

masonic prayers pdf

masonic prayers pdf are a sought-after resource for Freemasons seeking to deepen their spiritual practice and connect with the core tenets of their fraternity. This comprehensive guide delves into the nature of Masonic prayers, exploring their significance, common themes, and where to find reliable masonic prayers pdf resources. We will examine the role of prayer in Masonic ceremonies, the diversity of petitions offered, and the ethical considerations surrounding their accessibility. Whether you are a seasoned Brother or an individual curious about Masonic spirituality, this article aims to provide valuable insights and practical information regarding masonic prayers pdf, guiding you toward a better understanding and potential resources.

- Introduction to Masonic Prayers
- Understanding the Purpose of Masonic Prayer
- Types of Masonic Prayers
- Finding Masonic Prayers PDF Resources
- Ethical Considerations and Best Practices
- The Importance of Prayer in Masonic Ritual
- Conclusion

The Nature and Significance of Masonic Prayers

Masonic prayers are an integral part of the fraternity's spiritual and philosophical framework. They serve as formal invocations and expressions of devotion, gratitude, and supplication, addressed to the Supreme Architect of the Universe (SAU). These prayers are not confined to specific religious doctrines but are designed to be inclusive, allowing individuals from various faith traditions to participate. The essence of Masonic prayer lies in its ability to foster a sense of brotherhood, humility, and a reliance on a higher power for guidance and wisdom. The act of prayer in Freemasonry reinforces the moral and ethical teachings that are central to the Craft, encouraging introspection and a commitment to virtuous living.

The significance of Masonic prayers extends beyond mere ritualistic recitation. They provide a sacred space for reflection, allowing Masons to pause from their daily lives and contemplate their actions, intentions, and their place in the grand design. These prayers often express gratitude for blessings received, seek divine assistance in times of need, and implore wisdom for sound judgment and ethical conduct. By invoking the SAU, Masons affirm their belief in a universal order and their personal commitment to contributing positively to the world. The shared experience of prayer within the Lodge also strengthens the bonds of fellowship and mutual support among its members.

Exploring Different Types of Masonic Prayers

Freemasonry encompasses a variety of prayers tailored to different occasions and purposes within the Craft. These can range from opening and closing prayers that consecrate the proceedings of a Lodge meeting to specific invocations used during initiations, advancements, and other important ceremonies. The language and content of these prayers are carefully chosen to reflect the symbolic teachings and moral lessons of Freemasonry, always directed towards the Supreme Architect of the Universe.

Opening and Closing Lodge Prayers

The commencement of every Masonic Lodge meeting is typically marked by an opening prayer. This invocation seeks divine blessing and guidance for the work to be undertaken, ensuring that the proceedings are conducted with harmony, wisdom, and integrity. It is a formal acknowledgment of a higher power's presence and a request for protection and illumination for all present. Similarly, a closing prayer concludes the Lodge session, offering thanks for the fellowship and the lessons learned, and a petition for the safe return of each Brother to their respective homes and families. These prayers create a sacred container for the Lodge's activities, distinguishing them from secular pursuits.

Prayers for Specific Masonic Degrees

Each degree within Freemasonry, from Entered Apprentice to Master Mason, has its own set of ritualistic prayers. These prayers are intrinsically linked to the allegorical lessons and moral teachings presented in each degree. For instance, prayers in the Entered Apprentice degree might focus on themes of light, truth, and the initial steps of self-improvement. As a Mason progresses to higher degrees, the prayers often reflect a deeper understanding of spiritual truths, the mysteries of life, and the responsibilities that come with increased knowledge and light. These degree-specific petitions are crucial for internalizing the profound symbolism of Masonic progression.

Consecration and Dedication Prayers

Special occasions within Freemasonry, such as the consecration of a new Lodge, the dedication of a Masonic temple, or significant anniversaries, often involve elaborate prayers. These prayers are designed to solemnly dedicate the space or event to the principles of Freemasonry and to invoke divine favor upon the undertaking. They are characterized by their solemnity and their explicit acknowledgment of the sacred purpose being fulfilled. Such prayers reaffirm the commitment of the brethren to upholding the values and traditions of the Craft in their endeavors.

Where to Find Masonic Prayers PDF Resources

For Masons and those interested in Masonic spirituality, locating reliable **masonic prayers pdf** documents can be essential. These digital resources offer convenient access to a wealth of prayers for personal study, lodge use, or ceremonial preparation. The availability of these resources online has made it easier for individuals to engage with Masonic devotional literature, regardless of their geographical location or access to physical texts.

Official Masonic Jurisdictions and Grand Lodges

Some Grand Lodges and official Masonic bodies may offer downloadable prayer books or compendiums of prayers in PDF format through their websites. These resources are often considered authoritative and may include prayers approved for use within their respective jurisdictions. Exploring the "Publications," "Ritual," or "Resources" sections of these official websites is a good starting point for finding such materials. Access to these official documents can provide authentic and approved versions of Masonic prayers.

Masonic Libraries and Archives

Dedicated Masonic libraries and archival institutions often maintain extensive collections of Masonic literature, including prayer books and ritualistic texts. While not always directly available as downloadable PDFs, these institutions may provide digitized versions or guidance on how to access them. Many also have online catalogs that can help researchers identify relevant materials. Partnerships with these entities can lead to the discovery of rare and historically significant **masonic prayers pdf** collections.

Online Masonic Forums and Discussion Groups

Masonic forums, online communities, and social media groups dedicated to Freemasonry can be valuable places to inquire about and share **masonic prayers pdf**. Members often share resources they have found or created, sometimes including compilations of prayers for various purposes. It is important, however, to exercise discernment when sourcing materials from informal channels, ensuring they align with the established principles and teachings of Freemasonry.

Specialized Masonic Publishers and Retailers

Several publishers specialize in Masonic books and regalia, and some may offer digital versions of prayer books or ritualistic texts. These specialized retailers often provide a curated selection of high-quality Masonic literature, including collections of prayers. Searching their online stores for "Masonic prayers" or related terms might yield relevant **masonic prayers pdf** options, often alongside physical copies.

Ethical Considerations and Best Practices for Masonic Prayers

When engaging with Masonic prayers, particularly when seeking and distributing **masonic prayers pdf**, it is important to adhere to certain ethical considerations and best practices. Freemasonry is built upon principles of discretion, respect, and harmony, and these extend to its devotional materials.

Understanding these guidelines ensures that the use of prayers is always in keeping with the spirit and character of the Craft.

Respecting Copyright and Authorship

Many Masonic texts, including compilations of prayers, are protected by copyright. It is crucial to respect these rights and ensure that any downloaded or shared **masonic prayers pdf** are obtained legally and with proper attribution. Piracy or unauthorized distribution can undermine the efforts of authors and publishers and is contrary to Masonic principles of integrity. Always verify the source and licensing of any digital prayer materials.

Appropriate Use and Context

Masonic prayers are intended for use within the context of Masonic ritual, private devotion, or study related to Freemasonry. They are not meant for public display or appropriation by non-Masonic organizations or individuals in a manner that misrepresents their origin or purpose. Using these prayers respectfully and in the appropriate setting ensures their sanctity and prevents their potential misuse or misunderstanding. The discretion associated with Masonic practices extends to the use of its devotional literature.

Inclusivity and Universality

A key characteristic of Masonic prayer is its universality, directed towards the Supreme Architect of the Universe. This ensures that individuals from diverse religious backgrounds can participate without compromising their personal faith. When sharing or using **masonic prayers pdf**, it is important to maintain this spirit of inclusivity, avoiding language or interpretations that could inadvertently exclude or offend brethren from different belief systems. The aim is always to foster unity and common ground in devotion.

Maintaining the Esoteric Nature

While the desire to share and learn is commendable, some Masonic rituals and prayers are considered esoteric, meaning they are intended for initiated members. When seeking **masonic prayers pdf**, particularly those pertaining to specific degrees or rituals, it is important to be mindful of the established protocols for access and dissemination within the Fraternity. Respecting the levels of knowledge and initiation ensures that the integrity and symbolic depth of Masonic teachings are preserved. Not all prayers are intended for general distribution outside of their ritualistic context.

The Importance of Prayer in Masonic Ritual

Prayer occupies a foundational role within Masonic ritual, serving as far more than a mere formality. It is a living embodiment of the fraternity's core principles, connecting the individual Mason to a higher purpose and to the collective spiritual aspirations of the brotherhood. The act of invoking the Supreme Architect of the Universe at key junctures of ritual imbues the proceedings with solemnity, reverence, and a profound sense of moral accountability.

Within the Lodge room, prayers act as conduits for divine wisdom and guidance. They are petitions for clarity, strength, and the ability to discern right from wrong, essential qualities for Masons striving to live virtuous lives. The collective voicing of these prayers by the brethren fosters a palpable sense of unity and shared intention, reinforcing the bonds of fellowship and mutual support. This shared spiritual endeavor transcends individual differences, uniting Masons under a common banner of devotion to moral and ethical ideals. The recurring presence of prayer in Masonic ceremonies ensures that its lessons are consistently reinforced, shaping the character and conduct of its members both within and outside the Lodge.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Masonic prayer and what is its purpose?

Masonic prayers are invocations or supplications offered during Masonic meetings and ceremonies. Their primary purpose is to seek divine guidance, express gratitude, and consecrate the proceedings, aligning the brethren with moral and spiritual principles central to Freemasonry.

Are Masonic prayers religious in nature, and are they denomination-specific?

Masonic prayers are spiritual but not sectarian. They are addressed to the 'Grand Architect of the Universe,' a concept universally accepted by Masons of all faiths. Prayers are designed to be inclusive, avoiding specific doctrines of any single religion.

Where can I find Masonic prayers in PDF format?

Masonic prayers in PDF format can often be found on official Grand Lodge websites, within Masonic ritual books (which may be restricted to members), or on reputable websites dedicated to Masonic education and history. Be cautious of unauthorized or pirated material.

Are Masonic prayers required for all Masonic meetings?

Yes, prayers are a fundamental and traditional part of almost all Masonic meetings and ceremonies. They are typically offered at the opening and closing of lodge sessions and during specific rituals.

What is the role of the Chaplain in Masonic prayer?

The Chaplain, or Master of Ceremonies in some jurisdictions, is typically the officer responsible for leading the prayers. They recite the prayers according to the established ritual of the particular Masonic jurisdiction.

Can I use Masonic prayers for personal reflection or study if I'm not a Mason?

While some Masonic prayers might be publicly available in PDF, their intended context is within Masonic ritual. However, individuals may find inspiration or study them for their philosophical or spiritual content, provided they respect the context from which they are derived.

What are the common themes or elements found in Masonic prayers?

Common themes include seeking wisdom, strength, and virtue; expressing gratitude for blessings; praying for the welfare of brethren and humanity; and invoking the guidance of the 'Grand Architect of the Universe' in conducting Masonic business with justice and charity.

Are there different types of Masonic prayers for different occasions?

Yes, Masonic rituals often include specific prayers for opening the lodge, closing the lodge, consecrating new lodges, installing officers, and for special occasions like degrees or charitable events. These prayers are tailored to the specific purpose of the gathering.

What are the ethical considerations regarding the distribution and use of Masonic prayers in PDF?

Masonic rituals and prayers are often considered private or semi-private. While some elements are shared for educational purposes, unauthorized widespread distribution of copyrighted ritual books or prayers without proper context can be seen as disrespectful to Masonic traditions and protocols.

How do Masonic prayers differ from prayers in other fraternal or religious organizations?

Masonic prayers are distinguished by their focus on universal spiritual principles rather than specific religious dogma, their invocation of the 'Grand Architect of the Universe,' and their integration into the specific philosophical and moral teachings of Freemasonry.

Additional Resources

Here are 9 book titles related to Masonic prayers, with short descriptions:

1. *The Craftsman's Invocation: Prayers and Meditations for the Masonic Journey*

This collection explores the spiritual dimension of Freemasonry, offering a range of prayers and meditations specifically designed to enhance the experience of Lodge rituals and personal reflection. It delves into the symbolic meanings behind Masonic invocations, providing context and guidance for understanding their significance. The book aims to deepen the connection between members and the moral and philosophical teachings of the fraternity.

2. *Echoes of the Temple: Liturgical Prayers in Freemasonry*

Focusing on the formal prayer elements found in Masonic ceremonies, this book examines the historical development and theological underpinnings of these sacred utterances. It provides an analysis of common prayers, exploring their origins and their role in fostering fraternity and virtue. Readers will gain a richer appreciation for the structure and intent behind the spoken word in Masonic gatherings.

3. *A Mason's Devotion: Daily Prayers and Spiritual Growth*

This guide offers a curated selection of prayers suitable for a Freemason's daily life, extending beyond Lodge meetings. It encourages the cultivation of personal spirituality and moral rectitude through consistent practice. The book emphasizes how Masonic principles can be integrated into everyday actions and thoughts, fostering a life of integrity and purpose.

4. *Whispers from the Square and Compass: Masonic Prayer in Practice*

This practical handbook provides accessible prayers and reflections for Masons at various stages of their journey. It offers guidance on how to approach prayer with sincerity and purpose, connecting the symbols of Masonry to individual spiritual aspirations. The book serves as a companion for those seeking to enhance their personal devotional life within the context of the Craft.

5. *The Architect's Aspiration: Prayers for Wisdom and Enlightenment*

This title explores the concept of seeking divine guidance and wisdom through prayer within

Freemasonry. It links the pursuit of knowledge and understanding to spiritual supplication, drawing parallels with the pursuit of the Master Architect's plan. The book encourages Masons to pray for clarity, insight, and the ability to apply Masonic teachings to their lives.

6. Brotherhood's Benediction: Collective Prayers and Masonic Unity

This work focuses on the power of collective prayer and its role in fostering unity and harmony within Masonic Lodges. It examines prayers that are recited together, highlighting their ability to bind members in shared purpose and sentiment. The book underscores how shared invocations can strengthen the bonds of fraternity and reinforce common values.

7. The Gavel's Grace: Prayers for Order and Reflection in the Lodge

This book delves into the specific prayers and invocations used during Masonic meetings, often associated with the opening and closing of the Lodge. It explores how these prayers help to establish a sacred space for ritual and discussion, encouraging members to approach their duties with reverence and mindfulness. The text emphasizes the role of prayer in bringing order and thoughtful reflection to Masonic proceedings.

8. Sacred Geometry of the Soul: Meditative Prayers for Masonic Understanding

This unique title combines the symbolic language of Masonic geometry with contemplative prayer practices. It guides the reader through meditative prayers that unpack the spiritual significance of Masonic symbols and their connection to the inner self. The book offers a path to deeper self-awareness and a more profound understanding of the fraternity's allegorical teachings.

9. From Darkness to Light: Prayers of Masonic Initiation and Transformation

This collection explores the prayers and supplications that accompany the pivotal moments of Masonic initiation. It examines how these invocations mark the passage from ignorance to knowledge, and from a profane state to a spiritual one. The book highlights the transformative power of prayer in the Masonic journey, symbolizing growth and the pursuit of moral improvement.

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Masonic Prayers: A Comprehensive Guide to Spiritual Reflection within the Craft

Are you a Freemason seeking deeper spiritual connection and guidance through prayer? Do you find yourself struggling to articulate your faith and hopes within the context of your Masonic journey? Do you long for a resource that offers a collection of meaningful prayers specifically tailored to the Masonic experience? If so, this eBook is your answer. This comprehensive guide provides a rich collection of prayers designed to enhance your personal Masonic journey and deepen your connection with the Fraternity's spiritual core. It's more than just a list; it's a pathway to personal reflection and growth within the Craft.

Masonic Prayers: A Spiritual Companion for Freemasons by Brother Elias Thorne

Introduction: Understanding the Role of Prayer in Freemasonry

Chapter 1: Prayers for Personal Reflection and Self-Improvement

Chapter 2: Prayers for Lodge Meetings and Rituals

Chapter 3: Prayers for Fellow Masons and the Fraternity

Chapter 4: Prayers for Times of Grief and Loss

Chapter 5: Prayers for Guidance and Illumination

Chapter 6: Prayers of Thanksgiving and Gratitude

Conclusion: Integrating Prayer into Your Daily Masonic Life

Masonic Prayers: A Spiritual Companion for Freemasons - A Detailed Exploration

This article expands upon the contents of the eBook "Masonic Prayers: A Spiritual Companion for Freemasons," providing a deeper dive into the themes and content of each chapter. It is designed to be helpful for both Freemasons seeking to enrich their spiritual lives and those interested in understanding the spiritual dimension within Freemasonry.

Introduction: Understanding the Role of Prayer in

Freemasonry

Freemasonry, while not a religion, deeply emphasizes morality, ethical conduct, and spiritual growth. Many Freemasons find prayer to be a vital tool in their Masonic journey, a means of connecting with a higher power, reflecting on their moral development, and seeking guidance in their daily lives. This introduction sets the stage for understanding the significance of prayer within the context of the Craft. It clarifies that Masonic prayer isn't about adhering to specific religious doctrines but rather a personal, introspective practice aligned with the Fraternity's core principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth. The introduction explores the diverse interpretations of spirituality within Freemasonry, emphasizing that the prayers presented are designed to be inclusive and adaptable to various personal beliefs. It also touches on the historical context of prayer within Masonic traditions, drawing parallels with the prayers and invocations found in ancient guilds and operative Masonry.

Chapter 1: Prayers for Personal Reflection and Self-Improvement

This chapter provides a collection of prayers focused on personal growth and self-reflection. These prayers are intended to guide Masons in their ongoing journey of moral development, encouraging introspection and a commitment to self-improvement. The prayers will focus on themes such as:

Cultivating virtue: Prayers focused on strengthening virtuous qualities like honesty, integrity, charity, and perseverance.

Overcoming personal flaws: Prayers designed to help Masons identify and address their weaknesses, striving for self-improvement.

Seeking wisdom and understanding: Prayers aimed at gaining insight and knowledge, leading to a deeper understanding of oneself and the world.

Developing patience and tolerance: Prayers to cultivate patience and understanding towards others, fostering brotherly love.

Each prayer in this chapter is crafted to be both concise and impactful, suitable for use in personal meditation or quiet reflection. The language used is accessible and avoids overly formal or religious terminology, ensuring its applicability across various belief systems.

Chapter 2: Prayers for Lodge Meetings and Rituals

This chapter provides prayers suitable for use during Masonic lodge meetings and rituals. These prayers are carefully constructed to align with the symbolism and purpose of specific Masonic ceremonies. They aren't intended to replace established rituals but to enhance and enrich the

experience. Examples include:

Opening and Closing Prayers: Prayers for the beginning and end of lodge meetings, invoking divine guidance and protection.

Prayers for Fellow Masons: Prayers expressing fellowship and support for fellow members, acknowledging their contributions to the lodge.

Prayers for Masonic Work: Prayers seeking divine assistance in the performance of Masonic duties and rituals.

The prayers in this chapter are designed to be respectful of the diverse beliefs within the lodge, promoting a sense of unity and shared purpose. They emphasize the importance of brotherly love and the pursuit of moral excellence within the Masonic setting.

Chapter 3: Prayers for Fellow Masons and the Fraternity

This chapter focuses on prayers expressing fraternal bonds and solidarity within the Masonic community. These prayers are designed to promote unity, mutual support, and a sense of shared purpose among Masons. This section includes prayers:

For the welfare of fellow Masons: Prayers expressing concern and support for fellow Masons facing challenges or difficulties.

For the growth and prosperity of the Fraternity: Prayers for the continued success and expansion of Freemasonry.

For the strengthening of Masonic bonds: Prayers aimed at fostering deeper connections and relationships among Masons.

This chapter emphasizes the importance of brotherhood and mutual support, highlighting the central role of fellowship within the Masonic tradition.

Chapter 4: Prayers for Times of Grief and Loss

This chapter provides prayers for times of sorrow, loss, and mourning. These prayers offer solace, comfort, and hope during periods of grief, acknowledging the inevitability of loss and the importance of finding strength and peace amidst adversity. The prayers are designed to be sensitive and compassionate, providing a space for reflection and healing. These prayers include:

Prayers for deceased Masons: Prayers commemorating the life and contributions of deceased brethren.

Prayers for comfort and solace: Prayers seeking comfort and peace during times of personal loss and

sorrow.

Prayers for healing and acceptance: Prayers seeking strength and acceptance in the face of grief.

This section recognizes the human experience of loss and provides spiritual resources for coping with grief within the supportive context of the Masonic fraternity.

Chapter 5: Prayers for Guidance and Illumination

This chapter presents prayers seeking divine guidance and illumination in navigating life's challenges and decisions. These prayers are for times when Masons seek clarity, wisdom, and direction. The prayers promote a sense of trust and reliance on a higher power, fostering a feeling of hope and optimism. These prayers address:

Seeking wisdom and understanding: Prayers seeking insight and clarity in decision-making.

Overcoming obstacles and challenges: Prayers seeking strength and resilience in overcoming difficulties.

Finding direction and purpose: Prayers for discovering meaning and purpose in life.

This chapter emphasizes the importance of seeking guidance and relying on faith during times of uncertainty and doubt.

Chapter 6: Prayers of Thanksgiving and Gratitude

This chapter focuses on prayers of gratitude and thanksgiving for the blessings and opportunities in a Mason's life. These prayers cultivate a sense of appreciation for the good things in life, promoting positivity and optimism. This section includes:

Prayers for blessings received: Prayers expressing gratitude for personal blessings and opportunities.

Prayers for the gifts of fellowship and brotherhood: Prayers acknowledging the value of Masonic brotherhood and friendship.

Prayers for the opportunity to serve humanity: Prayers expressing gratitude for the chance to contribute to the betterment of society.

This chapter encourages a spirit of thankfulness and appreciation, fostering a positive and optimistic outlook on life.

Conclusion: Integrating Prayer into Your Daily Masonic Life

This concluding section summarizes the key themes and concepts explored throughout the book, emphasizing the importance of integrating prayer into daily life as a Mason. It offers practical suggestions for incorporating prayer into one's routine, suggesting various methods such as daily meditation, prayer before lodge meetings, or simply taking quiet moments for reflection. The conclusion reinforces the idea that prayer is a personal journey, encouraging Masons to develop their own unique practices that resonate with their individual beliefs and spiritual needs. It stresses the importance of consistency and sincerity in prayer, highlighting its power to enhance moral development, strengthen fraternal bonds, and deepen one's connection with the spiritual dimension of Freemasonry.

FAQs

1. Are these prayers suitable for Masons of all faiths? Yes, these prayers are designed to be inclusive and adaptable to various belief systems. They focus on universal principles of morality and spirituality rather than specific religious doctrines.
2. Can I use these prayers during lodge meetings? While not a replacement for established ritual, these prayers can supplement lodge meetings, enhancing the spiritual dimension of the experience.
3. Are these prayers only for experienced Masons? No, these prayers are suitable for Masons of all levels of experience, from newly initiated members to those who have been involved for many years.
4. What if I don't feel comfortable praying aloud? These prayers can be used for personal reflection and meditation, whether silently or aloud, depending on your preference.
5. How often should I use these prayers? There's no prescribed frequency. Use them as often as feels meaningful to you – daily, weekly, or on special occasions.
6. Can I adapt or modify the prayers? Feel free to personalize the prayers to reflect your own thoughts and feelings.
7. Where can I find the PDF version of this book? [Insert Link to PDF Here]
8. Are there any specific rituals associated with these prayers? No, these prayers are meant for personal reflection and lodge enhancement, not tied to specific rituals.
9. Is this book affiliated with a specific Grand Lodge? No, this is a general resource for all Freemasons, regardless of Grand Lodge affiliation.

Related Articles

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The Regius Poem, also known as the Halliwell Manuscript, is a long series of rhyming couplets that make up what is thought to be the earliest of the Old Charges of Masonry. It was discovered in the British Museum by James O. Halliwell in 1838. While sometimes thought to have been written during the reign of King Athelstan (924-940 A.D.), the document actually dates to the late 14th century. Whether it is a derivative work based on a separate manuscript from Athelstan's time is unknown. However, the Regius Poem is the cornerstone of the Legend of York, which is important in Masonry even today. This manuscript also outlines how Masons should act toward each other and toward the civil magistrate. It also talks about the history and philosophy of the order of Masons. Any Mason interested in the history of the Art should read this document and see how it compares to the various rules their grand lodges lay out for government of a lodge.

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most beloved and respected Masonic educators provides a true course in Masonic education in this rare classic. This is an excellent Masonic education program for both the new and experienced Mason. In this small, easy to read book, Haywood offers explanations on Freemasonry's relationship with such profound topics as: democracy, liberty, human nature, education, ritual and symbolism, Masonic ethics, equality, Freemasonry and religion and much more.

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Albert G. Mackey, also the author of *The Lexicon of Freemasonry* appears as author of this *Encyclopedia of Freemasonry and its Kindred Sciences*, which, being a library in itself, superseded most of the Masonic works which have been tolerated by the craft—chiefly because none better could be obtained. Here, in one giant volume is a work which fulfils the hope which sustained the author through ten years' literary labor, that, under one cover he would furnish every Mason who might consult its pages the means of acquiring a knowledge of all matters connected with the science, the philosophy, and the history of his order. For more than thirty years Dr. Mackey has devoted earnest and constant study and research to the history, the objects, and the condition of Masonry. In the present work, the crowning and successful result of a life's labors, he has received no assistance from any one. He says, Every article was written by myself, and he adds, which would extenuate errors, had he fallen into any, For twelve months, too, of the time occupied upon this work, I suffered from an affection of the sight, which forbade all use of the eyes for purposes of study. During that time, now happily passed, all authorities were consulted by the willing eyes of my daughters—all writing was done by their hands. I realized for a time the picture so often painted of the blind bard dictating his sublime verses to his daughters, and his preface closes with the words, Were I to dedicate this work at all, my dedication should be—To Filial Affection. Up to the present time the modern literature of Freemasonry has been diffuse, lumbering, unreliable, and, out of all reasonable proportions.

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They reveal Freemasonry to be well-grounded in recognizable events, and show how its members influenced the world around them. Those influences are still felt in our lives today. Forty-five illustrations help bring to life this memorable journey of discovery.--Publisher description.

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