



## Nugget

### The Initiate's Chain

**Index**

The Initiate's Chain formed after an Initiation at the Festive Board.

**Summary**

The Initiate's Chain signifying the ties which bind the Brethren together in friendship and unity.

**Keywords**

First-Degree, Initiate, Chain, Brethren, Unity

## The Initiate's Chain

[NB: This chain is not a piece of Ritual but rather something performed in some Lodges during the after-proceedings following an Initiation; usually following upon the response of the new Initiate to the Toast proposed at the Festive Board]

Brother (Initiate's name), with open arms we receive you into Freemasonry, into our Lodge and into our hearts.

For this purpose the Brethren are arranged in a complete circle, which, being endless, is a symbol of eternity and emblematically represents the Supreme Being whom we call the Great Architect of the Universe, who is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last, who was, and is, and is to come.

You will observe that each Brother has across his breast the arms of the Brethren on either side of him, who thus figuratively shield him from danger and protect him against attack.

Observe also that a Brother's hands extend beyond his immediate neighbours, symbolising the wide range of Freemasonry, and indicating that its influence should not be confined to one's own vicinity but should extend to embrace those beyond it.

The Past represented by the Immediate Past Master reaches across the Present represented by the Worshipful Master to clasp the hand of the Future represented by yourself, the Initiate, thus exemplifying the age long tradition of Freemasonry, from its glorious Past to its confident future.

The handclasp of the Immediate Past Master expresses the confidence of the Brethren that in you, they have Initiated a Brother who will worthily uphold the high ideals and traditions of the Craft.

The Chain is composed of interlacing double links so that, should it please the Great Architect of the Universe to call a Brother to the Grand Lodge above the circle remains unbroken, and the Brethren may choose to restore the double chain either by closing their ranks, or by Initiating a new Brother into the Lodge to take the place of the Brother who has been called to a higher service.

The double links signify the double strength of the ties which bind the Brethren together in friendship and unity, and which now bind you to our Lodge.

It is in this position that we sing the seventh and last verse of the Entered Apprentice song which runs as follows:-

*'Then join hand in hand  
By each other firm stand  
Let's be merry and put a bright face on  
No mortal can boast so noble a toast  
As a Free and an Accepted Mason'*

---

During the singing of this verse the Brethren will sway slightly to test the Chain and prove its strength and durability, signifying that Freemasonry when put to the test stands firm.

Which expresses the pride, which every Freemason feels in his membership of this great Craft and Brotherhood.

Brother (Name) it is the sincere wish of us all that your Initiation into this Lodge will bring you a double measure of joy and happiness.

Brethren raise their arms breast high, then lower their arms (Demonstrate).

---

##END##

### **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.

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

---

### **Acknowledgement:**

UGLE gratefully acknowledges the Province of East Lancashire as its originator, and for their permission to publish it in this form.

### **Disclaimer:**

Every reasonable effort has been made to contact known copyright holders, but if there are any errors or omissions, The United Grand Lodge of England will be pleased to insert the appropriate acknowledgment. The views or interpretations contained in this article are those of the author. UGLE recognises there are many different interpretations of ritual, symbolism and history.

### **Copyright:**

All rights reserved. No part of this paper may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission from The United Grand Lodge of England in writing.

---