



Ritualist Quotes

Question: As I have observed you over the years as a great ritualist to the Craft, when someone comes up to you and asks you for advice on the best way to memorize, what advice do you give them?

Lyle
RIDGM Cryptic Masons

“What works for me is to convert the ritual to a single letter key and then work on sections of the part. For some reason I am able to visualize the letters in my mind. It forces me to think of the word when I see just the letter.”

Ralph Newby, MWPGM Grand Lodge of Colorado 2020 & MIPGM Cryptic Masons of Colorado 2017-2018

“I call it “add-a-line”. I memorize one sentence. When perfect, I add a line. Then do both, then add a line. Only downside to this, I end up knowing the early parts better than the end due to more repetitions.”

Bruce Lawlor, MIPGM Cryptic Masons of Colorado 2019-2020

“My technique has been to learn a section to about 80-90 percent then learn the next section, repeating the first as I learn new material but not until I have a good handle on the new stuff. Then go on to a new part of the material and learn it in chunks, putting it all together later. This works well for me as far as lectures go. Ritual work being performed by multiple people is different. The best method for me is to learn the whole thing so I know where my cues are. More work, but the payoff is being able to perform any part necessary. There is some merit in using the ancient "art of memory" technique of visualizing a building and putting different sections in separate rooms, then recalling it by walking from room to room. It is an interesting technique that requires a lot of training via practice to be effective but works well for some when memorizing long passages.”

Michael McMillan, MWPGM Grand Lodge of Colorado 2014 & MIPGM Cryptic Masons of Colorado 2010-2011

“For what it is worth, there are a few tips I pass on.

1. Most importantly, get the self-doubt out of your mind. Of course, you can do it.
2. Emphasize practicing out loud. Silent practice is a different skill set.
3. Consider that memorizing the words is only the first step. From there you have to view it as a performance, with character, intonation, and emotions. To do this I play around with it, changing the accent or the speed or the tone. (I should note that you can begin playing with the character early on, from the written word. It does not have to wait until you complete the rote memorization)”

Steve Davis, REGC Knights Templars of Colorado, 2022-2023

“I wished I knew what to say, when I memorize a part, I just go over and over it time and time again as much as possible every day. Once I get it, I run through them every now and then to make sure I still remember. When driving around and checking gas wells I go through all the parts I know and say them, that way they stay somewhat fresh in my mind and that is how I learn most of my new parts I’m working on memorizing the Anointed High Priest part in the Holy Order of Anointed High Priesthood. For me it is a lot of work and constant practice. When saying my parts while learning a new part or practicing I am driving on two track trails so it’s not a problem with driving, but I must focus on that as well as drive and check a well at the same time. Once you can do that I pretty much have it, and it’s just a matter of always practicing every part I know. Hope this helps.”

Rick Benish, MIPGM, Cryptic Masons of Colorado 2013-2014

“Start with the first line, cover it and all the following lines up. Every time you make a mistake, go back to the beginning. For long rituals, you can do this in sections. But what seems insurmountable at the onset, rapidly proves to be doable; what was lengthy at first seems to compress, and before you know it you have it down. :-)”

Benjamin Williams, REPGC Knights Templars of Colorado, 2017-2018