



# NIPPON LODGE No. 9



## BULLETIN



### Free and Accepted Masons



**MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF JAPAN**

**MAY 27, 2020**

**The Source of Wisdom of The Brethren of Nippon Lodge No. 9, Sasebo, Japan**

**4th Edition 2020**



### The Importance of Preparation and Education In The Making of a Faithful Mason

Fraternal greetings from the East! I hope you and your families are doing well. We took a short hiatus with our weekly bulletin as we have ventured to a more lively and virtual way of meeting the brethren online. That was quite an interesting meeting last week, and we will continue to do that during this pandemic. Please do not be complacent with this virus while we are seeing some improvements in our current location. While the medical experts are still trying to pinpoint the most effective vaccine, we cannot let our guards off.

Moving right along about the Proficiency Manual and Study Guide for the EA Degree. We left off with why religion and belief to the Supreme Being is one of the foundation of our Craft. To be a Mason is to believe in the Supreme Being and to attest your strong will to emulate His divine teachings about purity in life and rectitude in conduct. We also learned that politics and religion should not be discussed in the Lodge. This defines that line that exists among us with regard to the common level that we observe without the emphasis on classes and distinctions in our society. Each Brother is entitled to his own beliefs and may follow his own convictions. Our objective is to unite men and not to divide them. These subjects create honest differences of opinion which might well cause friction between Brethren. There will also be subjects concerning the Lodge's business that should be discussed. These discussions should be kept within the bounds of propriety and everyone should show a tolerance for the opinion of the other.

As discussed in the last bulletin, every Master wants harmony in his Lodge, and once a matter has been put to vote in the Lodge, and a decision made, the decision should be accepted by all Members regardless of how they voted.

We try to teach every Mason to be a good citizen and to perform his civic duties. We do not try to keep anyone from expressing his opinion or from serving his city, county, state or nation in an honorable manner. Anyone who serves in political office should not act politically as a Freemason or in the name of Freemasonry in exercising his rights; such as showing affiliation with any Lodge in his campaign advertising.

We will continue to explore the contents of the Proficiency Manual and gradually delve into the parts of the rituals. Why do we do those rituals? How it was adapted from the Holy Writings and applied to our Craft? Please let us know if you have any inputs or questions concerning our bulletins. As we find this one of the most effective medium to keep the Brethren informed while we are confined in our humble abodes and awaiting that time in patience to meet again, your feedback is important to improve this way of spreading Masonic Education amongst the Brethren.

I personally appreciate and ask for your continued support not only during this pandemic but in the days to come as we reorganize at the very first moment that we can. The first ZOOM meeting was successful with 15 good looking attendees, and we will continue to do it. Mark it and set your alarms—27 May 2020 @ 1800. An invite will be sent to you by email.

In closing, continue to wear your mask, plan your outside activities and strictly observe physical distancing. Wishing you all the best of the best this week. We are getting into a more risky environment with the lifting of the restrictions and a more stern observance of your personal safety shall be applied.

May the GAOTU provide us strength and the right set of mind to discover that shield and armor to totally eliminate the dreadful effects of this virus. PEACE AND HARMONY!

**BROTHERLY LOVE**



**RELIEF**



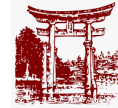
**TRUTH**



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## Lodge System of Education of Candidate (The Entered Apprentice Degree)

### GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING FREEMASONRY (PART IV)

(This part should be given before the Entered Apprentice ceremony but could be given along with the Entered Apprentice Education after the ceremony.) *\*\*\* Note: you will notice that the contents of the general information I copied here are worth remembering due to the fact that these are the answers that you may give to those who are asking about our Craft. Again, the contents herein are copied directly from the manual with a brief narrative comments of the WM.*

#### PREPARATION FOR INITIATION

To get the greatest good from the ceremonies, a Candidate should first prepare his mind for its reception. He should not be apprehensive and should enter the Lodge with the attitude which will enable him to appreciate the serious and solemn ceremonies through which he will pass. The Candidate should pay strict attention to every part of the ceremony in order that he may gain some understanding of the teachings of Freemasonry. The methods we use in teaching will be new and unusual to the Candidate, which is by allegory and symbolism which have been used since ancient times. These methods have been used for over two centuries and have not changed very much since they were originated. Finally, he should learn that every Mason in the Lodge room is his friend and Brother.

#### NO HORSEPLAY OR HAZING

There is no place for horseplay or hazing during our ceremonies and the Candidate can be assured there will be none. The rituals are serious and solemn; we are trying to teach spiritual lessons with great dignity. Anything which is told the Candidate in a joking manner or to otherwise frighten him, serves only to desecrate the honorable purposes of Freemasonry. The Candidate should have no apprehension about entering a Lodge. He is always entering a society of friends and Brothers where he will be treated with dignity and decorum at all times.

#### THE HEART OF THE MASONIC FAMILY

Freemasonry is not just another fraternity or association of men banded together for social, political, or economic advantages. Our foundation is built on a philosophy of friendship, Brotherly Love, and a firm belief in a Supreme Being; in other words, the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God. Some better known Masons in our history include; George Washington, Patrick Henry, Harry Truman, Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, and many others.

**BROTHERLY LOVE**



**RELIEF**



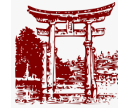
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## Lodge System of Education of Candidate (The Entered Apprentice Degree)

### MASONIC EDUCATION FOR PROFICIENCY IN THE E. A. DEGREE

After initiation, the Candidate will receive his "posting lecture" to begin his Masonic education. The assigned coach or member/s of the Education Committee should be present and well prepared to present the portion of the Proficiency Guide Manual titled "The Entered Apprentice Degree".

Make the Candidate feel welcome and at ease. Answer any questions he may have at this point. As the instruction progresses, questions may arise. They should be answered as completely as necessary without giving information which will be covered in the succeeding Degrees. No doubt several questions will begin to form in his mind and should be answered as asked. The Manual will be given to the Candidate to complete the question and answer portion. Ideally, this would be in the presence of his coach or committee member/s. If he is allowed to look up the answers and then write them down, his learning curve will go up immeasurably.

He will also be taught the Due-guard and Sign, the Grip and Word, as well as the E.A. obligation for oral presentation/examination in an open Lodge. The Master or one duly authorized by him will determine the accuracy of the answers to the questions in the manual and report the results to the Lodge. The examination in open Lodge must consist of the demonstration of the modes of recognition and reciting part of the ritual and the obligation. The Master will then declare him proficient in the Degree.

This same process is to be used in all three degrees.

*Note: As before, I encourage your inquiries and discussions either by email or our official chat group to benefit the brethren and get their opinions as well. I am sure some of us might not be aware of the contents of the manual that we are sharing here. I hope through this publication, your eager participation to a live LOI is satisfied by its contents.*

*Read it, love it, live it!*

**BROTHERLY LOVE**



**RELIEF**



**TRUTH**