

How to make a Good Masonic Speech

A Course of Six Lectures

by

Wors. Bro. J. S. M. Ward, M.A., P.Z.

WHO has not felt that terrible SINKING FEELING which assails even an experienced Mason when unexpectedly called upon to make a SPEECH at the BANQUET and what Warden has not looked forward with dismay to the long list of Toasts which he will have to propose when he becomes Master of the Lodge?

A Fluent After-Dinner Speaker.

No man is more popular than a fluent after-dinner speaker, and yet seldom does one hear a speech which makes any real impression. This is the more surprising as, with the exception of the initiate, nearly every man who is called upon has at some time performed with credit some piece of ritual in the Lodge. He has therefore learnt to overcome that natural nervousness which is the first obstacle that any speaker must surmount, and to recognise the tone of his own voice amid the silence of a large audience.

A Distressed Mason.

Despite these initial advantages, how often do we see an experienced Mason deeply distressed when called on to make a speech. Yet really it is a high compliment and one which would fill him with pleasure if he only felt confidence in his own powers. The difficulty is that whereas every conscientious mason spends considerable time in mastering the ritual, few of them have had the opportunity of learning how to make a speech, and it is to supply this need that this set of Masonic After-Dinner Speeches has been compiled.

Method of Instruction.

Busy men of affairs have not time to attend classes, but they have time during the evenings, or in the train to and from town, to study and absorb the valuable instruction and advice laid down in this set of speeches.

The set consists of a series of speeches wherein are set out the general principles which should be followed in all after-dinner speaking, precise instructions how to prepare a speech, together with examples of complete speeches suitable for various occasions. There are, in addition, a number of outline speeches, which will encourage the student to compose for himself speeches in his own words on definite lines.

The fee for the complete set is **Half-Guinea**. The speeches will be despatched immediately on receipt of the fee, and it will thus be possible for any man to benefit by the instruction given, at a trifling cost.

SYNOPSIS OF SPEECHES

1

i—USEFUL HINTS ON SPEECHMAKING.

Length of Speeches—The Time Limit—The Opening—The Climax—
Enunciation and Articulation—The Audience—The Use of Stories.

ii—PREPARATION OF A TOAST.

Various Methods of Preparation—Advantages and Disadvantages of each.

iii—SKETCHING OUT SPEECHES FOR THE YEAR.

Advantages of a Scheme—Appropriate Themes for Various Occasions.

iv—ADVICE CONCERNING PARTICULAR TOASTS.

- (a)—To I.P.M.'s.
- (b)—To W.M.'s.
- (c)—To Brethren who Visit Lodges.

v—SPEECHES IN DETAIL AND OUTLINE.

- (a)—**The Installation Speech of an I.P.M.**
Suggestions and Advice—Headings and Sub-Headings.
The Toast in Full. (Time for delivery, five mins.).
- (b)—**A Reply to a Visitor's Toast.**
A Speech in Outline—Headings and Sub-Headings.
Comments on the Outline Speech given—Advice concerning the
Selection of Suitable Themes for this Speech.

2

i—GENERAL INTRODUCTION.

ii—THE TOAST OF THE GRAND OFFICERS, PRESENT AND PAST.

The Importance of the Speech—Suitable Themes for the Basis of Speech—
Advice concerning the Selection of a Theme.

iii—BUILDING UP THE SPEECH.

Suggested Headings and Sub-Headings—How to weave these into an
interesting Speech.

iv—A COMPLETE EXAMPLE OF THE TOAST OF THE GRAND OFFICERS.

(Time for delivery, five mins.).

v—COMMENTS ON THE SPEECH GIVEN ABOVE.

How it could be altered from time to time—Suggested alterations suitable
for various occasions.

vi—THE TOAST OF THE VISITORS.

Hints to the Visiting Brother—The Cue for these Speeches.

vii—THE REPLY OF A GUEST.

A Humorous Speech, in full. (Length, two mins.).

Comments on this Speech—How it can be altered and adapted.

viii—THE REPLY TO THE OFFICERS' TOAST.

The Basis on which the reply is built—Suitable Themes for the Speech.

ix—AN OUTLINE SPEECH—REPLYING TO THE OFFICERS' TOAST.

Headings and Sub-Headings.

x—COMMENTS ON THE OUTLINE GIVEN.

Possibilities for the expansion or shortening of the example given.

3

i—THE TOAST OF THE INITIATE.

The Proposer of the Toast—Its Importance—Opportunities presented thereby.

ii—THE MAIN THEME OF THE SPEECH.

Difficulties encountered when selecting a Theme—Advice concerning the selection—Headings and Sub-Headings.

iii—THE TOAST IN FULL.

(Length of Speech, five mins.).

Comments on the example given.

iv—SUGGESTIONS FOR VARYING THE SPEECH GIVEN.

Headings and Sub-Headings in full.

Comments on this Outline Speech.

v—THE TOAST OF THE VISITORS.

The Proposer—Opportunities for variety of treatment—Suggested Themes.

vi—AN EXAMPLE OF THE TOAST IN FULL.

(Length, three mins.).

vii—AN OLD FORM OF THE VISITOR'S TOAST.

The Toast in full—Advantage of using this Formal Toast.

viii—PROPOSING THE TOAST OF THE I.P.M.

Suggestions concerning Methods of Treatment.

ix—THE TOAST IN FULL.

A lightly Humorous Speech. (Length, three mins.).

4, 5 and 6

The List of Contents of the first three Lectures indicates clearly the line of instruction followed in this Course. In a similar way we deal with the Toast of Provincial Grand Officers or London rank, the Toast of the Officers, and that of the Past Masters in and of the Lodge, etc.

Many of our readers will realise, however, that one example of a speech is not sufficient in certain cases, and this is particularly so with the Toast of the W.M., which requires entirely different treatment after the first occasion on which he has worked a ceremony and on the meetings preceding the installation of his successor. In like manner the Toast of the Initiate is so important, and likely to occur so often during a year of office, that we feel it is necessary to indicate another method of dealing with this theme, while the difficulties which face the I.P.M., in having again and again to reply to his own health justify us in giving another example of the manner in which this subject can be dismissed.

An important Toast is that of the Secretary and Treasurer of the Lodge, while the health of the Ladies at a Ladies' Night is a subject to which we devote considerable attention.

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