

**MASTER'S MINUTE, April 1, 2016 "April Fools”**

My Brothers,

April Fools day, also called All Fools’ Day, has been celebrated for several centuries by different cultures, its exact origins remain a mystery. Some historians speculate that April Fools’ Day dates back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, as called for by the Council of Trent in 1563. It is thought that people who were slow to get the news or failed to recognize that the start of the new year had moved to January 1, and continued to celebrate it during the last week of March through April 1, became the butt of jokes and hoaxes.

Historians have also linked April Fools’ Day to ancient festivals such as Hilaria, which was celebrated in Rome at the end of March and involved people dressing up in disguises. There’s also speculation that April Fools’ Day was tied to the vernal equinox, or first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere, when Mother Nature fooled people with changing, unpredictable weather…. and here we are today.

Traditionally in one version of the Tarot, the *Fool card* represents unlimited potential, youth, and enthusiasm, yet it is bound in a raw and unrefined state, which is also the classical representation of the Entered Apprentice in Masonic symbolism. Each Mason begins his journey as a Fool.

As a candidate we are a Fool that is full of energy, enthusiasm, and a desire to start our Masonic journey, yet we lack knowledge, experience, and direction.

Unhindered by fear, we reach the door of the preparation room full of unlimited potential, promise and hope. Our true potential is locked within us. As a Fool, we must take an unknown step into darkness, only later to emerge into the wisdom of light.

The mysteries and the secrets of our “Gentle Craft” are hidden from fools rightly enough – they’re hidden in plain sight. Where better to hide something than in plain view where it will be overlooked by most, even those who should know. Masons are searching and aching for Masonry to lead the way and explain the lessons and mysteries to them, so that they may improve themselves and their lives.

One of the purposes of Masonry is to unite men into our Brotherhood through initiation and instruction. Thus the mission of masonry includes making friends, making their lives and ours better, and also to help and encourage all Masons to make their lives a quest for truth, righteousness, and character. Freemasonry upholds every noble and redeeming ideal of humanity. It transforms one from a fool to a Brother.

So as we travel from foolishness toward greater wisdom, from darkness to light, we hope to leave the fool behind and emerge as a wiser, better and consequentially happier person.

We here strive to be wiser, and more enlightened, and right here… we have the so named Lodge to do it!