

# *The Freemasons*

The origin on the Masonic Lodge is lost in antiquity. Some believe in began with the crusades in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. This document is intended to introduce the essence of the Fraternity to men who have expressed an interest in becoming a Mason. Please bring your questions or comments to the Mason who gave you this or contact :

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Or any Mason!

Brother Robert Burns became a member of St. David's Lodge in Tarbolton Scotland on July 4<sup>th</sup> 1781. and, wrote "The Farewell To the Brethren of St. James' Lodge, Tarbolton" when he thought he was leaving the Lodge to immigrate to Jamaica.

Adieu! a heart-warm, fond adieu;  
Dear Brothers of the Mystic Tie!  
Ye favoured, ye enlighten'd few,  
Companions of my social joy!  
Tho I to foreign lands must hie,  
Pursuing Fortune's slidd'ry ba';  
With melting heart and brimful eye,  
I'll mind you still, tho far awa.

Oft have I met your social band,  
And spent the cheerful, festive night:  
Oft, honour'd with supreme command,  
Presided o'er the Sons of Light;  
And by that Hieroglyphic bright,  
Which none but Craftsmen ever saw!  
Strong Mem'ry on my Heart shall write  
Those happy scenes, when far awa.

May Freedom, Harmony, and Love,  
Unite you In the Grand Design,  
Beneath th' Omniscient Eye above -  
The glorious Architect Divine,  
That you may keep th' Unerring Line,  
Still rising by the Plummet's Law,  
Till Order bright completely shine,  
Shall be my pray'r when far awa.

And you farewell! whose merits claim  
Justly that Highest Badge to wear:  
Heav'n bless your honour'd, noble name,  
To Masonry and Scotia dear!  
A last request permit me here  
When yearly ye assemble a',  
One round, I ask It with a tear,  
To him, the Bard that's far awa.