WHY IS IT CALLED A BLUE LODGE?

HISTORY, SYMBOLISM, AND THE FOUNDATION OF FREEMASONRY

A BLUE LODGE IS THE FOUNDATIONAL BODY OF FREEMASONRY—THE PLACE WHERE A MAN BEGINS HIS JOURNEY.

EVERY MASON, NO MATTER HIS PATH, BEGINS IN THE BLUE LODGE. IT IS WHERE THE BUILDING OF CHARACTER BEGINS.

ALL MASONRY IS CONTAINED WITHIN THE FIRST THREE DEGREES.
– ALBERT PIKE (1871)

THE BLUE LODGE IS THE FOUNDATION UPON WHICH ALL MASONIC LIGHT IS BUILT.

THE ORIGIN OF BLUE

By the mid-18th century, blue had become the predominant color in Craft Masonry. It was adopted gradually through practice, not by decree.

"There is ample evidence that blue was early adopted as the principal color of the Craft… though not by formal decree, but by general usage."
– W. J. Hughan, 1890
AQC Vol. 3

THE SYMBOLISM OF BLUE

Blue represents the heavens above and the ideals to which a Mason aspires.

- TRUTH
- FIDELITY
- CONSTANCY
- WISDOM
- UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD

"Blue is emphatically the color of Masonry… it is the symbol of universal friendship and benevolence."
– Albert G. Mackey, 1873
Encyclopedia of Freemasonry

DISTINGUISHING THE CRAFT

As Freemasonry grew, new degrees and bodies were formed. Colors helped distinguish their purpose.

- BLUE LODGE — Craft Masonry (Degrees 1–3)
- ROYAL ARCH — Many Jurisdictions
- SCOTTISH RITE — Ancient & Accepted
- YORK RITE — Various Degrees
- OTHER BODIES — Various Orders

"The term 'Blue Lodge' is an Americanism… employed to distinguish the symbolic degrees from the various appendant bodies."
– H. W. Coil, 1961
Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia

AQC RESEARCH PERSPECTIVE

Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076 has extensively studied Masonic history, symbols, and tradition.

"The prevalence of blue in early lodge furnishings, aprons, and collars suggests a symbolic preference rather than a purely decorative one."
– AQC, Vol. 8, 1895

THE HEART OF MASONRY

The Blue Lodge is not a 'lower' degree—it is the essential foundation.

All Masons share this common beginning.

IN SHORT

The term "Blue Lodge" reflects history, symbolism, and purpose. It honors the foundation of Freemasonry—a foundation that will always remain strong and blue.

WHY IT MATTERS TODAY

- **CLARITY** — It distinguishes Craft Masonry from the many appendant bodies.
- **TRADITION** — It preserves centuries of history, symbolism, and heritage.
- **UNITY** — Every Mason—everywhere—begins on the same level ground.
- **IDENTITY** — It reminds us where we began and what truly matters.
- **INSPIRATION** — Blue points upward—toward light, knowledge, and brotherly love.

KNOW YOUR FOUNDATION. UNDERSTAND ITS MEANING. BUILD UPON IT WISELY.
~ The Masonic Orator ~

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