

MASONIC FACTS FOR MASONS NOT GENERALLY KNOWN

Nearly every Mason thinks he knows all about Masonry, and also what Speculative Masonry is. As a matter of fact however, he does not. Particularly is this true concerning its real origin, history, date of its institution, and many of the terms used. Its antiquity for instance, "From time Immemorial," which means, First, "Beyond Memory, Record, or Tradition, and out of mind;" Second, Previous to the time of Richard I, 1199, A.D. This surely is very indefinite. Again; the terms, "Free" and "Accepted," "Ancient," "York Rite," "Scottish Rite," "French Rite." Very few know what these mean or why used, as they are not informed or instructed herein in the Lodge; or why, moral qualities are attributed to them. Only a very few know why the degrees in higher bodies of Masonry may be omitted in one Rite or Body and obtain in another, entirely different in its practice and teaching; also accepting one part of the Rite and rejecting others. Again, why are three bodies of "York Rite" ignored, and why is there any affiliation with them? These are only a few of many questions that might be asked, and may be of interest to those who are unacquainted with the real facts." Some questions of Rights may also interest members of the Craft. The fundamental qualities which constitutes the man a Mason cannot be affected or debar him from full obligated recognition by the laws of the order, unless they have been in particular, ignored or violated by him. The simple fact of being in arrears for dues, is not a part of that obligation, and he remains a Mason in every respect, so long as that is kept inviolate. A very important fact to every initiated member is that to which he is entitled, namely "to travel in foreign countries," of gaining admission in an order of which he is a world-wide member; of this right he is deprived by not having the proper or essential pass word used in foreign lands.