



**Internet Lodge 9659**  
**United Grand Lodge of England**  
**Province of East Lancashire**  
<http://internet.lodge.org.uk>

**Short Papers Competition 2009**

*The opinions reflected by the author are not necessarily those of Internet Lodge,  
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**Paper 31/2009**

**Title**

**Now That I Am a Freemason**

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I am a **freemason**. What next?

Freemasonry teaches us our obligations to God, to mankind, to our family and to our selves. The three degrees work together to form a **system** of morality, even though veiled in allegory. These ceremonies work in harmony to make you a mason; yet they are finite. **Becoming** a freemason is a lifelong process. How do I **become** a Mason? How do I contribute to my lodge and to freemasonry in general?

Keep it fun. Freemasonry makes you a better man only while it plays a role in your life. Keep that role active by finding in freemasonry what interests you. Freemasonry has a depth and breadth that can satisfy just about any interest. Seek out and enjoy those aspects that excite you. It is during the process of *discovering* freemasonry that you will find **your** individual path to **becoming** a mason.

Get to know your brothers; from all the lodges within your ability to visit. Your shared brotherhood makes that first step easier, but friendships of any kind require effort. **Make the effort.** You will develop friendships that will last a lifetime. Be interested; be interesting. Freemasonry is ultimately a fraternity!

Share in the charitable work. There are outreach programmes and fund raisers that can always use another helping hand, especially one with a fresh energy level. Offer to help your almoner. What better way to understand your lodge than to get to know the older brethren and widows? The stories you will hear and share will be eagerly listened to by active brothers. Find a brother in a service club and join his. Your mutual fraternity adds another dimension to the service club experience.

Study the ritual work. Hearing it, knowing it and memorising it **each** give a progressively clearer understanding of the symbols and allegory. Giving of your best in the ritual work is how you give back to those who follow behind you. It shows respect for those who did it for you **before they even knew you!**

Offer to lead a special project that is suited to your unique set of talents and experiences. We all have something to share and we can all contribute in ways that we enjoy.

Progress in your masonry; through the craft chairs and into the appendant bodies. Royal Arch, Rose Croix and Mark masonry help to develop your Masonic knowledge.

Educate yourself; in freemasonry and otherwise. Bros. Harry Carr and Carl Claudy make understanding freemasonry easier. The Prestonian Lectures and the AQC Transactions make comprehending freemasonry challenging and exciting. Learn how to draw a sixty degree angle using only a compass and ruler. Discover the complexities of philosophy. Improve your knowledge of the world around you and above all; understand how to answer in an engaging way the profane question: *What is Masonry?* When you can answer that in less than thirty seconds, you are well on your way to **becoming** a mason.

I **am** a freemason. I enjoy it. Why would I leave?

*Short papers are intended to be read aloud in lodge meetings as a form of Masonic Education.  
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