

KING LEOPOLD 1

LODGE NO 3 AF & AM
CHARTERED UNDER THE REGULAR GRAND LODGE OF BELGIUM

MASONIC TEMPLE: CHAUSSEE DE BINCHE 101
7000 MONS, BELGIUM



MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE

January 2009

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INSTRUCTIONS

This package has been provided to you for the purpose of making an application for initiation or affiliation to King Leopold 1st, Lodge No.3 of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (A.F. & A.M); a founder lodge of the Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium (RGLB). Questions you may have regarding Freemasonry should be directed to the Mason who provided you this package.

All Applicants

- a. Identify the "Constitution", read it carefully.
- b. Identify the attached "Individual Form", complete the first block. Please use block capitals, then date and sign the appropriate declaration on the reverse of the form.
- c. Identify the Legal Declaration form and delete the appropriate statement, sign and date it, providing any explanation if necessary.
- d. Identify the "Personal Record" form and complete the appropriate block(s). Also obtain the signatures of two sponsors in the third block. The mason who gave you this package will assist you in finding the two sponsors.
- e. Make personal copies of the forms, if you wish.
- f. Return the completed forms, any written statements to the Mason who provided you the packet. Alternately you may mail it to: The Secretary, Peter Ludford, chemin des Théodosiens 159, 7060 Soignies

NOTE. In the declaration on the reverse of the Individual Form you have to acknowledge having read the constitution and general regulations and that you are able to subscribe to them. The constitution is provided with this package but the General Regulations are not, they will be sent to you by email.

Applicants for Initiation

Read the following questions:

- a. Have you ever previously petitioned any lodge for entry into freemasonry?
- b. Are you a member of any organisation, the regulations of which are incompatible with membership of the Masonic fraternity?
- c. Do you know of any moral, mental, physical or legal reason why you should not become a Mason?
- d. Do you have financial obligations which would prevent you from having sufficient means to meet the charges of admission and membership, without detriment to your family?

If the answer is yes to any of these questions, please attach a written explanation. If you are not sure, please discuss the matter with the Mason who gave you this package.

Applicants for Affiliation

In addition to block 2 on the "Individual Form", complete blocks 4 and 5 or 6 as applicable. You may contact the Lodge Secretary to verify whether the obedience from which you are coming is recognised by the RGLB.

Notes

As entry into Masonry is a lifetime endeavour, our lodge will need time to adequately process your application. If a change occurs in your status, or you have questions, please do not hesitate to ask the Masons who sponsored you. You may also write, at any time, to the secretary at the above address.

You will hear from the secretary in due course.

CONSTITUTION

The Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium (RGLB) adopts the following principles and traditional rules :

1. Freemasonry affirms the existence of God, a Supreme Being whom it calls the Great Architect of the Universe. It demands from all its members that they acknowledge this affirmation. This requirement is absolute and admits of no compromise or restriction.

Freemasonry does not define the Supreme Being and leaves its members absolutely free to form their own concept of him.

2. Freemasonry is an initiatic association which, through its symbolic teaching, heightens men spiritually and morally and so contributes to improving humanity by practising the ideals of peace and brotherly love.

3. All Masonic work is done to the “Glory of the Great Architect of the Universe” and in the presence of the three Great Lights of Freemasonry: the volume of Sacred Law under the Square and Compasses, upon which all obligations must be taken.

4. Initiation may only be conferred upon men, aged at least 21, known to be honest, free and of good conduct and report, men of honour, loyalty and discretion.

5. Freemasons refrain from giving support to such actions as could trouble the peace and order of society, they submit to the laws of the country in which they are allowed assemble and they serve loyally their country. They may not mention their membership of the Order when engaging in any activity whatsoever in public affairs.

6. Affirming freedom of conscience, Freemasonry demands from its members that they respect the opinion of others. For this reason no discussion of political or religious matters are allowed in the Lodge.

7. Freemasons form groups entrusted with the initiatic filiation called Lodges. These Lodges, subject to the rules of the Grand Lodge under whose authority they exist, are autonomous and bound only by the principles stated in this Constitution.

8. The Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium is an independent organisation exercising full authority over the Lodges in its territory. It does not recognise within its jurisdiction any authority superior or equal to its own over the three symbolic degrees (Apprentice, Fellow-Craft and Master Mason).

9. The Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium entertains relations with only those Grand Lodges that observe the principles and traditional rules laid out in this constitution. It refuses to participate in national or international meetings admitting representatives or members of obediences not recognised by it. It forbids its members to participate Masonic meetings held under such obediences. It also forbids its Lodges to admit as visitors members of such obediences. It has the power to sanction by suspension or expulsion those who offend against its rules and principles.

10. The Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium observes the ancient landmarks, customs and usages of Freemasonry.

11. The present constitution is immutable. Any regulation or action contrary to its provisions shall be null and void.

LODGE : King Leopold 1st N° 3**ORIENT :** Mons**NAME :****FIRST NAMES :**

Date of birth :

Place of birth :

Profession :

Diploma(s)/Certificates :

Address :

Postal Code :

Town :

Country :

Nationality :

Tel home :

Mother tongue :

Tel. office :

Other languages :

Fax (safe) :

Civil status :

GSM:

Nr. of Children :

e-mail :

APPLICATION FOR INITIATION

Date of Application :

Date Published :

Date Application refused :

Date Withdrawn :

INITIATED**PASSED****RAISED****APPLICATION FOR AFFILIATION coming from ANOTHER OBEDIENCE**

Coming from Lodge :

Orient :

Obedience :

Date Published :

Date of Application :

Date Rejected :

Date Affiliated :

Date Withdrawn :

APPLICATION FOR AFFILIATION coming from a LODGE under the R.G.L.B.

Coming from Lodge :

Remains a member of Lodge of origin :**YES / NO**

Date of application :

Date Published :

Date Rejected :

Date Withdrawn :

Date Affiliated :

DEMITTED / DEPARTED

Date :

For Affiliation with Lodge :

By Administrative Decision on :

Remains a member of L.:

Remains no longer a member of R.G.L.B

At his own request :

By judgement : Excluded on :

Suspended from

till

REQUEST FOR REINTEGRATION

Date published :

DATE OF REINTEGRATION :**DIED** on :Declaration to be signed **overleaf** for application or request for affiliation

attention all Secretaries:

PLEASE indicate the name and number of your Lodge and **sign** this form yourselves

Signature of the L.: Secretary

Declaration to be signed by the candidate

- for [initiation](#) (art. 28.6 of the G.R.)
- for [reintegration](#) (art. 30 of the G.R.)
- for [affiliation if coming from a Lodge under another Obedience recognised by the R.G.L.B.](#) (art. 29.1.1 and 29.1.2 of the G.R.)

I declare to having read the Constitution and the General Regulations of the Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium and to be able to subscribe to both without reservation.

In the event that I am accepted by the Order, I promise to observe them, as well as the Decrees of the Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium and the Bye-Laws of the Worshipful Lodge, King Leopold 1st, No 3

FIRST NAME and NAME (print please)

Signature :

Date :

Declaration to be signed by the candidate for [affiliation coming from an Obedience not recognised by the R.G.L.B.](#) (art. 29.1.3 of the G.R.)

I, being desirous of entering into regular Freemasonry, declare to having read the Constitution and the General Regulations of the Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium and to be able to subscribe to both without reservation.

In the event that I am accepted by the Order, I promise to observe them, as well as the Decrees of the Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium and the Bye-Laws of the Worshipful Lodge, king Leopold 1st, Lodge No 3

I have resigned from my Lodge under the Grand Lodge (or Grand Orient) of and from each other Masonic body not recognized by the R.G.L.B. and cease from now on to have any association with these Masonic bodies.

FIRST NAME and NAME (print please)

Signature :

Date :

King Leopold 1st Lodge No 3

LEGAL DECLARATION

* On my honour, I declare that I am not, nor ever have been, subject to any penal or criminal charges.

* On my honour, I declare that I am or have been subject to penal and/or or criminal charges. Please provide details below or on a separate sheet.

First Name _____ Family Name _____
(print please)

Date

Signed

* Delete not applicable

TO THE APPLICANT FOR THE DEGREES OF FREEMASONRY

Doubtless you have formed some ideas as to the nature of the Masonic Fraternity. Experience has shown that the pre-conceived ideas that a candidate forms prior to becoming a Mason are quite frequently far from correct. It is felt that you as an applicant for the Masonic degrees, will be mentally better equipped and therefore will derive greater satisfaction from your experience of becoming a Mason, if you have some fundamental information regarding the Ancient Fraternity of which you seek to become a part. This text is therefore placed in your hands that you may read it thoroughly and carefully prior to taking your initial step into the Lodge. It will enable you to better understand the ceremonies in which you will actually participate. Study it diligently to learn all of you can of the structure and purposes of this great Fraternity. If you will do this, you will enjoy far greater appreciation of the ancient ceremonies of initiation as well as gaining a keener insight of its intentions. The ceremonies are designed to teach you great and moral truths which you are expected to apply to your own situation in life, and which if sincerely practised will surely increase your stature and standing among men and Masons

WHAT IS FREEMASONRY?

Perhaps one of the simplest among the many definitions of Freemasonry, and the most direct, is that which is employed by our English Brethren: "Freemasonry is a system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols". The idea of teaching through allegories and symbols is not new. All great teachers have followed this method. The doctrines and teachings of Freemasonry are few, simple and fundamental by reason of the conservatism of the Fraternity. In addition to morality they include brotherly love, temperance, tolerance, justice, education, good citizenship, loyalty to civil government and freedom of ideas and expression.

The system of morality to which we have referred as Freemasonry and that which every Mason is bound to profess and practice in everyday life, is that of an upright and honourable man of good intentions and kindly disposition, who believes in a Supreme Being. Although it may include principles with which you are more or less familiar before your entrance into Masonry, you will nevertheless find them presented in new ways and under new forms different from those with which you may be acquainted. If you find nothing so very startlingly new in Masonic teachings, you must remember that (in some respects at least) there is "nothing new under the sun", and that the essence of morality is to be found in the utter simplicity of its requirements, though definitely not with the same ease. These lessons are taught in the three degrees of the Symbolic Lodge (called the Constituent Lodge in our Grand Lodge Jurisdiction) by allegories, symbols, legends and lectures, all of considerable antiquity, interpretations of which will be presented to you but by which you will not necessarily be limited in your own concept or understanding.

When one speaks of a "Masonic Lodge", it is ordinarily the Symbolic Lodge which he has in mind. Almost every community of any size, in most parts of the world, has one or more Symbolic Lodge. Each Lodge has its own officers, headed by a Worshipful Master, its own committees and its own appropriate activities. On the other hand, each Lodge is subject to the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge in the country or state in which it is located. Thus the Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium exercises its jurisdiction over every regular Lodge within Belgium. No other Grand Lodge has the right to invade this territory for any Masonic purposes whatsoever. There are over one hundred Grand Lodges throughout the world. Therefore, in becoming a member of a lodge in this jurisdiction, you subject yourself to not only to the laws, rules and regulations of the Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium and the by-laws of your particular Lodge, but also to the general customs and usages of the Fraternity across the globe.

Masonry requires nothing of you which might conflict with your duties to your Supreme Being, to your country, to your neighbour, or to yourself. In your progress through the degrees of

the Symbolic Lodge, which might require weeks, months or even years, you will be "Initiated" as an Entered Apprentice, "Passed" to the degree of Fellow-Craft, and "Raised" to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. The significance of the ritual will become apparent to you as you proceed. Your primary duty is to approach each degree calmly and solemnly, with mind and spirit attentive to the lessons imparted. The entire ceremony is of a most serious character, and you need have no apprehensions as to the manner of your reception into each degree. Bear in mind that all Masons have been through the same ceremony.

WHAT FREEMASONRY IS NOT!

So that you may not have a wrong concept of the Institution, it may be well to point out a few things which Freemasonry is not, and which it has never claimed to be.

a. Contrary to the opinion of many, Freemasonry is not a charitable institution, as such. It is true that one of the fundamental principles of the Institution is the practice of charity and a Mason necessarily ministers to "the widows and fatherless in their affliction". But these and all other modes of conduct must flow from that "purity of life and conduct" which is one of the great objectives of Masonic teachings.

b. Freemasonry does not insure its members against the vicissitudes of old age, issues no policies on the lives of its members and provides no sick benefits, as such. Modern civilisation has provided accident and health insurance for the reduction of suffering and privation. However Freemasonry confines the matter of individual relief to those cases where such relief becomes necessary. In spite of all the efforts of a Brother or his family to maintain their economic independence. Your part in this procedure will more likely be that of a contributor rather than a beneficiary - except in a large sense that every man benefits from the fact that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

c. Freemasonry is not a religion but purports to be a private society of men whose characters are already formed and who desire society of others of like kind. It has a philosophy of its own, which is harmony with the church, the school and all other worthy institutions. The teachings of the Fraternity transcend all denominational and sectional divisions. Its sympathies are as broad as humanity. The individual Mason may be as active as he pleases in any social, political or religious activity and is most certainly encouraged to be religious and civil minded. It regards a man not for his worldly estate, accomplishments or social position, but for his internal merit. It has no programme of social economic, political or religious reform or revolution and does not carry on any kind of propaganda or publicity.

d. Freemasonry does not lend itself in any manner whatever as a means for promoting selfish interests. If you have been prompted to petition for the degrees of Freemasonry with the expectation that you will be aided in your business, professional or political career, you will be very greatly disappointed. Freemasonry is not a trading or vote-getting order; it does not permit the use of its name or insignia for business or any other like purposes whatsoever; and if any one should approach you with a business proposition, advancing his cause by reliance upon his membership of the craft, you will avoid him as neither a good businessman nor a good Mason.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE MASONIC FRATERNITY?

As you have previously been informed, not every man can fulfil the requirements of Masonic eligibility. The primary requirement is, of course, a belief in a Supreme Being and in a life hereafter. There are additional requirements that a petitioner must have, such as the following:

a. He must be of good moral character and repute, of sound mind, able to both mentally and physically to support himself and family.

b. He must be at least twenty-one years of age.

c. He must be in such financial circumstances that he can maintain himself as a member of the Lodge and meet the financial obligations imposed thereby without undue sacrifice to or his family.

d. He must be a loyal citizen and one willing to discharge his duties to his Supreme Being, to his neighbour and to himself.

You, like Masons in all ages before you, have come of your own accord to knock at Masonry's door. Two brethren have recommended you; they have done more: they have vouched for character and the sincerity of your motives. In a real sense, therefore, they are your Masonic sponsors. You for your part have resting upon you the responsibility of seeing that they and others, who have accepted their assurances, shall not be disappointed.

ON THE THRESHOLD

Only by the unanimous vote of the members of the Lodge can a candidate be elected to receive the degrees of Freemasonry. Your petition will have to pass this age old test in meeting our unanimous approval you will be informed of its outcome. You should remember that when you affixed your signature to your petition, you made these significant statements:

- a. You expressed a belief in a Supreme Being and in future existence.
- b. You were not biased by improper solicitation of friends.
- c. You were not influenced by mercenary motives.
- d. You were prompted by a favourable opinion conceived of the Institution, a desire for knowledge and a sincere wish to be serviceable to your fellow creatures.
- e. You would conform to all the ancient usages and regulations of the Fraternity.

All this would seem to indicate that you realise the importance of the step you are about to take. You should approach Masonry with a receptive mind. As you progress through the degrees, you should interpret for yourself, as much as possible, all that you hear and see. Whatever seems difficult or obscure should be a challenge to search out its meaning in every word and act of our ceremonies. When in seriousness you cross the Threshold of the Lodge, it should become for you a sacred place. In a very vital sense, the Lodge will become a home in which you will learn contentment in the service to your brethren; in the study of the many lessons which Masonry seeks to teach; and honour to your Supreme Maker. As you seek entrance into this new sanctuary give careful attention to the following:

a. When you come be clean in body - let this cleanliness be a symbol of greater purification within your heart. Let it represent the integrity of your intentions.

b. Be clear in mind. Come with your mental faculties free from distracting thoughts that would tend to divert your attention from the instruction you will receive. Seek to set aside all prejudice and any spirit of antagonism. Be free to accept and assimilate the solemn truths you are about to receive.

c. Be pure in heart. Put away evil thoughts of every kind. If you have done anything wrong, honestly seek to redress it.

d. Be prayerful in spirit. Whether or not it is your habit to pray daily to your Supreme Being, pray on the eve of your initiation for His blessing on the step you are about to take, for wisdom to understand and for strength to keep you steadfast. Symbolism reaches a high degree in Freemasonry, and is largely responsible for its universality. Men of different tongues often find it difficult to reach a common understanding; but symbols enable all men to comprehend each other without the necessity of any spoken word. The use of symbolism is one of the most effective means by which Freemasonry endeavours to unite all men. The symbolism of Freemasonry deals with the intellectual, moral and spiritual values of life. Be assured that there is nothing of a light and trivial character in the degrees of Masonry. Any intimation you may have had to the contrary is

completely false. There is a profound significance in every step of your progress. You will be amply rewarded, as have many others, for their faithful application in your everyday life.

WHAT FREEMASONRY EXPECTS OF YOU

Your obligations as a member of the Fraternity will not conflict with those you have already assumed by virtue of your membership in modern society. On the contrary, the Masonic Fraternity reiterates, reinforces and re-emphasises them. Thus, in asking Masonry to share with its past, present and future, and all the privileges of its Brotherhood, you must necessarily bear in mind that the relationship is a reciprocal one and therefore certain things are expected of you. Remember always:

- a. That the calling of a Freemason is a high one and that you should never suffer yourself to derogate it.
- b. That loyalty to home, to country and to the Fraternity is expected of you at all times.
- c. That patriotism is a bounded duty and you should not countenance disloyalty or rebellion.
- d. That the Masonic Institution stands for liberty, equality and fraternity not only for Masons but for all mankind.
- e. That freedom of thought, speech and action is the watchword of Freemasonry, so far as this is not compatible with the same rights on the parts of others.
- f. That, in a like manner, every Freemason is the enemy of ignorance, bigotry, oppression, superstition, and of all and spiritual darkness.
- g. That a Mason champions the cause of the widow, the fatherless, the weak and the oppressed; and challenges the arbitrary assumptions by anyone of the power to dictate the actions, beliefs and destinies of any group or individual.
- h. That the time honoured virtues so cherished by our forefathers are still "coin and realm" among Masons, and that humility, patience, charity, and gentleness are among the hallmarks of purity and integrity of character.

CONCLUSION

In a very short time you will present yourself to the Lodge for initiation into the mysteries of the Ancient and most honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons. There are many more things for you to learn in your progress through the degrees of Masonry; these will be explained in detail at the proper time. In addition, there will much Knowledge for you to acquire through your own efforts. You will have every opportunity to converse with well-informed brethren, to read Masonic books and other publications and to meditate upon the truths derived from these sources. In the meantime keep uppermost in your thoughts the solemn engagements and covenants into which you will enter.