

## A Glossary for the New Mason

**Appertaining** - belonging to, or connected with, as a rightful part or attribute; relating to.

**Bade** - told, ordered, requested, directed

**Cable's Length** - a maritime unit of length, about 100 fathoms, or 600 feet

**Cable-Tow** - a rope used in Masonry to symbolically bind; originally a particularly strong rope.

**Cardinal** - of basic importance; main; primary; essential; principal.

**Circumscribe** - to draw a line around; to limit in range of activity definitely and clearly.

**Circumspection** - looking around; carefulness in considering all circumstances and possible consequences.

**Clad** - covered or clothed.

**Divested** - to deprive or take away from; to undress or remove clothing, ornaments, or equipment.

**Due** - proper; according to accepted standards or procedures.

**Engrave** - to cut figures or letters into wood or metal.

**Equivocation** - to avoid committing oneself to what one says, uncertainty, uncertain or questioning disposition of mind.

**Etch** - to produce as a pattern on a hard surface by eating into the material's surface as with acid or a laser beam.

**Fellow** - a member of a group having common characteristics; an associate; an equal in rank or power or character.

**Fortitude** - strength of mind that enables a person to encounter danger, or bear pain or adversity, with courage.

**Hail, Hele, Hale** - to hide or conceal; to cover; to keep out of view.

**Hoodwink** - a blindfold.

**Initiatic** - of, or relating to, initiation; possessing a sacred traditional character.

**Initiation** - a new undertaking, the beginning of a new, spiritual life.

**Immemorial** - extending or existing since beyond the reach of memory.

**Impart** - to give; to communicate knowledge of something; to make known; tell; relate.

**Indite** - to write down; to put in writing.

**Intrinsic** - belonging to a thing by its very nature; the essential nature or constitution of a thing; inherent; in and of itself.

**Invest** - to give; to furnish; to clothe.

**Inviolate** - not broken or disregarded; not told to others; respected.

**Light** - symbolic of knowledge and understanding in Masonry and most traditional societies.  
Manual - having to do with, or involving, the hands.

**Masonic Formation** - the process of experiencing the initiatic tradition, becoming part of it, and improving oneself, through its lessons. An ever-continuing process of spiritual and intellectual formation that all Freemasons must continuously undergo. It is a constant

transformation through the use of Masonic symbols, rituals, and teachings on a journey of return to the center of our being.

**Mystery** - mysterion in Greek, is derived from the Greek verb *myein*. The plural, *mysteria*, was first used in application to the Eleusinian Mysteries. The Greek terms for initiation, *myesis* and *telete*, also became first widely used at the Eleusinian cult of Demeter. While the modern meaning of the term mystery means something unknown, to the ancients *mysterion* meant something divine, deeply profound and worth knowing.

**Passions** - great emotion; the emotions as distinguished from reason; powerful or compelling feelings or desires.

**Pectoral** - in, on, or of the chest.

**Pedal** - of, or relating to, the foot or feet.

**Precepts** - a principle or instruction intended especially as a general rule of action.

**Profane** - derived from the Latin *profanes*, from *pro* (before) and *fanum* (temple). In Freemasonry it refers to one who has not been initiated into the mysteries of the Craft.

**Prudence** - the ability to govern and discipline oneself by the use of reason; skill and good judgment in the management of affairs or the use of resources; caution or circumspection as to danger or risk.

**Rite** - derived from the Latin *ritus*, which comes from the Sanskrit *ri*, meaning the flow and usually associated with a running stream or a way. This term is closely linked by its definition with the term tradition and denotes the continuous performance or preservation of something sacred associated with the Divine.

**Saints John** - Saint John the Baptist and Saint John the Evangelist, refers to both of the two ancient patron saints of Freemasonry.

**Shod** - wearing footwear; with shoes on.

**Subdue** - to bring under control, especially by an exertion of the will, to reduce the intensity or degree of; tone down.

**Symbolism** - something representing something else, especially truth of a higher order. Derived from the Greek *symbolon*, which was a token of identity verified by comparing with its other half. Symbolism in Freemasonry relates to the philosophical understanding derived from perceiving the proper relationship between the material and spiritual worlds.

**Temperance** - moderation in action, thought, or feeling; self-restraint; a habitual moderation in the indulgence of the appetites or passions.

**Tongue of Good Report** - having a good reputation; those who know you report that you are of credit to yourself and to society.

**Tradition** - derives from the Latin *traditus*, past participle of *tradere*, meaning to give or deliver into the hands of another, to entrust. This word also has Indo-European roots coming from *trans*, meaning to give. With this understanding, tradition is transmission. It is the handing down of knowledge.

**Vouch** - assert; attest; to verify; to supply supporting testimony; to support as being true.

**Warden** - an official having care or charge of some administrative aspect or an organization or some special supervisory duties; a British term used in the Episcopal Church and at various colleges and in government functions.

**Worshipful** - notable, distinguished, worthy of respect, a British term used as a title for various persons or groups of rank or distinction; can be added to a Mason's name once he becomes Master of a lodge.