

by a ready acquiescence in all votes and resolutions duly passed by a majority of the Brethren, and by a perfect submission to the Worshipful Master and his Wardens while acting in the discharge of their respective offices.

And, as a last general recommendation , I would exhort you to dedicate yourself to such pursuits as may enable you to continue respected in life, useful to mankind, and an ornament to the society of which you have this day become a member; that you will more especially study such of the liberal arts and sciences as may lie within the compass of your attainment, and that, without neglecting the ordinary duties of your station, you will feel yourself called upon to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge.

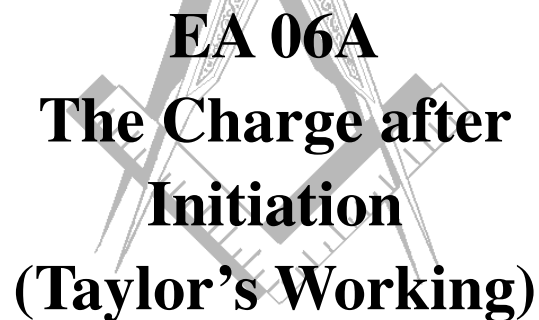
Brother ... from the very commendable attention you have given to this Charge, I am led to hope that you will duly appreciate the value of Freemasonry and indelibly imprint on your heart, the sacred dictates of Truth, of Honour and of Virtue.”

You can see from this Charge that, now as a Freemason, the standard to which you are expected to live your life is much higher than was previously expected of you in the world outside Masonry; be faithful to your God; do unto others as you would wish they would do unto you; be a law abiding citizen; practice the four cardinal virtues; be trustworthy; respect authority; be respectable in life; be useful to mankind and, above all, be truthful, honourable and virtuous. Freemasonry does indeed provide a blueprint for your life, a life which will have the approval of all you come into contact with, and the testimony of a good conscience!



Educational Fact Sheets for the Entered Apprentice

A series of Fact Sheets to provide guidance
for the Entered Apprentice



EA 06A The Charge after Initiation (Taylor's Working)

Making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge

The Charge after Initiation

At the conclusion of the Ceremony of your Initiation into Freemasonry a Charge was delivered to you, which sets out in no uncertain terms the Behaviour now expected of you as Freemason.

“Now that you have passed through the ceremony of your Initiation, I congratulate you on being admitted a member of our Ancient and Honourable Institution; ancient no doubt it is, having subsisted from time immemorial, and honourable it must be acknowledged to be as, by a natural tendency, it conduces to make all those so who are obedient to its precepts. Indeed, no institution can boast a more solid foundation than that on which Freemasonry rests, the practice of every moral and social virtue, and to so high an eminence has its credit been advanced that, in every age monarchs themselves have been promoters of the Art, have not thought it derogatory to their dignity to exchange the Sceptre for the Trowel, have participated in our mysteries and joined in our assemblies.

As a Freemason, I would first recommend to your most serious contemplation the Volume of the Sacred Law, charging you to consider it as the unerring standard of truth and justice, and to regulate your actions by the Divine precepts it contains; therein you will be taught the important duties you owe to God, to your neighbour, and to yourself. To God, by never mentioning His name but with that awe and reverence which are due from the creature to the Creator, by imploring His aid in all your lawful undertakings, and by looking up to Him in every emergency for comfort and support. To your neighbour, by acting with him on the square, by rendering him every kind office which justice or mercy may require, by relieving his necessities, soothing his afflictions, and by doing unto him as in similar cases you would wish he should do to you. And to yourself, by such a prudent and well regulated course of discipline as may best conduce to the preservation of your corporeal and mental faculties in their fullest energy, thereby enabling you to exercise those talents wherewith God has blessed you, to His glory and the welfare of your fellow creatures.



As a citizen of the world, I would enjoin you to be exemplary in the discharge of your civil duties, by never proposing or at all countenancing any act which might have a tendency to subvert the peace and good order of society; by paying a due obedience to the laws of any State which may for a time become the place of your residence or afford you its protection; but above all, by never losing sight of the allegiance due to the Sovereign of your native land, ever remembering that nature has implanted in your breast, a sacred and indissoluble attachment towards that country whence you derived your birth and infant nurture.



As an individual, I would further recommend the practice of every domestic as well as public virtue; let Prudence direct you, Temperance chasten you, Fortitude support you, and Justice be the guide of all your actions. Be especially careful to maintain in their fullest splendour those truly Masonic ornaments which have already been amply illustrated Benevolence and Charity.

Still as a Freemason, there other excellences of character to which your attention may be particularly and forcibly directed; amongst the foremost of these are Secrecy, Fidelity, and Obedience. Secrecy consists of an inviolable adherence to the Obligation you have entered upon, never improperly to disclose any of those Masonic secrets which have now been, or may at any future time be, entrusted to your keeping, and cautiously to avoid all occasions which may inadvertently lead you so to do. Your Fidelity must be exemplified by a close conformity to the Constitutions of the Fraternity, by adhering to the Ancient Landmarks of the Order, by never attempting to extort or otherwise unduly obtain the secrets of a superior Degree, and by refraining from recommending anyone to a participation in our secrets unless you have strong grounds to believe that by a similar fidelity, he will ultimately reflect honour on our choice. Your Obedience must be proved by strict observance of our laws and regulations, by prompt attention to all signs and summonses, by modest and correct demeanour in the Lodge, by abstaining from every topic of religious or political discussion,