

The WALKING CHARGE of the THIRD DEGREE



For this charge the Lodge must be opened in the Third Degree. This may be performed by one or multiple speakers. In the case of the former, the speaker must walk with dignity and reverence between each part of the Lodge indicated in the performance.

*First section to be conducted in the South-East
of the Lodge*

My Brother, it must indeed be very gratifying to know that you are now a Master Mason and have sealed your allegiance with one of the grandest

and noblest fraternities in existence, one that encircles the whole globe and whose influence for good is never-ending. Your particular reason for becoming a member of this grand and noble order is known only to yourself. It may have been the prompting of idle curiosity; that being so, your curiosity is now satisfied — in part, for should you so choose to pursue more Masonic knowledge, Freemasonry has much more for you to discover. It may have been for business reasons; that being so, be at once undeceived, for Freemasonry offers no pecuniary advantages to any of its initiates. It may have been for social aspirations, this being so, you are now afforded the opportunity to meet many knowledgeable and distinguished Brethren whose acquaintance might be of some benefit to you. It might have been that your father was a Mason and expressed a wish that you should follow in his footsteps; that being so, it is an honour to the fraternity, to yourself and

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to this Lodge. But be the reason what it may, this question now confronts you: "Will you be worth anything or nothing to Freemasonry, or will Freemasonry be worth anything or nothing to you?" The answer depends on you alone, my Brother. But I tell you in all truth, if you apply to your own life the teachings inculcated in the three degrees you will become a more responsible citizen, a more compassionate father, a more dutiful son, a fonder husband and a more complete man.

Second section to be conducted in the South-East

In a Masons' Lodge with darkened eyes,
And a cable tow about you
You swore to Hele all mysteries
That Masons keep and Masons prize
The Brothers' secrets whispered low
The words they speak.
The things they do.
In mystic manner taught you.

On yonder book that oath you took.
And you should Break it never.
But stand by this, and this, and this*

*(*In time with each 'this' the speaker first takes the EA step, shows the EA sign and then cuts it.)*

Forever and forever.

Third section to be conducted in the South-West corner

You swore to answer and obey
The Summons sent you duly
By Brother's hand or Lodge array,
You swore that you would never stray
From laws and rules that bound
Freemasons in the days renowned
But would observe them truly.

On yonder book that oath you took,
And you should break it never,
But stand by this, and this, and this*
*(*In time with each 'this' the speaker first takes the FC step, shows the FC sign and then drops it)*
Forever and forever.

*Fourth section to be conducted in front of the
Senior Warden's pedestal in the West*

You swore in charity to care
For all with sorrow smitten,
The Brother on the darkened square,
The widow, full of grief and care,
The sorrowing orphan doomed to stray
On life's cold path and cheerless way
While tears gush forth unbidden.

On yonder book that oath you took,
And you should break it never,
But stand by this, and this, and this*
(*In time with each 'this' the speaker first
takes the MM step, shows the MM sign and
then drops it.)

Forever and forever.

*Fifth section to be conducted in the North of the
Lodge*

Your swore to deal in honesty
With each true heart around you

That honour bright should ever be
The unbroken bond, 'twixt him and thee'

Nor wrong, nor guile, nor cruel fraud
Should ever break or loose that holy
chord
With which these vows have bound you.

You swore the chastity to shield
Of women true and tender
A brother's wife, A brother's child
His mother, sister, undefiled

Those, pure of heart, whose love
Makes Masons' homes like heaven
above
You are their sworn defender.

On yonder book three oaths you took
And you should break them never
But stand by this, and this, and this*

*(*In time with each 'this' the speaker first
takes the EA step, shows the EA sign and
then cuts it. The presenter takes the FC step,
shows the FC sign and drops it, then takes the*

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MM step, shows the MM sign, drops it and recovers.)

Forever and forever.

Sixth section to be conducted in the East, to the left of the pedestal and the Worshipful Master

These are our vows,
Be these our care,
And may such light be given
In answer to our earnest prayer
That we may ever do or dare.
All that God's gracious laws enjoin
That, so, when shades of night decline,
We may be found in heaven.

On this fair book these vows we took,
And we should break them never,
But stand by this, and this, and this*
*(*In time with each 'this' first points to the VSL, followed by the Square and Compasses.)*
Forever and forever.