SHOES EXPLANATION ISRAEL

**THE MASONIC SHOE**

**MASONIC SHOE  
EVER WONDERED ABOUT THE MASONIC SHOE? HERE IS A THUMBNAIL GUIDE:**  
The best explanation of the Masonic Shoe is that it is” symbolic of a physical confirmation of a spoken deed or act”. “Now this was the manner in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning changing, for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his shoe and gave it to his neighbour: and this was a testimony in Israel.” During the ceremonies of your Entered Apprentice Degree, you were instructed about the above passage of scripture from the Volume of the Sacred Law.

The deed or act mentioned in this passage is meant to signify both the confirming of a contract, as well as the commitment to carry out the terms and conditions of that contract without fail. This symbolism, as far as Freemasons are concerned, is intended to express the sanctity of the contract made between yourself and the Lodge where you have taken your vows.

For the Israelite of Ruth’s era there was nothing more essential than shoes, or sandals without which men and women were compelled to walk across hot sands, dirt and rock. Consequently, giving a shoe to another person not only conveyed the importance of the commitment, but a sense that the person to whom the shoe was given was as important as the person giving it.

You will recall that to unloose one’s shoe and give it to another was the way of confirming a contract in ancient times. In The First Degree: The Shoe Denotes a Promise – In the Book of Ruth in the Christian Bible, we read that Boaz, (a wealthy land owner and the Great Grandfather of David,) having given notice to the nearest kinsman of Ruth that he would exercise his legal right by redeeming the land of Naomi, which was offered for sale, and marrying her daughter-in-law. The kinsman being unable to do so, resigned his right of purchase to Boaz.

The scriptures go on to say: Ruth 4: 7-8: – “Now this was the manner in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning changing, for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his shoe and gave it to his neighbour: and this was a testimony in Israel.” Therefore, the kinsman said unto Boaz, “Buy it for thee.” So he drew off his shoe”. The reference to the shoe is symbolic of a covenant (a promise if you will) that you have entered into with your Mother Lodge. Keep your promises. Enjoy your Freemasonry. It is a better way to live and a great place to be.