sets for others.*

What is the original purity of Freemasonry a Master Mason seeks to restore?

Is this man a Master Mason?

**Situation 2. (Marketing)** Masonry has endured the rise and fall of its membership over time. When membership has been low, several strategies have been suggested to attract new Masons. Lower initiation requirements, keeping dues low, radio advertisements, and slogans such as "2 be one, Ask 1" have all been utilized. Most of these efforts have met with limited success. Masonry is personal. We don't identify it with abstractions, we identify Masonry with the men who are Masons. Basic question:

Why did you petition a Masonic Lodge for membership?

As a Master Mason, how can you attract new Masons?

## **21st. Degree - Humility**

**You are no better than anyone else. You are different. Learn from the differences.**

**Masonic Tools: Common Gavel and Level.**

**Situation 1. (Intentions) A Mason was out with his family eating dinner in a restaurant. Next to his table was a father with four young children ages 3-9. The children were disruptive, not eating their food, talking loudly, and generally annoying all in the area. This was a special family outing, which was something that was important to you. Finally, you can take it no longer and speak to the father asking him to control his children. The man fixes his eyes on you and begins to speak. He said, "I'm sorry, we have just come from the hospital where their mother died. I haven't decided how to tell them so I came to this restaurant to have a meal and decide what to say."**

**As a Master Mason, what would you do?**

**"All that you put into the lives of others comes back into your own."**

**Situation 2. (Modesty) A Brother is picked up for drunken driving. He was involved in an accident that injured three other people. One person lost his leg in the accident. This story was on the front page of the daily local newspaper. You have long known that the brother was a social drinker, but he was not an alcoholic. You discover from the conversations of neighbors that his wife was having an affair, and he had just discovered it. He went to a bar to consider the situation. He drank more than he should. He stops by your office to visit with you.**

**As a Master Mason, what would you do in this situation?**

## 22nd. Degree -Labor

*A wind can't favor your sails until you pick a direction. God is infinite creativity. God is revealed in the moments a Master Mason labors to discover God in his life.*

*Masonic Tools: All the implements of Masonry*

**Situation 1. (Persistence)** A Mason grew up laboring to sustain himself. Every day he had to work hard to earn his daily bread. He decided that education was his only way to move from the lower to the higher levels of labor. He set a goal of working to get a college degree by going to school at night. He met several obstacles. His family, his boss and his friends thought he was wasting his time. It seemed that every step forward was followed by two steps backward. His attempts to get a four year degree had expanded to six years. Most of those, who give him advice, suggest he give it up and pursue other things. He needs another year to complete his degree.

**How does a Master Mason handle this situation?**

**Situation 2. (Transfer)** A Mason grows up with an intense work ethic. He is taught that he can work harder and things will get better. Everything he has done has been achieved by massive personal effort. He becomes Master of the Lodge and decides the best approach is to do all the work himself as it will then be done right. He expends great amounts of energy in the first months as Master. The lodge attendance declines, brothers seek other ways to contribute, and an attitude of detachment exists with his officers. He is nearing exhaustion, and starts to feel detached from his brothers as he continues to labor intensely to do all the work for the lodge.

**Is this brother laboring as a Master Mason who sets the craft at work and gives them proper instruction?**

**How does a Master Mason define leadership?**

## **23rd. Degree - Beliefs**

*Silent belief has enormous power, especially the power of our intentions.  
Belief precedes action and results.*

### **Masonic Tools: Volumes of Sacred Laws**

**Situation 1. (Mentors) A Master Mason paused in his life to reflect on those people who helped form his beliefs. His mentors helped develop his attitude toward women, family, money, labor, sacrifice, and God's place in his life. His Dad was argumentative, and always had to have the last word. Our fears, obsessions, compulsions, and addictions often come from the thoughts of others.**

**He wanted to change, but he didn't know how. He remembered someone told him that if things weren't what he wanted them to be, he could write down a different plan to get where he wanted to go. He decided to start small. He took his obsession to always have the last word in every argument, developed a written plan to allow others to have the final word, put it in place and recorded what happened. In three months he noticed his relations with his wife improved, his boss complimented him on his positive attitude, and his friends started to seek his company on a more frequent basis.**

### **Why did this happen?**

**Situation 2. (Reality) I am not what I think I am, I am not what others think I am, I am, what I think, others think I am.) A Mason was considered a good athlete. He was given a scholarship to play in college. When he arrived, he discovered a much higher level of athletics performance existed there. He struggled to compete with these new players. After one difficult practice he sat at his locker contemplating his future on the team thinking he should quit. He remained after the others all left. The coach and assistant coach were talking in the office nearby not knowing he was listening. He heard the coach say his name and commented that if he every figures out how good he can be he will be successful here. Things improved. He took a different road, and became successful in this experience.**

**What happened in this situation, and how does that impact the quest a man has to become a Master Mason?**

## 24th. Degree - Action

A Master Mason learns to think twice before he acts.

Chose battles carefully. In every situation a Master Mason must ask himself two questions: Who am I? And, what should I do in this situation?

Masonic Tools: The grips of an E.A. and a F.C. & the Common Gavel.

Action is not without a purpose; rather it is taken so we can learn what we don't know. Every action is preceded by a thought. Each thought is preceded by an intention.

**Situation 1. Discipline,** A man was intrigued by the martial art of Kung Fu. He joined a class to begin to learn it. The first day the teacher arranged his feet in the "horse stance." He left him in this position for 30 minutes. He came back and gently pushed him and he fell down. He made some adjustments and left again. This went on for 5 more sessions. The man's legs got stronger, but he was still impatient. Finally he asked his teacher. How long did you have to stay in this position before you could move on and learn Kung Fu. His response was three years.

The teacher said to the man, "What you seek you will not find until you have the discipline to change yourself. You want to learn Kung Fu without changing yourself. That is not possible. You must change yourself to learn something new." Many men are made Master Masons before they know what it means to be one. They have not changed their thoughts or their actions, thus the results they achieve don't get them where they need to go.

**How does one's actions make a man a Master Mason?**

**How is a Master Mason different from other men?**

**Masonic Tools:** The life course of a Master Mason does not change, he does. The dark and white tiles on the floor of the lodge represent the dark and light shadows on the road of life.

**Situation 2. (Direction)** A Master Mason entered a marathon in the mountains. This was the first time he had done this marathon, but he had completed many others. He started the race up a long uphill grade. He reasoned that what goes up, must come down. In every other marathon there were uphill and downhill grades.

He started to get angry as the road only continued uphill. He believed that what goes up, must come down. Soon he fumed that this wasn't fair. *Suddenly he had an insight. The course is not going downhill, it is all uphill. His attitude and action pattern changed.* Knowing it was all uphill allowed him to finish the race and feel good about his actions.

A Master Mason has to learn one fact about his experiences in the school of life. The course he follows through life doesn't change, he does. Each day a Master Mason must ask himself, what race am I running, and how much am I resisting the direction of the course?

**What things cause a Master Mason to choose a direction for his life?**

**When we meet on the level does that mean that all Master Masons will travel the same path to a destination?**

## **25th. Degree - Courage**

**Courage Means Doing the Right Thing.**

*The Test of Courage is how you feel after the event.*

*Masonic Tools: Common Gavel, Trowel, Blindfold.*

**Situation 1. (Fortitude) A Master Mason has been married a long time. His children are in their teenage years. Each day he is faced with many challenges in his work, in the community, and with his home life. His wife knows him well, and he knows her well. There are no illusions in their relationship. Trouble comes into his life on a daily basis.**

**He has challenges, and decides how he will deal with them. He looks back at the patterns of behavior he has learned from his parents and the extended family. He has a church membership and maintains a strong faith in his God. His oldest son is picked up for driving drunk. His wife blames him for their son's behavior as he sees his father drink more than he should on occasion. He questions whether he should remain in his marriage.**

**The marriage has been filled with stress as his wife is constantly critical of his behavior. As he ponders his course of action, he hears a pastor say "The best thing a man can do for his children is to love their mother."**

**What is the best course of action for this Master Mason?**

**How is courage involved in this process?**

***A Courageous Person is braver five minutes longer.***

**Situation 2. (Business) A Master Mason is struggling to keep his business going. He has been hit hard by the recession. He had to lay off several of his workers, and struggles to maintain his payroll. He has been in business a long time, and is given counsel by his banker that he should liquidate his business and get a job that provides him with a regular income. His wife and family agree with the banker. He has had difficulty working for others, and always took great pride in his ability to make his business profitable.**

**He knows that a small turn of events could make his business profitable again. He has a list of accounts owing him money, and if they pay, he will be able to turn his business around. Many of the people who owe him money are his friends and fellow Masons. His banker urges him to secure the services of a collection agency to collect the money.**

**As he contemplates his situation, he considers what the businesses he owes money would do if he didn't pay them. He goes to bed that evening knowing that in the morning he will awaken and know the right thing to do.**

**What is the right thing for this Master Mason to do in this situation?**

**What does a Master Mason owe another Master Mason?**

## 26th. Degree – Ecumenicity

*There are many faiths but only one God.*

*An ecumenical Master Mason seeks to understand and respect the beliefs of others.*

*Masonic Tools: Trowel & Volumes of Sacred Laws*

**Situation 1. (Awareness) Many encounter religions that seek to convert others to their beliefs. They follow a religious dogma, they require members to make contributions of time and money, and they offer salvation to those who join.**

**There are many religions, but only one God. Masons profess a belief in a geometric form of energy that is available by asking, seeking, and finding. A Master Mason embraces self realization as he seeks to understand the spiritual laws common to all religions. These laws follow a common premise, as you sow, so shall you reap. Or, what you do unto others will be done unto you.**

**A Master Mason is encouraged to select and embrace his religion, and keep an open mind to the religions of others. He seeks to understand spiritual beliefs to find self realization.**

**How does a Master Mason determine his personal religious beliefs?**

**How does a Master Mason honor the religious beliefs of others?**

**Masonic Tools:** All the implements of Masonry, and the volumes of sacred laws.

**Situation 2. (Guilt)** A Master Mason belongs to a church that is expanding its building. His father dies and leaves him some money in his estate. It is not a large amount, but substantial.

He has a visit from his pastor regarding his contribution to the new building campaign. The pastor knew that his father was a man of means, and that he was also a member of the church. He had ministered to his father and mother when they were alive. The pastor told the Master Mason he had a duty to honor the memory of his parents by making a substantial contribution to the building project.

The Master Mason has expanded his religious beliefs and now doubts many of the assertions of this church and is not a regular attendee. His wife and family also do not attend regularly, and are not willing to give anything to the church project. The pastor leaves reminding this brother that he has an obligation to honor the memory of his parents with his contribution.

**What should this Master Mason do?**

**How can a Master Mason overcome personal guilt regarding things in the past?**

## **27th. Degree - - Obedience**

*We must question any authority that goes too far and asks us to blindly follow orders that go against our conscience.*

*Masonic Tool: The Balance Scale*

**Situation 1. Obedience to Authority. A Master Mason becomes an officer in his lodge. He is told he is obligated to follow the dictates of the Worshipful Master who is in charge of the lodge. A brother Mason is picked up for drunk driving where an accident occurred where another person was killed.**

**The Worshipful Master delivers a strong condemnation of this brother's behavior at the next lodge meeting. He suggests the brother be dropped as a member of the lodge pointing out that no Master Mason can remain one who commits a crime of this nature. Those in attendance seems to be in agreement. Before a vote is taken, a brother who knows the Mason who committed the crime rises to speak. He points out that the brother lost his house to foreclosure, and his wife had filed for divorce on the day this happened.**

**Another brother speaks up saying no situation can ever justify taking the life of another person. *The Worshipful Master suggests that those who are true Master Masons know that the difficult thing to do is always the right thing*, therefore brothers who are obedient to the teachings of Masonry have no choice but to vote to dismiss this brother. He calls for a vote.**

**As a Master Mason, who is an officer in this lodge, how would you vote?**

**If a higher authority tells you to do something you know is wrong according to your standards, would you do it?**

**A Master Mason puts people above the system.**

Masonic tools. Plumb, square, and level. Trowel and balance scale.

***Situation 2. (Breaking a Rule) A brother is a member of a union and feels an obligation to perform his duties consistent with the negotiated contract that exists to govern his behavior. He holds a supervisory position where he manages twenty other people in an organization. One individual comes to him with a request to be absent from work for three days to be able to be present when his wife's mother has surgery in a distant city. The man's wife is distraught as the Doctor has told them that the mother would not likely survive the surgery. The contract provides only one day for such an absence which means the employee would be docked for two days pay to be in attendance.***

*The supervisor signs off on all approved leaves, and no one else would know if two more days were allowed. The other workers would be aware of the deviation, and some might report him for violating the contract. He has been supervisor for two years and knows the character of the workers he supervises. The one making the request is a good worker, who willingly puts in overtime for which he isn't compensated, to make sure work is completed on time.*

***As a Master Mason, what should this supervisor do in this situation?***

***What are the potential outcomes of each course of action he might chose?***

***Disobedience is difficult. Why will one person disobey authority while many others will not?***

## **28th. Degree –Understanding**

**God works in mysterious ways. Understanding is necessary to transmit cultural customs, beliefs, and values.**

**Masonic Tools. The Trowel, The White Leather Apron.**

**Situation 1. *Happiness.* The greatest power in life is our power to choose. Our choices can determine if we consider ourselves happy. A Master Mason focuses his life by limiting his choices. He lives by certain standards that restrict the options available to him. If married, he remains loyal to his wife and doesn't have other options available to him.**

**Humans are either maximizers or satisficers. A maximizer shops until he has found the best available alternative. A satisficer settles for what is good enough. When a maximizer makes his best choice, he is still unhappy. He still believes he could have made a better choice. Satisficers don't believe they can create a perfect world therefore an imperfect world doesn't bother them. They are satisfied.**

**Happiness is always situational. A Master Mason comes to believe that it can be achieved by making some decisions irreversible and learning to appreciate what one has. Comparisons seldom produce happiness.**

**What decisions do Master Masons make that must remain irreversible?**

**When is happiness possible?**

***Leadership doesn't depend on technical skills. A Master Mason learns to lead others by discovering their level of knowledge.***

***Situation 2. Curse of Knowledge.*** The challenge for all Master Masons is to remember what it was like to NOT KNOW something. Others don't always know what we know. If they don't, we must find a way to teach them.

Experience and observation both teach people what they don't know. A man has studied and learned Masonry most of his life. He is two generations removed from the young people now becoming Masons. He knows it would be easy to condemn them, and realizes that is not the answer. He attempts to remember what it was like to when he was their age. The more he studies them as an abstraction, the more difficult it becomes. When he becomes concrete and attempts to answer questions such as these, he starts to understand them better.

**What does it take for young people to meet the expectations for the good life that exist today?**

**How are those expectations different than they were when he was their age?**

**How are these expectations similar to the universal lessons all Master Masons must learn through each stage of life?**

## **29th. Degree-Tolerance**

*A Master Mason knows what he will tolerate and what he won't allow.  
Some attempt to elude personal responsibility for what they do. They  
allow others to decide how they feel and dictate what they should do.  
They become fanatics in support of an unworthy cause.*

*Masonic Tools. Common Gavel, Level, Square, Plumb, & Trowel*

**Situation 1. Prejudice.** A Master Mason grew up in a rural culture that didn't include people of different races. As everyone was the same, the attitude toward people of other races was a general intolerance. If someone was different, they were less valuable.

In college he encountered people of different races and nationalities. At first he was guided by the thinking of his past. Yet, as he got to know these people, things changed. He discovered that intelligence, skills, good manners, and respect for others were qualities common to all races.

When he joined a Masonic lodge, he heard from his brothers that no *nigger* could ever be a Mason. He noticed that this attitude was common in many of the members of the same generation. He also observed change on the national and world scale that elevated minorities and women to different social levels. Change was slow, but it happened. Masonry today is more open than it has been at anytime in American History.

**Has this been a good or bad development for Masonry?**

**Will women ever be allowed to become Masons?**

**Why is tolerance important to a Master Mason?**

*A Master Mason's becomes what he thinks. He grows when he considers the reactions of others to his thoughts, words, and deeds.*

***Situation 2. Accomplishment. A man becomes a Master Mason. His mentor tells him that a true Master Mason learns the ritual word perfect so he can demonstrate to others that he has arrived at a place where he truly possesses Masonic Wisdom. He studies, and does the necessary work to be declared proficient by the Grand Lodge. He earns the title associated by that accomplishment, and continues to attend his and other lodges to participate in the degrees.***

***He takes great pride in presenting a degree as near to perfection as he can. He is frustrated by the poor performance of others in the lodge as they present the degrees. He is quick to criticize when someone does something wrong. He seeks out the newer officers and tells them what they need to do to improve. He wants everyone to know how hard he has worked to get to be an expert on Masonic Ritual. He feels they will value his suggestions, as he is a declared expert on Masonic ritual.***

***True wisdom is seeing and helping others achieve their potential. Everyone learns differently, yet all learners have one thing in common. No one wants to be embarrassed in front of his peers. Masonry is always a journey, it is not a destination. No one ever reaches a point of perfection where he can't improve.***

***No degree is ever conferred perfectly. The candidate does not know the difference between a perfect degree and the one he is receiving. Masonry is a builder's art. We arrive by striving for a better place, and by realizing that we are not all at the same place. We grow by showing tolerance to another's journey.***

***What is the purpose of ritual in a Masonic Lodge?***

***Can you determine what a candidate's perception of Masonry will be by the way a degree is conferred?***

***Can you identify some lines from the Masonic ritual that teach tolerance?***

### **30th. Degree – Individuality**

***"The only thing new in this world is the History you don't know."***

*Harry Truman 33<sup>d</sup>. President of the United States of America.*

***All Masons exist on the level when they have reverence for the differences in others.***

***Masonic tools: Common Gavel, Trowel.***

**Situation 1. Individual Differences, A Master Mason wanted to form a study group for his lodge. He organized a night to view a DVD on the History of Masonry. He did the necessary things to get a good crowd of Masons to attend. The DVD was an hour and ten minutes long. When it was over, he asked for questions. No one volunteered. He then passed out an evaluation to be completed before they left. The evaluations were critical of the event. The most common criticism was that it was too long. Other referred to it as boring.**

**All humans learn differently. At best with a large group the only agreement you can get is that they are present. Each Mason will organize information in a way that is comfortable for him to learn. It is called a learning style. Learning styles are based on individual differences. Humans have similarities and differences. Both of these have to be recognized in any learning situation.**

**Some people have to see a model of what they will learn. Some people prefer to read to get information. Some people want to discuss it to know what others are feeling. Some want an expert to tell them what it means. In any group there is always a diversity of learners and each has a preference for learning. The trick is to discover things the group has in common.**

**What could this Master Mason have done to increase the probability of success in this situation.**

**When we acknowledge our differences, is it necessary to recognize our similarities. How are we alike?**

**Do Masonic teachings connect to all men regardless of their learning styles?**

*Judge Not Lest Yee Be Judged.*

*Discerning and judging are not the same thing for a Master Mason.*

*Masonic Tool: The Balance Scale*

**Situation 2. *Conscious Behavior.*** Judgment is a negative emotional reaction one has to a situation. It applies when you don't like what you see, when you resist what you experience, when you want others to change, and when your expectations have not been met. Discernment is seeing a situation as what it is. You retain a detachment that does not produce an emotional reaction. You feel no need to change the other person, thing, or circumstance. You apply no condemnation in your analysis.

**A Master Mason has observed the behavior of many different Grand Masters in his Masonic life. He holds the position as one worthy of respect, and expects a high standard of decorum from this individual. At a Grand Lodge meeting he watched a Grand Master embarrass himself in front of a Grand Lodge audience in an attempt to be cute. He started a session by throwing Frisbees to the crowd.**

**His immediate reaction was negative. He felt it was below the dignity of the office. He could see no reason for such behavior at this event. To the person next to him, he described the Grand Master as an *ignorant ass*. He got upset, and left the session.**

**Was this Master Mason practicing judgment or discernment?**

**Is it possible to eliminate judgment from our lives?**

**Why does judgment produce a loss of energy in a person?**

## Concluding Thoughts

The purpose of the Council of Kadosh is to move a Master Mason to higher levels of understanding. One must advance from knowing something, to be able to apply it, and then learn to analyze what it means. The degrees use words such as a knighthood to refer to a high standard of behavior. Religion is used to help each person understand the spiritual dimension of life. And, philosophy and psychology are used to describe why a person behaves in a particular way.

A Master Mason uses his working tools to think and behave like a knight. He lets an appropriate tool guide his spirit in his daily decisions. And, he uses his tools to create a philosophy of life that embraces change while maintaining a consistent path in his life. He learns he cannot change others. His primary challenge is to discover how he can change himself. He discovers that wisdom lets experience help him avoid making the same mistake twice.

These degrees are complex, but not difficult. Complex because they connect to others, they require personal labor, and they require greater understanding. One Mason gets one thing from a degree while another perceives something different.

A Master Mason continues to live his life through the experiences he acquires each day. His goal is simple. He strives to be better today than he was yesterday.



The Council of Kadosh helps a Master Mason use the square, plumb and level in all the situations in his life. That is his challenge.



\_\_\_ 19. A Mason professes belief in God. What is the role of God to a Mason?

- A. God has laws that he adjusts to individual circumstances.
- B. God can be found through all religious practices.
- C. God created man and gave him a moral compass for choices.
- D. God is explained clearly to Masons in all Masonic rituals.

**“Masonry is not a Religion, but Religion; not a church, but a worship in which men of all Religions may unite.”**

**Joseph Fort Newton.**

\_\_\_ 20. Albert Pike developed a working definition of Religion

He believed:

- A. Each Mason must belong to a Religion of his choice.
- B. That Honor and Duty are part of any Mason’s true Religion.
- C. That Religion had no place at all in the practice of Masonry.
- D. Any Religion is compatible with all Masonic Expectations.

**“The word sin is not included in any Masonic Ritual because Masons know that human shortcomings can be overcome through spiritual learning.”**

**Ada Coil**

\_\_\_ 21. Masons labor each day. A true laborer:

- A. Must believe that any productive labor impacts all.
- B. Knows intentional labors are known and understood by God.
- C. Chooses the right outcome, before he does anything.
- D. Works to benefit only those who truly deserve the labor.



**A sudden bold and unexpected question doth many times  
surprise a man and lay him open.**

**Francis Bacon**

**\_\_\_ 22. Masonry serves as a guide to the conduct of Mankind.**

**A Mason:**

- A. Understands, seeks, and welcomes all personal challenges.**
- B. Understands that labor is always acceptable to God**
- C. Understands that prudence in labor is always required.**
- D. Understands, seeks, and finds a way to do the right thing.**

**Fame is like a river, it reflects things light and swollen, and  
drowns things weighty and solid.**

**Francis Bacon**

**\_\_\_ 23. Zurabbabel encountered robbers on a bridge. He  
prevailed but lost a valuable collar. Symbolically, this reminds us:**

- A. Experiences involve unexpected & costly struggles.**
- B. Gifts from others are often hidden in this life.**
- C. Allegories are sometimes confused with historical fact.**
- D. The collar signifies a strong Masonic connection.**

**God's first visible presence was light.**

**Francis Bacon**

\_\_\_ 24. Masonry seeks that which was lost when we were born. That is called *The Lost Word: The Lost word:*

- A. Was not a word, but a metaphor for man's existence.
- B. Illustrates man's loss of understanding of what God is.
- C. Was not lost, merely unknown, thus it can be found
- D. Is found by literally doing what Masonry teaches.

Above all things let us never forget that mankind constitutes one great brotherhood; all born to encounter suffering and sorrow, and therefore bound by sympathize with each other.

Albert Pike

\_\_\_ 25. Masonry provides an understanding between Religion and Science. That is:

- A. Science expresses Religion as it reveals God's mysteries.
- B. Science is always subservient to the true religion.
- C. Religion can only be understood in scientific terms.
- D. Religion and Science are separate studies of the same thing.

What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal.

Albert Pike

\_\_\_ 26. Mason's lives and connects with others. A Mason becomes a Bridge-Builder, which means:

- A. Masons builds great cathedrals as a bridge to God.
- B. Masons bridge the past to the future to connect the present.
- C. Masons always puts the feelings of others ahead of theirs.
- D. Masons transcend today's feelings for tomorrow's goals.

**A man should live with his superiors as he does with fire: not too near, lest he burn; nor too far off, lest he freeze.**

Albert Pike

\_\_\_ 27. Masons expect to create good government to guide all men. They answer this question, are we governed by the dead, or by the living?

- A. The living because they interpret the lives of the dead.
- B. The dead are passed what matters is the here and now.
- C. The dead have had their day, the living control the world.
- D. The dead created the laws and customs that still guide us.

**Secret in a Masonic sense is something that is not hidden from the rest of the world, secret is synonymous with mystery. It is secretly mysterious because we do not completely understand it**

Albert Pike

\_\_\_ 28. The BEST way to learn Masonic lessons is to:

- A. Read and re-read **Morals and Dogma, Bridge To Light, Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor & Guide** to learn what Masonry is.
- B. Attend reunions, lodge meetings and Shrine Ceremonials to learn from others.
- C. Memorize the Ritual and deliver it to others in a letter perfect form.
- D. Understand that we live as an example that teaches others who and what we are, believe, and do.

**Doubt, the essential preliminary of all improvement and discovery, accompanies all the stages of man's onward progress.**

**Albert Pike**

\_\_\_ 29. Pike suggests that we are to speak of the virtues of others, and let others speak of their vices. Why?

- A. A true Mason never defames another worthy man.
- B. You must not speak about others to avoid confusion.
- C. In all situations it is BEST to never speak ill of another.
- D. Speak only about the vices of others when you must.

**What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us;  
what we have done for others and the world remains and  
is immortal.**

**Albert Pike**

**\_\_\_30. A Mason daily puts to death unworthy thoughts and deeds. Each day involves a symbolic Death and Resurrection: This process:**

- A. Changes old thoughts with new and different thoughts.**
- B. Prepares a Mason to die when the time comes.**
- C. Lets old thoughts die to remove all temptations.**
- D. Is the only way the real secrets of Masonry can survive.**

**ANSWERS**

- 19. C. Page 103**      **Hutchins explanation in**  
**Bridge to Light**
- 20. B. Page 92**      **Pike believed honor and duty was religious**
- 21. B. Page 195**      **We impact those who follow us.**
- 22. D. Page 106**      **Masons must do the right thing.**
- 23. A. Page 121**      **Moving from bondage is never easy.**
- 24. B. Page 129**      **An awareness of the connection to God is what was lost.**
- 25. A. Page 145**      **Science is the expression of religion**
- 26. B. Page 165**      **One must bridge to the future.**
- 27. D. Page 167**      **We follow laws created by those who are now dead.**
- 28. D. Page 170**      **Example is the most powerful educational strategy.**
- 29. A. Page 182**      **Defaming another is unacceptable to a Mason**
- 30. A. Page 220**      **Our thoughts create our future.**

## ***The Consistory***

### **31<sup>st</sup>. and 32<sup>nd</sup>. Degrees.**

**These degrees define the ultimate skill of a Master Mason. Many striving Masons desire to feel love, delight, fulfillment, and closeness to God without directing the inner qualities they possess to attain a spiritual balance in their lives. A Master Mason learns to step back from any situation and allow the energy of God to bring a workable solution. He learns to listen to that small voice within which provides answers.**

**To become a Master Mason it is necessary to focus attention on the seeds of the soul and bring them to life. These seeds can grow a Mason into a Master Mason.**

**The difference between the invisible world and the visible is the rate of vibration. Slowing down the rate of vibration makes the invisible, visible. A Master Mason has learned to manifest into reality those thoughts that are held in a state of focused intention. He overcomes his ego, and connects to his authentic power. He uses what he learns in Masonry to increase his awareness of life.**

**Equilibrium teaches that the world's way isn't God's way. A Master Mason learns to step back and cease controlling, planning, postponing and hoarding. He gives to others expecting nothing in return. He comes to know that all he puts into the lives of others comes back into his own. That is the art of living in equilibrium.**

**A Master Mason asks himself three questions.**

**1. Do I feel fulfilled and happy with what I have done and what I am doing?**

**2. Is my personal philosophy of life working for me in all aspects of my life?**

**3. Do my intentions, thoughts, and actions bring the right results for me?**

**Life does not provide dress rehearsals. Our actions often require an automatic response. A Master Mason must live in the here and now. Ultimately, a Master Mason learns the path to immortality is more than an outward appearance of piety. It is an inward awareness that comes from reactions to situations where his decisions define him.**

### **31<sup>st</sup>. Degree – Intention**

*We are not judged by other men. Ultimately, we judge ourselves.*

*To strive for the BEST, but to be content with the BEST POSSIBLE, is true wisdom. The intention behind each action reveals a Master Mason's character.*

*Masonic Tool: Blindfold*

**Situation 1. Victim.** A Master Mason was reflecting on his life with another Mason. As he explained all the things that happened to him, he was quick to put the blame on others. He blamed his parents for his failure in school. He blamed his wife for his divorce. He blamed his church for his lack of faith. And, he blamed his children for his lack of money. Each event that happened in his life was someone else's fault. If he was picked up for speeding, it was the patrolman's fault. His attitude was that of a classic victim. He wasn't sorry that he broke the law, but he was sorry that he got caught.

**What is keeping this man from becoming a Master Mason?**

**Who is the real victim in this story?**

*Masonic Reference: Acts of the Ruffians.*

**Situation 2. Saboteur.** A Master Mason worked his way through college, got a good job, got married and started to raise a family. He established himself in the community, joined a church and had earned two promotions at work. He began to hear rumors that he would be the next chief executive officer of his company. Yet, like all men, he had his demons. They were the doubts in his mind that he was not capable of a higher level job. He started to believe that his reach had exceeded his grasp.

The CEO position opened up, and he was encouraged to apply. The chairman of the board visited with him and mentioned that he was a viable candidate. Everything looked favorable.

On the way home that evening he stopped in a bar and had several drinks. He knew he shouldn't drive, yet he did. He was picked up for driving drunk. His name appeared in the morning paper, and his opportunity for advancement disappeared.

**Why did this happen?**

**What could this Master Mason have done to avoid this situation?**

**Why do some people consciously sabotage themselves?**

## 32<sup>nd</sup>. Degree – Equilibrium

*The Royal Secret is not something to be hidden from the rest of the world. It is the mystery involved in living in balance.*

*We must live this live and prepare for the next. We are here to learn from our mistakes.*

*Masonic Tool: The Balance Scale.*

**Situation 1. Childhood. The child is the father of the man. Each person has beliefs from childhood that guide his or her activities as adults. A man looks back on his youth and remembers that his father was a strong person. He ran his household with an iron hand. He treated his mother with harsh expectations, and seldom consulted her on anything. He remained an autocrat in charge of all family matters.**

**As his father's son he is now married and tends to treat his wife in a similar manner. Times have changed and circumstances are different.**

**He is now on this third marriage, and still has problems considering his wife as an equal partner in the marriage. The children are rebellious, and cause many problems.**

**The man is a Mason and attends lodge on a regular basis. He is loyal to the Worshipful Master and the officers of the lodge. He has a firm belief that things need to be done a certain way. He is comfortable in that approach.**

**What is this Master Mason missing in his life?**

**Where and how will he find equilibrium?**

*There are no easy decisions. There are only decisions with different degrees of difficulty.*

*We make choices that impact the moment often without considering what happens next.*

**Situation 2. What is your price?** A Master Mason is enjoying a drink in a bar. An attractive lady sits down at his table. He knows she is a lady of the evening. He asks her if she will go to bed with him for \$1,000,000.00 dollars. She says yes. He then asks her if she will go to bed with him for \$5.00. Offended, she asks him what he thinks she is. He responds, we have already established that, now we are negotiating.

Each Master Mason has to ask himself a basic question. What is my price? Will I do anything if someone offers me a high enough price? Everything in life comes with a price-tag. If we chose to do something, there is always a consequence. Installment debt always involves a payback schedule. That is true of each choice life offers. There is a difference between knowing the price today, and understanding the long term effect it will have on future events.

***What criteria does a Master Mason use in establishing the price he will accept for his service?***

***Are there things a Master Mason would never do at any price?***

***Why are these things different for each Master Mason?***

**A Philosophy is a journey that seeks but never arrives at an understanding of truth. Truth is an individual quest that is continuous and never complete.**

**Albert Pike**

**\_\_\_31. The Double Headed Eagle is a symbol of the Scottish-Rite. It symbolizes:**

- A. The need to always look back before looking ahead.**
- B. The seen and the unseen parts of Freemasonry.**
- C. A Mason's need for a 360°vision of the world.**
- D. Past reflections and future contemplations.**

**We have all the light we need, we just need to put it in practice and let our experiences guide us to a new level of truth.**

**Albert Pike**

**\_\_\_32. Membership grows and declines. When Masonic membership declines:**

- A. Fewer members allow dedicated members an opportunity to create a new future.**
- B. Fewer members means inactivity and dogma become the foundation of Masonic laws.**
- C. Doors are opened that allow all deserving youth to become Masons.**
- D. Worn out customs and traditions are replaced with new Masonic Principles.**

**The sovereignty over one's self is called Liberty. A Master Mason's belief in liberty allows him to find his path to light.**

**Albert Pike**

**\_\_\_33. All Masons search to discover personal success and individual peace of mind. They seek to find God in all things as they live each day. The Royal Secret suggests that:**

- A. All life is personal, and ultimately Man is free to do as he pleases.**
- B. Life involves equilibrium, the embrace of opposites which helps a Master Mason find peace.**
- C. A struggle exists between good and evil and ultimately good always prevails.**
- D. Understanding can always be found by a majority vote of the assembled brethren.**

**“Words, written and spoken, remain the most powerful medicine known to man.”**

**Rudyard Kipling**

**Answers:**

**31. D. Page 284  
back and ahead**

**We know where we are by looking**

**32. A. Page 291  
allows change**

**Eliminating uncommitted brothers**

**33. B. Page 323  
find truth.**

**Life involves balancing opposites to**



**In Greek mythology Sisyphus, a King of Corinth, was condemned to roll a big boulder up a mountain. When he got it to the top, it rolled back down the hill, and he had to start over and do it again. He was condemned to this existence because of his past actions. Those actions revealed he hadn't learned his lessons. This myth is a metaphor for life. At the top of our mountain we return and begin again gaining that which we learned from the previous efforts.**

**Becoming a Master Mason is a journey toward a mysterious destination. It is different for each Mason, and, when we arrive, it changes to a new destination.**

**Masonry is the progressive discovery of who we are. That is what the journey through the degrees of the Scottish-Rite provides. We change and learn to be better Masons. Our challenge is to enjoy and learn from our experiences.**

**William C. Jacobson Ph.D. 33°**

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**Joseph Fort Newton, The Builders – A Story and Study of Freemasonry. Macon Publishing, New York, 1914. “Here lies the secret of Masonry that it makes a man aware of that divinity within him, whereby his whole life takes its beauty and meaning. Masonry inspires him to follow his divinity making his existence a process of self-discovery, self-mastery and self discipline. Man’s spiritual perception defines who and what he is.**

**Ernest L. Norman, The Infinite Contact. 1960  
This book explains spiritual awareness and what it means for one seeking more light. Published by Unarius, Science of life El Cayon, California**

**Gary Zukav, Soul to Soul, This book provides short insights into the nature of each person’s soul and what we can learn about who and what we are. It provides valuable insights into the human experience.**

## **Educational Program Guide**

**These situations are designed as discussion topics for a group of Masons seeking greater light. We learn by listening to others as we consider answers to questions.**

### **Suggested Strategies:**

- 1. These situations can be utilized in a small group, six or less, or a large group 10 or more. They will work well in both settings.**
- 2. Begin each discussion by having someone read aloud the situation.**
- 3. Allow anyone to offer answers to the questions.**
- 4. In a small group, this can be done with the whole group participating. In a large group, have each participant get a partner and discuss what each considers to be an appropriate answer.**
- 5. The group leader needs to monitor the discussion, keep things moving, and make sure each person is given a chance to contribute. There are no right or wrong answers. Answers are either good, better and best based on each person's circumstances.**
- 6. The goal of each discussion is for each person to formulate a vision of what it means to be a Master Mason in the process of day to day decision making.**

**Enjoy the journey, as you aim for the destination:**

**Expanded Light In Masonry.**