

SO, YOU HAVE NOW JOINED FREEMASONRY

Bro Gerrit Ockerse, DG Mentor

You have done your Interview and been vetted. You have waited for months to hear if you are accepted. Tonight is the night and you are finally going to be Initiated.

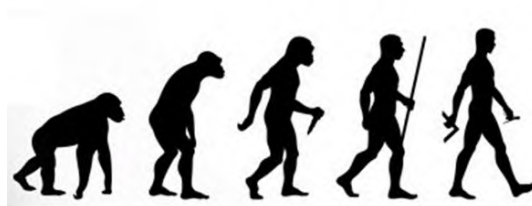
Sitting in that quiet room waiting for someone to tell you what's going on; then suddenly, a stern voice says: "You need to take off your shoes ...", You know the rest.

With great trepidation you accept your blindfold and guided to your position. You are currently bursting at the seams with a myriad of nerves, excitement; until it hits you. What if all those stories, video clips were true and wait; didn't someone say something about a goat?

Eventually, after being gently and languidly guided to a position where you must kneel and take an obligation, your senses are flooded by an im-

mense sensory overload. It is as if the world has just picked up speed as time whisks by.

After an evening of understandable nerves, excitement, and dread, you lie in your bed and try to recollect the happenings of the



evening. Trying to remember the ritual, the invariable question pops into your head. "What now?"

Before I dive down the rabbit hole, let me quote a phrase that was given to me at my initiation and, unfortunately, has only come to be understood by me in recent times: "Masonry will give you in excess what you give to the Craft". Think about it.

The first step after being initiated is study. And ask

questions! All Masons are more than willing to help anyone wise enough to ask questions. Please do not research too much on the internet, because, unfortunately, there are still those who are uninformed and tend to misguide our newer

Brethren.

If you would like to delve into the deeper meaning of your degree, use <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk/login/index.php> (see the short article page



3).

This has been an immense help to me: it breaks down all aspects of Freemasonry and delves into your degree, explaining the symbolism and hidden meanings.

The next "pillar" of Freemasonry is **Charity**. There are so many of us that forget this guide to our teachings so amply illustrated in the NE Corner charge. Now this does not mean that we must always attach a

a monetary component to it, Charity could be your time. Time to assist a Brother in need or the simple act of kindness of helping someone carrying their heavy monthly shopping bags to their car. It is almost the more aged we become as Masons we tend to forget our obligation that we take at each step of our Masonic journey.

Here we get to our overall “search” as a Mason, **Self-Improvement.**

If we follow the guidelines dictated to us in our Charge after Initiation, the world would be a better place. This previous sentence was not my own, I have taken the liberty to unfetter it from one of the stalwarts in KZN Freemasonry. It is a profound statement and when we ponder on the Charge, a literal eye opener, we realize that change is in increments. Remember, the point is not being a better

you today by making massive changes, it is a continual effort and conscious choice to make small changes to ourselves and lives to be a better you in due course. This will in turn encourage others to do the same.

So, in time the world would become a better place, through the actions of a single man; **You, a Freemason.**



Get On board with Solomon

Solomon is a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) established by the United

Grand Lodge of England. It has a number of different modules which you need to enroll on before you can view or download the material. This is so you can customise what you can view, to fit in with where you are on your Masonic journey. So, if you are a Fellowcraft you would not enroll in the ‘Seek and Learn: Third Degree’, for example.

Solomon is a platform for delivering individual learning, and

for sharing material in a Lodge or Chapter. It is not a website, but rather uses web technology and is better viewed as a system.

You require a user id and password to authenticate you as a user, so it can recognise you. It does not authenticate you as a Freemason. The system is set up in such a way that a user will only see material that is included in the modules to which they have registered, for example by using Tags or Search. However, it is recommended that you do not look or search in areas of Solomon that your level does not entitle you

to look at. It is nothing secret, it's just a spoiler alert. If anyone has ever spoiled a film for you by telling you the plot you will know what we mean. The less you know, the greater the impact.

Solomon is best viewed on a Windows 10 machine using Chrome as a browser. Other browsers will work and will produce variable results.

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SEVEN HABITS OF HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL LODGES

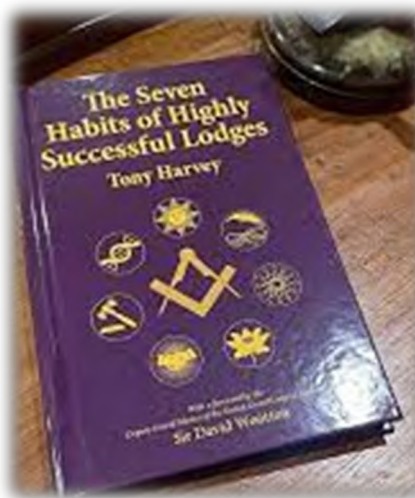
WBro. Tony Harvey, PAGDC FLPI,
Chartered FCIPD, FCMI, FRSA

Inspired by Stephen Covey's self-help and management book, "Seven habits of highly effective people", my "Seven habits of highly successful Lodges" list my observations of the key features most commonly found in successful Lodges. By successful I mean strong, happy, healthy and attractive Lodges that have good future prospects. We currently have just over 7,000 Lodges in the English Constitution, with an average membership of 33. Many of these Lodges are "struggling". Without a strong pool of diverse members, of varying ages and skills, Lodges struggle to find able and willing brethren to occupy the key offices to keep the Lodge active and successful. However, many other Lodges have far more members, are attracting new ones and retaining existing ones. They seem to be thriving. So, what are they doing and what can the rest of us learn from them?

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1. Great ritual and ceremonial

All the meaning of Freemasonry is in the ritual. Well delivered flowing ritual allows that meaning to be communicated clearly and more easily interpreted. Well delivered does not imply perfect ritual. Most of us are not Shakespearean actors.



Our ritual should be focussed on instructing the candidate. It should not be a theatrical performance to impress the audience. This requires commitment, early preparation and a willingness to do our best. Nowadays, friendly help and encouraging support, along with teamwork, gets the best results.

2. Efficient administration

The administrative elements of Lodge meetings are important, but they are not the reason we meet. They should occupy the least amount of time necessary. This can be achieved by advance planning and use of communication technology, which eliminates the need to wait until meetings to deliver messages. UGLE's Hermes system will simplify the Lodge's administrative work. We should see less meeting time consumed by administration and more time give to labour and refreshment; that is to ceremony, ritual and social intercourse.

3. Active support for newer members

Nationally, one in every five new members resigns before receiving his Grand Lodge certificate. Many of them cite a lack of understanding or involvement, although rarely do they explain this to their Lodge. © A.D.G. Harvey 2020 2 9/8/2020 Masonic Mentoring provides active support to newer members. It helps them develop understanding and commitment.

It is not the passive or reactive approach of just being friendly and available. It has to be planned and organised. The Members' Pathway provides guidance for planned mentoring, so it need not be left to chance.

4. Involvement of all members

Members' expectations now can be very different from even a few years ago. Many want their voice to be heard and their talents used. Finding a way to involve all members is key to retaining their interest and enthusiasm. This can be helping with social events, communications, membership, fundraising and other Lodge tasks. Past Masters can lose interest if they don't have a role. Passing on key offices to recent Past Masters keeps the Lodge refreshed and ensures there are competent people to run it. A Lodge's future is threatened if offices do not pass to newer members while there are still others around to support them. Family involvement is increasingly important, especially in social activities. A family friendly Lodge attracts more support from brethren and their partners.

5. Willingness to evolve & change

Ancient and traditional institutions such as the Monarchy, the City of London and our oldest universities recognise

that they must evolve to connect with future "members" and the world in which they live. Freemasonry has been evolving and changing throughout its history and our oldest Lodges are still with us because they have adapted. Evolution allows Lodges to stay fresh, attractive and relevant. Step 1 of the Members' Pathway encourages Lodges to prepare a development plan; to identify where its future members will come from and how its meetings and practices will attract and hold that membership. This process helps a Lodge to evolve, to refresh and to identify specific groups of potential members.

6. Harmony

Harmony binds a Lodge together and sets us apart from other organisations. New members will soon leave a Lodge that is not practicing its principles of harmony. Consultation is essential for harmony. It gives everyone a chance to have their say, be heard and to work together for the collective good. Disenfranchisement of newer members from Lodge decision making undermines harmony. When decisions are made by a select few, the other members can feel that their membership is undervalued. Senior members have a responsibility to promote harmony in a Lodge and encourage all members to work together.

7. Leadership from the Chair

Our system balances the fresh approaches of the new with continuity from the past. © A.D.G. Harvey 2020 3 9/8/2020 Wise Masters provide leadership by communicating a way forward with enthusiasm, while others manage the detailed organisation and administration of the Lodge. The managers in the Lodge are the heads of the administration team (Secretary), the ceremonial team (Director of Ceremonies) and the care team (the Almoner or Mentor). These officers need to work together so that the leader – the current Master – can shine.

None of these seven habits are new and none should come as a surprise. However, if your Lodge is struggling this list might help you think afresh about your way forward. As guardians and stewards of our Lodges we have a two-fold responsibility to future generations.

First, to protect and preserve the core of Freemasonry – that is the meaning that we are taught in the ritual – so that Freemasonry itself continues to be a force for good in the world.

The second is to do all we can to pass on to our successors a Lodge that is fit for the future, well suited to current and likely future circumstances.

Lodge News



Amanzimtoti Lodge

Installation of new Worshipful Master

After 5 years as Master of Amanzimtoti Lodge, WBro Marco van der Hammen could finally hand over the reins of the Lodge to WBro Glenn Bertasso who was installed into the Chair of King Solomon on **11 October 2023**.

“The Lodge had a busy Masonic year and one of the two highlights was presenting WBro Brian Hill with a 50 year Pin in recognition of his 50 years as a Freemason”, WBro van der Hammen stated. WBro Hill was initiated at Umkomaas Lodge in April 1983.

The other highlight was the installation of WBro Glenn Bertasso as the new Master of the Lodge for 2023/4. WBro Bertasso was installed into the Chair of King Solomon by his predecessor and impressed all present by the superb manner in which he invested his Officers.



Above: WBro Glen Bertasso, the newly installed Master of Amanzimtoti Lodge



WBro Bertasso loves his Masonry and puts in a lot of work, not only in the ritual, but also outside the door of the Lodge room. This bodes very well for the Lodge under his Master-ship in 2024.



Junior Warden: WBro John Padginton (PDGSW SA North)



Senior Warden: Bro Tony Hill



Stalwarts of Amanzimtoti Lodge: Secretary, WBro Brian Hill (PDGSW) & Treasurer, WBro Barry Anderson (PDJGW)



Junior Deacon: Bro Daryl Reen

Toti Masonic Lodges treat senior citizens to lunch and fun



The 38th Annual Seniors' Luncheon was held by three Amanzimtoti Masonic Lodges at ATKV Natalia Holiday Beach Resort at Illovo Beach on 18 November 2023.

Residents from all Amanzimtoti senior citizens' homes were treated to lunch and some entertainment.

The three Lodges meeting at the Amanzimtoti Masonic

Centre, namely Lodge Fort Jameson SC, Lodge Grantleigh SC and Amanzimtoti Lodge EC organised the luncheon with the aim of showing the senior citizens that they are loved and appreciated.

"Most of them don't have much to do, so to organise this day for them means they go out and have fun and mingle with their peers,"

says Bro Bob Skippings of Lodge Fort Jameson who has been involved in this annual event for many years.

The Masters of all three lodges, including our recently newly-installed Master, WBro Glenn Bertasso, summoned the troops of their respective lodges and did a sterling job in providing a sumptuous lunch and a lot of fun to our senior citizens.



The senior citizens enjoying their lunch

Keeping an eye on things: WBro's Alan Hall & Barry Anderson



Port Shepstone Lodge

Teddy bears for a good cause

WBro Derek Egerton

For some time, Port Shepstone Lodge has been looking to put something back into the local community; but where do we find a deserving project? It basically came down to talking to people we knew and listening to what they had to say.

Initially we decided to donate R2 000.00 to a group of ladies: Kay Taylor, Pat Malque, Pauline Dunlop, Queenie Riley and Marilyn Francis who knit Teddy Bears to give to children in need. Imagine our surprise when on completion, these Teddy Bears were delivered to our Lodge for us to distribute.

At about the same time, we were introduced to Ski Nxumalo, the Executive Director of **Phakamisa Development Forum**, a non-profit organisation registered with the Department of Social Development which operates within the circumference of Ward 29

of the Ray Nkonyeni Municipality. Ward 29 is well known as Mvutshini under

cated he was. Some of the stories he told us were heart-breaking. Ski told us of



the jurisdiction of KwaXolo Tribal Authority.

Our WM, WBro Alan Bergin, WBro Phil Waudby and myself met with Ski and were literally blown away with how humble and dedi-

how he was brought up and that he had managed to make something of himself when, as a child, he sometimes did not eat for 3 or 4 days. A reality that is still continuing with many, many

children today.

We were then invited to a presentation which included engaging with disadvantaged families and children. Unfortunately, WBro Waudby was ill and could not make it, so WBro Bergin and myself met Ski and we followed him for many kilometres on very poor dirt roads which we would not have attempted if it was raining.

Our first stop was the shell of a building which had unfortunately burnt down (pictured top right). Ski explained to us that this was a crèche that they were hoping to resurrect.

We then travelled to a church which had an outer building which was being used as a temporary crèche. When we arrived, there were 20 young children there in a room that was no bigger than 14m x 7m. I asked the teacher how many children she normally had, and

she said 64!!! Even so, the one thing that struck us most was how happy the children were.

We finally arrived at the presentation and seeing these young mothers with their

children was so humbling. They were obviously poor, but they still had dignity.

We were informed that there was a different road back and took this. It was about 30kms longer, but much better.

We decided that we would donate some of the teddies to the children and they were so pleased. They even learnt and sung to us a song. The rest of the teddies we donated to the Children's Oncology Department of the Netcare Hospital in Irene which was most welcome and gratefully received.

We had already decided to donate R4 000.00 to Phakamisa and as they now have, after a long struggle, a bank account, we will transfer the money. We have explained to Ski that we wish the money to go to building materials required for the crèche. He stated that as the money is used, he will inform us of what the money is spent on. I am sure this is a case of watch this space!!



Photos published with permission of the Phakamisa Development Forum



Margate Castle recently held a Medi-

eval Banquet as a social event for the lodges on the South Coast.

A sumptuous feasts was eaten of vegetable broth, meatballs, drumsticks and veg along with cake and custard, all eaten using only a knife! Eating soup without a spoon is quite different and a lot of slurping went on!



Quite an effort was made to dress up in Medieval costume and all were challenged at the portcullis and castle gate by "Sir" Mark Rose, our errant Knight in his KT attire.

There was much merriment, all well behaved and there was no need to put anyone in the stocks.



An excellent (k)night was enjoyed by all and many groats (R750) were made towards the building fund.

Those that weren't there missed a memorable evening and those that were there are looking forward to another banquet some time in 2024!



Duguza Lodge

Travelling Gavel reclaimed by worthy challenger

Let's cast our minds back to 11 July 2023 when the travelling Gavel was taken away from Inanda Lodge by an "army of brethren" from Duguza Lodge. Well, the tables turned on Duguza when Inanda Lodge reciprocated by sending out



a Band of Brothers to Umhlali to reclaim the Travelling Gavel at the Lodges' last meeting for the year. The WM of Duguza Lodge, WBro Charles Hedges 'reluctantly', albeit in the good spirit it is intended, handed the Travelling Gavel back to the

Worshipful Master of Inanda Lodge, WBro Ockert Fourie after which they "buried the hatchet" and joined-in in a hearty Festive Board, both Lodges adding their names onto the Travelling Gavel Honours Board.

Ikwezi Lodge

Ikwezi Charity Event 2023

Bro Reuben Arumugam



2023 has been an eventful year for Ikwezi Lodge 7634 EC.

Without a Worshipful Master, the Lodge had to place ourselves as MAIN DEFENDER and embarked on a shot for the Hollywood Gold Cup. In recognition of our CRIMSON KING, St Luke's Home of Healing was nominated. This is a FUTURE PEARL for Freemasonry and we arose GLADATORIAN.



The event resulted in a staggering amount of R11,742 being raised. Many thanks to the following brethren for making our day a success: WBro Patrick Macquet, WBro Jack Kalil, Bro Mark Perumal and Bro Leon Jacobs.



Port Natal Lodge

Lodge hosts two successful social events

Bro (Dr) Donovan Andrews

Port Natal Lodge organised two fabulous social events, the **Annual Ladies Night** on 16 September 2023 and **Year-end Christmas Party** on 11 November 2023, both held at the El-Arish Restaurant on the Bluff, Durban, the owner of which is Fellow Craft Mason, Bro Mark Perumal.

The **Ladies Night** is an annual event giving the brethren an opportunity to thank their spouses and partners for "allowing" their men folk to attend and enjoy their masonic activities during the year. Their were 40 persons in attendance at this event and entertainment was provided by The Hat Trick Boys.

An address was given by the WM, WBro Peter Barnard and the MC for the evening was none other than "Willy Wonka" (aka Bro Donovan Andrews).

An incredible amount of fun was had by all which was topped by a sumptuous buffet dinner and dessert table.

In addition to the festivities, a generous amount of R3000 in aid of charity was raised during the Pot Luck Raffle.



The **Port Natal Christmas Party** is also an annual event providing an opportunity for Freemasons in KZN to come together in fellowship with their friends and families and celebrate the year that was and remember the reason for the Season.

50 people attended this event which once again featured an incredible buffet dinner and dessert table. The local band, The Hat Trick Boys was back to provide live music and entertainment.

Our leader, WBro Peter Barnard addressed all present and wished everyone a safe and happy Festive Season.

The evening was once again MC'd by Bro Donovan Andrews.

In keeping with the spirit of Christmas and in true Masonic fashion, a generous amount of R5000 was raised in aid of charity during the Pot Luck Raffle.

This event was also the forerunner to the Annual Port Natal Masonic Charity Baruch (a Hebrew word meaning "Blessing") at the El Arish. This new charity event will have its maiden voyage after Easter 2024 as part of the Lodge's yearly list of events held to raise much-needed assistance for various charities. Watch this space for more details!





Umkomaas Lodge

Another busy Masonic year has come to an end with the Lodge going into recess until February 2024.

In **February 2023**, Bro Clinton Read was Passed to the Second Degree with Bro Ian Lesar being Passed at the **May 2023** meeting. Both brethren were Raised to the Third Degree at the **July** and **September 2023** meetings respectively.

One of the other highlights of the year was honouring WBro Peter Tanner at the **April 2023** meeting on his 50th anniversary of being a Mason. Our DDGM in Charge, WBro Rob Moxham, presented WBro Tanner with a 50-year pin in recognition of this milestone. WBro Tanner was initiated into Umkomaas Lodge on the 5th of April 1973.

To further mark this momentous occasion, WBro Phil Waudby performed the Charge after Initiation to reinforce the meaning of Masonry to all present.

In **August 2023**, a short business meeting was held, followed by a Ladies Evening during which WBro Darryll Robertson presented an informative slide show on the origins of Freemasonry and WBro Marco

v/d Hammen, a slide show on Famous Freemasons (which included WBro David Zavada in a shotput pose with a bowls wood!).

On **5 October 2023**, WBro Van der Hammen was proclaimed as Master of Lodge for a 3rd time. In his Interim Report, WBro Van der Hammen reported that the Lodge's goals and objectives for 2022-2023 proved positive and would remain in place for 2023/4 (if it's



Above: The Lodge Christmas lunch held at The Hour Glass Restaurant, Timeless Lodge in Umkomaas

not broken, don't fix it!), namely :

- ▶ focus on planning meaningful activities that put Masonic values into action;
- ▶ make each and every activity uniquely Masonic;
- ▶ use our available time to its greatest Masonic advantage;
- ▶ sustain a 'happy' Lodge.

The WM installed the following Officers for the ensuing year:

Senior Warden: WBro John Cryer; Junior Warden & Charity Steward: WBro Pieré Visagie; Chaplain: WBro Louis Geen; Treasurer: WBro Peter Tanner; Secretary: WBro Darryll Robertson; Director of Ceremonies: WBro Pete Griffith; Almoner & Junior Deacon: WBro Gerald Justus; Mentor: WBro Rob Moxham; Senior Deacon: WBro Sergio Marucchi-Benedict;

Inner Guard: Bro Clinton Read.

A delightful Lodge Christmas lunch to end off the year was had at The Hour Glass Restaurant, Timeless Lodge, Umkomaas on **Sunday 3 December 2023**. Brethren, wives and friends enjoyed a sumptuous 3 course meal prepared

under the supervision of Bro Read's wife, Steff Read.

The last meeting of the year featured an interactive 2nd Degree quiz, hosted by Supremo Quiz Master, WBro Darryll Robertson, which was both educational and enjoyable.

Looking forward to another exciting Masonic year in 2024!



Why the Mark?

A closer look at the fascinating Order of Mark Masonry

The story so far: In the August 2023 issue, readers were introduced to this fascinating Order wherein certain questions were posed in deciding whether the Mark has anything to offer a Mason beyond the three Craft degrees and the Holy Royal Arch. With that in mind, let's continue exploring what this Order is all about:

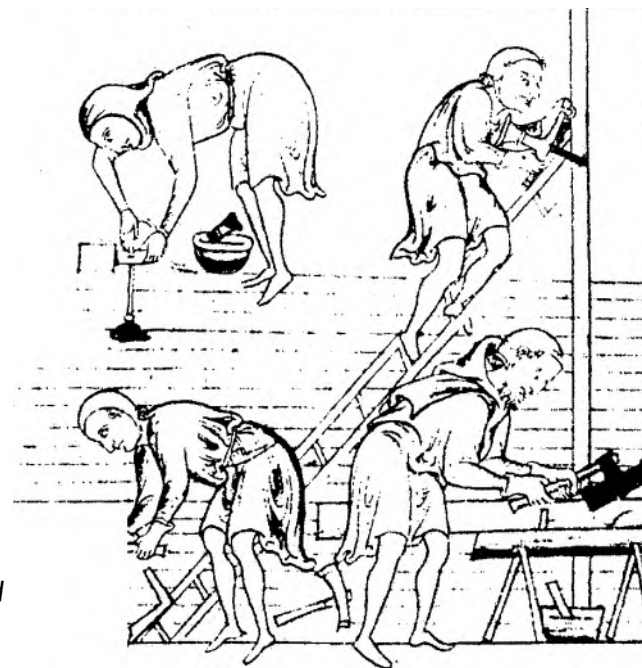
Nourishment for the Speculatives

The moral message of the Mark Degree is a Biblical text: "The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner." This is also the Latin motto on the arms of Grand Lodge: "*Lapis reprobatus caput anguli.*" So important is its enduring message of hope that the statement is found no fewer than three times in the Bible (in Psalm 118:22; the Gospel according to St Matthew, 21:43; and the Gospel according to St Mark, 12:10). The Gospel references are part of Christ's parable of the vineyard deliv-

ered to the chief priests, scribes and elders shortly before His crucifixion. In the parable He obliquely likens Himself to the rejected stone.

Can you think of another Masonic message that can be summarised in a brief, crisp text so

your due reward at Judgement Day. You do so, secure in the faith that God who "seeth not as man seeth" (*p77, Lecture on the Tracing Board*) and is the embodiment of infinite Charity, will judge you according to the true value of your work.



The degree inculcates moral courage, the will to continue steadfastly to do what you know is right despite the attacks or scorn of others. Thus It teaches you to have faith in yourself while at the same time placing a healthy reliance on others ("..... among Mark Master Masons you will ever find friends").

This implies that you observe certain standards. If your life is to be made in

to a perfect "living stone" fit for the highest use it must first be tested against your own standards and against the square of the GOOTU.

There are other interwoven strands - lessons of humility, of patience adversity, of self-discipline. At least this much should be clear to you: it is ridiculous to suggest that Mark Masonry carries no intellectual or spiritual weight.

packed with meaning that it forms the theme of a parable?

The surface meaning is straightforward, yet its suggestions and implications are there to be explored by a little philosophic probing.

As we have already suggested, the primary underlying message is one of hope. Spurned by your fellows, rejected by the world, you can yet hope for

Ritual and Ceremony

The lessons of the Mark Degree are presented in a ceremony that is both lively and enjoyable. It requires active participation by at least nine officers and is full of action and surprises.

The ceremony requires wholehearted commitment from the officers if it is to be convincing. Perhaps that is why a good Advancement in the Mark creates a sense of special joy and warmth in the participants.

The simple and direct language of the ritual perfectly matches the clarity of the central teaching of the degree.

There is no obscure, far-fetched symbolism or elaborate, inflated rhetoric. The words are to be savoured for their unadorned dignity.

They are entirely appropriate for this unpretentious yet fascinating degree.

Special Characteristics

THE MARK is universally known as the "friendly degree". Perhaps, because the message is conveyed in a relatively light-hearted way through a ceremony that is entertaining as well as instructive. Perhaps also because of the need for wholehearted participation, as already mentioned.

Its devotees certainly recognise a particularly pleasing flavour in

the Mark and value it for itself. For the adventurous Masonic voyager, it has added attractions. It opens the door on further Orders which require membership of the Mark. These are the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners, the Order of Royal and Select Masters and the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees.



RW Bro WN Johnston, District Grand Master of the Mark Masonry in KwaZulu-Natal

The Royal Ark Mariner, a fascinating, compact degree, has close affinities with the Craft - which is not surprising when you consider that the legend of Noah and the First Covenant was part of the earliest development of Craft ritual. (Early masons were known as Noachites). The only remnants of the Noah legend in modern Craft masonry are the Dea-

cons' Wands. Royal Ark Mariner lodges have, in terms of the Constitutions, to be attached to Mark Lodges.

The Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees is a most interesting cluster of five degrees - St Lawrence the Martyr, Knight of Constantinople, Red Cross of Babylon, Grand Tilers of Solomon and the Order of Grand High Priest.

The Order of Royal and Select Masters, popularly known as the "Cryptic", comprises four degrees each of which, from the Mark onwards, leads logically to the next and so on in succession until we arrive at the Supreme degree of the Holy Royal Arch. They are a useful and interesting addition to the Craft and Mark and contribute in particular to a better understanding of the Royal Arch.

In conclusion, we seem to have covered only the pleasures and virtues of Mark masonry and you may well ask: "Why the negative perceptions?". The reason is almost certainly to be found in the quality of performance of the ceremony which can be excellent or abysmal, though it is usually somewhere between. The Mark is something like a violin: well played it is sublime, badly played it is excruciating!

For more information, contact the District Grand Secretary, WBro Ken Darby
Mobile: 082 577 0673
dgsec.mark.ram@kznfreemasonry.co.za

Masonic Snippets

Roof of the World Lodge No. 1094



Above: Special Communication of Lodge Roof of the World No. 1094 held on the 29th of August 1914 on Mount Meiggs, Peru

The Grand Lodge of Scotland chartered Roof of the World Lodge No. 1094 in Cerro de Pasco, Peru in 1911. Considered the highest Masonic lodge in the world, the group met at an altitude of 14 208 feet (4330m) above sea level. American executives and engineers employed by the various mines and construction camps in Peru made up most of the membership. In 1914 the Lodge requested a special dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland permitting them to hold a regular lodge meeting at

the summit of Mt. Meiggs in the Peruvian Andes at an altitude of 17 575 feet (5356m). The dispensation was granted and on August 29, 1914, twenty-six Master Masons held, according to some, the highest regular meeting of its kind in the history of Freemasonry.

According to the 1914-1915 Grand Lodge of Scotland proceedings there were five active lodges

under its jurisdiction in Peru in 1914. The Roof of the World Lodge last met in the early 1990s, in San Isidro, Lima, Peru.

Source: nationalheritagemuseum.typepad.com



Above: Mt. Meiggs, Peruvian Andes

A Freemason's Christmas Wish

It is the time of year when the Brethren rejoice, and sing carols of praise in resounding voice.

Days of merriment and long nights of cheer, as we all await the "Happy New Year!"

It is a time of family and life-long friends, a time of happiness and to make amends.

Roast turkey and baubles and the Nutcracker Suite, we each have our own way to make Christmas complete.

As we stroll through this happy month of December, find time to pause and take time to remember, that distinguishing sign of a Freemason's heart – those acts of Charity.

How great they are.

As your family gathers 'round your Christmas tree,

and the children play with giggles of glee, spare a thought for the poor, the man with no shoes, whose daily meal is less than your dues.



Remember also the Grand Lodge above, and the Supreme Great Architect's act of love.

And practise those virtues we hold so true. Have some fun! But let Temperance chasten you.

And during this season of peace and joy, look well to our future – the girl and boy. Then wonder what lessons you may them teach, and with your guidance what heights they may reach.

So, to all of my Brethren from far and wide, whether your Christmas be snow, or hot and dry, May the Architect grant his celestial boon and keep your good health 'til we meet again soon.

Take care of yourself and those you find dear.

Keep this festive spirit throughout the next year.

Look toward your next date with our happy band.

'Til our next merry meeting.

Apron, heart, and hand.

Andrew J. Bradley (1998)



