



“The Jewels of a Fellowcraft”

Lodge Presentation:

The following short article is written with the intention to be read within an open Lodge, or in fellowship, to all the members in attendance. This article is appropriate to be presented to all Fellowcraft and Master Masons. Fellowcraft Masons should be invited to attend the meeting where this is presented. Following this article is a list of discussion questions which should be presented immediately following the presentation of the article.

The Jewels of a Fellowcraft

To many, the Fellowcraft degree represents the stage of adulthood and maturity in the life of man where man acquires knowledge and applies it to the building of his moral character, further shaping his ashlar. It symbolizes the methods of developing and progressing our fraternal understanding. The symbols of this degree represent advancement, passage and instruction. The central theme of this degree is advancement through education and understanding.

In the second section of this degree, the Worshipful Master presents the newly made Fellowcraft Mason with the jewels of a Fellowcraft. These jewels assist the Fellowcraft through this progression and attaining an understanding of the lessons of Freemasonry.

Outside of Freemasonry, a jewel is typically thought of as a stone or mineral that because of its beauty or rarity has a certain intrinsic value. Similarly, a jewel in terms of Freemasonry is something of inestimable value to the life of a Freemason. In the Fellowcraft degree, these jewels are an attentive ear, an instructive tongue and a faithful breast.

Though these jewels are certainly consistent with the central theme of this degree, there is little said in our ritual about these valuable symbols and thus they might be overlooked. The fact they are mentioned twice in that section of the degree is an indication of their importance in the construction of our perfect ashlar. Like many of the symbols used throughout Freemasonry there is more to these jewels than meets the eye.

The attentive ear reminds us of the need to listen carefully and with attention. In learning and education, we must listen if the work is to be properly received and the instruction understood. As Freemasons we are constantly receiving instruction. These lessons are not limited to those found in our ritual or the instruction we receive from the Worshipful Master or even our mentors. These lessons may come from the Brother sitting next us in Lodge or in fellowship, or perhaps the Entered Apprentice when he is returning his posting exam. In Freemasonry, as in life, our lessons are all around us. With the attentive ear we are enabled to listen to them and apply them to our individual lives.



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An instructive tongue is necessary in order that knowledge may be conveyed accurately. The tongue does more than communicate, it also teaches. It teaches more than ritual, it informs Masons of the truth, meaning and the application of Freemasonry. When you use the instructive tongue, the intention is to impart something that is useful and informative, not to dictate or order. With the instructive tongue we give people, not just Masons, the tools and how to use them to grow themselves so they too may someday look to instruct those around them. This is the essence of Masonry and through this we improve ourselves.

The faithful breast is the repository for the lessons and secrets entrusted to us as we progress through the degrees of Freemasonry. It is also where we keep the ideals of Freemasonry that we should display in life and pass on to our Brothers so that all may learn to grow to be better men. It teaches us that the lessons we have received are not to be listened to and lost, but carefully treasured in our heart, so that they can be retained and recalled when the situation requires and pass them along to our Brothers. The faithful breast also conceals the secrets of Masonry, and those of a Brother, that they remain secure and inviolable.

Freemasonry depends on the proper application of these jewels, not only individually but working in unison with each other. They admonish us to exercise caution and to be guided by wisdom and prudence in all our endeavors. The jewels of a Fellowcraft teach us not only how to learn, but also how to teach. It is through the application of these jewels we understand that the lessons imparted to us are to be listened to attentively, cherished in our hearts and imparted with sincerity.

The proper application of these jewels by all Masons has helped to ensure Freemasonry’s survival through the ages. Communicating our mysteries and lessons from generation to generation building it into the greatest Fraternity known to man.

Fraternally,
Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin
Education Committee



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Discussion Questions

The following discussion questions are written to be presented immediately following the presentation of the topic above. There is no right or wrong answers to these questions, they are designed to promote thought and engage all the members that are present in conversation. Take care that the presentation of the topic and the discussion questions does not exceed 30 minutes. The presenter can present any part of the questions below, or any additional questions, he feels is appropriate.

- What are other things the Fellowcraft degree symbolizes or reinforces?
- How do the jewels of a Fellowcraft increase our understanding of the Entered Apprentice degree?
- What are some of the other examples in the Fellowcraft degree of the importance of developing our Fraternal Understanding?
- What other implements of Freemasonry are presented to us that could be referred to as jewels?
- What are some of the examples in our ritual that emphasis the use of an attentive ear?
- How has the attentive ear helped you with understanding the lessons of Freemasonry and the application of them to your life?
- What are some of the other ways the need for an instructive tongue is reemphasized throughout our ritual?
- How has the instructive tongue helped you in your life, both within Freemasonry and in your life?
- The need for faith is a common theme through our ritual. What are some of the other references and how do they all work together?
- Why is a faithful breast important to Freemasonry?
- The tools and implements presented to us working together is a common emphasis throughout Freemasonry. What are some other examples of this?
- Are these jewels related to the idea of mentorship within the Fraternity? How?
- How can you use some of the other implements of Freemasonry to improve your attentive ear and instructive tongue?
- How can you use your attentive ear and instructive tongue to improve your Brother?