

ARE YOU READY?

Published by

**The Grand Lodge of Ancient
Free Masons of South Carolina**

Issued to

----- **Lodge No.** -----

IMPORTANT

**Return to the Secretary of the
Lodge the night you receive the
E. A. Degree**

ARE YOU READY?

**PREPARED BY THE MASONIC
SERVICE COMMITTEE**

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M. L. LOVE

1946

ARE YOU READY?

It is presumed you have given careful attention to the preliminaries necessary to your becoming a member of the Masonic Fraternity. It is also presumed that you have read all the questions in the petition. A careful analysis will disclose the fact that all the questions, except one, could have been answered by some one other than yourself. You and the God in whom you put your trust are the only entities who know whether or not you really believe in the existence of a Supreme Being.

While Masonry is very definitely not "a religion" it is intensely religious. One of the first lessons taught is that no Mason commences an important undertaking without first invoking the blessing of Deity. Remember always there is a vast difference between being a Mason and just a member of a Lodge. You should, therefore, with boldness, inspired by your belief, ear-

nestly seek advice and help from your God in this most important undertaking.

What prompted you to desire to become a member of the Craft we do not ask as that is your responsibility. We have accepted in full faith your answers in the petition you asked a friend to give you.

Has it occurred to you that by seeking admission in your friend's Lodge, you were practically asking him to receive you into his Masonic home? This sanctuary to him is a place of hallowed memories and a haven of rest from the turmoil of a troubled world.

To accomplish the purposes of Masonry in making good men better men, it is essential that peace and harmony prevail in the Lodge. Equal rights must be extended to every member. You may be acceptable to your friend, but some other member of the Lodge may feel that your admission would not tend to augment peace and harmony. Such member would have a perfect right to

refuse you admission. While it is hoped you will be accepted, you have no right to criticize should you be refused admission.

From the Ancient General Regulations among Free Masons, you will find the Lodge must be composed of virtuous and industrious men, and not drones who live upon the labors of others. Are you prepared to make the necessary sacrifices to live up to that standard?

The reputation of the Fraternity may rest upon your acts as reflected in the life you live in your home, your business and the world at large. Have you enough courage to accept such a responsibility?

If elected you will most likely desire to exercise your rights in wearing the Masonic emblem. Have you stopped to think that this act on your part tells the profane world that you are a member of the Craft? Will the life you lead be proof of your statement that you believe in God and live according to

the plans laid down in the Great Light of Masonry?

In ancient times before men could be initiated it was necessary for them to perform certain rites of purification, both mental and physical. Water has always been used as a purifying agent. This naturally suggests that before appearing in the Lodge for your first degree, you should cleanse your body and put on fresh clothes as a symbol of your purification. Let this ablution be the outward and visible sign of your inward spiritual, mental and moral cleansing. When you receive the first degree you will be profoundly thankful for this suggestion.

The Blue Lodge, as the first three degrees are commonly termed, is not an organization to make fun of, embarrass or degrade any candidate. The ceremonies are deep and profound in their effort to portray high moral principles. You will represent a man being born again, out of the profane world into the Masonic world. By comparison,

you will be a new-born babe, at which time no thought of levity could possibly be displayed among thinking men. The responsibility of the members of the Lodge in the great drama of which you are the active participant is to conduct a ceremony so as to make a deep and lasting impression on your mind as to the great Masonic truths you have a right to receive.

Above all things approach this important undertaking with a peace of mind. Discard from your thinking all thoughts that would tend to degrade the real man. Let your mind be free and open to the end it might better receive the Masonic instruction that would change you from a good man into a better man.

Always remember no man nor body of men have the power to "make you a Mason." The best they can do is to make you a member of the Lodge. It is their bounden duty to give you the necessary instructions and working tools, so that with the help of God you

may finally become a real Master
Mason.

Lastly, but most important, on your
bended knees with courage born of
faith, supplicate your God for strength
and courage to properly receive the
Masonic instruction you seek.

Now—Please return to Secretary.