



Explore the Old Lectures Evening

The first degree tracing board states at one part of the presentation that 'the third last and grand reason is given in the old lectures...'. Much of the wording in the three degree ceremonies originates from the 'old lectures' but there is a significant amount of other material which describes the symbolism of freemasonry. For example the 'old lecture' of the first degree gives further explanation of Jacob's ladder. It also explains the symbolism of the various steps leading to the Master's and wardens chairs.

This session will require various brethren to explore one of the 'old lectures' and share with the Lodge the aspects they find most interesting.

FORMAT: 40 to 60min session involving presentations by a number of brethren.

PRESENTER/S: Requires a competent brother to facilitate the session.

AUDIENCE: All Lodge members (depending on the 'old lecture' chosen).

VENUE: Lodge Room

APPROACH:

The facilitator should identify several brethren (perhaps 4 to 6) to assist him. They should collectively review the lecture and review the topics they would like to share with the Lodge. Each brother should then prepare a brief 3 to 6 min talk on the topic. As a guide 3 mins is about 200 to 250 words.

It might also be of interest for the team to demonstrate how the lecture was delivered in the traditional question and answer format.

Finish by allowing the brethren to have a discussion on the symbolism of what they have observed.

ALTERNATIVE APPROACH:

An alternative approach is for the lecture to be treated as a demonstrated working with various brethren allocated the roles in the lecture. This could potentially involve more brethren. The discussion can also be had at the conclusion of the demonstration.

RESOURCES: An 'old lectures' book.

