

MASONIC THOUGHTS

Many things have been written about Freemasonry in countless books and in papers to be delivered to Masonic research associations, but how many of us know that there is wealth of beautiful material out there about Freemasonry, such as quotations or poems. Some of the world's greatest men of letters who were Freemasons themselves, have written some wonderful words. Let's take Rudyard Kipling and Robbie Burns as just two examples, yet equally some less well-known Masons have embodied the teachings and philosophy of Freemasonry in their writing and we will take a look at these too during the coming months.

Our Vows

In Mason's lodge with darkened eyes,
And cable-tow about me,
I swore to hail all mysteries,
That Masons keep and Masons prize;
All brother's secrets whispered low,
All words they speak and things they do,
In mystic manner taught me

*O yonder book that oath I took, and I will break it never;
I'll stand by this and this, and this. Forever and forever*

I swore to answer and obey
All summons made me duly,
By brother's hand or lodge array;
I swore that I would never stray
From ancient laws and rules that bind
Freemason's, in the days renowned,
But would observe them truly

I'll stand by this, etc.

I swore in charity t care,
For all in sorrow hidden;
My brother on the darkened square,
His widow with dishevelled hair,
His sorrowing orphan, doomed to stray
Upon a long and desolate way
While tears gush forth unbidden.

I'll stand by this, etc.

I swore to deal in honesty
With each true heart around me;
That honour bright, should always be
Unbroken bond 'twixt him and me;
Nor guile, nor wrong, nor cruel fraud,
Should break, or loose that holy cord
With which my vows have bound me.

I'll stand by this, etc.

I swore the chastity to shield
Of woman true and tender;
Of Mason's widow, wife and child,
His mother, sister undefiled;
Those pure and innocent, whose love
Makes Mason's homes like heaven above,
I am the sworn defender

I'll stand by this, etc.

I swore to guard the portals close
To the Masonic Temple;
To purge the quarries of their dross,
To build the mystic walls of those
In body perfect, honest heart,
And mind mature in moral art,
By precept and example

I'll stand by this, etc.

These were our vows; be these our care,
And may such light be given,
In answer to our earnest prayer,
That we always do and dare
All God's gracious laws enjoin;
And so, as life's last shades decline
We may be found in heaven.

*O yonder book that oath I took, and I will break it never;
Let's stand by this and this, and this. Forever and forever*

Attributed to Rob Morris