

What then is Freemasonry?

If it could answer, I believe it would say:

I am rooted in the midst of great antiquity, and point the way to God and eternity; I am the Past, Present and the Future; I belong to the ages; I circle the globe and stand at the crossroads of the world; I am steeped in tradition and traced in the pages of history; I have rites and words that have beauty, symmetry and rhythm; I have knowledge, wisdom and secrets locked in my bosom which I give to men who come desiring me in their hearts; I place on my altars Holy Writ and turn to the Deity in prayer; I hold a Square and Compasses in my hands and contemplate a line from earth to heaven; I speculate with all the tools of operative masons and I translate their use into moral values and spiritual building; I await all free men of lawful age and good report, but solicit none; I admit them of their own free will and accord, and teach them brotherhood and unity; I make builders of men of those who are willing and give them my tools that they may work; I stoop to raise the fallen brethren and cast out the unworthy; I walk in the way of charity and travel the road of peace and harmony; I render aid to the poor, the sick and the distressed; I answer the cry of the orphan and sustain the widow and the aged; I commit to the earth brethren who travel to that 'Undiscovered Country'; I ponder at that moment on the ravages of time as I stand at the door to eternity; I am a way of life that teaches immortality; I raise men from darkness to light.