

Trust as the Foundation of Freemasonry

Gentlemen, trust is the foundation of Freemasonry. It is the very essence of our brotherhood, and it defines everything we do in our meetings and how we conduct ourselves outside of them. Our joint trust in God creates the bond between the Masonic brothers, characterized by brotherly love and affection. This bond is so strong that no contention should ever exist among us.

But what does trust mean in the context of Freemasonry? It means we believe in each other's moral character and do not question each other's actions. Instead, we make suggestions to our brothers, and our consciences seek to create harmony with the trust we hold.

In the initiation process, the candidate must state his belief in God and be reminded of the importance of his trust in God. By the time he completes the third degree, he has been impressed with this idea several times so that his fellow Masons can trust him as a Master Mason.

Furthermore, our trust in each other makes all of Freemasonry's landmarks possible. The right to cast a black cube in the ballot box to admit new members, the belief in the existence of God as the Grand Architect of the Universe and in the soul's resurrection, and the cardinal virtues of prudence, fortitude, temperance, and justice, are all based on our absolute trust in one another.

Politics and religion are not topics brought into Masonic functions for good reason. The worldly issues that occupy our rational minds are subservient to our souls' spiritual condition and our bodies' material condition. Through the enlightenment of Freemasonry, those serene heights of joy and beauty that we seek to reach are revealed to our anxious souls.

Our unwavering trust in each other enables us to make sound judgments, perceive the legitimacy of our faith in God, purify our souls of past mistakes, and ensure the eternal progression of our souls. When we entirely trust our brothers, we understand why we are all equal regardless of social status. This understanding instills within us the love that unites us all through God and drives us to embody the four cardinal virtues.

In conclusion, trust is the cornerstone of Freemasonry, and through our trust in each other, we can achieve enlightenment and live our lives with purpose and meaning. As you continue your journey through Freemasonry, I urge you to reflect on the importance of trust in your life and those around you. For it is through trust that we can build a better world, one that is founded on brotherly love, affection, and the pursuit of the cardinal virtues.