

LAMBSKIN APRON LECTURE

Colorado approved version as edited by Karl Hinkle, Past Grand Master of Colorado

The Grand Lodge's Book of Constitutions restricts when a Mason may wear Masonic regalia in public without dispensation from the Grand Master. As a youth group event/meeting is not one of the automatically allowed "Masonic" occasions, dispensation is required. If a Mason wants to wear his apron to deliver the Lambskin Apron Talk at a local Assembly, he will need permission from the Grand Master.

My young woman (women), as part of your initiation the Sister of Charity presented to you a miniature lambskin apron during the traditional lecture on the contents of the Pot of Gold. We Masons also wear a lambskin apron. So that you may better understand its significance I will share with you some of its symbolism.

The lambskin, or white leather apron, is the badge of a Mason. We are presented with ours when we are initiated into Masonry, just as you were presented with yours during your initiation. We are informed that we begin our Masonic lives with pure and spotless aprons, representing the purity of life and actions to which we Masons aspire.

The four corners of the apron remind us to square our actions with purity, truth, sincerity and honesty.

The four edges of the apron remind us to practice four great virtues in our lives and behavior. The first is Temperance – the exercise of moderation in all things. The second is Fortitude – the strength of mind to endure life's challenges. The third is Prudence – the right to freely, but carefully, make personal judgments in regard to one's actions. And the last is the virtue of Justice – the exercise of equity and fairness in our dealings with others.

The three edges of the triangular flap remind us that God is omniscient, or all-knowing; omnipotent, or all-powerful; and omnipresent, or without limits and existing everywhere. The three edges also represent Faith, Hope and Charity. Faith – a belief in things yet unseen; Hope – the expectation of reward for a life well-lived; and Charity – the practice of seeing the divine in others and forgiving their faults, just as we forgive our own.

The four edges of the apron together with the three edges of the triangle total seven, indicative of the seven liberal arts and sciences which we Masons are earnestly encouraged to study. These arts and sciences are: Grammar, the study of the functions and relationships of words; Rhetoric, skill in the effective use of speech; Logic, the science of the formal principles of reasoning; Arithmetic, the powers and properties of numbers; Geometry, the measurement, properties, and relationships of points, lines, angles, surfaces, and solids; Music, the science of combining tones and sounds to create delightful harmonies; and Astronomy, the study of the laws that govern the heavenly bodies.

The circle formed by the strings or strap of the apron symbolizes Deity, unity, or spirit.

LAMBSKIN APRON LECTURE – continued

We wear a white apron at every Masonic Lodge meeting. Each time we put it on we are reminded of our Masonic obligations. We are told that when we arise to greet each day, we are symbolically to put on the apron to remind us of that purity of life and conduct which is the goal of every Mason before leaving this world.

So, may it be with you when you have occasion to look upon your miniature lambskin apron. May you be reminded of the solemn obligation you took before God, your sisters, your parents, and your friends while kneeling at the White Altar of the Holy Promise. May you be reminded of the lessons taught during your journey among the seven stations of the Rainbow, and may your commitment to these principles manifest in a life of Service filled with Faith, Hope and Charity.

My dear girl(s), I bid you welcome into this beautiful Order.