



NUGGET

I Married a Freemason For all new partners & wives

Summary: An insight for wives and partners.

It was on our second date I think, when he said during our conversation that night, 'I'm a Freemason.' 'Oh,' I said, 'OK,' and that was it. 'What's a Freemason?', I thought. Obviously, I had heard of Freemasonry but I didn't 'know' anything. But that was twelve years ago and I think I've learnt a bit since; but I'm still learning.

I didn't ask questions in the beginning when he said, 'I'm off to Lodge.' I just thought, 'Well, it's a secret men's society, so he won't tell me anyway.' Well, that's what I'd read! Gradually, I would start to ask little things and he would answer me; obviously keeping the secrets but explaining things as I asked. Ladies, never be afraid to ask. That's the biggest piece of advice I can give you. Ask, and if he can't tell you he will explain why; but if he can you will learn that actually, we as partners and wives having some knowledge of Freemasonry is a good thing. After all, we are a part of this too. We support them by allowing them time away from our families, and also give up some of our own time to attend functions, so an understanding of why they attend is invaluable.

Another way in which you can support him is when he's learning the ritual. I think I've read a fair amount of ritual now. Do I understand it all? No. So, don't think you have to, but it does help him to practise.

Your partner or husband will be 'summoned' to go to his Lodge a few times a year. Well, that's what they tell you, ladies! Along with the meetings of his 'Mother Lodge' (the Lodge into which he was initiated), he might then join other Lodges, other orders, or side-degrees like the 'Chapter' and the 'Mark' which will involve more meetings. They also get invites to visit other Lodges; so be prepared that it could be more than just a few times a year. But then, it is up to them how many Lodges they join and how many meetings they go to.

At these meetings they wear 'regalia', including aprons, collars and jewels. Brethren (that's what they call each other) of different ranks and offices wear different coloured regalia and different symbols attached to their aprons and collars. They act out ceremonies, and if you've helped him learn the ritual you will know what he will be saying that night.

You will also get to go to 'Ladies Nights', lunches, social events, and fund-raisers, where you will meet a whole new group of people. You'll find that the people are so friendly and you really do get to know the ladies too. After all, we do have something in common. If you want to know anything from a wife's perspective you can always ask another wife. We've all had to start somewhere!

The funniest thing I heard from a Freemason's new partner (she knows who she is and shall remain nameless) was at a Ladies' Night a few years ago. The lady in question had never been to a 'Ladies Night' before, and whilst we were finishing our meal, she turned to me and said, 'Well this is lovely, I didn't know what to expect. I used Google to look things up and got the impression that people might be dancing naked and



there'd be goat!' I could hardly stop laughing! After all, I'm not spending money on a nice frock and taking it off to dance with a goat!

In all seriousness, the main questions for us ladies when there is a function is 'What do I wear?' You know we all ask it! We do like to dress up, don't we, but whether we are in short or long dresses we have a good night (and help raise a lot of money for charity); but the rule of thumb is if it's 'Black tie', wear evening wear (long or short); for dinners or church services think of your Sunday best; and for get-togethers or charity nights, wear smart casual.

Have you had a look around a temple yet? We went to the Cardiff Masonic Hall where I had a look around the temple. If you haven't been to his temple ask him to take you. There's no reason you can't go in. I have also been asked 'why can't women go into the temple when a ceremony is on?' The reason is not because you're a woman, or because he doesn't want you there. It's simply because you're not a Freemason under his constitution (the United Grand Lodge of England); though there are two other masonic constitutions just for women.

I could go on for pages with answers to questions I've been asked, like 'What does 'being in the chair' mean?' and 'Is there a financial commitment?' But maybe these are for another 'nugget', who knows? What I can tell you is I married a Freemason and am proud of it. A Freemason to me is someone who has integrity and cares for not only his family but for those around him. They are like-minded people who are trying to do some good. And for that I thank them.



Recommended use of Nuggets

Nuggets offer a short, simple and readily absorbed means of progressing Masonic knowledge and an easy way to introduce learning to Lodges and Chapters. It is hoped that they will become a regular feature of Lodge and Chapter meetings as well as a source for private-study.

Nuggets can be included as an item in the summons and read at most Lodge/Chapter meetings. They can be:

Read by either a new or an experienced Mason with the minimum of preparation and practice; though ideally, they need to be read a few times beforehand.

Themed with the meeting or activity.

Used to initiate a discussion within a Lodge/Chapter, LOI/COI, or group.

Read at home and shared as a topic for a future discussion.

Used as a focus for an unplanned, informal discussion.

*Note: All biblical passages are taken from the Authorized King James version unless otherwise specified.

For further papers and other learning materials visit *Solomon* at <http://solomon.ugle.org.uk>

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