

# **Address of Most Worshipful Grand Master William O. Ware**

**October 17, 1957**

Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, Masters and Brethren:

Fifty-five years ago, almost to the day, a most unusual event occurred in the history of this Grand Lodge. For the first time in its history, as far as my research discloses, a son succeeded his father as Grand Master. It was at the close of the One Hundred and Second Annual Communication on Thursday, October 23, 1902 that John W. Landrum was installed as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky by his father, Past Grand Master James D. Landrum, who had served this Grand Lodge as Grand Master in 1864.

Today, at the close of this, the One Hundred and Fifty-seventh Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, that unusual event has occurred again, the second time in the history of this Grand Lodge that a son has not only succeeded his father as Grand Master but also has been fortunate in having his father present to install him. I refer, of course, to the installation a few moments ago, of me as Grand Master by my father, Past Grand Master Ori S. Ware, who served this Grand Lodge as Grand Master in 1914. It has been a great privilege to have my father install me as Grand Master and the honor that has been conferred upon me by the Craft, through you as their representatives, is greatly enhanced by this fact.

And now to you brethren, who by your suffrage have elevated me to the highest office in this Grand Lodge and have thereby assured me of your continued confidence in me, may I say that I am deeply grateful to you and give you a simple but sincere "Thank you." The weight of the office is felt by me at this moment and I promise you that I shall strive to carry out the duties of the office of Grand Master to the utmost of my ability and in a manner that, I trust, will be acceptable to you, keeping in mind, of course, that I am bound to discharge those duties in accordance with the Constitution and Regulations of this Grand Lodge. My only request of you is that I may have your whole-hearted support and cooperation during my term of office.

To the Grand Line Officers and to all appointive officers, may I say I am not unmindful of your cooperative attitudes. I am certain that with your help, the good advice of our Illustrious Past Grand Masters which we are free to seek at any time and my especial good fortune in having a member of the Jurisprudence Committee in my office at all times, I will not – nay – I cannot, stray too far. Therefore, it seems to me that we cannot but have a successful Masonic year in this Grand Jurisdiction.

Your Grand Lodge was fortunate in having at its helm this past year our present Junior Past Grand Master, John W. Hall, who, together with his deputies and other appointees, administered the affairs of this Grand Lodge in a very creditable manner and, in behalf of the Craft, I congratulate John W. Hall upon giving to Masonry in Kentucky a most successful year.

My program, as already given to my District Deputies, is very simple – Freemasonry. What does Freemasonry mean to you? and What do you mean to Freemasonry? It will be my purpose as I travel about to not only attempt to give answers to these questions but also to refresh the memories of the brethren on this subject. It goes without saying that if the brethren of this Grand Jurisdiction would constantly put into practice in their daily lives the teachings of Freemasonry, we would develop such a force for good in this Grand Jurisdiction that our influence would be felt not only within but even beyond our borders.

Confident that you will join with me in this endeavor to reawaken our brethren to the true meaning and purpose of Freemasonry, all of us, together with God's help, cannot fail to make Freemasonry in this Grand Jurisdiction what the founders of our fraternity fully intended that it should be – a beneficent power in the lives of each of us whereby we not only further develop “that Spiritual Temple, that house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens” but also, through brotherly love and affection, bring into being that true spirit of brotherhood that should always exist among God's children everywhere.

With a deep sense of appreciation for the great honor you have bestowed upon me, I humbly accept the office of Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, Free and Accepted Masons.