

# The Doorway of Freemasonry: The Mason Apron

Freemasonry, also known as Masonry, is one of the world's oldest and most mysterious fraternal organizations. Dating back to the 17th century, Freemasonry has been steeped in symbolism and ritual, capturing the fascination of many for centuries. While the organization itself is shrouded in secrecy, one of the most iconic symbols of the Freemasons is the Mason apron.

The Mason apron holds great significance in the world of Freemasonry. It is a symbol of purity, workmanship, and the bond that exists among Freemasons. This humble piece of clothing serves as a key to unlocking the deeper symbolism and teachings within the organization, acting as a doorway into the secret world of Freemasonry.

## The Origins of the Mason Apron

The Mason apron's roots can be traced back to the stonemasons of medieval times. These skilled craftsmen, who built the grand cathedrals and castles of Europe, wore aprons to protect their clothing from the dust and dirt associated with their trade. However, as Freemasonry evolved and transformed from a guild of craftsmen into a philosophical and fraternal society, the apron took on a much deeper meaning.

### The Doorway of Freemasonry & The Mason's Apron: Foundations of Freemasonry Series

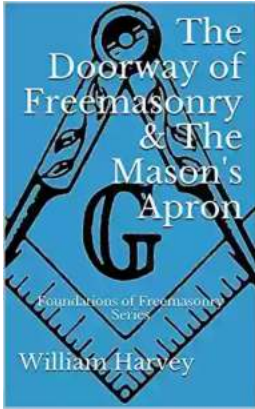
by William Harvey(Kindle Edition)

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Symbolically, the Mason apron represents the Masonic journey. It is believed to represent the lambskin apron mentioned in various ancient texts, such as the Holy Bible and the Book of Constitutions. As the Mason progresses through the degrees of Freemasonry, the apron evolves, adorned with different symbols and colors, signifying the Mason's increasing knowledge and attainment of spiritual enlightenment.

## **The Symbolism of the Mason Apron**

The Mason apron is adorned with various symbols, each holding a unique meaning within the context of Freemasonry:

### **The Square and Compasses**

Perhaps the most recognizable symbol of Freemasonry, the square and compasses are commonly found on the flap of the Mason apron. The square represents morality and virtue, reminding Freemasons to square their actions with morality. The compasses symbolize self-control, enabling Freemasons to keep their passions within due bounds.

### **The All-Seeing Eye**

Another prominent symbol often found on the Mason apron is the all-seeing eye. Positioned above the square and compasses, it represents the watchful eye of the Great Architect of the Universe, who is believed to oversee all actions and thoughts of Freemasons.

## **The Pillars**

Representing the pillars of Solomon's Temple, the two columns are often depicted on the Mason apron. These pillars, known as Boaz and Jachin, symbolize strength and stability, virtues that Freemasons aspire to uphold in their daily lives.

## **The Level and Plumb**

Freemasons place great importance on the concepts of equality and honesty. The level and plumb, therefore, are often depicted on the Mason apron, reminding Freemasons to live their lives with integrity and fairness.

## **The Mason Apron as a Doorway**

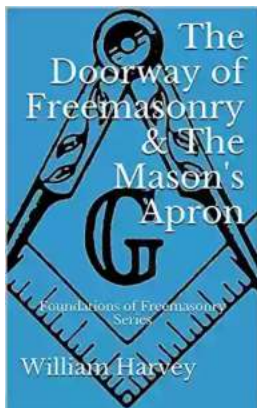
While the Mason apron itself is a symbol of Freemasonry, it also acts as a doorway into the teachings and rituals of the organization. When a new candidate is initiated into Freemasonry, they are presented with their first Mason apron. This simple act signifies the beginning of their journey and their affiliation with the fraternity.

As the Mason progresses through the degrees, they receive additional aprons, each time bearing different symbols and colors. These aprons are carefully crafted and passed down from generation to generation, connecting Freemasons across time and space.

Moreover, the Mason apron serves as a reminder to Freemasons of their duties and obligations as members of the fraternity. It acts as a constant symbol of their

commitment to improving themselves and society and encourages them to live by the principles taught within Freemasonry.

The Mason apron is much more than a simple piece of cloth. It is a symbol of the rich history and traditions of Freemasonry, encapsulating the teachings and values of the organization. It serves as a doorway, allowing Freemasons to explore the secret world and ancient wisdom of the fraternity. From its humble origins as a protective garment to its current status as a revered symbol, the Mason apron continues to fascinate and captivate those who seek to unravel the mysteries of Freemasonry.



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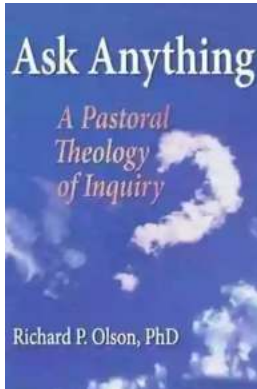
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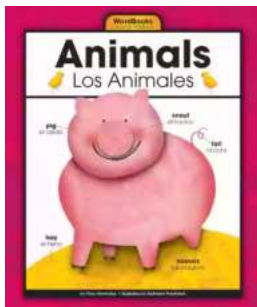
The following pages seek to do something towards explaining the origin and meaning of the word "Tyler", and also to describe the duties that appertain to the official who guards the doorway. Additionally. . . The Masonic Apron, as the badge common to all the brotherhood, has much to inspire reflection, and in the

following pages I have brought together one or two thoughts upon the subject in the hope that they may be of use to members of the Craft.



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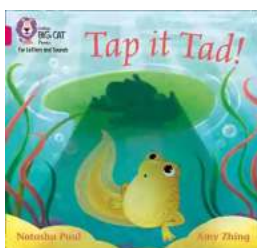
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