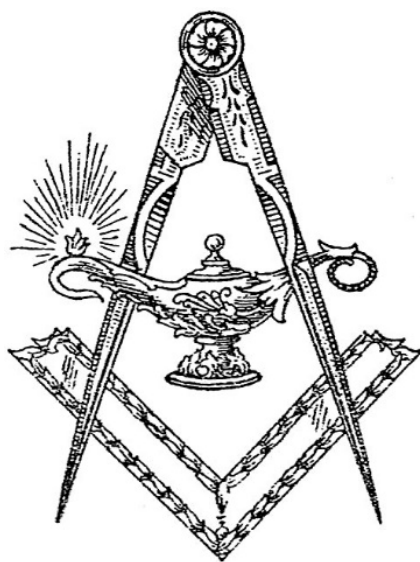


Grand Lodge of Mississippi F. & A. M.



**Promoting a deeper understanding
of the Uniform Ritual Work of Mississippi Masonry**

**Grand Lodge of Mississippi Education Committee
February 2023**

An Educated Mason is a Dedicated Mason



Memorization of Ritual is, without a doubt, a laudable pursuit. However, memorizing with no intention to understand the meaning of the words being spoken or to understand and apply what is memorized is not serving the highest Masonic purposes.

The following compilation of definitions, terms, and words has been produced by the Grand Lodge of Mississippi Education Committee for the benefit of the Brethren in attaining a deeper meaning of the Ritual by gaining an understanding of the words spoken. Over many years of use by the Brethren, in both the business of the Lodge and the Ritual, questions have arisen about their proper meaning and usage. This glossary is presented in as clear an explanation as possible. The arrangement in an alphabetical sequence is one of purpose. While it does not flow as it would in narrative form, or even as it would in the ritual, it should be obvious to the members of the Craft why this style was chosen.

The use of "Masonic Words" is somewhat an enigma. As words tend to change their meaning over time we can get easily drawn into misunderstandings in the present and misjudge the original intent of not just the words, but of the concept(s) being portrayed by their use. We attempt to teach our children to use the correct spelling, pronunciation, and definitions involving "vocabulary words." In like manner, words we deem to be "Masonic" words in many of Freemasonry's old ritual books, are in some instances, archaic and they are seldom used in our modern speech. As we do not use some of them in everyday speech, we may be somewhat unsure of their exact meaning and usage. Some of this is similar to the reason there are so many variations and translations of the Holy Bible, as the language of the King James version is certainly a very beautiful collection of language, the flowing, flowery language of that time period, however that does not always lend itself to easily understanding the words or the intents being portrayed to today's Bible readers. And we have the same issue while reading and studying older Masonic-themed books.

In certain trades, industries, societies, or sciences there are words that need explanation when they are properly employed or used in the context of that particular venue. These words are oftentimes termed as "jargon" or "industry" terms. The context of the word used within a particular group is often the defining characteristic that distinguishes the word from other uses. While the use of jargon makes it more efficient for language in the group using it, it tends to confuse others not in the group, thereby acting as a sort of gatekeeper in conversation as it acts as a form of signaling who is allowed or should be allowed into certain forms of conversation. One may be reminded of how some words are akin to a *shibboleth* of sorts as described in the Holy Bible.

In the words of one philosopher, "...every science requires a special language because every science has its own ideas." As such, Freemasonry as "a progressive science," has need of a vocabulary and glossary as a group, as we use some terms differently from other groups, in fact, in some cases, the words are unique to Freemason's only! As the meanings of the words are very important for us as Freemasons, we need to have a good reference to assist us in learning, and using properly, those terms and phrases unique to us. The specialized word usage allows us to truly appreciate the power and inspiration of the philosophy, moral stories, the attendant usage of certain emblems and symbols, and the elegant beauty and simple truths represented by them, when used appropriately.

In order to improve the use and understanding of the words themselves it is to be considered a best practice to review the etymology of the word, examples of usage in other Masonic references, e.g., Mackey's Encyclopedia, dictionaries of words at the time of initial usage in Freemasonry, articles or books of an earlier time in history; in short, a review of as many relevant sources as are available in order to provide the best explanation and understanding of the Mississippi Ritual and the practice of Freemasonry in all of its "kindred sciences." Thus, the vocabulary and glossary will introduce words not included exclusively in the ritual or ceremonies but will also provide a more complete explanation as to the history, symbolism, philosophies used to better understand and hopefully better practice our ancient Craft.

For this reason, we have included no small number of the many of the archaic Masonic words used in Masonic rituals, books, and articles in the United States.

It is sincerely hoped that as the Craft uses this text, all Mississippi Masons will benefit. We hope you enjoy your journey in obtaining *More Light in Masonry!*

Provided by

Members of the Education Committee

of

The Grand Lodge of Mississippi, F. & A.M.

February 2023



Abide	To accept or act in accordance with (a rule, decision, or recommendation).
Abif	Part of the name Hiram Abif, one of the principal characters in the Masonic legend. The word does not appear in the English translation of the Bible. In II Chronicles, 4:16, the expression is "Hiram, his father," and in II Chronicles 2:13, it is "Hiram, my father." It is a term of respect, thus, "Hiram, my father," or "Hiram, his father," meaning a Hiram greatly respected and venerated. See: Three Grand Masters.
Abode	A person's home, residence.
Acacia	Any of various chiefly tropical trees of the genus Acacia, having compound leaves and tight clusters of small yellow or white flowers. The acacia was used to mark the head of graves as a symbol of immortality.
Accessory	One who aids or abets a lawbreaker, either before or after the commission of his crime, without being present at the time the crime was committed. Accommodate to be kind to and provide for.
Accord	To make to conform or agree; bring into harmony.
Admonish	To counsel another person gently and constructively.
Admonition	To remind, to urge to duty.
Adorn	To decorate or add beauty to.
Advancement	Movement forward, i.e., the movement from one degree to the next.
Affinity	A similarity, likeness, or resemblance.
Afflictions	Pain or suffering.
Alarm	The knocks at the door of the Lodge room which are answered by similar knocks from within.
Allegory	A literary style that uses symbols, characters, or events to suggestively represent an abstract idea.
All-Seeing-Eye	"The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." Proverbs 15:3
Allude	A hint. To make a somewhat disguised reference about a person, place, or thing.
Allurements	Temptations.
Allusion	To refer to; a metaphor or parable.

Altar	A structure at the center of the Lodge room where the great lights, the Holy bible, square, and compasses upon it are displayed. Altars are invested with particular sanctity, so that covenants made and vows taken there are deemed especially binding.
Amen	Hebrew - "So Be It." Anglo-Saxon equivalent - "So Mote It Be." When used in the spoken word it is pronounced with the long "A" sound. When used in music the word is usually pronounced "Ah-men" so as to attain a soft, musical inflection.
Amiable	Having or displaying a friendly and pleasant manner.
Anderson's Constitutions	Constitutions of Freemasons published in 1723 as compiled by Brother James Anderson, D.D., Secretary of the Grand Lodge of England.
Angels	Immortal, spiritual beings attendant upon God; God's spiritual messengers.
Apron	A garment worn over part of the front of the body for protection. In Freemasonry, the lambskin, or white leather apron, is an emblem of innocence; the badge of a Freemason. Every Mason must wear an apron on entering a lodge. Originally, the apron was worn as a full skin with the legs of the lamb secured by a tape around the Mason's neck. It protected the upper part of his clothing when he clasped a heavy stone. Later as he became more proficient in his trade he had no further use of the upper portion or bib, so he let it hang down over the lower part. The Masonic apron of today is constructed with a triangular piece overlapping the lower portion. The significance of the apron is work. It is the initial gift of the Lodge to a candidate, and it is the final tribute to a Brother.
Archaic	Out of use. So extremely old as seeming to belong to an earlier period.
Architect	A person professionally engaged in the design of buildings.
Architecture	The art and science of designing and erecting buildings. Considered by Masons to be the chief of the arts from which is drawn the fraternity's system of symbolism.
Archives	A place where historical documents are kept.
Ardor	Fiery intensity of feeling.
Artificer	A skilled worker, craftsman. A person adept at designing and constructing, an inventor. In Genesis 4:22 Tubal Cain is described as "instructor of every artificer in brass and iron."
Ashlar	A hewn stone. The rough ashlar symbolizes man's imperfect state by nature. The perfect ashlar symbolizes the state of perfection arrived at by a virtuous education, our own endeavors, and the blessings of God.
Aspersion	An unfavorable or damaging remark.

Assailed	Of an unpleasant feeling or sensation to come upon someone suddenly and strongly.
Astrology	The study of the movements and relative positions of celestial bodies interpreted as having an influence on human affairs and the natural world.
Astronomy	The branch of science which deals with celestial objects, space, and the physical universe as a whole.
Atheist	A-theist in Greek meaning "not-God;" one who does not believe in God.
Attribute	A quality or feature regarded as a characteristic or inherent part of someone or something.
August	Majestic, grandeur.



Bade	Past tense of bid. Beseech, implore, request earnestly.
Ballot	The act, process, or method of voting, especially by use of secret ballots. (Italian ballotta, small ball or pebble used for voting.) As little balls were used for voting, the term was transformed to the act and outcome of the vote.
Balm	Something that has a comforting, soothing, or restorative effect.
Barbarous	Savagely cruel, exceedingly brutal, primitive, uncivilized. Lacking refinement or culture. Coarse, very cruel, savage.
Benediction	A ceremonial prayer requesting divine protection.
Beneficent	A benefit. Doing or producing good.
Beseech	To earnestly ask or request urgently.
Betoken	A warning of, a sign of, an indication of a future event.
Blindfold	A covering or eye binder which prevents the wearer from seeing; a hoodwink.
Blue	The color of symbolic Masonry representing the canopy of heaven. Blue is the appropriate color of the first three degrees of ancient craft Masonry and has been explained as emblematic of universal friendship and benevolence, instructing us that in the mind of a Mason those virtues should be as extensive as the blue arch of heaven itself.

Boaz	The Pillar on the left side of the porch of King Solomon's Temple. (See II Chronicles 3:15)
Bourne	An archaic term for a goal or destination. A boundary, as between properties; limit.
Brazen	Made of brass; resembling brass in color.
Breadth	The distance or measurement of something from side to side; width.
Brow	The summit of a hill.



Cable-tow	A length of rope. A compound word of Masonic coinage combining cable (a rope) and tow (a rope for pulling). Used to restrain and to denote distance, usually a marine league, or three miles.
Candidate	One that aspires to or is nominated or qualified for membership or office; i.e., a candidate for the degrees of Freemasonry or a candidate for an office in the Lodge.
Candor	The quality of being open and honest in expression. The quality of being honest and straightforward in attitude and speech.
Canopy of Heaven	Covering of the Lodge. Early Lodges met in the open under the canopy of heaven.
Cardinal	Of prime importance. In Freemasonry, the cardinal virtues are those on which other virtues depend, i.e., the cardinal virtues of temperance, fortitude, prudence, and justice.
Careful	Solicitous, anxious, filling with care or solicitude, carefully.
Cavil	To make petty, or unnecessary objections. To argue.
Celestial	Relating to Heaven or the spirit. Pertaining to the sky (celestial globe) or to anything divine or heavenly (celestial light).
Cement	To unite or make firm, the binding element of brotherhood.
Censure	Harsh criticism or disapproval. An official reprimand or expression of disapproval.
Chapter	The capital or uppermost part of a column.

Charter	Every Lodge must be lawfully Chartered by the Grand Lodge and duly and solemnly constituted by the Grand Master and his officers. It must acknowledge the absolute authority of the Grand Lodge. A charter is not a warrant. When there is no Charter displayed, there can be no Lodge opened.
Chasten	(Especially of God) discipline; punish.
Circumambulation	A journey around; refers symbolically to the passage of the sun through the heavens from east to west by way of the south.
Circumference	The enclosing boundary of a curved geometric figure, especially a circle.
Circumscribe	To draw a circular line by the compasses; symbolic of the boundary line of Masonic conduct. To draw a line or a boundary around.
Circumspection	Knowing how to avoid embarrassment or distress by being prudent. See 'careful' above. Careful consideration of all possibilities.
Clandestine	Concealed, usually for some secret or illicit purpose. In Freemasonry, illegal, not recognized, not authorized.
Cleft	Opening made by a crack or crevice; a hollow between two parts. As in "Clefts of the rocks" Caves and crevices as produced naturally.
Column	A supporting pillar consisting of a base, a cylindrical shaft, and a capital.
Commend	Entrust someone or something to.
Commendable	Deserving praise.
Commendation	An award involving special praise.
Competency	The ability to do something successfully or efficiently.
Conciliate	To win over, to reconcile.
Conciliates	Compromise: The ability to come to terms in the interests of obtaining good will.
Confederate	Accomplice, ally, united in a league.
Conflagration	Fire that destroys a great deal of land or property.
Conform	The ability to adapt oneself.
Consecrate	The act, process, or ceremony of consecrating (making, declaring, or setting apart as sacred). The elements in Freemasonry are corn, wine, oil, and salt.
Consecrated	Solemnly dedicated to or set apart for a high purpose, usually a Holy purpose.
Consign	To send or convey.
Consolation	The comfort received by a person after a loss or disappointment.

Conspiracy	A secret plan by a group to do something unlawful or harmful.
Contemplative	Expressing or involving prolonged thought; involving deep, silent prayer or religious meditation.
Contempt	The feeling that a person or a thing is beneath consideration, worthless, or deserving scorn.
Contention	Strife or struggle.
Contrive	To plan with ingenuity. To come up with (an idea, plan, explanation, theory, or principle) after a mental effort.
Convention	A formal meeting, agreement, covenant. A coming together.
Convex	Curving or bulging outward like the outside of a bowl, circle, or sphere.
Countenance	Consent to or give permission. Support. Behavior, bearing. A person's face or facial expression.
Cowan	A person who attempts to pass themselves as a Mason who has not been initiated. Profanes, pretenders, intruders, eavesdroppers. Those seeking to obtain the Masonic words and secrets of Masonry without having been admitted to the fraternity.
Cowardice	Lack of courage.
Cubit	An ancient measure of length, approximately equal to the length of a forearm. It was typically about 18 inches.



Darkness	Always the symbol of ignorance, mystery, or evil. Many forms of initiation, including that of Freemasonry, emphasize the difference between darkness and light, the latter symbolizing truth, knowledge, and good. The North in the Lodge is symbolically the place of darkness.
Daubing	To apply, as paint, unskillfully.
Debase	To lower in rank, dignity, or significance.
Deceit	The act of lying.
Decrepitude	Worn out or ruined because of age or neglect.

Deemed	Regard or consider in a specific way.
Defraud	To obtain something by deception; to cheat.
Delineate	To describe something precisely. To accurately depict a shape. To draw or trace the outline of; sketch out.
Deluge	An overwhelming number or amount of an items. As in a deluge of rain.
Demean	To reduce in worth or character.
Demeanor	Conduct, behavior.
Department	A person's manners or behaviors. A manner of personal conduct or behavior.
Derogatory	Implies contempt or disapproval, such as a derogatory remark. Negative, to lessen the merit or reputation of a person.
Destitute	Poor, penniless, without the necessities of life.
Detestation	Intense dislike.
Deviate	Depart from usual or accepted standards.
Dew	Water droplets condensed from the air, usually at night, onto cool surfaces, such as grass. The significance of dew may be found as spiritual illumination, since it is the true forerunner of dawn and the approaching day. The clear, pure water of dew is, according to some traditions, closely connected with the idea of light.
Dictate	An order or principle that must be obeyed.
Diligent	Taking care, patience, and perseverance in carrying out tasks.
Discern	To perceive or recognize.
Discerning	Having, revealing, and exercising keen insight and good judgment.
Discordant	Conflicting. Not in agreement or harmony. Disagreeable.
Discreet	Tactful. Good at keeping secrets, or subtle and unobtrusive.
Dispensation	(a) An exemption from a rule or usual requirement. Special permission.
Dispensation	(b) An act of divine providence.
Dispersed	To distribute or spread over a wide area.
Dissent	Refusal to accept the rule of an established organization; nonconformity.
Dissolution	Disintegration; decomposition.
Diurnal	Occurring in the daytime. Belonging to the period of daylight. Diurnality is a form of plant and animal behavior characterized by activity during daytime, with a period of sleeping or other inactivity at night.

Divest	To deprive, remove or take away possessions from someone.
Divested	To take away material possessions or clothing.
Doleful	Full of grief.
Dominion	Sovereignty or control.
Dotage	The period of life in which a person is old and weak.
Due Examination	An examination of proper quality or extent; adequate. If used in conjunction with the term Strict Trial, use alludes to the mode of investigation.
Due Form	In proper form according to the Ritual.
Due Guard	To heed; to keep in view that which is to be guarded. A mode of recognition.



Eavesdropper	One who stands under the eaves, or near the window or door of a house, to listen; hence, a secret listener.
Ebbs and Flows	Referring to high and low tides.
Ecliptic	Astronomic plane containing the Earth's orbit about the Sun. An imaginary line followed on the earth's surface by the direct ray of the Sun during the year. Solomon's temple, located in Jerusalem, is north of this line. A great circle on the celestial sphere represents the sun's apparent path during the year, so called because lunar and solar eclipses can only occur when the moon crosses it.
Edifice	A building. Especially a large or impressive one.
Effectually	Successfully producing a desired or intended result.
Effluvia	An invisible emanation; especially an offensive smell.
Emblematical	Serving as a visible symbol for something abstract, e.g., as a crown is emblematic of royalty.
Emulation	To copy. An effort made to imitate another person's actions or achievements.
Endeavor	To exert oneself to do or affect something; make an effort; strive.

Endue	To invest or endow with some gift. To provide with a quality or trait. To bestow some mental, social, or spiritual quality.
Enjoin	To direct by an authoritative order or with urgent admonition.
Entered	To be admitted or introduced. When a candidate receives the first degree in Freemasonry, he is said to be Entered.
Equivocation	Doubtful or misleading. Cryptic, evasive, or ambiguous.
Ere	Before.
Err	To make a mistake.
Esteem	To regard with respect and consideration. To hold in great respect; admire.
Euclid	A Greek mathematician who taught Geometry at Alexandria about 300 B.C. The 47th problem of the first book of Euclid, however, is supposed not to have been solved by him, but by Pythagoras.
Evasion	Escaping, avoiding, or shirking something, by deceit or cleverness.
Evinced	By evidence of; indicate.
Exalted	Elevated in rank, character, or status. Noble.
Excess	Beyond the bounds or limits of.
Exemplary	Representing the best of its kind.
Exemplify	To demonstrate, illustrate, portray.
Exhort	To make an urgent appeal.
Expedient	Practical. Most appropriate to a purpose.
Extort	To obtain (something) by force, threats, or other unfair means.
Exuberance	The quality or state of being exuberant. To grow thickly or abound.
Exuberant	Luxurious, abundant, profuse.



Faculties	The powers of the mind.
Fail	Disappear.

Fallacy	A false, erroneous or mistaken idea.
Fervent	Intensity of heat.
Fervency	Feelings of great warmth and intensity.
Fidelity	Loyalty, trust.
Firmament	The vault or expanse of the heavens; the sky.
Foibles	Minor weaknesses in someone's character.
Fortitude	Mental and emotional strength in facing difficulty.
47 th Problem of Euclid	The theorem that the square formed on the hypotenuse is equal to the sum of the squares formed on the other two sides of a triangle. An important secret of the builder's trade. This theorem is basic to geometric calculations.
Frame	Manage.
Free Will and Accord	One of the outstanding peculiarities of Freemasonry, and a quality almost unique among societies, is the rule of immemorial standing that no man may be asked, invited, or solicited to enter the fraternity. This becomes all the more remarkable when one witnesses the great growth of the fraternity and its expansion all over the world. So usual is the custom of churches and secular societies to proselytize and, not only to invite, but to urge entrants or joiners, that a society of nearly 2,000,000 in the United States alone, all of whom have petitioned of their own free will and accord, would be regarded as a phenomenon if it had not existed so long and become so familiar.
Fruition	To bear fruit. To fulfill.
Fro	From.



Gauge	A measuring stick; a ruler; the 24-inch Gauge.
Golden Fleece	A celebrated order of knighthood founded in 1429 by Philip the Good, Duke of Burgundy and the Netherlands. In Greek mythology - a symbol of authority and kingship.
Grand Artificer	Deity. Creator of the Universe. Master Architect. God, Allah, YHWH, etc.

Guttural Of or relating to the throat.



Habiliments Clothing.

Habitation A dwelling place; a settlement, or colony; a town for example.

Hail A sign of distress or of greeting.

Hark To pay close attention; listen.

Havoc Widespread destruction.

Hecatomb An ancient Greek and Roman sacrifice of 100 oxen or cattle.

Hele To cover or conceal.

Hewn Chopped or cut with an axe or knife.

Hieroglyphic A symbol illustrated by a picture or pictogram.

High Twelve Noon or mid-day.

Holy St. John (Baptist) A prophet who proclaimed the receiving of the Messiah through baptism. His Feast Day falls on June 24 (June 25 if it falls on a Sunday). Used as a festival date in Mississippi Freemasonry. Every Lodge should unite for the celebration of a least one of these great festivals of the Fraternity. The other is Holy St. John, the Evangelist.

Holy St. John
(Evangelist) An apostle who was a follower of Christ and was chosen to preach his gospel. His Feast Day falls on December 27. It is upon this day (except when it falls on a Sunday) that the Masonic Year begins, and installation of officers may not occur before this date. Every Lodge should unite or the celebration of a least one of these great festivals of the Fraternity. No business required to be transacted at a Stated Communication can be transacted at either of these festivals, unless one falls on the date fixed for the Stated Communication.

Homage Expression of high regard. Showing respect or attesting to the worth or influence of another person. Ceremonial acknowledgement, honor, or respect publicly expressed to a person or idea.

Hoodwink Horrid Very unpleasant or disagreeable. See: Blindfold.

Horror Fear, shock, or disgust.

Humble	Modest, courteous, not proud or arrogant.
Hypocrisy	Falsely assuming the appearance of virtue or religion. A pretense of having virtue.



Illicit	Illegal.
Imminent	Likely to occur at any moment, impending.
Immutable	Unchangeable.
Immemorial	Extending back or existing since beyond the reach of memory, record, or tradition. Example: Time immemorial.
Impart	To make known, to tell.
Impending	Looming; about to happen.
Imperceptibility	Impossible or difficult to perceive. Subtle, slight, gradual as to be barely perceptible.
Impious	Wicked, godless.
Implore	To earnestly call or pray for. To beg someone desperately to do something.
Imprecations	To utter a curse (upon oneself or someone else). A denunciation invoking a wish or threat of evil or injury. The act of imprecating, or invoking evil on any one; a prayer that a curse or calamity may fall on any one.
In the length of my Cable-tow	Within the scope of a man's reasonable ability.
Incense	<p>Acceptable prayers and praises. Perfume exhaled by fire; the odors of spices and gums, burnt in religious rites, or as an offering to some deity. A thick cloud of <i>incense</i> went up. (Ezekiel 8:11.)</p> <p>The materials burnt for making perfumes. The <i>incense</i> used in the Jewish offerings was a mixture of sweet spices, stacte, onycha, galbanum, and the gum of the frankincense tree.</p>

Incensed	To be made very angry; filled with wrath; enraged. To enkindle or inflame to violent anger; to excite angry passions; to provoke; to irritate; to exasperate; to heat; to fire. It expresses less than enrage.
Inclemencies	Physical severity or harshness (commonly in respect to the elements or weather); roughness; storminess; rigor; severe cold, wind, rain, or snow. Boisterous, tempestuous, intemperate, bitter. Lack of clemency.
Inculcate	To instill, exemplify.
Inculcated	To be taught. To implant by repeated statement or admonition; teach persistently and earnestly.
Incumbent	Obligatory. A duty to which one is obliged to perform.
Indissoluble	Firm. Stable. Incapable of being dissolved, decomposed, or destroyed.
Indite	To write.
Ineffable	Not to be spoken because of its sacredness. Unspeakable; Unutterable; that cannot be expressed in words; usually in a good sense: such as the ineffable name of the Deity.
Inestimable	That which cannot be estimated or measured. That which is too great to be fully appreciated.
Ingenuity	A quality of being clever, original, and inventive.
Integrity	The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles.
Intelligible	Capable of being understood.
Intemperance	Lack of moderation or due restraint.
Intercourse	Communication or dealings between individuals or groups.
Interment	Burial.
Interpose	To intervene between parties.
Intimate	Closely acquainted; familiar, close.
Intrinsic	Belonging to a thing by its very nature.
Insidious	Stealthily treacherous or deceitful.
Inundation	To overwhelm. To flood.
Invariable	Never changing.
Inviolable	Never to be broken, infringed, or dishonored.

Invocation The act of addressing in prayer. The form or act of calling for the assistance or presence of any being, particularly of some divinity. The summoning of a deity or the supernatural. An incantation used to invoke a deity or the supernatural.

Invoke To call on for aid or protection; to invite earnestly or solemnly; to summon; to address in prayer; to solicit or demand by invocation; to implore; as, to invoke the Supreme Being, or to invoke (appeal for) His blessing.



Jachin The Pillar on the right side of King Solomon's Temple. See: II Chronicles 3:15-17.

Just Due To receive what one deserves.

Justice The moral principle determining right conduct. One of the enumerated Cardinal Virtues (Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, Justice)



Kabbalah Name for Jewish esoteric teachings. In Christian mysticism it is usually spelled Cabala and in Hermetic usage, Qabalah.

King Solomon A king of the ancient Hebrews, builder of the first Temple in Jerusalem, dedicated to Yahweh. The Temple he built is the archetype we use to teach our great moral and spiritual truths. The Temple was designed to provide an exact pattern of the Tabernacle of Moses in the Wilderness. This Temple was designed to provide a permanent home for the Ark of the Covenant. His life is primarily described in 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, and 2 Chronicles.



Lamentable	Sorrowful, mournful, regretful.
Laudable	Deserving commendation; praiseworthy.
Legal Information	Information a Mason gains from having sat with a Brother in a Lodge, whether subordinate or Grand, or in some Masonic body composed of Master Masons and cannot be impacted by one Brother to another.
Legible	(Of handwriting or print) clear enough to read.
Lenient	Permissive, merciful, or tolerant.
Levity	Lightness of temper or conduct; inconstancy, changeableness; unsteadiness; Want of due consideration; vanity; freak. Gaiety of mind; want of seriousness; disposition to trifle.
Licentious	Illegal or Immoral. Lacking legal or moral restraints. Disregard of rules.
Low Twelve	Midnight.



Magnitude	The great size or extent of something.
Manifest	Plain, open, clearly visible to the eye or obvious to the understanding; apparent; not obscure or difficult to be seen or understood.
Manifold	Of divers kinds; many in number; numerous; multiplied. A whole entity which is composed of many and diverse elements. Ex: Manifold destiny. Exhibited or appearing at divers times or in various ways; applied to words in the singular number; as the <i>manifold</i> wisdom of God, or his <i>manifold</i> grace. Ephesians 3:10. 1 Peter 4:10.
Manna	(In the Bible) the substance miraculously supplied as food to the Israelites in the wilderness (Exodus 16).
Mantle	A large sleeveless cloak or cape; an outer garment.

Manual	Of or relating to the hand.
Mattock	A tool shaped like a pickaxe used for digging.
Maxim	An expression of general truth or principle.
Melancholy	A feeling of pensive sadness, typically with no obvious cause.
Mental Reservation	Intellectual limitation, condition, or exception.
Mercenary	Motivated solely by a desire for monetary or material gain.
Meridian	Noon. In the graveside service this refers to the middle or the height of our lives. The position of the sun at noon.
Merited	To deserve or be worthy of (something, especially reward, punishment, or attention).
Mete	Measure, to measure.
Minutest	So small as to verge on insignificance.
Molten	Metals of a high melting point, liquefied by heat.
Monitorial	Relating to a monitor. Method of mutual instruction. Performed by monitors or a monitor.
Moor	To make fast (a boat) by attaching it by cable or rope to the shore or to an anchor.
Morality	Principles concerning the distinction between right and wrong or good and bad behavior.
Mosaic	<p>1. An assemblage of little pieces of glass, marble, precious stones, etc. of various colors, cut square and cemented on a ground of stucco, in such a manner as to imitate the colors and gradations of painting.</p> <p>2. Pertaining to Moses, the leader of the Israelites; as the mosaic law, rites or institutions.</p>
Moulder/Molder	Slowly decay or disintegrate. To turn to dust by natural decay; to crumble; to perish; to waste away by a gradual separation of the component particles, without the presence of water. In this manner, animal and vegetable substances <i>molder</i> and so also do stones and shells.



NE VARIETUR Latin, meaning Lest it should be changed. These words refer to the Masonic usage of requiring a Brother, when he receives a Certificate from a Lodge, to affix his name, in his own handwriting, in the margin, as a precautionary measure, which enables distant Brethren, by a comparison of the handwriting, to recognize the true and original owner of the Certificate, and to detect any impostor who may surreptitiously have obtained one.

Nicety Detail, exactness, or precision.

Nonage The period of immaturity or youth. Minority; the time of life before a person, according to the laws of his country, becomes of age to manage his own concerns.



Obdurate Hard; firm; unbending; inflexible; unyielding; stubborn.

Obligation In Freemasonry, the obligations are those solemn agreements, covenants, and promises made by Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts, and Master Masons in the reception of those several degrees. This must not be confused with an oath.

Oblong Square A plain figure with four right angles and four sides, two parallel sides being longer than the other two parallel sides. Two equal squares placed adjacent to each other, making the figure twice as long as wide. The floor of King Solomon's Temple was 30 by 60 feet. A rectangle; the shape of a Lodge.

Oppress To impose excessive burdens upon; to overload; hence, to treat with unjust rigor.

Opprobrious Reproachful and contemptuous; scurrilous; as *opprobrious* language; *opprobrious* words or terms. Blasted with infamy; despised; rendered hateful; as an *opprobrious* name.

Order of the Garter There is an order, called the Order of the Garter, which is the most illustrious order of British knighthood. It was instituted by King Edward III in 1348. The order consists of the sovereign and 25 companions, of which the Prince of

Wales is always a member. It therefore signifies how important the order is, and also, more interestingly perhaps, the period from which our ritual possibly originated (12th century). Addressing the citation as contained in the Mississippi Blue Lodge Textbook, "*more honorable than the Star or Garter, or any other Order that may be conferred upon you, at this or any future period...*"



Palliate	To try to mitigate, lessen, cover for, or conceal the gravity of (an offense) by excuses, apologies, etc. To alleviate, ease, relieve, or sooth.
Parian	Fine white marble found in Paros, an island of the Cyclades in the Aegean Sea. In the sunlight it appeared as silver. Considered the finest marble.
Parallel	(Of lines, planes, surfaces, or objects) side by side and having the same distance continuously between them.
Patron	We have two eminent <i>patrons</i> in Freemasonry, St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, both viewed as saints, or holy or godly persons, to whom our Lodges are dedicated. Among the Romans, a master who had freed his slave, and retained some rights over him after his emancipation; also, a man of distinction under whose protection another placed himself. One who countenances, supports and protects either a person or a work. In the <i>church of Rome</i> , a guardian or saint, whose name a person bears, or under whose special care he is placed and whom he invokes; or a saint in whose name a church or order is founded.
Patronize	Regularly attend. To favor; to lend aid to promote; as an undertaking. To maintain; to defend; to support.
Pectoral	Of or relating to the breast, or chest.
Peculiar	Particular; special.
Pedal	Of or relating to the foot.
Penal Sign	The sign of a penalty or a punishable offense.
Perpendicular	At an angle of 90° to a given line, plane, or surface.
Perpetual	Constant, never ending or changing.
Perseverance	Staying power, persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.

Persevering	See: Perseverance.
Pervade	Permeate, diffuse. To spread through.
Pervert	To distort or corrupt. To alter (something) from its original course, meaning, or state to a distortion or corruption of what was first intended.
Piety	The quality of being religious or reverent.
Pilaster	A rectangular support or pier projecting partially from a wall and treated architecturally as a column, with a base, shaft, and capital; but has only an ornamental function. Usually, projects about a third of its width from the wall to which it is attached and contains a base and a capital (an ornamental piece) on top. A pilaster is part of a wall, whereas a column is free-standing.
Pillar	A tall vertical structure of stone, wood, or metal, used as a support for a building, or as an ornament or monument.
Pious	Reverence. Having or showing strong religious feelings and devotion toward the Creator.
Pommel	Middle English (denoting a finial or knob at the top of a tower): from Old French <i>pomel</i> , from a diminutive of Latin <i>pomum</i> 'fruit, apple.'
Potentate	A monarch or ruler, especially an autocratic one.
Precept	A general rule intended to regulate behavior or thought. A rule or principle prescribing a particular course of action or conduct.
Preferment	A promotion or appointment to a position or office.
Presume	To suppose that something is the case, assume.
Prey	An animal hunted or killed for food by another; or that which could be devoured by an animal or bird of prey.
Profane	The un-Initiated. A non-Mason.
Prone	Lying flat. Prostrate.
Propitiate	To win or gain the favor of (a god, spirit, or person) by doing something that pleases them.
Prosperity	Advance or gain in any thing good or desirable; successful progress in any business or enterprise; success; attainment of the object desired;
Providence	The protective care of God or of nature as a spiritual power
Prudence	Cautiousness. One of the Cardinal Virtues, (Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, Justice).

Prudent	Wise in handling practical matters; exercising good judgment or common sense. Careful in regard to one's own interests; provident. Careful about one's conduct; circumspect.
Prudential	Wise. Exercising good judgment and common sense.
Prudentially	Acting with or showing care and thought for the future.
Purge	In reference to the Lodge, it is the first step taken in opening. The Lodge is cleared of all non-Masons or those Masons who, for any reason, are not entitled to attend.
Putrefaction	To decompose, to rot and have a foul smell.
Put	Call for a vote on a motion or resolution. To place, position, set, posit, or dispose. To move a thing physically to place it in some situation.
Pythagoras	A celebrated Greek philosopher who followed the doctrine that "all things are numbers." He is credited with solving the forty-seventh problem of Euclid's first book of Geometry. (See: Forty-seventh Problem of Euclid)



Qabalah	Hermetic name used for Western esoteric writings similar to the Jewish esoteric teachings of Kabbalah. In Christian mysticism it is usually spelled Cabala.
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Rashness	Recklessness, impulsive, foolhardy.
Realm	A kingdom, a field or domain of activity or interest.
Rebuke	To express sharp disapproval or criticism of (someone) because of their behavior or actions.
Recanted	Renounced in a formal or public manner.
Recapitulate	Summary. To repeat in a concise form. Short form. Recap.
Recognized	Being legitimate and adhering to the same principles and 'landmarks' as the body which does the recognizing.

Rectitude	Morally correct behavior, uprightness.
Reformation	Improvement. Betterment. Correction of an imperfect state. Reform.
Regular	A Lodge working under the legal authority of a Warrant of Constitution is said to be regular. The word was first used in 1723 in the first edition of Anderson's Constitutions. This is one of the components of a Lodge or Grand Lodge being recognized. See Recognized.
Reign	To rule. To have control or influence over.
Render	To cause to be or become. Re-pass Pass again, especially on the way back.
Repose	Place something, especially one's confidence or trust, in.
Repository	A place where things are stored.
Reprehend	To rebuke, or reprimand. Disapprove.
Reproach	The expression of disapproval or disappointment.
Restraint	To keep under control. Revered To feel deep respect or admiration for (something).
Reverence	Deep respect or admiration for (something).
Reverential	Honor. Esteem, Revere, Adore. A feeling or attitude of deep respect tinged with awe.
Rightness	A. Correctness of conduct and principle. Correctness; conformity to truth or to the divine will, which is the standard of moral rectitude. It is important that a man should have such persuasion of the <i>rightness</i> of his conscience as to exclude rational doubt. B. Straightness; as the <i>rightness</i> of a line.
Roman Eagle	The standard, or flag, representing an eagle carried at the head of each Roman Legion.
Rubbish	Waste material; garbage.



Salutary	Wholesome. Promoting or conducive to some beneficial purpose. A purpose which deserves a salute.
Sanctioned	Official permission or approval.

Sanctum Sanctorum	The place in King Solomon's Temple where the Ark of the Covenant was located, the Holy of Holies. It was described as situated in the western end of the Temple, separated from the rest of the building by a heavy curtain, and enclosed on three sides by walls without any aperture or window. It was secluded and set apart from all intrusion.
Scourge	To cause great suffering.
Sect	A group of people with somewhat different religious beliefs.
Seraph	An angelic being, regarded in traditional Christian Angelology as belonging to the highest order of the nine-fold celestial hierarchy, associated with light, ardor, and purity.
Seraphic	A pure, angelic, and burning love or ardor. A Seraphim is one of a class of celestial beings with 6 wings...some believe they are the first of the nine classes of angels. They are mentioned in the Old Testament in Isaiah. 6:2, 3, 6, 7. Seraph means "fiery ones", an allusion, it is supposed, to their burning love. They are represented as "standing"... "hovering"?... above the King as he sat upon his throne, ready at once to minister unto him. Their form appears to have been human, with the addition of their 3 sets of wings.
Seven Liberal Arts	Educators, as far back as the Middle Ages, divided their curriculum into seven branches of learning, divided into two groups. The first group, called the trivium, is comprised of grammar, logic, and rhetoric. The second group, called the quadrivium, is composed of arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy.
Shewed	Old fashioned spelling of showed.
Shewbread/ Showbread	Also called Bread of The Presence. This bread was used in the Temple of King Solomon and the Tabernacle (1 Sam. 21:1-6.) This bread consisted of twelve loaves made of the finest flour. They were flat and thin and were placed in two rows of six each on a table in the holy place before the Lord. They were renewed every Sabbath (Lev. 24:5-9), and those that were removed to give place to the new ones were to be eaten by the priests only in the holy place (see 1 Sam. 21:3-6; comp. Matt. 12:3, 4). The number of the loaves represented the twelve tribes of Israel, and the entire spiritual Israel, "the true Israel;" and the placing of them on the table symbolized the entire consecration of Israel to the Lord, and their acceptance of God as their God. The table for the bread was made of acacia wood, 3 feet long, 18 inches broad, and 2 feet 3 inches high. It was plated with pure gold. Two staves, plated with gold, passed through golden rings, were used for carrying it.
Shibboleth	A password used to identify a person. See: Judges 13:6 for its origin.
So Mote it Be	So may it be. See: Amen.
Solemn	Serious, grave, somber.

Solemn Notes	Funeral Bells, or chimes.
Solicitation	The act of asking for or trying to obtain something from someone.
Solicit	Request: To petition for something which is desired.
Spoils	Goods stolen or taken forcibly, plunder.
Sprig of Acacia	See: Acacia.
Star and Garter	See: Order of the Garter
Steadfast	Firm, unwavering.
Strict Trial	Every question is to be asked, and every answer demanded, which is necessary to convince the examiner that the man being examined is acquainted with what he ought to know, to entitle him to the satisfaction of a Brother.
Stupendous	Extremely impressive.
Subdue	Overcome, bring under control.
Sublime	Of such great excellence or beauty as to inspire great admiration or awe.
Sublime, Ultimate	The greatest or most supreme and elevated degree. Awe-inspiring. Exalted. Used in description of the Master Mason Degree.
Subservient	Useful. Serving or acting in a subordinate capacity through a sense of duty. Compliant and obedient to authority because of a deep understanding of the whole.
Subsisted	To Exist. To Be.
Subversive	To undermine the power and authority of an established system or institution.
Summons	An order from the Worshipful Master or the Grand Master to appear at a meeting.
Sundry	Various and Diverse. Many.
Superficies	Superficial: Outward appearance. Shallow. Without depth. Residing on a single plane.
Superfluities	Excesses: That which is not needed. Behavior beyond moral limits, excessive behavior.
Superfluous	Unnecessary, unneeded.
Superintend	Be responsible for the management or arrangement of.
Supplant	To take the place of (another), as through force, scheming, strategy, or the

like.

Sustenance Nourishment: That which is needed to sustain life.

Symmetry The quality of being made up of exactly similar parts facing each other or around an axis. Beauty as a result of balance and a harmonious arrangement. Excellence of proportion. Regularity of form or arrangement in terms of like, reciprocal, or corresponding parts. The quality of being made up of exactly similar parts facing each other or around an axis.

Synonymous Same. Like. Expressing or implying the same idea.



Tabernacle (In Biblical use) A place of worship. Shelter. A temporary dwelling place. A tent. Numbers 24:5. Matthew 17:4. A temporary habitation. Among the Jews, a movable building, so contrived as to be taken to pieces with ease and reconstructed, for the convenience of being carried during the wanderings of the Israelites in the wilderness. It was of a rectangular figure, thirty cubits long, ten broad, and ten high. The interior was divided into two rooms by a vail or curtain, and it was covered with four different spreads or carpets. It is also applied to the temple. Psalms 15:1. A place of worship; a sacred place. Our natural body. 2 Corinthians 5:1. 2 Peter 1:13. God's gracious presence, or the tokens of it. Revelation 21:3.

Taper A thin candle; a small lighted wax candle, or a small light.

Temperance Moderation, or self-restraint. One of the Cardinal Virtues (Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, Justice).

Tempestuous Very stormy.

Temperate Moderate. Not extreme in behavior.

Tempest Violent disturbance such as a storm or tornado.

Temporal Temporary. For a limited time. Relating to worldly as opposed to spiritual affairs.

Tenement In the graveside service this refers to our mortal bodies.

Tenets Principles.

Tessel Decorate (a floor) with mosaics. See Mosaic.

Tessellated	Checkered. Pertaining to or like mosaic tiling. The word "tessella" means small square of stone, glass, etc, used in mosaics, and smaller than a tessera (used in ancient Rome as a token, ticket, label, etc.
Theorem	A rule in algebra or other branches of mathematics expressed by symbols or formulae.
Three Grand Masters	Solomon, King of Israel, the son of King David and Bathsheba, responsible for building the Temple of the Lord; Hiram, King of Tyre, to whom King Solomon was indebted for great help in the building of the Temple; and Hiram Abif, the widow's son, celebrated architect of King Solomon's Temple. He was sent to King Solomon by Hiram, King of Tyre. The three Grand Masters were contemporaries, living c. 1000 B.C.
Tile	To protect from the intrusion of the uninitiated. To cover or to guard.
Time Immemorial	A time in the past that was so long ago that people have no memory or record of it.
Token	A sign, symbol, or representation of something.
Toll (relates to a bell)	Sound or cause to sound with a slow, uniform succession of strokes, as a signal or announcement.
Towers	Superior qualities, successes.
Trace	A slight indication or barely discernible hint of something.
Trestle board	A design or blueprint for Masons.
Trifle	To treat someone or something without respect.
Tubal Cain	The Gothic legends recite how the sciences were founded by the four children of Lamech, the smith's craft by Tubal Cain. He is described in Genesis as an "instructor of every artificer in brass and iron."



Unbiased	Fair and impartial. Without bias. Showing no prejudice for or against something; impartial.
Unerring	Always right or accurate.
Unfeigned	Real. Sincere. Unfaked. Genuine.
Unsullied	Pure. Honorable. Clean. Untainted. Not spoiled.

Usages & Customs	Long continued or established practices or unwritten Law, usually carried on by tradition.
Utmost	Greatest.



Vale	A valley (used in place names or as a poetic term).
Vale of tears	The world regarded as a scene of trouble and sorrow.
Venerable	Extremely old. Worthy of Respect. Revered.
Verdant	(Of countryside) green with grass or other rich vegetation.
Vertex	The highest point of something. The point of intersection of lines or the point opposite the base of a figure, as the top point of a triangle or a mountain.
Vice	Immoral or wicked behavior.
Vicissitudes	Changes. Fluctuations. Variations.
Vile	Morally bad, wicked.
Virtue	Behavior showing high moral standards.
Virtuous	Having or showing high moral standards.
Vocation	A person's employment or main occupation especially regarded as particularly worthy and requiring great dedication.
Vouch	To bear witness for (someone). To know to a certainty. Vouchsafe Grant in a gracious manner.
Vouchsafe	To promise or agree, condescendingly, because it is in your power; to bestow a special favor. To vouch as safe.



Waft	Cause to move to and fro.
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Waft	To pass or cause to pass easily or gently through or as if through the air.
Warrant	A temporary document issued by the Grand Master allowing a Lodge to work. This may be issued as Permission for a Lodge to work under Dispensation prior to receiving their Charter. It may also be used to permit a Chartered Lodge to work under a dispensation, for example, in a different location other than their regular meeting place. The Warrant is temporary and has specified limitations. A warrant is not a Charter.
Whence Came You	From which place are you coming?
Whither	To which place are you going?
Wither	To become dry and sapless; to lose vitality, or freshness.
Worshipful	From the Anglo-Saxon, worthship (worthy); honorable or respectable. The term has no religious or sacred implication.
Wretch	A base, mean, or despicable person; vile.
Wrought	An archaic term for Work. To work. Formed or fashioned; shaped by hammering or beating, as when working with metal. Created. Made. Designed.



Reserved



Reserved



Zarethan	Is a city mentioned in the Bible, as near the location where the Hebrews crossed the River Jordan (Joshua 3:16). In the books of Joshua (3:16, KJV "Zaretan") and 1 Kings (4:12 KJV "Zartanah", 7:46 "Zarthan"), it is called Zarethan, but in 2 Chronicles (4:17, KJV) it is called Zeredathah. Zaredathah stood in the Jordan
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Valley, on the east bank of the river, a few kilometers northwest of Succoth and approximately 70 kilometers northnortheast of Jerusalem. These clay grounds were where the bronze castings for the Temple of Solomon were made by Hiram Abif.

Zeal Great enthusiasm. With passion. Fervor. Eager and ardent interest in pursuit of something.

Zealous With great enthusiasm.