

ORATION – Anglers Lodge Consecration

Brethren of the rod and square

it is my honour to address you this evening on this auspicious occasion of the consecration of anglers lodge.

Although I am not myself an angler, I thought I could explore what angling and freemasonry share in common.

We are both ancient and noble occupations, we both require a large amount of time, we both require significant quantities of gear, one requires rods reels net waders the other aprons collars and gloves, but there is an etiquette about both institutions.

There is always an angler on the lake who thinks he can do it better than you and will constantly offer free advice, something that would never happen in freemasonry.

Anglers will practise casting their line, as though they are auditioning for a role in a Shakespeare play, whereas Freemasons always get their ceremonies right first time.

Both institutions share a huge camaraderie and the sense of peace, waiting for that telltale tug on your line, one institution enables you to close your eyes and catch 40 winks whereas angling requires constant attention.

Both institutions have rituals, one has secret handshakes and words the other has secret recipes for bait passed down through generations of anglers.

One has solemn oaths, the other has a solemn vow always to release the big one back into the water no matter how tempting it might be to mount it on the lodge wall.

Anglers are known for their impressive array of fishing gadgets and gizmos, and Freemasons have a fine array of working tools. in fact I thought we could have a specific set of working tools for anglers lodge perhaps the explanation might go something like this:

As we are not all operative anglers but rather free and speculative we apply these tools to our morals, the reel is an implement which acts on a centre pin.

whence the line is drawn out to mark the river for the catching of the intended fish. With the rod the skilful angler delineates a plan for catching and netting his fish, the net enables him with accuracy and precision to ascertain and determine the limits and proportions of his art.

We are not all operative anglers but rather free and speculative, so we apply these tools to our morals, in this sense the reel points out the undeviating line of conduct in our pursuit of the perfect catch.

The rod teaches us that our words and actions are observed by the great fisherman in the sky, the net reminds us of his unerring sense of humour, that we can never keep what we catch but must persuade our fellow anglers that it was the biggest one ever.

So brethren of the rod and square as you form your new lodge.

Let us honor the ancient traditions of Freemasonry, while embracing the simple joys of angling there's a deeper connection that binds us together – a shared appreciation for both the ancient traditions of Freemasonry, and the timeless beauty of the natural world.

Whether we're casting our lines into the murky depths of a lake or delving into the mysteries of the Masonic lodge, we're united by a common love for exploration, discovery, and the occasional fish-themed pun as we reel in new members and get them hooked!

You have many senior Masons to walk with you and I'm sure that using the patience and determination required for a day's fishing as your guide you will be well equipped to create a successful lodge founded on the principles common to both institutions.

Brethren the birth pangs of a new lodge are imminent, and your efforts will bring the onset of a new chapter in the history of Durham freemasonry.

Your inspiration of trust and faith through years of brotherhood and friendship has brought us to this day, these men these brothers will see the culmination of their efforts becoming an integral part of the craft, bringing the principals and tenets that are based on those great guiding lights of life together peace, love, and harmony.

In this room there is an abundance of all that and we bring them altogether and firmly underpin the uniqueness of a lodge combining freemasonry and your

love of angling and the outdoors and our faith in the great architect of the universe ever assisting us at the helm.

Brethren of the rod and square we wish you well, we wish you success we assure you of our brotherly love and support in your new venture and we ask the great architect of the universe, to bless preserve and keep Anglers lodge No 10049 from this day forth, Amen.