

freemason 2nd degree requirements

freemason 2nd degree requirements represent a critical milestone in the journey of Freemasonry, marking the transition from the Entered Apprentice to the Fellowcraft degree. This stage involves specific qualifications, knowledge, and ceremonial aspects that candidates must fulfill to progress further in the fraternity. Understanding these requirements not only highlights the values and symbolism embedded in the Freemason tradition but also sheds light on the educational and moral expectations placed upon members. This article explores the detailed prerequisites for the 2nd degree, including eligibility criteria, moral and educational qualifications, the initiation process, and the symbolic teachings conveyed during this stage. Additionally, it addresses the broader significance of these requirements in the context of Masonic growth and responsibility.

- Eligibility Criteria for the 2nd Degree
- Moral and Educational Qualifications
- The Initiation and Ceremony Process
- Symbolism and Teachings of the 2nd Degree
- Importance of the 2nd Degree in Masonic Progression

Eligibility Criteria for the 2nd Degree

The freemason 2nd degree requirements begin with meeting specific eligibility criteria established by the local lodge and the Grand Lodge governing the fraternity. Advancement to the Fellowcraft degree is contingent upon successfully completing the Entered Apprentice degree and demonstrating a genuine commitment to Masonic principles. Candidates must typically have been initiated as an Entered Apprentice and must have spent an appropriate period in that degree to gain foundational knowledge and experience.

Prerequisites for Advancement

Before a candidate can be considered for the second degree, several prerequisites must be satisfied. These include:

- Completion of the Entered Apprentice degree, including proficiency in its ritual and teachings.
- A period of reflection and study to internalize the moral lessons of the

first degree, often ranging from several weeks to a few months.

- Approval by lodge officers or a committee responsible for ensuring the candidate's readiness.
- Demonstration of a sincere interest in furthering Masonic knowledge and personal development.

Age and Membership Status

Typically, the candidate must be of legal adult age as defined by the lodge's jurisdiction, often 18 or 21 years old. Additionally, the individual must be a member in good standing, having fulfilled any financial obligations such as dues, and maintaining a respectful relationship with lodge members. These requirements ensure that candidates are mature and committed to the fraternity's values before advancing.

Moral and Educational Qualifications

The freemason 2nd degree requirements emphasize not only procedural eligibility but also moral character and educational preparedness. Freemasonry advocates personal integrity, ethical conduct, and intellectual curiosity as essential qualities for members progressing through its degrees.

Character and Conduct

Candidates for the Fellowcraft degree must exhibit traits such as honesty, responsibility, and respect for others. The lodge expects members to uphold these virtues consistently, reflecting the fraternity's commitment to building better men and citizens. Any conduct deemed unbecoming or contrary to Masonic principles may delay or prevent advancement.

Educational Expectations

The 2nd degree introduces more complex symbolism and teachings that require a certain level of intellectual engagement. Candidates are encouraged to study Masonic history, philosophy, and allegory to grasp the degree's deeper meanings. Proficiency tests or examinations on the Entered Apprentice's lessons may be part of the requirements to ensure readiness for the increased knowledge demands of the Fellowcraft degree.

The Initiation and Ceremony Process

One of the most significant freemason 2nd degree requirements involves the formal initiation ceremony, which is rich in symbolism and ritual. This process serves both as a rite of passage and as an instructional experience, reinforcing the values and lessons associated with this stage of Masonic development.

Structure of the Ceremony

The Fellowcraft initiation typically includes several distinct components:

1. A preparatory period where the candidate is briefed on the upcoming ceremony.
2. The candidate's entrance into the lodge room, often accompanied by symbolic gestures and signs.
3. A series of ritualistic obligations and oaths that emphasize fidelity, secrecy, and moral conduct.
4. The presentation of symbolic tools and lectures that convey the degree's philosophical themes.
5. A closing segment that celebrates the candidate's successful advancement.

Role of Lodge Officers

Lodge officers, particularly the Worshipful Master and appointed degree team members, play vital roles in conducting the ceremony. They guide the candidate through the ritual, ensuring that each element is performed with precision and reverence. This structured approach helps maintain the integrity and sanctity of the degree's teachings.

Symbolism and Teachings of the 2nd Degree

The freemason 2nd degree requirements also encompass the candidate's understanding and appreciation of the symbolic elements unique to the Fellowcraft degree. These symbols serve as metaphors for moral, intellectual, and spiritual lessons intended to promote personal growth.

Key Symbols and Their Meanings

Several important symbols are introduced or expanded upon in the 2nd degree, including:

- **The Square:** Represents morality and the importance of living an upright life.
- **The Level:** Symbolizes equality and the universality of the human experience.
- **The Plumb:** Denotes rectitude of conduct and adherence to moral principles.
- **The Five Orders of Architecture:** Teach lessons about structure, knowledge, and the pursuit of wisdom.

Philosophical and Moral Lessons

The Fellowcraft degree encourages members to expand their understanding of the world and themselves. It emphasizes education, the pursuit of knowledge, and the importance of applying moral principles in everyday life. This degree also draws attention to the balance between physical labor and intellectual effort, reinforcing the ideal of a well-rounded individual.

Importance of the 2nd Degree in Masonic Progression

Achieving the freemason 2nd degree requirements is a significant step in the Masonic journey. It prepares members for further advancement and deeper involvement in the fraternity's teachings and responsibilities.

Stepping Stone to Higher Degrees

The Fellowcraft degree serves as a foundation for the Master Mason degree, which is the highest degree in the Blue Lodge system. Mastery of the 2nd degree's lessons and rituals is essential for understanding the more complex allegories and obligations that follow. This progression ensures that members develop incrementally, with each degree building upon the last.

Enhancing Personal Development

The transition to the second degree reflects a broader commitment to self-

improvement and ethical living. By meeting the requirements and embracing the teachings, members demonstrate their dedication to becoming better individuals and contributing positively to their communities and the fraternity.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the basic requirements to attain the 2nd degree in Freemasonry?

To attain the 2nd degree, also known as the Fellowcraft degree, a Mason must first have been initiated in the 1st degree (Entered Apprentice) and demonstrate proficiency in the teachings and obligations of that degree.

Is there an age requirement for the 2nd degree in Freemasonry?

Age requirements vary by jurisdiction, but typically a candidate must be at least 18 years old to advance to the 2nd degree.

Do candidates need to memorize specific lectures or catechisms for the 2nd degree?

Yes, candidates are generally required to learn and recite certain lectures, catechisms, or proficiency questions related to the Fellowcraft degree before being passed to the 2nd degree.

Are there any moral or ethical prerequisites for the 2nd degree?

Candidates must demonstrate good moral character and a commitment to the principles of Freemasonry, including brotherly love, relief, and truth.

How long must a Freemason wait between the 1st and 2nd degrees?

The waiting period varies by lodge and jurisdiction, but typically ranges from a few weeks to a few months to allow the candidate to study and understand the first degree fully.

Is sponsorship or recommendation required for moving to the 2nd degree?

Usually, no additional sponsorship is required beyond the initial acceptance

into the lodge, but the candidate's good standing and participation are essential.

What knowledge is tested before a Mason can receive the 2nd degree?

Candidates are often tested on the symbolism, moral lessons, and ritual obligations of the Entered Apprentice degree to demonstrate readiness for advancement.

Are there any physical or health requirements for the 2nd degree?

Generally, there are no specific physical or health requirements for the 2nd degree, but candidates should be able to participate in the ceremonies and lodge activities.

Additional Resources

1. The Fellow Craft Degree: Symbolism and Significance

This book explores the rich symbolism behind the Fellow Craft degree, the second stage of Freemasonry. It delves into the lessons and moral teachings conveyed through its rituals and tools. Readers will gain a deeper understanding of the intellectual and spiritual growth expected from candidates at this level.

2. Freemasonry: The Fellow Craft Explained

A comprehensive guide that breaks down the requirements, ceremonies, and meanings of the Fellow Craft degree. It provides historical context as well as practical advice for those preparing to advance. The book is ideal for both new Freemasons and those mentoring candidates.

3. The Masonic Journey: From Entered Apprentice to Fellow Craft

This volume charts the progression from the first to the second degree, highlighting the personal development and knowledge acquisition involved. It emphasizes the philosophical teachings and architectural symbolism integral to the Fellow Craft degree. Readers are encouraged to reflect on their own Masonic path.

4. Tools and Symbols of the Fellow Craft Degree

Focused on the specific tools introduced in the second degree, this book explains their significance and application in Masonic teachings. It also discusses the geometric and architectural principles that underpin the Fellow Craft ritual. This resource is valuable for those seeking to deepen their comprehension of Masonic symbolism.

5. The Fellow Craft: A Study in Masonic Philosophy

This scholarly work examines the philosophical themes presented in the Fellow

Craft degree, including wisdom, strength, and beauty. It connects these ideas to broader Enlightenment thought and moral philosophy. The book encourages Freemasons to integrate these principles into daily life.

6. Understanding the Second Degree: Rituals and Requirements

An instructional manual detailing the specific requirements candidates must fulfill to achieve the Fellow Craft degree. It covers ritual performance, catechism, and the responsibilities of a Fellow Craft Mason. The guide serves as a practical tool for both candidates and lodge instructors.

7. The Path of the Fellow Craft: Lessons in Light and Learning

This book reflects on the journey of self-improvement symbolized by the second degree. It highlights key lessons on knowledge, discipline, and moral conduct. Through historical anecdotes and reflective questions, it encourages a meaningful engagement with Masonic teachings.

8. Architecture and Geometry in the Fellow Craft Degree

An exploration of the architectural and geometric symbolism central to the Fellow Craft degree. It explains how these elements relate to the moral and intellectual development of the Mason. This text is particularly useful for those interested in the esoteric aspects of Freemasonry.

9. From Apprentice to Fellow Craft: Preparing for the Second Degree

This preparatory guide assists Entered Apprentices in understanding what is expected before advancing. It includes study tips, explanations of key symbols, and advice on memorization and ritual performance. The book aims to build confidence and comprehension for a successful progression.

Freemason 2nd Degree Requirements

Find other PDF articles:

<https://ns2.kelisto.es/anatomy-suggest-010/pdf?ID=tUx63-9416&title=when-does-grays-anatomy-return.pdf>

freemason 2nd degree requirements: The Complete Idiot's Guide to Freemasonry, 2nd Edition S. Brent Morris, Ph.D., 2013-02-21 Freemasonry is an ancient secret society shrouded in obscurity. Fascination with the mysteries of the Masons reached a fevered pitch after the release of Dan Brown's novels *Angels and Demons*, *The Da Vinci Code*, and *The Lost Symbol*. But these novels and their related movies raised more questions than they answered. The Complete Idiot's Guide® to Freemasonry, Second Edition, fills readers in on the truths behind the mysteries. In it, readers get: - A fact-filled overview of the birth and beginnings of Freemasonry, including its relationship to the Knights Templar and Egypt. - Fascinating facts about famous Masons. - An explanation of the various Masonic organizations, such as the York and Scottish rites, and the Shriners. - A behind-the-scenes look at what really goes on in a Masonic lodge, including initiations. - A new walking tour of Washington, DC, pointing out the hidden Masonic symbols featured in *The Lost Symbol*. - Scripts for Masonic rituals, giving a flavor of the language used in such ceremonies. - A field guide to Masonic

symbols and regalia, with photos and explanations of significance. - The history behind Masonic philanthropic efforts and youth groups. - A history of African-American Freemasonry and the role of women in Masonic organizations.

freemason 2nd degree requirements: *A Handbook of Freemasonry, explanatory of the three degrees of Craft Masonry, etc* W. Borlase STEVENS, 1868

freemason 2nd degree requirements: *Redeemed by God - 2* Douglas D. Reynolds Ph.D., 2022 REDEEMED BY GOD - 2, Time of the End, Return of Jesus, and a New World Order addresses the final global conflict between God and Satan that will culminate in the return of Jesus. This conflict is referred to as the seven-year tribulation. This book addresses: Our relationship with God and the redemption He extends to us through our faith in Jesus. The time line and description of events that will occur during the seven-year tribulation. The seal, trumpet and bowl judgements God will execute on the nations of the earth during the seven-year tribulation. The marriage of Jesus and the Church, the battle of Armageddon, and the return of Jesus at the end of the seven-year tribulation. The 1,000-year kingdom Jesus will establish after the seven-year tribulation. The judgements Jesus will execute at the end of His 1,000-year kingdom. Secret societies, non-government organizations and global events, conditions and transformations that will facilitate the establishment of a New World Order. Description of the New World Order that will facilitate the formation of the ten-kingdom federation described in Daniel that will be ruled by the Antichrist during the seven-year tribulation.

freemason 2nd degree requirements: *Kenning's Masonic Cyclopaedia and Handbook of Masonic Archaeology, History, and Biography* Adolph Frederick Alexander Woodford, 1878

freemason 2nd degree requirements: *The Freemason's Manual; Or, Illustrations of Masonry. Containing in Addition to the Rites Sanctioned by the United Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of England and Wales, the Mark and Mark Master, a Full Account of All the Degrees Included in the Ancient and Accepted Rite, Etc* Jeremiah HOW, 1862

freemason 2nd degree requirements: *British Freemasonry, 1717-1813* Robert Peter, 2016-12-08 Freemasonry was a major cultural and social phenomenon and a key element of the Enlightenment. It was to have an international influence across the globe. This primary resource collection charts a key period in the development of organized Freemasonry culminating in the formation of a single United Grand Lodge of England. The secrecy that has surrounded Freemasonry has made it difficult to access information and documents about the organization and its adherents in the past. This collection is the result of extensive archival research and transcription and highlights the most significant themes associated with Freemasonry. The documents are drawn from masonic collections, private archives and libraries worldwide. The majority of these texts have never before been republished. Documents include rituals (some written in code), funeral services, sermons, songs, certificates, an engraved list of lodges, letters, pamphlets, theatrical prologues and epilogues, and articles from newspapers and periodicals. This collection will enable researchers to identify many key masons for the first time. It will be of interest to students of Freemasonry, the Enlightenment and researchers in eighteenth-century studies. Includes more than 550 texts - Many texts are published here by special arrangement with the Library and Museum of Freemasonry, London - Contains over 260 pages of newly transcribed manuscript material - Documents are organized thematically - Full editorial apparatus including general introduction, volume introductions, headnotes and explanatory endnotes - A consolidated index appears in the final volume

freemason 2nd degree requirements: *The Freemason and Masonic Illustrated. A Weekly Record of Progress in Freemasonry* , 1873

freemason 2nd degree requirements: *The Freemasons Magazine and Masonic Mirror for* , 1858

freemason 2nd degree requirements: *Initiating Women in Freemasonry* J.A.M. Snoek, 2012-01-13 Freemasonry is generally regarded a male phenomenon. Yet, both before 1723 and since 1744, women were initiated as well. This book is about the rituals, used for the initiation of women

in the Adoption Lodges, since the middle of the 18th century. It describes their contents, roots and creation before reviewing and conceptualising their development in the past three centuries. It analyses the different families of rituals within the Adoption Rite, and gives an overview of specific developments, showing how the rituals were adapted to their changing contexts. Apart from its relevance for the history of Freemasonry in general and the Adoption Rite in particular, the book also writes a hitherto unknown chapter of women's history. Of particular interest for the history of feminism is the chapter about the 20th century, which could only be written now that the documents concerning it, which had been moved to Moscow in 1945, had been returned in 2000.

freemason 2nd degree requirements: British Freemasonry, 1717-1813 Volume 3 Robert Peter, 2016-10-14 Freemasonry was a major cultural and social phenomenon and a key element of the Enlightenment. It was to have an international influence across the globe. This primary resource collection charts a key period in the development of organized Freemasonry culminating in the formation of a single United Grand Lodge of England. The secrecy that has surrounded Freemasonry has made it difficult to access information and documents about the organization and its adherents in the past. This collection is the result of extensive archival research and transcription and highlights the most significant themes associated with Freemasonry. The documents are drawn from masonic collections, private archives and libraries worldwide. The majority of these texts have never before been republished. Documents include rituals (some written in code), funeral services, sermons, songs, certificates, an engraved list of lodges, letters, pamphlets, theatrical prologues and epilogues, and articles from newspapers and periodicals. This collection will enable researchers to identify many key masons for the first time. It will be of interest to students of Freemasonry, the Enlightenment and researchers in eighteenth-century studies.

freemason 2nd degree requirements: Secrets and Practices of the Freemasons Jean-Louis de Biasi, 2025-08-05 Uncover the fascinating truth behind Freemasonry and incorporate symbolic rituals into your life with this remarkably detailed and comprehensive insider's guide. Jean-Louis de Biasi, a 32nd Degree Freemason who's been involved in the order for over twenty years, offers a candid look at the essential aspects of Freemasonry. Basing his work on original texts and archaeological findings, de Biasi details the Masonic tradition's history, the degree-based system of the Scottish Rite, and their ethical teachings and philosophies. He provides evidence of Freemasonry's origination in the Ancient Western Mysteries and its Hermetic and Qabalistic underpinnings, and then traces how the Founding Fathers used this knowledge to embed sacred symbolism into the U.S. Capitol and throughout Washington, DC. From the power-charged grids within architecture to Albert Pike's highly influential teachings, from the Rose-Cross mysteries to the Masonic themes in Dan Brown's popular books, *Secrets and Practices of the Freemasons* shines a revelatory light on this captivating subject. Also featured: genuine Masonic meditations and individual rituals with easy-to-follow instructions, plus interviews with scientists who lend their perspectives on Freemasonry as it is viewed and practiced today.

freemason 2nd degree requirements: Freemasonry in Context Art DeHoyos, S. Brent Morris, 2004-01-01 Freemasonry has had a long, enduring, and yet at times largely invisible influence on American culture and society. The decreased visibility of Freemasonry has to do, directly, with there being very few scholarly resources on the subject. In the history of the United States, reaction to Freemasonry led to America's first third party, the Anti-Masonic Party. Much of America's social safety net, from the Civil War to the Second World War, was provided by the orphanages, retirement homes, and insurance programs of Freemasonry. Freemasonry has also influenced the development of other fellowships: Knights of Pythias, Elks, Moose, Woodmen of the World, and Knights of Columbus, to name a few. At its peak, in 1960, Freemasonry claimed 4.2 million members: one out of every twenty males in the United States. In *Freemasonry in Context: History, Ritual, Controversy* editors Arturo de Hoyos and S. Brent Morris feature work by renowned Masonic scholars. Essays explore the rich and often controversial events that comprise the cultural and social history of Freemasonry. Other essays discuss the function and development of ritual rites and practices. The scholarship in this volume represents ten years of scholarly investigations by the

Scottish Rite Research Society. Freemasonry in Context is the most authoritative compendium of Masonic scholarship available. Contained within this volume is the most erudite scholarly reflection on an enormous body of research conducted by academic historians and Masonic authors.

freemason 2nd degree requirements: The Freemasons' Magazine and Masonic Mirror , 1858

freemason 2nd degree requirements: American Freemason , 1858

freemason 2nd degree requirements: The Freemason's Chronicle , 1875

freemason 2nd degree requirements: American Freemason's Magazine , 1858

freemason 2nd degree requirements: Origin of the English Rite of Freemasonry William James Hughan, 1884

freemason 2nd degree requirements: Encyclopedia Of Freemasonry And Its Kindred Sciences, Volume 2: D-L Albert G. Mackey, Dr. Albert G. Mackey appears as author of this Encyclopedia of Freemasonry and its Kindred Sciences, which, being a library in itself, superseded most of the Masonic works which have been tolerated by the craft — chiefly because none better could be obtained. Here is a work which fulfils the hope which sustained the author through ten years' literary labor, that, under one cover he would furnish every Mason who might consult its pages the means of acquiring a knowledge of all matters connected with the science, the philosophy, and the history of his order. Up to the present time the modern literature of Freemasonry has been diffuse, lumbering, unreliable, and, out of all reasonable proportions. There is, in Mackey's Encyclopaedia of Masonry, well digested, well arranged, and confined within reasonable limits, all that a Mason can desire to find in a book exclusively devoted to the history, the arts, science, and literature of Masonry. This is volume two out of four and covering the letters D to L.

freemason 2nd degree requirements: The History of Freemasonry in Canada John Ross Robertson, 1900

freemason 2nd degree requirements: The Historical Landmarks and Other Evidences of Freemasonry George Oliver, 1867

Related to freemason 2nd degree requirements

AnimeKai - Watch Free Anime Online, Stream Subbed & Dubbed Anime AnimeKai is the best website to watch anime online for free, watch anime with DUB, SUB in HD. WATCH NOW! No Ads GUARANTEED!

Watch Popular Anime With Same-Day Release As Japan For FREE! - mewatch Anime series from Japan, Korea and China. Free on mewatch, with English subtitles

Watch Anime Online - Anime-Planet Watch Anime Online Watch a selection of anime episodes on Anime-Planet. All videos are legal and industry-supported due to partnerships with the anime industry

iQIYI - Asian Anime & Cartoon | Watch Free online with Watch latest Japanese anime, Chinese anime and cartoon free online with multiple subtitles and dubbing at your fingertips on iQIYI (iQ.com)! One Piece, Attack on Titan, Demon Slayer and

16 Best FREE Anime Website to Watch Anime Online (2025) - Guru99 Uncover the Best Anime Websites to Watch the Best Anime Online, offering an extensive library of beloved series and movies for every anime enthusiast

15 Best Free Anime Websites to Watch Anime Online in 2025 In 2025, anime continues to dominate the entertainment world with ever-growing popularity among global audiences. From long-standing classics like Naruto and One Piece to

5 Best Free Anime Streaming Sites - IGN Whether you want to see what the hype's about with Solo Leveling, are planning a One Piece marathon, or want to dive into classics like Sailor Moon, here are the best sites to

Best Anime Websites for Streaming in 2025 (Free & Paid) Discover the top anime websites for streaming in 2025! From completely free anime streaming sites to paid platforms with free content, this guide covers the best options, including

Top 9 Free Anime Streaming Sites (April 2025) - TechWiser Explore the top free anime streaming sites to watch popular series like Naruto, Solo Leveling, and Jujutsu Kaisen without a subscription

Watch free Anime Movies and TV Shows online | Tubi Watch free anime movies and TV shows online in HD on any device. Tubi offers streaming anime films and TV you will love

Microsoft - AI, Cloud, Productivity, Computing, Gaming & Apps Explore Microsoft products and services and support for your home or business. Shop Microsoft 365, Copilot, Teams, Xbox, Windows, Azure, Surface and more

Microsoft account | Sign In or Create Your Account Today - Microsoft Get access to free online versions of Outlook, Word, Excel, and PowerPoint

Office 365 login Collaborate for free with online versions of Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and OneNote. Save documents, spreadsheets, and presentations online, in OneDrive

Microsoft cuts 42 more jobs in Redmond, continuing layoffs amid Microsoft has laid off more than 15,000 people in recent months. (GeekWire File Photo / Todd Bishop) Microsoft is laying off another 42 workers at its Redmond headquarters,

Sign in to your account Access and manage your Microsoft account, subscriptions, and settings all in one place

Microsoft layoffs continue into 5th consecutive month Microsoft is laying off 42 Redmond-based employees, continuing a months-long effort by the company to trim its workforce amid an artificial intelligence spending boom. More

Microsoft Layoffs Announced for the Fifth Month in a Row as Microsoft continues down the warpath, making cuts both big and small across its organization for the fifth month in a row. The Microsoft layoffs this time are minor, with only

Microsoft is bringing its Windows engineering teams back 15 hours ago Windows is coming back together. Microsoft is bringing its key Windows engineering teams under a single organization again, as part of a reorg being announced

Explore Microsoft Products, Apps & Devices | Microsoft Microsoft products, apps, and devices built to support you Stay on track, express your creativity, get your game on, and more—all while staying safer online. Whatever the day brings, Microsoft

Download Drivers & Updates for Microsoft, Windows and more - Microsoft The official Microsoft Download Center. Featuring the latest software updates and drivers for Windows, Office, Xbox and more. Operating systems include Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, and

Related to freemason 2nd degree requirements

‘We’re gonna miss that baby like we do every day.’ Family of murdered 3-year-old reacts to 2nd-degree murder sentencing (Valley News Live4mon) MOORHEAD, Minn. (Valley News Live) - Family and friends of 3-year-old Eastyn Deronjic packed a Clay County courtroom to hear the sentencing of Mason Garza, who pled guilty to 2nd degree murder of

‘We’re gonna miss that baby like we do every day.’ Family of murdered 3-year-old reacts to 2nd-degree murder sentencing (Valley News Live4mon) MOORHEAD, Minn. (Valley News Live) - Family and friends of 3-year-old Eastyn Deronjic packed a Clay County courtroom to hear the sentencing of Mason Garza, who pled guilty to 2nd degree murder of

Back to Home: <https://ns2.kelisto.es>