

GLOSSARY OF MASONIC TERMS

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

BADE/BAD - 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.

GUTTURAL - of, or having to do with, or involving, the throat.

HAIL, HELE, HALE - to hide or conceal; to cover; to keep out of view.

HOODWINK- a blindfold.

HOODWINKED - blindfolded.

HOUSE NOT MADE WITH HANDS - that which lies beyond death; heaven; the world of spiritual truth (II Corinthians 5:1).

INITIATIC - of, or relating to, initiation; the process of becoming a part of a group or organization's traditions.

INITIATION - a new undertaking; the beginning of a new approach or perspective on one's life.

IMMEMORIAL - extending or existing since beyond the reach of memory.

INDITE - to write down; to put down 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.

INVIOLE - 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 Masonic tradition, becoming a part of it, and improving oneself through its lessons and taking those lessons out into the world to demonstrate the values of Freemasonry to others. An ever-continuing process of moral, ethical, spiritual, and intellectual formation or growth that all Freemasons should continuously undergo

MYSTERY - The modern meaning of the term “mystery” means something unknown; to the ancients mystery 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 - In Freemasonry, this 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 - This term is closely linked 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, the two ancient patron saints of Freemasonry.

SHOD - wearing footgear; with shoes on.

STEADY - constant in feeling, principle, purpose, or attachment; dependable; firm in intent showing little variation or fluctuation; unwavering; resolute.

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

SUPERFLUITY - excess; unnecessary; immoderate, especially living habits or desires.

SUPERFLUOUS - exceeding what is needed; excess; unnecessary.

SYMBOLISM - Symbolism in Freemasonry relates to the philosophical understanding derived from perceiving the proper relationship between man and the world around him.

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 - transmission of culture, beliefs, legends, teachings. It is the handing down (or passing on) of knowledge.

USUAL VOCATION - your job; the manner in which you make your living.

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

VOUCHSAFE - to grant or furnish; to give by way of reply.

WARDEN - an official having care or charge of some administrative aspect or an organization or some special supervisory duties.

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.