

# The Kevan Manuscript

circa 1714-1720

Discovered 1954 among a collection of old legal documents by Bro. P. D. Kevan  
and presented to the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

## The Forme of Giving the Mason Worde

The Persone q<sup>o</sup> is to geet y<sup>e</sup> word is put upon his knees, & after a grate many Serimonys to frighten him they / make him take up the Bible & Laying his right hand upon it, they Conjure him by Severall thretings y<sup>t</sup> if he / shall brake his Oath; The Sun in y<sup>e</sup> Firmament & all y<sup>e</sup> Company there present will be witnesses ag<sup>t</sup> him q<sup>h</sup> will be / ye occasione of his Damnatione & y<sup>t</sup> Likewise they<sup>l</sup> be sure to Murder him : Then after he has sworne secrsie they / wille give him the Oath as Follows /

By : God himselfe & as you shall answer to God q<sup>h</sup> you shall Stand naked befor him a y<sup>e</sup> grate day of Judgment / you shall not reveall any poynt of what you shall see or hear at this time neither by word or writing at any time or / draw it w<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> poynt of a Sword or any other instrument upon y<sup>e</sup> Snow, or Sand, Nor shall you Speake of it but w<sup>t</sup> / an Entered Measone . . So hele me God /

After he has taken the oath he is removed out of y<sup>e</sup> Company w<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> yowngast Masone, where after he is Suffieintly frightn / ed w<sup>t</sup> a thousand Grimasses & posturs He is to Learn from y<sup>e</sup> Sd Mason y<sup>e</sup> manner of Making [the due guard] which is the Signs and Posturs (Signs Postures and words) of / his [entry] q<sup>h</sup> are a follow Here come I y<sup>e</sup> yowngast & Last Entered prentise, as I am sworne by God & St. John by y<sup>e</sup> Square & Campass / & common Judge to attend my M<sup>ts</sup> : service at y<sup>e</sup> Honourable Lodge from Munday Morning till Setturdays night to keep y<sup>e</sup> / Keys thereof under no Less paine then to have my tounge cut out under my Chinn & to be buryed w<sup>in</sup> y<sup>e</sup> flood marke wher / no man shall know /

Then he makes y<sup>e</sup> Signe again q<sup>h</sup> is by Drawing his hand under his Chin alonge his throate q<sup>h</sup> denotes it is to / be Cut in case he broke his worde Then all y<sup>t</sup> Masons present whisper the word amongst emselves beginning [at the youngest] till it / come to y<sup>e</sup> M<sup>t</sup> Masone, q<sup>o</sup> gives y<sup>e</sup> worde to the entered Prentise /

Now it is to be Marked y<sup>t</sup> all y<sup>e</sup> Signs & words as yet spoken off are only q<sup>t</sup> belongs to Entered prentises but to [be] a Mr<sup>t</sup> / Masone or fellow craft [there is more to be done as after follows] : First all y<sup>e</sup> Prentices are to be removed out of the Company & none Suffered to stay by only / M<sup>ts</sup> : Then [he] q<sup>o</sup> is to be admitted a member of fellowship is put again to his knees & geets y<sup>e</sup> oath administered to him anew / Afterward he most go out of the Company w<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> yowngast M<sup>t</sup> to Learne the word & Signs of fellowship y<sup>n</sup> comming / inn again he makes y<sup>e</sup> M<sup>t</sup> Signs of fellowship & says the same words of entry [as the apprentice did] only keeping out y<sup>e</sup> Coming [Common] Judge ( i.e. a gauge or template used as a guide in cutting stones; in Jamieson's *Scottish Dictionary*, a *Jedge* is a gauge or standard.) y<sup>n</sup> y<sup>e</sup> M<sup>ts</sup> / whisper the word among emselves beginning at y<sup>e</sup> youngest as befor, Afterwards ye younge masone advancess & puts him selfe in a posture wherein he is to receive y<sup>e</sup> word & says to them : The Honourable company y<sup>e</sup> worthy Masons & / honourable company y<sup>t</sup> I come from Greet you well, Greet you well, Greete you well / [Then the master {Mason} gives him the word and gripes his hand after the masons way {and afterwards, all the Masons - Chetwode Crawley MS.} which is all that is to be done to make him a perfect mason. - Edinburgh Register House MS.]

Some Questions that Masons use to put to these who profess to have y<sup>e</sup> Mason word befor they wille / Acknowlagde them /

1. *Are you a Masone,* Answer Yes ended I am /
2. *How shall I know that* An<sup>r</sup> : In time and place convenient Not[e] : This answer is only to be made when there / are company present q<sup>o</sup> are not masons, Bot if there be no such company by you you should answer, by Signs & / tokens & other poynts of Entry /
3. *What is the first poynt of Entry ?* an<sup>r</sup> : tell me the first & I<sup>l</sup> tell thee the seacond : The first is to hear & Conseal / The Second under no Hell [less] pain (Drawing the right Hand from the Left ear to the right) y<sup>n</sup> Cutting y<sup>t</sup> Throat, [for you must make that sign when you say that] /
4. *Where way you Entred ?* An<sup>r</sup> : Att Honowrable Lodge /
5. *What makes a true & perfect Lodge ?* a<sup>r</sup> : 7 : M<sup>ts</sup> : 5 Prentices & a days Jurny from a Burrowghs toun w<sup>out</sup> / barke of Doge or crow of Cocke /
6. *Doeth no less make a true & Perfet lodge ?* a<sup>r</sup> : 4 M<sup>ts</sup> 3 entered Prentices & y<sup>e</sup> rest as befor [the Edingurgh text says : “. . . five masons and three entered apprentices &c.”] /
7. *Dose no Less ?* A<sup>r</sup> : The Mo the Mirryer & y<sup>e</sup> fewer the better Chear /
8. *What is the name of your Lodge* A<sup>r</sup> : The Lodge of Killewinning /
9. *How Stands you Lodge ?* An<sup>r</sup> : Easte & west as the Temple of Jerusalem /
10. *Where was the first Lodge ?* A<sup>r</sup> : In the Porch of Sollomons Temple /
11. *Are there Lights in your Lodge ?* An<sup>r</sup> : Three, ye North East, Southwest, & Easters [Eastern] passages y<sup>e</sup> first / denotes the M<sup>t</sup> Masone, the Second the word {Words - Chetwode} [warden - Edinburgh] the third the fellowcraft [ffellow-Craft - Chetwode] {setter croft - Edinburgh} /
12. *Are there any Jewells in you Lodge ?* An<sup>r</sup> : Three, a Perpendester [Perpend-ashlar] a Square Pavement & a covered Kinall [broked-mall - Chetwode - probably correct; i.e. a heavy maul for striking the chisel when the face of a stone in 'broached' i.e. indented or furrowed] [Broad ovall - Edinburgh] /
13. *Where Shall I find the Key of you Lodge?* An<sup>r</sup> : Three foot & an Half from the Lodge door under a /

- Perpendaster [Perpend-ashlar] [and a] Green Divot /  
 14. *What do you mean by a Perpendester & green Divot ?* An<sup>r</sup> : I mean not noly under a Perpendester I green /  
 Divot, but under the Lape of my Liver where all Secrets of my Hart Lie [Edinburgh  
 makes one question of nos. 13 and 14.] /  
 15. *Which is the Key of you Lodge ?* An<sup>r</sup> : A well Hunge tounge /  
 16. *Where Lys y<sup>r</sup> Key ?* an<sup>r</sup> : In The Bone Box /

After The Masons have Examened You by all or Some of these Questions & y<sup>r</sup> / you Have answered em Exactly [and  
 made the sign(s)] ; they will acknowladge you as a Prenticer /  
 But not as a Mason or Fellow Craft /

- 17 . *So they will say We see you have been in the Kitchin but know not y<sup>r</sup> you have been in y<sup>e</sup> Hall*  
 An<sup>r</sup> : I have / been in the Hall as well as in the Kitchin /  
 18 . *Are you a Fellow Craft* An<sup>r</sup> : Yes /  
 19 . *How many Poynts of Fellowship are there* An<sup>r</sup> : 5 : Viz: Foot to Foot, Knee to Knee, Harte to / Harte,  
 Hand to Hand, & Ear to Eare, q<sup>n</sup> make the Signs of Fellowship ; & shake hands,  
 & / You wille be Acknowladged to be a true Masone / The Worde is in I : Kings 7 :  
 21 : & in 2<sup>d</sup> : Chron 3<sup>d</sup> : Last Varse the wholl / Varse but especially the words  
 Jachin & Boaz.

Transcribed by R.:W.: Gary L. Heinmiller

Ref: Knoop and Jones, The Early Masonic Catechisms, Manchester University Press, 1963;  
 also AQC (Photographic Reproduction) Vol. 47, page 139. 1954, with notes by Bro. G. S. Draffen.

See also the "Edinburgh Register House MS," 1696, discovered in 1930 by Bro. Charles T. McInnes in the Old Register  
 House Historical Dept., Edinburgh, among a number of old documents transferred in 1808 from the Court of Session.  
 and the "Chetwode Crawley MS," ca. 1700, purchased ca. 1900 from a second-hand collector & found in one of the  
 volumes of a lot purchase.