

2008

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Trustee Board

Greenleaf Gardens  
Lodge No. 670  
Whittier, California

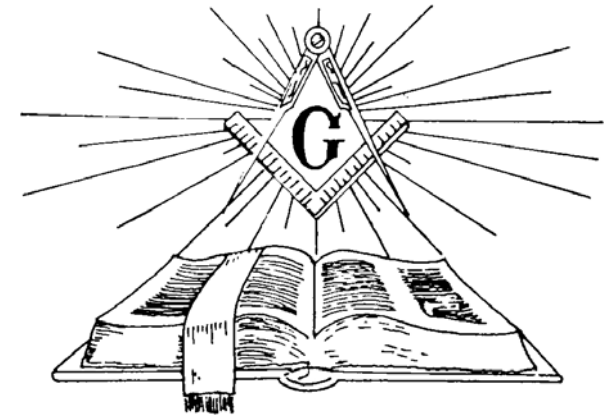
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## I AM FREEMASONRY

- Ray V. Denslow

I was born in antiquity, in the ancient days when men first dreamed of God. I have been tried through the ages, and found true. The crossroads of the world bear the imprint of my feet, and the cathedrals of all nations mark the skill of my hands. I strive for beauty and for symmetry. In my heart is wisdom and strength and courage for those who ask. Upon my alters is the Book of Holy Writ, and my prayers are to the One Omnipotent God, my sons work and pray together, without rank or discord, in the public mart and in the inner chamber. But signs and symbols I teach the lessons of life and of death and the relationship of man with God and of man with man. My arms are widespread to receive those of lawful age and good report who seek me of their own free will. I accept them and teach them to use my tools in the building of men, and thereafter, find direction in their own quest for perfection so much desired and so difficult to attain. I lift up the fallen and shelter the sick. I hark to the orphans' cry, the widows tears, the pain of the old and destitute. I am not church, nor party, nor school, yet my sons bear a full share of responsibility to God, to country, to neighbor and themselves. They are freemen, tenacious of their liberties

and alert to lurking danger. At the end I commit them as each one undertakes the journey beyond the vale into the glory of everlasting life. I ponder the sand within the glass and think



how small is a single life in the eternal universe. Always have I taught immortality, and even as I raise men from darkness into light, I am a way of life. I Am Freemasonry.

## Pieces of the Puzzle

Dr. Roger M. Firestone, 32 KCCH

"If knowledge is a sacred cow, then our problem is how to milk her without being taken upon the horns."

--Albert Szent-Gyorgi, Nobel Laureate, discoverer of vitamin C

Many candidates complete three, seven, nine or even 32 degrees and feel baffled that they have not received any "real secrets" in their progress through Masonry. Of course, they have received those elements that enable them to prove themselves Masons and thereby be able to claim fraternal assistance and welcome throughout the world, but for many, this does not seem sufficient.

As I see it, this is because they have not developed a real understanding of what the degrees of Masonry are about, at least not early in their Masonic career. I offer the following metaphor: The degrees of Masonry are like a set of keys. The keys open a collection of boxes, but what we find in the boxes are a set of puzzle pieces. To the Mason with the keys remains the task of assembling the pieces.

Sometimes we find that the pieces in a box go together in more than one way to produce more than one picture. Sometimes, the pictures don't tell us very much, until they are placed in conjunction with other pictures from other boxes. And sometimes, one must take the step of mixing together pieces from several of the boxes to form a startling picture that could not have been guessed at by looking at the pieces of each box separately.

Assembling the pieces of the puzzle is the job of research into Masonic philosophy, and it often leads to insights and meanings that cannot be guessed at from a simple examination of the Masonic lectures and degrees in isolation. Real effort is required beyond the ceremonies of the degrees to obtain the knowledge which Masons seek.

