

# The Master Mason's Apron

The apron with which you have been invested not only denotes your rank as a Master Mason, but it is intended to illustrate the symbolic teachings of the various ceremonies through which you have passed. The apron is made of lambskin. The lamb, from time immemorial, has been the universal emblem of purity and innocence, so that this apron should ever remind us of that blameless purity of life and conduct which should at all times, characterize Free Masonry.

The border is of cerulean blue, representing the heavens, which appear to us as a vaulted canopy containing the sun, the moon, the planets, and the innumerable constellations whose orbits are fixed and determined by the Great Architect Of The Universe with such accuracy and precision that perfect harmony prevails as they circle the centre of the universe, and in the words of the poet, "Forever singing as they shine, the hand that made us is divine."

The flap or fall is in the form of a square; pointing out that we should square our lives upon the principles of truth and justice. The three rosettes emphasize the importance of the number three, one of the great and symbolic numbers used in Masonry. They represent the Great Lights, namely: the Volume of Sacred Law, the Square & Compasses; they also represent the three lesser lights, namely: the Sun, Moon, and Master of the Lodge. There were also three Grand Masters who presided at Jerusalem, Solomon, King of Israel, Hiram, King of Tyre, and Hiram Abif represented in our Lodges by the three chief officers, the Master and the Senior and Junior Wardens.

The two ribbons pendant to the right and left sides of the apron represent the two great pillars which stood at the Porch Way or East to King Solomon's Temple. Appended to these two ribbons are two tassels, each of which has seven strands. Thus we have depicted on our aprons the three Masonic numbers, 3, 5, and 7, which run like a silver cord through all our ceremonies forming the very warp & woof of our Masonic ritual. The three, represented by the 3 rosettes, the five by the 3 rosettes and the 2 ribbons, and the seven by the 3 rosettes, the 2 ribbons, and the 2 tassels, and also by the 7 strands in each tassel. To appreciate the importance of these numbers we should study the rules that govern our lodges and the ceremonies of the various degrees. Thus three rule a Lodge, five hold a Lodge and seven make it perfect. No meeting of any lodge may be held without the three presiding officers, no lodge may retain its charter unless there are five members, three Master Masons and two Fellow Craft, and no degree may be conferred unless there are seven present, three Master Masons, two Fellow Craft, and two Entered Apprentice.

You will recall the Steps you took in approaching the Alter, three in the First Degree, five in the Second Degree, and seven in the Third Degree. There are also three great pillars which support a lodge, Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty, five noble orders of architecture, Tuscan, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian, and Composite, and the seven liberal arts and sciences, Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic, Arithmetic, Geometry, Music, and Astronomy.

The cord which binds this apron to your body is of a threefold nature, representing the threefold cord of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth which binds all Masons together in perfect love and harmony as long as time shall last. A lodge which has had its charter for 100 years or more is entitled to wear gold braid. In the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario there are approximately 563 lodges, very few of whom are entitled to wear gold braid. I am sure that you will consider it an honour and a privilege to be a member of such an old and honourable lodge.

In conclusion I would like to re-iterate what was said to you by the Senior Warden when he presented you with your first apron, "If you never disgrace that badge it will never disgrace you."

Let me congratulate you on receiving this beautiful Master Mason apron, and may the symbolic teachings embodied in it be carried out by you, so that you may always live and exemplify the doctrines of a true Mason.