



NUGGET

The symbolism of opening a Lodge

Summary: An explanation of some of the symbolism associated with opening a Lodge.



The opening of a Lodge is a Ceremony, but do we really consider what it means? Let us start by considering the roles of the three principal officers:

- The Junior Warden represents the instinctive man, who has been refined by learning the moral code set out in the First Degree.
- The Senior Warden represents the thinking man, who is improved by education.
- The Worshipful Master represents the spiritual man, whose whole being has been developed through contemplation.

The Tyler confirms that the Lodge is protected from improper interruption, so the Brethren may relax. The Inner Guard, who is the only person to communicate with that outer world, confirms that all is well.

The Junior Warden confirms that the Junior Deacon is there to deliver messages from the Worshipful Master, which he, as Junior Warden, has to comply with. To put this another way, the instinctive man has become subordinate to the spiritual.

The Senior Warden confirms that the Senior Deacon is there to bring to him the messages and commands of the Worshipful Master. The thinking man too, has become subordinate to the spiritual.

The Junior Warden then acknowledges his duties, especially in respect of the summoning of the Brethren to and from labour. So that, through a balance between labour and contemplation, and ensuring that the physical needs of the body are provided, which is his especial responsibility, profit and pleasure will result.



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 and any reference to ritual will be from Emulation unless otherwise specified.

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