



**THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE
OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

March 9, 2011

"The process of being made a Mason in Massachusetts has always been a significant experience for each one of us. Candidates receiving the Degrees enjoy lasting memories of the impressive ceremonies. However, due to several instances of poor behavior by some of our Brethren during the conferring of the Third Degree I, as Grand Master, must put in place some controls to ensure new Masons in this jurisdiction continue to receive the best Ritual that can be conferred.

This Edict will become immediately effective in all Lodges within this jurisdiction:

EDICT

Henceforth, the following two paragraphs shall be read by the Master immediately preceding the beginning of the SECOND section of the THIRD DEGREE, whenever the THIRD DEGREE is conferred in a MASSACHUSETTS Lodge, and the Secretary of the Lodge shall make record of fact that it was read.

"The SECOND section of the MASTER MASON DEGREE should implant in the mind of the Candidate a deep and lasting impression of the fundamental teachings of Freemasonry. Anything which distracts his attention from the reception of these ideas is foreign to the purpose of the work in hand.

Undue roughness, acting in a manner to arouse amusement of the Brethren, or audible laughter from the sidelines, cannot fail to produce such distraction. It is the direction of the Grand Lodge that the work be conducted with a dignity and decorum that the ritual envisages and that the Candidate has a right to expect."

Omission of this reading on the part of the Master, or failure to comply with its intent on the part of any officer or member, may become the basis of reprimand or other disciplinary action.

M.W. Richard James Stewart
Grand Master