



NUGGET

Reflections on the First Degree

Summary: Some ideas to stimulate reflective practice on being Initiated into Freemasonry

Having gone through the Ceremony of Initiation, perhaps it's a good time to reflect a little.

You now appreciate that the building of King Solomon's Temple, its structure and its builders, are used as the basis for the Ceremonies in Freemasonry; back to the year 965 BCE, when King Solomon succeeded David.

A year later he ordered preparations for the building of the Temple and Hiram, King of Tyre, volunteered to help. King Hiram had previously supplied cedars, carpenters and masons to build David a house. Solomon was very impressed with that building and asked for the same kind of assistance with the Temple. The Kings sealed their agreement with prayers together on Mount Moriah and there the cornerstone was laid in the north-east part of the foundation. Thus, the construction of the Temple began, as did your symbolic Masonic journey.

You are now a member of a secular society which in recent years has become much more open about everything we do. It is rooted in the ancient Guilds of stonemasons, and has earned a reputation for making good men better. It is now spread over the four quarters of the globe, and its members cherish the noble aims of brotherly-love, relief and truth. In modern language that translates to friendship between Masons and more importantly a kindly disposition towards our fellow-man, charitable giving when it can be afforded, and integrity, by being upright and honest in all our dealings.

Whatever their position or rank in public life, each and every member of this widespread fraternity will welcome you as a brother.

Welcome to Freemasonry!

Recommended use of Nuggets

Nuggets offer a short, simple and readily absorbed means of progressing Masonic knowledge and an easy way to introduce learning to Lodges and Chapters. It is hoped that they will become a regular feature of Lodge and Chapter meetings as well as a source for private-study.

Nuggets can be included as an item in the summons and read at most Lodge/Chapter meetings.

They can be:

- Read by either a new or an experienced Mason with the minimum of preparation and practice; though ideally, they need to be read a few times beforehand.
- Themed with the meeting or activity.
- Used to initiate a discussion within a Lodge/Chapter, LOI/COI, or group.
- Read at home and shared as a topic for a future discussion.
- Used as a focus for an unplanned, informal discussion.

*Note: All biblical passages are taken from the Authorized King James version unless otherwise specified.

For further papers and other learning materials visit *Solomon* at <http://solomon.ugle.org.uk>

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