

DOs & DON'Ts

- DO wear a dark suit with white shirt, black shoes and white gloves and wear a black, Provincial or Grand Lodge tie.
- DON'T enter a Lodge unless you are properly dressed with Apron and Gloves.
- REMEMBER, When making a proposition or addressing the Lodge, it must be made to the WM.
- Masonic acknowledgement is always by a Court Bow (a nod of the head NOT from the waist).
- When addressing an Officer in the Lodge it is by the rank that he holds (e.g. *Brother Junior Warden*).
- If you are unable to attend a meeting send your apologies to the Secretary.
- When addressing or referring to a Mason at a Lodge meeting or at the Festive Board, address him as *Brother* or *Worshipful Brother* and his surname.



More information on the First Degree can be found on *Solomon*, an online learning resource for Freemasonry.

<https://solomon.ugle.org.uk>



Create an account and then enrol on the *First Degree* module within the *Seek & Learn* section.

You can then explore a whole set of 'Nuggets', papers and demonstrations which will explain why some of the things in the Ceremony happened.

A word of caution: Material on *Solomon* is separated into modules for each degree and the Royal Arch. We ask users not to explore prematurely beyond the degrees that they have had already conferred so as not to spoil the revelations of their personal journey; to do so would be a shame.

UGLE gratefully acknowledges Mike Murton as the author of this document and for his permission to publish it in this form.

© UGL of E 2019



Freemasons' Hall, the headquarters of the United Grand Lodge of England, has been in Great Queen Street since 1775 and the current building is the third on this site. One of the finest Art Deco buildings in England, it is Grade II* listed and was built between 1927–1932 as a memorial to the Freemasons who died in The Great War.

For more than a decade, Freemasons' Hall has been available as a location for film and television productions and for photographic shoots. It has hosted events for London Fashion Week and featured in many films and television programmes.

In addition to the Grand Temple (seating 1,600) there are over twenty Lodge Rooms, the Library and Museum, meeting rooms and administrative offices. The building is open to the public and when the Grand Temple is not in use, there are up to five tours per day (Mon–Fri).

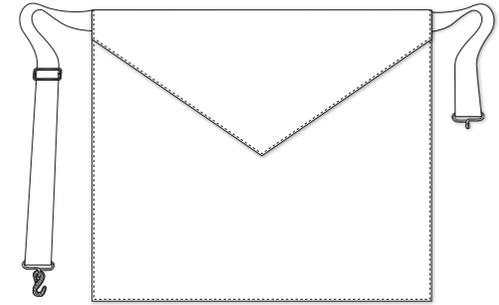
For more information, see the Museum of Freemasonry website: www.museumfreemasonry.org.uk/tours



UNITED GRAND LODGE
OF ENGLAND

ENTERED APPRENTICE

Congratulations on becoming a member of the worldwide Brotherhood of Freemasonry; you are now one of an estimated 6,000,000 Freemasons.



WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

- It was mostly symbolic!
- The Ceremony represents the birth of Man.
- We all come into the world naked and without any possessions.
- It is with the help of others that we learn and, in turn, when we reach maturity we pass on what we have learned to others.
- At one stage we are very dependent on others so it is only right that in time we allow others to become dependent on us.

THE FESTIVE BOARD

The Festive Board is to be considered an extension to the work in the Temple. Protocols are there to be observed and in some respects are as important as in the Lodge room. The atmosphere is a little more relaxed and it is at the Dinner Table that friends and acquaintances are made and maintained. The first toast, *The Queen and Craft* is very important and is given whether the Monarch is a member of the Craft or not.

THE FIRST DEGREE CEREMONY

You were divested of everything of value before entering the Lodge and you were blindfolded; this represents Man before birth and education, not knowing where he is or where he is going. In days gone by it was said also to prevent the uninitiated from seeing the Lodge room.

Around your neck was a Cable-Tow, a running noose, which, in ages past, represented a Servant bonded to his Master. In a Lodge it symbolises our ignorance until we are brought to the Light of the Sacred Law (for Christians this is the Bible). Another analogy is one similar to that of being bonded to the Master is that you are expected to attend to Lodge business when it is called. The expression '*within the length of his cable-tow*' can allude to attending your Lodge unless you have a very good reason for not doing so and have sent your apologies to the Secretary.

As only Men can be made Masons, your left breast was bare. The right arm is bare so that the Brethren could see that you carried no weapon.

Your heel was slipshod and a knee was made bare; this was because you were walking on consecrated ground and nothing should be between you and the earth when leading up to and taking your obligations.

When you were ready to enter, the Outer Guard or Tyler, knocked on the door of the Lodge to announce that you were ready to be admitted; it should remind you of the saying '*Seek, and ye shall find; ask, and ye shall have; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.*'

When you entered the Lodge, the Inner Guard presented the tip of a dagger to your naked left breast to symbolically reinforce the gravity of the commitment you were making to join the Order.

Before proceeding with the Ceremony proper you completed what is known as the Perambulations. This is to show that you were properly prepared in the traditional manner and to satisfy the senior Officers of the Lodge (the Senior and Junior Wardens) that all was well and that you were prepared to be admitted.

Your Obligation was perhaps the most meaningful part of the Ceremony. The wording has been handed down over centuries. The severe penalties that were alluded to, are there to emphasise the gravity of the promise being made. Within the obligation there is nothing that contradicts or contravenes our religious teachings or the laws of the land. If a non-Christian were taking that obligation, it would be done so on that person's Holy book (Koran, Old Testament, Adi Granth etc...)

In your obligation, you promise not to betray any of the Masonic secrets (the recognition and lawful signs) that were communicated to you. There are other things that could be considered confidential within the Lodge (accounts, resolutions etc.). This is no different to those adopted by other clubs and associations. It is hoped that the obligation has impressed upon you the high moral standard that is expected from all Freemasons.

A notable aspect of the Ceremony is conducted from the Northeast part of the Lodge where the importance of Charity is brought to the attention of the Candidate. Freemasonry has a long association with charitable giving; it is one of our main cornerstones. No one ever forgets this part of the Ceremony. It is included to make us think of those less fortunate than ourselves. Every Brother is expected to support the Charities of the Fraternity as they are able to do.

Your Apron is one of many that can be seen in the Lodge; yours is made of plain white lambskin representing purity and is derived from the aprons worn by operative masons. As you progress you will see that the apron worn marks the wearer's rank in our order, but they are all based upon the apron of the Entered Apprentice. As all Freemasons are Brothers to each other we all wear the same basic badge but some are decorated by borders and badges to signify various ranks.

The Charge after Initiation is one of the most important charges within Masonic Ritual. In simple terms it asks you to: Revere your God; help your neighbour (in the widest sense); exert your talents for the benefit of yourself, family and your fellow man; and try to learn more about Freemasonry.

The Working Tools are those that an operative mason would use but as we are not all practicing Masons (speculative rather than operative), we moralise on them and how they could be used in other ways. The twenty-four inch Gauge, Gavel and Chisel suggest how we should use our time between working, leisure and service, coupled with education and constructive thinking.

Within the Lodge (Temple), there are Ornaments; the Mosaic Pavement (the floor representing darkness & light); the Blazing Star (the Sun which enlightens the Earth) and the Tesselated Border (the Planets which revolve around the Sun). '*Freemasonry being universally spread over its surface.*'

Furniture; the Volume of the Sacred Law (the sacred writings); the Compass (symbolically to keep us within bounds) and the Square (to regulate our actions).

Movable Jewels; the Square (morality); the Level (equality) and Plumb Rule (justness and up-rightness of life and actions). These are worn by the Master and the Wardens and pass from one to the other.

Immovable Jewels; the Tracing Board and the Rough and Perfect Ashlars. '*The Tracing Board is for the Master to lay lines and draw designs on; the Rough Ashlar for the Entered Apprentice to work, mark, and indent on; and the Perfect Ashlar for the experienced craftsman to try and adjust his jewels on.*' They are called immovable because they lie open and immovable in the Lodge for the Brethren to moralise on. The rough Ashlar represents Man in his infant state.

The word Lewis denotes strength and is depicted as a series of pulleys attached to pieces of metal dovetailed into a cramp to enable the operative Mason to raise great weights to certain heights and to fix them on their proper bases. Lewis likewise denotes the son of a Mason whose duty it is to care for his parents until their last days.