



# 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

Lecture No. 10 **OF ELECTION & INSTALLATION**

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Quoted from Mackey's *Principles of Masonic Laws, Jurisprudence of Freemasonry and Various Sources*

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## **One of the rights of a Lodge is to elect its officers.**

- A. It is a Landmark of the Order that every Lodge should be governed by a Master and two Wardens; and that the secrecy of its labors should be secured by a Tyler.
  - 1. It is the inherent right of every Lodge to select its officers for itself which was never surrendered to the Grand Lodge; and still vested in the Lodges under such regulations as may from time to time be adopted.
  - 2. The other officers are a creation of the Grand Lodge and may vary in name and function in different countries.
- B. But whatever be the nature of such offices, the power of selecting them is vested in the Lodges. There is no law which gives the Grand Lodge the power of selecting officers of one of its subordinates.
- C. The Grand Lodge, however, regulates the mode and time and many other circumstances leading to election. This apparent interference had been wisely conceded for strict uniformity in Lodge organization.
- D. We have mentioned in our last lecture that one of the most important franchises which the Masonic character offers is THE ELECTION OF MASTER FOR THE ENSUING TWELVE MONTHS. - *"The qualifications necessary are, that the candidate should be true and trusty, of good repute, held in high estimation amongst the fraternity, skilled in Masonic knowledge, and moreover a lover of the Craft; he ought to be exemplary in his conduct, courteous in his manner, but, above all, steady and firm in principle."*
  - 1. Unless the Brother who aspires to the Oriental Chair of a Freemason's Lodge can conscientiously feel himself so qualified, he should pause ere he assumes or rather morally usurps it, and by tarrying somewhat, profit by the example of another, by whose conduct lie may improve his own unskillfulness, or amend in himself what his observations may have perceived to be defective in his Brother.
  - 2. The fulfillment of the duties of a Mastership requires much personal inconvenience, and some sacrifice of time. The interests of a lodge, alike with

- its immediate welfare and ultimate prosperity, depend upon the skill and sagacity of the Master; while the general peace and harmony of its members take their tone from his conciliating courtesy, or suffer from his want of so vital an attribute. Let his actions in the coming Masonic Year be such, that when it terminates, the brethren will feel thankful for his services, and reward him by their approbation.
3. How different is the effect produced upon Freemasonry by those who merely falter through their official duties, who never show themselves where a personal service is demanded, and, in fact, who, if the charges have ever been read to them, disregard their importance by a coldness which is alike insulting to decency as to common sense.
- E. Another important duty of the Lodge mentioned in the last lecture is the **SELECTION OF THE WARDENS** - the members of a Lodge exercise their franchise in the election of a Master with a view to serve the interest of the Lodge; and, similarly, the Lodge in its selection of the Wardens ought always to have in view the same interest of the Lodge. They should avoid electing to the offices of Wardens brethren who may not be enabled to qualify for the superior dignity of Master, in order that when the period of election for that office shall approach, the Wardens, by attending carefully to their duties in Lodge and at the public meetings of the Craft, may become so experienced, that the brethren will not feel themselves placed in the difficulty of either wounding the feelings of an otherwise respectable individual by passing him over, or by electing him to an office he is incompetent to sustain - either of these possible cases the Lodge may prevent by timely discretion.
- F. Let us, as the brethren of this Lodge, diligently read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the constitutions of the fraternity, remembering that: *"ALL PREFERMENT AMONG MASONS IS GROUNDED UPON REAL WORTH AND PERSONAL MERIT ONLY"*

### **Another right of a Lodge is to install its officers after being elected.**

- A. A Lodge, having been consecrated, dedicated, constituted and its officers installed, assumes at once the ranks and prerogatives of a warranted Lodge.
  1. The first three ceremonies are never repeated, but at every subsequent annual elections, the installation of the officers is renewed.
  2. On these occasions, it is no longer necessary that the Grand Master or his proxy should act as installing officer. This duty is performed by the last Master or by any other Past Master acting in his behalf.
- B. By Warrant of Constitution, the power of installing their successors is given to the officers therein named, and to their successors, so that the prerogative of installation is perpetually vested in the last officers.

- C. This is a right incidental to the grant of perpetual succession contained in the Warrant.
1. By ancient Masonic law and universal usage, no officer can legally discharge the functions of the office to which he is elected until he has been regularly inducted into it by the ceremony of installation.
  2. It follows that when a grant of a perpetual succession of officers is made, it carries with it the power of investing all succeeding officers with the powers and functions of their predecessors. This investiture is accomplished in our ceremony of Installation.
- D. This power of installation is controlled and directed by certain Grand Lodge regulations which are not in the power of the subordinate Lodges to set aside.
1. It must take place at a communication immediately before or after the festival of St. John the Evangelist, considered as the commencement of the Masonic Year, and on that day the old officers vacate their seats and are assumed by the new ones.
  2. If by any circumstance the installation has been omitted until after the festival, the law having been violated and there being no other law providing for the installation after that day, the installation can be can only take place by the authority and under Dispensation by the Grand Master.
- E. After election, it is now necessary that the officers chosen should be duly invested with the power to exercise the functions which have been confided to them. The ceremony by which this investiture is made is called the Installation.
- F. The ceremony of installing the subordinate officers consists simply in the administration of an obligation for the faithful discharge of the duties of the office, with the investment of the appropriate jewel and the delivery of a short charge.
1. In 1717, the early leaders of the Grand Lodge were men of recent membership in the Craft who had scant knowledge in its history and traditions and an even less seasoning by experience in the Lodge work.
  2. In consequence, they made a number of blunders; one of these was first to belittle and at last ignore the Ceremony of Installation of the Master and Officers of the Lodge.
  3. Older and better-informed Masons began immediately to resent this and to rebel against the innovators.
  4. This resentment became one of the reasons for setting up a New Grand Lodge in 1751; newer in date but older in the Rituals used than the older Grand Lodge of 1717.
  5. They were right; for they knew that no Mason could, in the proper sense of the word, be a Worshipful Master without being installed, and that the ceremony was a Landmark.

- G. It was usual, in case of the absence of one of the officers to be installed, for some other brother to assume his place, and, acting as proxy, to make the usual promises for him, and in his behalf, receive the charge and investiture.
1. Long and uninterrupted usage would seem alone sufficient to sanction this practice; however objectionable it may be deemed.
  2. This usage derives its authority from the thirty-sixth Regulations of 1721 which prescribes that when the Grand Master-elect is absent from the grand feast (the day of the installation), the old Grand Master may act as his proxy, perform his duties, and in his name receive the usual homage.
- H. Our Constitution provides, however, that no officer shall be installed by proxy (*Art. X, Sec 2*)... *"...No officer shall be installed by proxy."*
1. A brother who has been elected to office in a Lodge and installed by proxy cannot serve in the office he was elected.
  2. In the same light, a brother who was elected Senior Warden of a Lodge but was never installed, except by proxy, is not eligible to the office of Master of the Lodge.
- I. It was supposed that a re-elected officer to the same office need not be installed.
1. This neglect of forms, for an Institution which depends so much on its officers, can be a dangerous tendency. It is, therefore, better for the installation to be repeated. In fact, the omission changes, at least theoretically if not practically, the tenure by which the re-elected officer holds his office for the second year.
  2. At his first election, he was installed. By the law of Freemasonry, an old officer holds on until his successor is installed. If he is his own successor by re-election and does not again pass through the ceremony of installation, it becomes evident that he holds on to the office not by tenure of election but by retention until his successor is installed. He is not, therefore the regularly installed officer for the year having retained the office in trust for his successor.
- J. 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.
- K. 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.