

masonic questions and answers

Masonic Questions and Answers: Unraveling the Mysteries of Freemasonry

Introduction:

Have you ever been intrigued by the secrecy surrounding Freemasonry? Seen the iconic symbols and wondered about their meaning? Perhaps you've heard whispers of ancient rituals and powerful brotherhoods. This comprehensive guide aims to answer your burning Masonic questions and answers, demystifying this often-misunderstood fraternal organization. We'll explore the core beliefs, rituals, history, and common misconceptions surrounding Freemasonry, providing clear and concise information backed by reputable sources. Whether you're a curious outsider, a potential initiate, or a seasoned Mason seeking clarification, this post will illuminate the path to a better understanding.

I. What is Freemasonry? A Historical Overview

Freemasonry, at its core, is a fraternal organization with a rich history dating back centuries. Its origins are shrouded in some mystery, with claims tracing back to medieval stonemasons' guilds. However, the modern form of Freemasonry evolved over time, incorporating philosophical and spiritual elements. The organization is structured in a hierarchical system of lodges, with members progressing through various degrees, each offering deeper insights into Masonic principles. Understanding this historical context is crucial to grasping the organization's current practices and beliefs. Early lodges focused on practical skills and mutual support among craftsmen, but over time, speculative masonry emerged, emphasizing moral and ethical development. Key historical figures and significant events shaped the evolution of Freemasonry, influencing its global presence and diverse interpretations.

II. The Core Beliefs and Principles of Freemasonry

Freemasonry is fundamentally about self-improvement and moral development. While varying slightly across different Grand Lodges (governing bodies), common tenets include:

Brotherhood: A strong emphasis on fellowship and mutual support among members.

Charity: Active involvement in philanthropic activities and community service.

Moral uprightness: Striving for personal integrity and ethical conduct.

Self-improvement: Continuous learning and personal growth through Masonic

education.

Symbolic Rituals: Utilizing allegorical rituals and symbolism to teach moral lessons.

These principles are not merely theoretical; they're actively practiced through various Masonic activities and charitable endeavors. Understanding these core values is key to appreciating the essence of Freemasonry. It's important to note that Freemasonry is not a religion, though many members are deeply religious. It's a system of morality veiled in symbolism and ritual.

III. The Masonic Rituals and Degrees

Masonic rituals are often misunderstood and misrepresented. They are carefully crafted ceremonies that use symbolism, allegory, and drama to convey moral and ethical lessons. The progression through different degrees (e.g., Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, Master Mason) involves learning specific rituals, symbolic interpretations, and moral teachings. While the specifics of these rituals are confidential within the Lodge, the underlying principles can be discussed publicly. These rituals aim to foster self-reflection, encourage personal growth, and strengthen the bonds of brotherhood. The secrecy surrounding these rituals isn't about hiding something nefarious; it's about preserving the integrity and effectiveness of the learning process.

IV. Common Misconceptions and Conspiracy Theories

Numerous misconceptions surround Freemasonry, often fueled by misinformation and conspiracy theories. Some common myths include claims of secret societies controlling the world or engaging in nefarious activities. These are unfounded accusations that have been debunked through historical research and factual evidence. Understanding and addressing these misconceptions is essential to fostering a fair and accurate understanding of Freemasonry. Many of these misconceptions stem from a lack of understanding of the organization's core principles and its history. This section will address these falsehoods head-on, providing evidence-based refutations.

V. How to Join Freemasonry and What to Expect

The process of joining Freemasonry involves a thorough application and vetting process. Candidates must be of good moral character and believe in a Supreme Being. The path to joining requires sponsorship by existing members and a series of interviews to assess suitability. New members are gradually initiated into the organization's workings and teachings, progressing through the degrees over time. The experience is one of personal growth, fellowship, and community involvement. This section will provide practical guidance for anyone interested in exploring Freemasonry further.

Article Outline:

Title: Masonic Questions and Answers: Unraveling the Mysteries of Freemasonry

Introduction: Hooking the reader and providing an overview.

Chapter 1: What is Freemasonry? A Historical Overview

Chapter 2: Core Beliefs and Principles of Freemasonry

Chapter 3: Masonic Rituals and Degrees

Chapter 4: Common Misconceptions and Conspiracy Theories

Chapter 5: How to Join Freemasonry and What to Expect

Conclusion: Summarizing key points and encouraging further exploration.

FAQs: Answering common questions about Freemasonry.

Related Articles: Providing links to relevant resources.

(The detailed content for each chapter is provided above in the main body of the article.)

FAQs:

1. Is Freemasonry a religion? No, Freemasonry is a fraternal organization focused on moral and ethical development. A belief in a Supreme Being is typically required for membership, but it's not a specific religion.
1. What are the benefits of joining Freemasonry? Benefits include personal growth, fellowship, community service, and access to a supportive network.
1. How much does it cost to join Freemasonry? Fees vary depending on the lodge, but they are generally reasonable and cover operational costs.
1. Is Freemasonry secretive? Yes, some aspects, particularly the rituals, are confidential to members. However, the organization's core beliefs and principles are openly discussed.
1. What is the role of symbolism in Freemasonry? Symbolism is used to teach moral lessons and promote self-reflection.

1. Are women allowed to join Freemasonry? Traditional Freemasonry is predominantly male, though there are related organizations that accept women.
1. What are the charitable activities of Freemasons? Freemasons actively support various charities, often focusing on education, youth development, and community support.
1. Is there a political agenda within Freemasonry? No, Freemasonry is non-political and promotes tolerance and understanding.
1. How do I find a local Masonic lodge? You can search online for "Masonic lodges near me" or contact your Grand Lodge.

Related Articles:

1. The History of Freemasonry: From Medieval Guilds to Modern Brotherhood: Explores the rich historical context of Freemasonry.
2. Understanding Masonic Symbolism: Decoding the Secrets of the Craft: Deciphers the meaning and significance of Masonic symbols.
3. Freemasonry and Charity: A Legacy of Service to Humanity: Highlights the charitable endeavors of Freemasons throughout history.
4. The Rituals and Degrees of Freemasonry: A General Overview: Provides a general overview of the structure and symbolism of Masonic rituals.
5. Debunking Masonic Myths and Conspiracy Theories: Addresses common misconceptions and refutes unfounded claims.
6. Becoming a Freemason: A Step-by-Step Guide: A practical guide on the process of joining Freemasonry.
7. Famous Freemasons Throughout History: Their Contributions and Legacy: Profiles influential individuals who were members of Freemasonry.
8. Freemasonry and Faith: Exploring the Relationship Between Masonry and

Religion: Explores the relationship between Freemasonry and religious beliefs.

9. The Future of Freemasonry: Adapting to Modern Challenges: Discusses the challenges and opportunities facing Freemasonry in the 21st century.

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masonic questions and answers: Fred's Five Minute Talks Fred Lomax, 2013-10 This book follows on from the successful series Fred's Five Minute Papers published on a quarterly basis in The Square magazine for the past two years. There are more than seventy topics, plus some short poems, in total about eighty, covering a very broad spectrum. They are an ideal aid for Lodge Mentors and give answers to questions very often asked by new or less-experienced Masons. Mentoring has recently taken on a very high profile brought about the United Grand Lodge of England's decision to make Mentors an official appointment in lodges. It is currently being given very high priority in many Provinces.

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masonic questions and answers: Freemasons For Dummies Christopher Hodapp, 2013-01-10 Take the mystery out of the Freemasons Fascinated by Freemasons? Freemasons For Dummies is the internationally bestselling introduction to the Masons, the oldest and largest secret society in the

world. This balanced, eye-opening guide demystifies Freemasonry, explaining everything from its elaborate rituals and cryptic rites, to its curious symbols and their meanings. With new and improved content, including updated examples and references throughout, this new edition of *Freemasons For Dummies* provides the most straightforward, non-intimidating guide to the subject on the market. Updated expert coverage of the basic beliefs and philosophy behind Freemasonry Revised information on the history of the society, including updates concerning its founding, famous historical members, and pivotal events New coverage devoted to the recent influx of younger membership The latest and ongoing controversies and myths surrounding Freemasonry The role of women in a Masonic organization, including opportunities for women to participate in Freemasonry The effects cultural and political changes and worldwide events are having on the organization If you're intrigued by the mystery that surrounds the Masons, get ready to learn the facts about this ancient order in *Freemasons For Dummies*.

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Duncan, 2005 The purpose of this work is not so much to gratify the curiosity of the uninitiated as to furnish a guide for the neophytes of the Order, by means of which their progress from grade to grade may be facilitated. Every statement in the book is authentic, as every proficient Mason will admit to himself, if not to be public, as he turns over its pages. The non-Masonic reader, as he peruses them, will perhaps be puzzled to imagine why matters of so little real importance to society at large should have been so industriously concealed for centuries, and still more surprised that society should have been so extremely inquisitive about them.-From the Preface.

masonic questions and answers: The Etiquette of Freemasonry An Old Past Master, 2012-01-12 First written in 1890, *The Etiquette of Freemasonry* is a timeless window into the mysterious traditions and practices of one of history's most intriguing secret societies. This straightforward guide blends instruction with philosophical reasoning to capture the true spirit of the Freemason brethren. Readers will get the chance to walk in the footsteps of the Freemasons and finally peek behind the veil of mystery. Discover such hidden mysteries as: the meaning of the "Jewels of the Lodge," how ancient ceremonial rites are conducted, and the details of rituals of ascension required to become a First-, Second-, and Third-degree Mason. A vital resource for historians, students, Freemasons, and anyone who has ever been interested in modern cults, *The Etiquette of Freemasonry* answers the question, "What does it mean to be a Free and Accepted Mason?"

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A collection of articles by Ronald J. R. Hart, PProvJGD, SLGR, with particular emphasis on his many years of research into the architecture and symbolism of Freemasonry. The book contains chapters on the most ancient Lodge and Temple (Kilwinning), the origins of our Lodge columns, the symbolism of the Past Master's jewel, myth and legend, glimpses of Royal Arch Ritual and the Vault, some of the symbols of the First Degree, and the symbols of the Second Degree. Do you want to enhance your Masonic knowledge? This book will give you answers to many of the Masonic questions commonly asked. Where does Freemasonry come from? What does the Past Master's jewel really symbolize? What do the columns in our Lodges signify? What is the symbolism within our Three Degrees? Which Lodge is the oldest? What does the Holy Royal Arch and its Ritual symbolize?

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masonic questions and answers: Metaphysical Answers to Metaphysical Questions (Book -1)

Mustafa Karnas, 2021-02-12 PRESENTATION This book covers the answers to the questions that arise during the training-lessons on Becoming Metaphysics. Metaphysics-Noetics- Religions- History

of Religions- Esoteric- Behavioral Sciences- Our Behaviors- Development Secrets- Esoteric- Occult- Enoch Wisdom and many other questions asked by those who attended the training were answered by Mustafa KARNAS and this question was named as being Metaphysical with answers. educational information is included in this book. In the following five subjects; Being metaphysical; 1- Managing your own life 2- Managing the flow of events 3- leading the flow of destiny 4- Managing the future 5- Managing information Mustafa KARNAS BEING METAPHYSICAL Our topic is to manage the flow of destiny, how will we manage our destiny? How easy it is, but hard when you don't know. Let's examine the question of what is to know, knowing is like opening Matryoshka dolls, you go to the deepest, knowing at every trench becomes a function. What else is to know? Knowing is holding, holding is determining a space between references, that is, knowing is measuring. The only reason we know is because we can measure, what we measure is what we perceive. What we perceive means something other than references created by what we know, what we know is what we learned by measuring, knowing also means understanding by changing the measures. With each change of measure or reference, the shape of the information also changes, so the knowing function continues by updating the previously known. With these constantly changing references, even if the information is the same, with the measurements forming a different judgment on everyone, the projection of everyone will be different. Knowing can only happen with the approval of others, so we know what we know only in others, we cannot know anything in ourselves. The most important of the references that tell us what we know are their projections, reflections. For example, if we hear ringing bells in a rural area, even if we do not see it, he tells us that there is a sheep-goat cow herd in a place we cannot see but can hear in the future, with a shepherd and shepherd dogs. Just a bell and a bell show that we know all these things, and if we turn it on, we will move away from the sound if we are afraid of the shepherd dog attack, but if we need help, we approach the sound, and so on. We know because everything we know exists on a scale, if it did not exist on a measure, nothing we know would be because we will never see what we see again, so every we see will be what we do not know and we would never know. Although never knowing is a true reality, the only reason we know is that human perception, violated by the law of uncertainty, has created constants for itself within the existing laws of existence. That is, we are bodies and souls trapped in a continuous repetition of the like in a cyclical hermetic matrix. Therefore, the flow, which is in fact uncertainty, becomes a reality in a narrow space within us, and the measurements we make in that area are always stable, so we know, or we would never have known. The way we know something is influenced by the way the brain processes it, the brain processes information, compares the two when a new flow of information arrives, and orders the motor cortex accordingly. So the only reason we know is because the measurements are stored in snaps, stability and stability is that the brain arranges a mess in its own way. For example, you go to visit someone, there is a dog at the door, the man says don't be afraid, they won't bite. You don't have this information, you have it. Again, you go to a yacht for a guest, screams coming from the upper floor at 12 at night, you worry, you say, Don't be afraid, there is nothing, the man is watching a movie, these are the information that everybody gets by measuring the motor cortex and snaps. What else is measuring, does anyone have an idea? Another concept means to measure. Measure means destiny. We have created you on a scale, that is, we have created you on a fate, our subject is destiny. So as long as you stay within the measured, your destiny is determined. If the measurements change, the fate also changes because the main thing is the law, that is, the law of measure appears as projective realities in the form of an array of possibilities in every measurement, but when there is an action to change the measurement, a new measurement is made subject to another law of creation. Therefore, the only fate determined is laws, that is, the rules of the laws of measurement never change, but the fate of the person changes with different laws and measurements. Whose destiny is the fate mentioned? And let's come to the subject of death, whose term is the term, with whom is the agreement made?

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need advice or counsel? Then this book is designed for YOU! With 100s of Questions and Answers, Robert Gobelet details simple and yet deeply profound explanations of the Bible that can help transform your life and lead you to a deeper relationship with Christ. God Bless you on your Spiritual Journey.

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the text right up-to-date for much had change since the book was first published in 1976. This is a book to be treasured, one that will provide a wealth of knowledge in an easy to read style. A collection of more than 200 questions with comprehensive answers to all manner of masonic subjects.

masonic questions and answers: The Stairway of Freemasonry Julian Rees, 2007-07-26 For any enquiring mind, whether Freemason or not, this little book sets out to help answer questions – not so much: ‘What does it mean?’ but rather: ‘What can it mean?’, since the journey is concerned not with learning other people’s answers, but in working out answers for yourself. This is a book about what it means to walk the path of a Freemason; to be inspired by its rituals, to live your life by its precepts and to cultivate virtue within yourself. If you are not a Freemason, you may want answers to questions such as the following Why can I not become a Freemason by reading about it in a book? What would initiation do for me? What is the point of secrets in Freemasonry? Why are the square and compasses in Freemasonry such a universal symbol? What are Masonic symbols for? Do they mean anything? Can Freemasonry be as meaningful for me as my religion? By being a Freemason, can I be closer to God? If you are already a Freemason, you may want answers to other, but similar questions: Why are we called Free Masons? If secrets in Freemasonry are not to hide something, what are they for? What does the ritual mean when it talks of avoiding fear and rashness? How can symbols best be used? Can working tools really be used to make me a better person? If so, how? Why is it said that lodges stand on holy ground? How am I to understand light in a symbolic sense?

masonic questions and answers: Traveling East Ronald E. Young 33°, 2005-03 Freemasonry has been around for a long time, and it has not yet been clearly explained until now. Traveling East brings Blue Lodge Masonry into the 21st Century. No longer will Young Masons not know what is expected of them, no longer will a young Mason not know how to bury a brother Mason. Through the years all the knowledge of Masonry was kept by the elders, they only told you what they wanted you to know, this kept you coming back for more, as Masons would say this kept you craving for more light. Traveling East explains it all, with very easy to learn terms, but no pictures, that is where the elders will come in. Traveling East has something for all Masons to learn, remember when you were told that you will never know it all well...Traveling East will get you real close to the real truth about that which was lost, and never found, or was there ever anything lost? Traveling East takes you back to where it all started.

masonic questions and answers: The Hiram Key Christopher Knight, Robert Lomas, 2011-10-31 Was Jesus a Freemason? The discovery of evidence of the most secret rites of Freemasonry in an ancient Egyptian tomb led authors Chris Knight and Bob Lomas into an extraordinary investigation of 4,000 years of history. This astonishing bestseller raises questions that have challenged some of Western civilisation's most cherished beliefs: Were scrolls bearing the secret teachings of Jesus buried beneath Herod's Temple shortly before the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans? Did the Knights Templar, the forerunners of modern Freemasonry, excavate these scrolls in the twelfth century? And were these scrolls subsequently buried underneath a reconstruction of Herod's Temple, Rosslyn Chapel in Scotland - where they are now awaiting excavation? The authors' discoveries shed a new light on Masonic ceremony and overturn our understanding of history.

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work of Jesus Christ, but through their own abilities. Discover how you can share the light of Christ with those living in the darkness of Freemasonry, and how they can be set free from its deception.

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masonic questions and answers: A Quick Guide to Freemasonry David Harrison, 2013-11 This pocket-sized book is aimed at lodge mentors and both new and established members. New members are full of questions about Freemasonry, and are sometimes afraid to ask established members, thus turning to the Internet to be confronted by an array of websites; some filled with misinformation. This book gives the opportunity to answer those questions, and would be perfect for mentors in lodges on both sides of the Atlantic. The pocket book includes an easy-to-understand guide to Freemasonry—an all-questions-answered approach, providing a brief history of Freemasonry, and a quick guide to Masonic ritual, all in a question-and-answers section with a full index, covering the roles of the officers, the festive board, toasting, and an examination of all the current English Masonic rituals: Emulation, Bottomley, Nigerian, the Bristol, York and Hull working. Effectively, the handbook is an easy-to-understand beginners guide—a why, how, and when of Craft Freemasonry.

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masonic questions and answers: The Facts on the Masonic Lodge John Ankerberg, John Weldon, Dillon Burroughs, 2009-03-01 Well-known authors and researchers John Ankerberg, John Weldon, and Dillon Burroughs have updated and revised The Facts on the Masonic Lodge, a best-selling title from the popular Facts On Series (more than 1.9 million copies of books from this series sold). The Facts on the Masonic Lodge is filled with well-documented facts and comprehensive comparisons to biblical truths. Readers learn what Masonry (also known as Freemasonry or the Lodge) is by discovering when it began, who has been involved, what its teachings are, and how it influences their lives and the Christian church today. The Facts on the Masonic Lodge provides concise, straightforward answers to questions that include: Is Masonry a religion? What do the

Masons teach about Jesus, salvation, and life after death? What do Masonic symbols represent? Are Masonry and Christianity compatible? Why is understanding Masonry important today?

masonic questions and answers: When We Went Wild Isabella Tree, 2021-06-01 From the best-selling author and rewilding pioneer Isabella Tree, *When We Went Wild* is a heartwarming, sustainably printed picture book about the benefits of letting nature take the lead, inspired by real-life rewilding projects. Nancy and Jake are farmers. They raise their cows and pigs, and grow their crops. They use a lot of big machines to help them, and spray a lot of chemicals to get rid of the weeds and the pests. That's what all good farmers do, isn't it? And yet, there is no wildlife living on their farm. The animals look sad. Even the trees look sad! One day, Nancy has an idea... what if they stopped using all the machines, and all the chemicals, and instead they went wild? The author's own experience of rewilding her estate at Knepp in West Sussex, England, has influenced conservation techniques around the world that are bringing nature back to the countryside and bringing threatened species back from the brink. Ivy Kids brings you beautiful, sustainably printed books to rewild your child. They are hopeful, joyful stories and nonfiction about nature and the environment that are charmingly illustrated and printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper, locally in the US, and using renewable energy. Praise for *Wilding*, the author's best-selling memoir: "In a story that is part personal memoir, part work of conservation, Tree reveals the capacity of the wild to reclaim the land—as long as humans step out of the way." —Smithsonian, "The Ten Best Science Books of 2018" "Wilding is both a timely and important book." —Tim Flannery, *The New York Review of Books*

masonic questions and answers: Contemplative Masonry C R Dunning Jr, 2016-11-01 Part of the work that has become *Contemplative Masonry* first appeared on the internet in 2000 as an anonymously authored guide to the exploration of Freemasonry through contemplative practices like prayer, meditation, breath work, chanting, and visualization. Sixteen years later, the original author of that material, C.R. Chuck Dunning, Jr., has come forward with a substantially expanded edition for those seeking to utilize Masonic symbolism and teachings in a way that is practical, accessible, inspiring, and profoundly transformative. *Contemplative Masonry* is a much-needed resource for Masons seeking to undertake the challenging and rewarding work of deep self-knowledge and self-improvement. Brother Dunning provides Freemasons with a unique system of practices derived directly from the Degrees of Craft Masonry, without reliance upon other religious, spiritual, or esoteric traditions. He also shares the valuable wisdom and insights that come from decades of personal experience with contemplative practices. I would heartily recommend this book to any Mason who has wondered how he might engage more deeply with the Craft and enhance his quest for light. Brother Dunning has mapped out a practical approach to what he terms contemplative Masonry, which can be practiced by any brother, regardless of his religion or spiritual beliefs. I know of few Masons better qualified to serve as a guide to a specifically Masonic path of spiritual growth. - Jay Kinney, 33, author of *The Masonic Myth* and editor of *The Inner West* Chuck Dunning takes us on a wonderful and enlightening journey of what has to occur in a man's body, mind, and spirit for him to actually improve himself in Masonry. He discusses the nature of inner work in Freemasonry, and he is eminently qualified to do so. He enlightens us with his wisdom and offers us a number of exercises which can lead us to the true treasure of manhood. This book is a must read for anyone wanting to know what is hidden in the language of Freemasonry. - Robert G. Davis, 33 G.C., author of *The Mason's Words and Understanding Manhood in America*

masonic questions and answers: Theosophical Lectures and Answers to Theosophical Questions Annie Besant, 1907

masonic questions and answers: Strongholds Shaken David Legge, 2008-03

masonic questions and answers: The Hidden Code in Freemasonry Rob Lund, 2016-04-09 This is a book that should be read by all Freemasons, and all those interested in Freemasonry. It will provide a deeper understanding of the hidden information that the rituals of Freemasonry are trying to convey to those who seek Truth. There are thousands of books on Freemasonry and most of them cover literal interpretations of Masonic ritual and expand on the moral lessons to be learned from

them. This book is different to most, in that it looks beyond the literal veil, and digs into the deeper messages embedded in the rituals, symbols, and ceremonies. The symbols and rituals of Freemasonry have always been mysterious, even to the average Mason. This book exposes the hidden code that underlies each of the Craft rituals and which points to the true meaning of these ceremonies. People join Freemasonry for different reasons: the camaraderie; self-improvement; charitable service - mostly to fill some void in their lives. Many, today, are looking for something deeper, but are not interested in the formal trappings of the various religions. Many of these are disappointed because they don't find what they're looking for in Freemasonry and, as a result, leave the organization. This is unfortunate because embedded in the truly amazing, multi-layered ritual, are messages from the Ancient Mysteries, which point out a clear path, through ancient knowledge, to spiritual consciousness. This knowledge, which constitutes the real secrets and mysteries of ancient Freemasonry, was regularly taught in the earlier days of the Craft, but seems to have been forgotten over the years. This book is aimed at reviving that knowledge and spreading it to Masons and non-Masons across the world, to reach those that seek Truth and Light, and gain the full benefit of what Freemasonry is all about.

masonic questions and answers: *Freemason's Wife* Philippa Faulks, Cheryl Skidmore, 2009
Have you ever wondered why men want to be Freemasons? How do they become one and what is involved? Everyone has heard at least one thing about the Masonsgood or badbut what is the truth? Written by the wives of two well-established Freemasons, *A Handbook for The Freemason's Wife* aims to give a simple and straight-to-the-point guide to the basics of Freemasonry, steering the reader through initially bemusing concepts toward a clear understanding of the path of moral learning in which the men folk will be involved. It demystifies the myths and rumors, and in doing so, helps make the reader feel reassured, more knowledgeable, and respectful of a wonderful Craft. Whether you are the girlfriend, wife, partner, or close relation of a Freemason or Freemason-to-be, you will find within this light-hearted book the answer to almost every question you will initially need to know about Freemasonry.

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