



FRANK REED HORTON MEMORIAL LODGE NO. 379, F. & A. M.

UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES

Capitol Masonic Temple, Matalino St., Central Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines

Lecture No. 5 **Rights of Entered Apprentices & Fellow Crafts** July 7, 2009

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Excerpts from Albert Mackey's "Principles of Masonic Law" and "Jurisprudence of Freemasonry"

The Entered Apprentice:

1. At present, an Entered Apprentice is not considered a member of the Lodge, which privilege is only extended to Master Masons. This was not formerly the case.
2. Then the Master's degree was not as indiscriminately conferred as it is now.
 - A. A longer probation and greater mental or moral qualifications were required to entitle a candidate to this sublime dignity. None were called Master Masons but such as had presided over their Lodges, and the office of Wardens was filled by Fellow Crafts.
 - B. Entered Apprentices, as well as Fellow Crafts, were permitted to attend the communications of the Grand Lodge, and express their opinions; and, in 1718, it was enacted that every new regulation, proposed in the Grand Lodge, should be submitted to the consideration of even the youngest Entered Apprentice.
 - C. Brethren of this degree composed, in fact, at that time, the great body of the Craft. But, all these things have, since, by the gradual improvement of our organization, undergone many alterations; and Entered Apprentices seem now, by universal consent, to be restricted to a very few rights.
3. They have the right ...
 - A. of sitting in all lodges of their degree;
 - B. of receiving all the instructions which appertain to it, but not of speaking or voting; and,
 - C. lastly, of offering themselves as candidates for advancement, without the preparatory necessity of a formal written petition.
4. These being admitted to be the rights of an Entered Apprentice, few and unimportant as they may be, they are as dear to him as those of a Master Mason are to one who has been advanced to that degree; and he is, and ought to be, as firmly secured in their possession.

5. Therefore, as no Mason can be deprived of his rights and privileges, except after a fair and impartial trial, and the verdict of his peers, it is clear that the Entered Apprentice cannot be divested of these rights without just such a trial and verdict.
6. But next is the inquiry whether the privilege of being passed as a Fellow Craft is to be enumerated among these rights?
 - A. Clearly, the answer is No. The Entered Apprentice has the right of making the application.
 - B. Herein he differs from a profane, who has no such right of application until he has qualified himself for making it, by becoming an Entered Apprentice. But, if the application is granted, it is *ex gratia*, or, by the favour of the Lodge, which may withhold it, if it pleases.
 - C. If such were not the case, the Lodge would possess no free will on the subject of advancing candidates; and the rule requiring a probation and an examination, before passing, would be useless and absurd — because, the neglect of improvement or the want of competency would be attended with no penalty.
 - D. He is, by a rejection of his request, left in the same position that he formerly occupied. He is still an Entered Apprentice, in good standing; and the Lodge may, at any time it thinks proper, reverse its decision and proceed to pass him.
 - E. If, however, he is specifically charged with any offense against the laws of Masonry, it would then be necessary to give him a trial. The opinion of the Lodge should be taken, and, according to the verdict, penalized.
7. The effect of these two methods of proceeding is very different.
 - A. When, by a spontaneous action of the Lodge, the Lodge refuses to advance an Entered Apprentice, there is not, necessarily, any stigma on his moral character.
 - 1) It may be, that the refusal is based on the ground that he has not made sufficient proficiency to entitle him to pass.
 - 2) Consequently, his standing as an Entered Apprentice is not at all affected. His rights remain the same.
 - B. But, if he be tried on a specific charge, and be suspended or expelled, his moral character is affected.
 - 1) His Masonic rights are forfeited;
 - 2) He can no longer be considered as an Entered Apprentice in good standing until the suspension or expulsion is removed by the spontaneous action of the Lodge.

8. These two proceedings work differently in another respect.
 - A. The Grand Lodge will not interfere with a subordinate Lodge in compelling it to pass an Entered Apprentice; because every Lodge is supposed to be competent to finish, in its own time, and its own way, the work that it has begun.
 - B. But, as the old regulations, as well as the general consent of the Craft, admit that the Grand Lodge alone can expel from the rights and privileges of Masonry, and that an expulsion by a subordinate Lodge is inoperative until it is confirmed by the Grand Lodge, it follows that the expulsion of the Apprentice must be confirmed by that body; and that, therefore, he has a right to appeal to it for a reversal of the sentence, if it was unjustly pronounced.
 - 1) Our Constitution has provided for this in Art. VI, Sec. D (Secs. 23 through 27) on Objections and Prohibitions.
 - 2) Likewise, Art. XVII, Sec. 4 also provides for the 12-month time frame by which the Entered Apprentice (or Fellow Craft) should prepare himself for advancement.
9. Let it not be said that this would be placing an Apprentice on too great an equality with Master Masons.
 - A. His rights are dear to him; he has paid for them.
 - B. No man would become an Apprentice unless he expected, in time, to be made a Fellow Craft, and then a Master.
10. He is, therefore, morally and legally wronged when he is deprived, without sufficient cause, of the capacity of fulfilling that expectation.
 - A. It is the duty of the Grand Lodge to see that not even the humblest member of the Craft shall have his rights unjustly invaded; and it is therefore bound, as the conservator of the rights of all, to inquire into the truth, and administer equity.
 - B. Whenever, therefore, even an Entered Apprentice complains that he has met with injustice and oppression, his complaint should be investigated and justice administered.

The Fellow Craft:

1. In ancient times there were undoubtedly many rights attached to the second degree which have now become obsolete or been repealed.
 - A. Formerly the great body of the fraternity were Fellow Crafts, and according to the old charges, even the Grand Master might be elected from among them.
 - B. The Master and Wardens of Subordinate Lodges always were.
 - C. Thus we learned that no Brother can be Grand Master then,
"unless he has been a Fellow Craft before his election," and in the ancient manner of constituting a Lodge, contained in the Book of Constitutions of 1723, it is said that "the candidates, or the new Master and Wardens, being yet among the Fellow Crafts, the Grand Master shall ask his Deputy if he has examined them," etc.

2. But now that the great body of the Fraternity consists of Master Masons, the prerogatives of Fellow Crafts are circumscribed within limits nearly as narrow as those of Entered Apprentices.
 - A. Apprentices are not permitted to speak or vote, in ancient times, and up, indeed, to a very late date.
 - B. Fellow Crafts were entitled to take a part in any discussion in which the Lodge, while open in the first or second degree, might engage, but not to vote.
 - C. This privilege is expressly stated by Preston, as appertaining to a Fellow Craft, in his charge to a candidate, receiving that degree.
"As a Craftsman, in our private assemblies you may offer your sentiments and opinions on such subjects as are regularly introduced in the Lecture, under the superintendence of an experienced Master, who will guard the landmark against encroachment."

3. This privilege is not now, however, granted in our jurisdiction to Fellow Crafts. All, therefore, that has been said in the rights of Entered Apprentices, will equally apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the rights of Fellow Crafts