

RUSTY BROTHER MASON DEGREE



**THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE
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**MOST WORSHIPFUL BROTHER MARKS L. EWING
GRAND MASTER 1987-1988**



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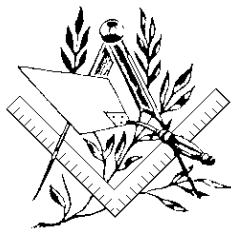
Introduction

There are many members of our Masonic Craft who, for whatever reasons, do not attend Lodge, or have not attended for a long time. The longer they stay away, the more difficult it becomes for them to return because of their concern that they cannot remember enough of our methods of recognition to pass an examination. The **RUSTY BROTHER MASON DEGREE** is intended to assist these Brothers, and the Lodges they wish to attend, to refresh memories and permit everyone to enjoy each other's company through Masonry.

The **RUSTY BROTHER MASON DEGREE** provides a format for a Lodge to welcome Rusty Brother Masons into its ranks and make them feel comfortable and wanted. This format, adapted from programs used in other Grand Jurisdictions, has been developed around our own ritual, and should, therefore, be easily presented.

Purpose

1. Reacquaint the long absent Brother Mason, who has forgotten the specifics, with the basic requirements of gaining admittance into a Tiled Lodge of Master Masons. These basic requirements shall consist of, but not be limited to, the signs, words, grips, steps, and due guards of all three degrees; the Grand Hailing Sign of Distress; and the Substitute Word.
2. Promote Masonic fellowship by offering instruction to a Rusty Brother Mason in a relaxed, amiable setting, free from any stress and surrounded by Brethren who eagerly support his desire to attend and perhaps participate in Lodge activities.



Advance Preparation

As with all-important events, advance preparation and careful planning are key ingredients in assuring the success of this Degree. It is recommended that the Master appoint a Lodge committee which will make all arrangements for receiving the Brethren and conduction the Degree. The committee members should be Brethren who have a genuine interest in this type of program and will work to make it successful. The committee should review the Lodge roster to identify the Brethren who potentially could attend. Initial emphasis should be focused on those who are within reasonable commuting distance of the Lodge. A system should then be established to contact the Rusty Brother Masons and arrange for them to visit the Lodge. Sojourners or Masons from other Lodges who live in the local area should also be extended the opportunity to attend and participate.

It is important that the initial contacts and follow up calls/visits be conducted in a diplomatic manner in order to overcome the natural apprehension present. The Rusty Brother Masons should be made to feel that they are truly welcome in Lodge and that they are not going to be embarrassed or taken advantage of. It should be explained to them prior to the formal meeting and in private surroundings, that the Lodge is ready and willing to reacquaint them with all areas of education in Lodge functions they might request.

A dinner or other social gathering at the Lodge before the meeting is recommended in order to make the Rusty Brother Masons feel welcome and at ease. If possible, invite the ladies and then provide a program for them while the Brethren are in Lodge.

It is recommended that the Lodge Officers rehearse the ceremony prior to conferral in order to assure their own confidence and a quality program. Individual Lodges are free to make innovations in the ceremony if they wish. However, this format incorporates the most significant features of the ritual of this Grand Jurisdiction and provides a measure of uniformity.

Remember, the primary purpose of this program is to make the Rusty Brother Mason feel welcome and to provide both the Lodge and the Rusty Brethren the opportunity to benefit from the rewards of Masonic fellowship. Every Lodge is encouraged to try this program and learn first hand how successful it can be.

Presentation

The conferral of this degree can occur either at special meetings of the Lodge or at Stated Communications. An advantage of setting aside a special night for the program is that all attention can also be presented in one of two ways: the entire program presented at a single session; or utilizing several meetings over a period of time. These alternatives are briefly discussed in the following paragraphs.

1. Present all required material in one evening or session.
 - A. Requires only one session of the Rusty Brother Mason's time, and reduces the number of sessions required to present the degree by members of the Lodge.
 - B. Rusty Brother Masons may have difficulty assimilating all information presented in one session.

 2. Present all required Material over a period of several meetings or occasions.
 - A. Affords "continuing revelation" approach of the requirements for each Degree.
 - B. Keeps the involvement time to a minimum during any single meeting.
 - C. Encourages the Rusty Brother Mason to return for several consecutive meetings to receive the next installment.
 - D. Several meetings may be easier for a specific Lodge to arrange/logistically and available personnel.
 - E. The Rusty Brother Mason will have several opportunities for exposure to the fellowship of his Lodge Brethren.
 - F. More opportunity for the Rusty Brother Mason's involvement in Lodge activities, but the work will not tax his attention span.
 - G. Suggested sequence for separate occasions or meetings:
 - Meeting 1: Entered Apprentice Degree
 - Meeting 2: Fellowcraft Degree
 - Meeting 3: Master Mason Degree – First Section
 - Meeting 4: Master Mason Degree – Second Section
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Preliminary Procedure

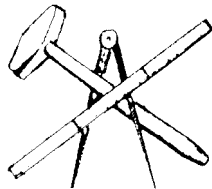
1. Upon arrival at the Lodge, each Rusty Brother Mason should be greeted by the Tyler and asked:
 - A. To present a current dues card or other acceptable evidence of Masonic membership.
 - B. To take the Tyler's oath **if** he is not a member of the Lodge **and** no one can vouch for him. This should be done in an unobtrusive way, in private and in the presence of only one or two Master Masons, by allowing him to read from the Washington Monitor.
 - C. If he knows anyone present at the Lodge meeting. If not, the Master or Tyler should insure that a "host" is assigned to accompany him into Lodge and make him feel welcome.
 - D. If he can pass an examination. If he believes he cannot, assure him he is welcome and he will receive instruction.

 2. Inside the Lodge:
 - A. Introduce the Rusty Brother Mason to the members present.
 - B. Introduce him to other Rusty Brother Masons.
 - C. Introduce dignitaries and Rusty Brother Masons to the Lodge.
 - D. Worshipful Master should put the Lodge and all present at ease, and grant liberty of the Lodge to allow spontaneous questions and responses from all present. It is important that the Master assure a relaxed; friendly atmosphere exists together with an upbeat, optimistic mood.
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Ceremony

(Rusty Brother Masons should be seated as a group, with their "hosts" in a prominent place on the sidelines in the vicinity of the altar.)

- 1 **(W.M.)** My Brethren, at this time we are pleased to honor your request for Masonic Light and will
 2 reacquaint you with the basic methods of recognition which you once learned as you
 3 progressed through the first three Degrees of Masonry, and which identify one Mason to
 4 another. The intent of this instruction is to assist you in recalling those once familiar
 5 phrases and signs which will permit you to gain admittance into any Lodge, regardless of
 6 location or Jurisdiction. Let us always remember the Lamb Skin, or white leather apron,
 7 and our charge to keep it always spotless before the world.
- 8 **(W.M.)** The Senior and Junior Deacons will now demonstrate the instructions. You and your "host"
 9 are invited to join them on the Lodge floor and participate in this instruction.



ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE

- 10
- 11 **(W.M.)** Brother Junior Deacon, step off as an EAM (done). Now give the ____ and ____ of this
 12 degree. Ths, my br, I t ____ ____ an als t t pos I wh yr hs wr plcd wn takg t ob.
- 13 Brother Senior Deacon, please kneel at the altar as you did for your EAM obligation
 14 (done). Please rise. Ths, m br, is t ____ ____ o an EAM an als t t p o y ob when you said:
 15 "binding myself" Brother Deacons, advance and take the g of an EAM (done). Please
 16 recite (rehearse) the dialogue to arrive at the word for this Degree.

FELLOWCRAFT DEGREE

2 (W.M.) Brother Junior Deacon, step off as a FCM (done). Now give the ____ and ____ of this
3 degree. Ths, m br, I t ____ ____ an als t t pos l wh yr hs wr plcd wn tkg t ob.

4 Brother Senior Deacon, please kneel at the altar as you did for your FC obligation (done).
5 Please rise. Ths, m br, is t ____ ____ of a FCM an als t t p o y ob when you said: "binding
6 myself" Brother Deacons, advance and take the g of a FCM (done). Please recite
7 (rehears) the dialogue to arrive at the word of this Degree.

MASTER MASON DEGREE – FIRST SECTION

9 (W.M.) Brother Junior Deacon, step off as a MM (done). Now give the ____ and ____ of this
10 degree. Ths, m br, I t ____ ____ an als t t pos l wh yr hs wr plcd wn tkg t ob.

11 Brother Senior Deacon, please kneel at the altar as you did for your MM obligation (done).
12 Please rise. Ths, m br, is t ____ ____ o a MM an als t t p o y ob when you said: "blinding
13 myself" Brother Deacons, advance and take the pg of a MM (done). Please recite
14 (rehearse) the dialogue to arrive at the pw of this Degree (done).

MASTER MASON DEGREE – SECOND SECTION

16 (W.M.) Brethren, you may recall that upon your return into the Lodge after taking your MM
17 obligation, you represented a famous character in Masonic lore, our GMHA. You were
18 conducted into the SS, where you reviewed the TB and were caused to k at the a and at
19 pr. You were then conducted out the SG, WG, and EG where at each location you were
20 met by a r who demanded from you the ____ of a MM. You refused and received a
21 symbolic b with a SM. You were twice b by the rs, once in the rbl o t tpl and again on the
22 bw o a hl. An A was placed at the hd of yr g. You will next recall the rs attempting to flee
23 the C but were refused passage on a ship because they did not have KS pl.

24 When our GMHA was found mg, KS ordered strict search to be made within the temple.
25 The role of the workmen was called and three FC's were missing, Ja, Jo a Jm.

26 Meanwhile, twlv FC's, overhearing the plans of the rs, reported their information to KS who
27 ordered them to search for him. Thr FC's came upon a wayfaring man who knew of the
28 rs and this was also reported to KS. KS then ordered the FC's to search for the rs and
29 warned them that if they were not found, the FC's would be held accountable for the
30 disappearance of GMHA.

31 You may also recall that one of the FC's sat down to rest and refresh himself while
32 participating in the search. When he arose to resume his journey, h caught hold of an A
33 which came loose in his hand. The ground around where he had rested had the appearance
34 of a new gr. This was reported to KS who ordered them to search for the b of GMHA.

1 During their search, they heard several exclamations from the nearby rocks and
 2 recognized the voices of the three rs. They immediately seized them and took them before
 3 KS who, upon exacting confessions from them, ordered them to be punished.

4 KS then ordered a search for t b and, if f, to determine if the Ms wd or a k t l could b f. The
 5 b was found on a hl where the weary FC had paused to rest. A small j was f by which the
 6 b could be id. KS then or t FC's to go in procession to the gr, and attempt to r t b by the
 7 g o a EAM and FCM. It was finally r by the str g of a MM or _____, on the _____
 8 _____ and bur in th Tpl. (demonstrate these actions).

9 Brother Senior Deacon and Junior Deacon, you will demonstrate the GHSD and the words
 10 accompanying it (done).

11 Brother Senior Deacon and Junior Deacon, you will demonstrate the substitute word on
 12 the _____ .

13 Conclusion

14 **(W.M.)** My Brothers, this concludes our instruction in the ceremonies and methods of recognition
 15 used by one Mason to another. I will now remind you in the use of the gavel, entering and
 16 leaving this room while Lodge is open, and tending the signs of the Degrees during the
 17 opening and closing of Lodge (include any other instructions regarding Lodge decorum as
 18 appropriate).

(The Rusty Brother Masons should be thanked for their attention and invited to return.)