



# 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. 4 **The Three Lights**

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

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### I. OFFICERS OF SUBORDINATE LODGES

1. Four officers, at least, the ancient customs of the Craft require in every Lodge; and they are consequently found throughout the globe.
  - A. These are the Master, the two Wardens, and the Tyler.
  - B. Almost equally universal are the offices of Treasurer, Secretary, and two Deacons.
2. Ancient usage seems to have recognized the following officers of a subordinate Lodge: the Master, two Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, two Deacons, two Stewards, and Tyler; and therefore treat of the duties and powers of these officers only, in the course of this lecture.
3. The officers of a Lodge are elected annually.
  - A. In the United States, the election takes place on the festival of St. John the Evangelist, or at the meeting immediately previous; but, in this latter case, the duties of the offices do not commence until St. John's day, which may, therefore, be considered as the beginning of the Masonic year.
  - B. Elections in our Jurisdiction take place in December and the duties of the offices commence only upon Installation from January to March of the following year.
4. Dalcho lays down the rule, that "*no Freemason chosen into any office can refuse to serve (unless he has before filled the same office), without incurring the penalties established by the bye-laws.*"
  - Undoubtedly a Lodge may enact such a regulation, and affix any reasonable penalty; but there is no ancient regulation which makes it incumbent on subordinate lodges to do so.
5. If any of the subordinate officers, except the Master and Wardens, die, or be removed from office, during the year, the Lodge may, under the authority of a dispensation from the Grand Master, enter into an election to supply the vacancy.
  - But in the case of the death or removal of the Master or either of the Wardens, no election can be held to supply the vacancy, even by dispensation, for reasons which will be discussed in the section which treats of those offices.

6. No officer can resign his office after he has been installed.
  - Every officer is elected for twelve months, and at his installation solemnly promises to perform the duties of that office until the next regular day of election; and hence the Lodge cannot permit him, by a resignation, to violate his obligation of office.
7. Another rule is that every officer holds on to his office until his successor has been installed.
  - It is the installation, and not the election, which puts an officer into possession; and the faithful management of the affairs of Masonry requires, that between the election and installation of his successor, the predecessor shall not vacate the office, but continue to discharge its duties.
8. An office can be vacated only by death, permanent removal from the jurisdiction, or expulsion.
  - Suspension does not vacate, but only suspends the performance of the duties of the office, which must then be temporarily discharged by some other person, to be appointed from time to time; for, as soon as the suspended officer is restored, he resumes the dignities and duties of his office.

## II. THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

This is probably the most important office in the whole system of Masonry, as, upon the intelligence, skill, and fidelity of the Masters of our lodges, the entire institution is dependent for its prosperity.

It is an office which is charged with heavy responsibilities, and, as a just consequence, is accompanied by the investiture of many important powers.

1. A necessary qualification of the Master of a Lodge is that he must have previously served in the office of a Warden.
  - A. *"No Brother can be a Warden until he has passed the part of a Fellow Craft; nor a Master until he has acted as a Warden."* — Old Charges, IV.
  - B. This qualification is sometimes dispensed with in the case of new lodges, or where no member of an old Lodge, who has served as a Warden, will accept the office of Master.
  - C. But it is not necessary that he should have served as a Warden in the Lodge of which he is proposed to be elected Master.
  - D. The discharge of the duties of a Warden, by regular election and installation in any other Lodge, and at any former period, will be a sufficient qualification.

2. One of the most important duties of the Master of a Lodge is, to see that the edicts and regulations of the Grand Lodge are obeyed by his Brethren, and that his officers faithfully discharge their duties.
3. The Master has particularly in charge the warrant of Constitution, which must always be present in his Lodge, when opened.
4. A necessary qualification of the Master of a Lodge is that he must have previously served in the office of a Warden.
5. The Master has a right to call a special meeting of his Lodge whenever he pleases, and is the sole judge of any emergency which may require such special communication.
  - A. He has, also, the right of closing his Lodge at any hour that he may deem expedient, notwithstanding the whole business of the evening may not have been transacted.
  - B. This regulation arises from the unwritten law of Masonry.
  - C. As the Master is responsible to the Grand Lodge for the fidelity of the work done in his Lodge, and as the whole of the labor is, therefore, performed under his superintendence,
  - D. it follows that, to enable him to discharge this responsibility, he must be invested with the power of commencing, of continuing, or of suspending labor at such time as he may, in his wisdom, deem to be the most advantageous to the edifice of Masonry.
6. It follows from this rule that a question of adjournment cannot be entertained in a Lodge.
  - A. The adoption of a resolution to adjourn, would involve the necessity of the Master to obey it.
  - B. The power, therefore, of controlling the work, would be taken out of his hands and placed in those of the members, which would be in direct conflict with the duties imposed upon him by the ritual.
  - C. The doctrine that a Lodge cannot adjourn, but must be closed or called off at the pleasure of the Master, appears to be very generally admitted.
7. The Master and his two Wardens constitute the representatives of the Lodge in the Grand Lodge, and it is his duty to attend the communications of that body "on all convenient occasions." (*Regulations on Installation of a Master, No. III. Preston, p. 74*)
  - When there, he is faithfully to represent his Lodge, and on all questions discussed, to obey its instructions, voting in every case rather against his own convictions than against the expressed wish of his Lodge.
8. The Master presides not only over the symbolic work of the Lodge, but also over its business deliberations, and in either case his decisions are reversible only by the Grand Lodge.

- A. There can be no appeal from his decision, on any question, to the Lodge.
- B. He is supreme in his Lodge, so far as the Lodge is concerned, being amenable for his conduct in the government of it, not to its members, but to the Grand Lodge alone.
- C. If an appeal were proposed, it would be his duty, for the preservation of discipline, to refuse to put the question.
- D. If a member is aggrieved by the conduct or decisions of the Master, he has his redress by an appeal to the Grand Lodge, which will, of course, see that the Master does not rule his Lodge "in an unjust or arbitrary manner."
- E. But such a thing as an appeal from the Master of the Lodge to its members is unknown in Masonry.

This may, at first sight, appear to be giving too despotic power to the Master. But a slight reflection will convince any one that there can be but little danger of oppression from one so guarded and controlled as a Master is, by the sacred obligations of his office, and the supervision of the Grand Lodge, while the placing in the hands of the Craft so powerful, and at times, and with bad spirits, so annoying a privilege as that of immediate appeal, would necessarily tend to impair the energies and lessen the dignity of the Master, while it would be subversive of that spirit of discipline which pervades every part of the institution, and to which it is mainly indebted for its prosperity and perpetuity.

The ancient charges rehearsed at the installation of a Master, prescribe the various moral qualifications which are required in the aspirant for that elevated and responsible office. He is to be a good man, and peaceable citizen or subject, a respecter of the laws, and a lover of his Brethren — cultivating the social virtues and promoting the general good of society as well as of his own Order.

The standard of intellectual qualifications has now been greatly elevated.

1. And it is now admitted that the Master of a Lodge, to do justice to the exalted office which he holds, to the Craft over whom he presides, and to the candidates whom he is to instruct, should not only be a man of irreproachable moral character, but also of expanded intellect and liberal education.
2. Still, as there is no express law upon this subject, the selection of a Master and the determination of his qualifications must be left to the judgment and good sense of the members.

### III. THE WARDENS

The Senior and Junior Wardens are the assistants of the Master in the government of the Lodge. They are selected from among the members on the floor, the possession of a previous office not being, as in the case of the Master, a necessary qualification for election. In England they are appointed by the Master, but universally and in this jurisdiction they are elected by the Lodge.

1. During the temporary absence of the Master the Senior Warden has the right of presiding, though he may, and often does by courtesy, invite a Past Master to assume the chair.
  - A. A Past Master may preside over a Lodge in the absence of the Master, provided he is invited to do so by the Senior Warden present.
    - 1) The Second General Regulation gave the power of presiding, during the absence of the Master, to the last Past Master present, after the Lodge had been congregated by the Senior Warden.
    - 2) But two years afterwards, the rule was repealed, and the power of presiding in such cases was vested in the Senior Warden.
    - 3) And accordingly, in the United States, it has always been held, that in the absence of the Master, his authority descends to the Senior Warden, who may, however, by courtesy, offer the chair to a Past Master present, after the Lodge has been congregated.
    - 4) The power of congregating the Lodge in the absence of the Master has always been confined to the Wardens; and it therefore, that when both the Master and Wardens are absent, although a Past Master may be present, the Lodge cannot be opened.
  - B. In like manner, in the absence of both Master and Senior Warden, the Junior Warden will preside, and competent Brethren will by him be appointed to fill the vacant seats of the Wardens.
  - C. But if the Master and Junior Warden be present, and the Senior Warden be absent, the Junior Warden does not occupy the West, but retains his own station, the Master appointing some Brother to occupy the station of the Senior Warden.
  - D. For the Junior Warden succeeds by law only to the office of Master, and, unless that office be vacant, he is bound to fulfill the duties of the office to which he has been obligated.
2. In case of the death, removal from the jurisdiction or expulsion of the Master, by the Grand Lodge, no election can be held until the constitutional period.
  - A. The Senior Warden will take the Master's place and preside over the Lodge, while his seat will be temporarily filled from time to time by appointment.

- B. The Senior Warden being in fact still in existence, and only discharging one of the highest duties of his office, that of presiding in the absence of the Master, his office cannot be declared vacant and there can be no election for it.
  - C. In such case, the Junior Warden, for the reason already assigned, will continue at his own station in the South.
3. In case of the death, removal, or expulsion of both Master and Senior Warden, the Junior Warden will discharge the duties of the Mastership and make temporary appointments of both Wardens. It must always be remembered that the Wardens succeed according to seniority to the office of Master when vacant, but that neither can legally discharge the duties of the other.
  4. It must also be remembered that when a Warden succeeds to the government of the Lodge, he does not become the Master; he is still only a Warden discharging the functions of a higher vacated station, as one of the expressed duties of his own office.
    - A. A recollection of these distinctions will enable us to avoid much embarrassment in the consideration of all the questions incident to this subject.
    - B. If the Master be present, the Wardens assist him in the government of the Lodge.
    - C. The Senior Warden presides over the Craft while at labor, and the Junior when they are in refreshment.
    - D. Formerly the examination of visitors was entrusted to the Junior Warden, but this duty is now more appropriately performed by the Stewards or a special committee appointed for that purpose.
  5. The Senior Warden has the appointment of the Senior Deacon, and the Junior Warden that of the Stewards.