

## **NV Grand Lodge Short Lecture Series**

### **Knowledge-A Masonic Duty**

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Freemasonry teaches that each man possesses a Divine and Human nature, represented by the triangle. Human nature is depicted on one line of the triangle, the Divine on another and earthly matter on the third. Knowledge, or the relationship of each side of the triangle to each other side, is symbolized by light. Ignorance is symbolized by darkness. When a candidate for the various degrees of Freemasonry declares his desire to enter the mysteries of Freemasonry "in search of light," then later declares a desire to "search for more light," he literally means that his is there to acquire knowledge.

To learn, to attain knowledge, to be wise is a necessity for every truly noble soul. To teach, to communicate that knowledge to others is equally critical to a noble nature and the worthiest work of man, The monuments of genius and learning are far more durable and lasting than the monuments to power. The lessons, symbols, and ritual as well as other catechisms found in Freemasonry encourage Masons not only to learn what has been set forth by our Masonic writers, but to also seek the light elsewhere.

Learning is a Mason's Duty, because by acquiring knowledge man prepares himself to serve his neighbor, his brother, his family, his country, and his God. To attain that which is unknown to other and to keep it locked tightly within our hearts is akin to placing a lamp under a bed where it cannot shine. The noblest destiny of every Freemason is to take that lamp from beneath the bed and let it shine for others to see. What one man knows will likely prove helpful to another either to solve a personal problem or fathom a great philosophical expression.

Our Nations' Founding Fathers, several of whom also happened to be Freemasons, were mostly regarded as "Renaissance men," that is men who were learned in the arts and sciences. Diversity of knowledge was their character, and the imprint of that diversity may be seen today in the symbolism associated with the original architecture in our Nations' capitol. Every culture, religious thought and ancient truth is commingled, memorialized, and seamlessly blended. Search the obelisk that is the Washington Monument. Study the columns supporting the Capitol Building. Witness the grandeur on display at the several Smithsonian Museums. Each piece to the puzzle stands separately but is seen as a whole and harmonious system.

It is often stated, but not so often understood, that Freemasonry is a journey; a journey towards self-knowledge and truth along a route which provides insight and understanding.

We begin this journey the moment we freely present ourselves at the door of the Lodge, symbolically dressed as one poor in substance and blind in spirit. But before we are allowed in, we must answer to the Master who demands to know whether we are free and whether we are mature.

At its most basic level this is an enquiry to prove that we have come to the Lodge of our own free will and accord. For the journey can only truly begin when it represents all that we are longing for. It is then that we humbly present ourselves as one needing help and guidance to progress further towards knowledge of the spirit within.

While our rituals follow set patterns, the journey in the Lodge – and indeed in the world beyond – is one in which we take the steps in our own manner and at our own speed. For it is our journey, not someone else's.

It is the knowledge of yourself and through that knowledge you can discover your own potential and prepare your mind to reach a higher level of spiritual consciousness. Initiation is the start of that journey to awaken those hitherto dormant, higher faculties and enables a candidate to recover those genuine secrets that are buried within the center or the innermost part of the soul.

Freemasons are not required, or even asked to become the smartest, brightest, and best. Rather, Masons are simply taught the virtue and joy of learning. Each person progresses at a different pace, displays different interest, expresses different talents, and contributes a piece to the puzzle that is eventually answered - "serve your brother with all your might, with all your heart and with all your soul."

## Reference

Heisner, J.R. (2013). *Meditations on Masonic Symbolism*. Las Vegas: AME Publishing, LLC.

Middlesex Freemasonry. (N.D.) *Masonic Knowledge-13-Our Journey*. Retrieved from [https:// pglm.org.uk/masonic-knowledge-13-our-journey/](https://pglm.org.uk/masonic-knowledge-13-our-journey/)