



Grand Lodge of Africa

GRAND LODGE
OF
AFRICA

**LODGE
MENTORING
PROGRAMME**

THE ENTERED APPRENTICE

Brother.....

Initiated

into.....Lodge

Lodge No.

On/...../.....

Grand Lodge of Africa Mentoring Committee:

W Bro Sundip Chotai, DGMentor, PDGSwdB

W Bro Gurinder Ghataura, PGStB, DAGS

W Bro Mayur J Patel, DGSwdB

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NEWLY INITIATED ENTERED APPRENTICE

As an Entered Apprentice, you are likely to have many questions following your initiation which may have been a bewildering and new experience for you. Even at this stage you probably gathered that Freemasonry is a somewhat complex fraternity.

It has a unique philosophy which encompasses Social Interaction, Charitable Giving and Integrity. Brother Sir Winston Churchill (yes, he was a Freemason) was once quoted as describing Freemasonry as 'making good men better'. This correctly implies that Freemasonry is a developmental process with much to learn.

Part of its charm is that no matter who you are, there is always more to learn and mysteries to solve. You have taken your first step in Masonic enlightenment and you would have been assigned a Mentor to support and guide you through the various stages of your development. He will need to be assisted in this task by the other members of the Lodge, particularly the Lodge Mentor.

This booklet has been designed to help you with some of the inevitable questions you may have, and to structure your future learning. At each stage of your Masonic development, your Mentor will give you a booklet similar to this one.

The following topics are covered in this booklet:-

- What is Freemasonry?
- What is a Freemason?
- A brief History of Freemasonry
- Officers of the Lodge
- Inviting Masonic Visitors to your Lodge
- Early involvement in the Ceremonies
- Preparing for the Ceremony of Passing
- Questions leading from the First to the Second Degree

The following topics will be explained to you by your Mentor:-

- A detailed explanation of the Initiation Ceremony to give you a broad understanding of the event
- The Book of Constitutions
- The Lodge By-Laws
- The Sign, Token and Word of the First Degree
- Purpose of Lodge of Instruction (LOI) and how to participate
- Masonic Etiquette and Protocol
- The Festive Board

WHAT IS FREEMASONRY?

A fraternity which teaches

- Morality
- Ethics
- Trains good men to make themselves of service to themselves, their families, their communities and society in general.

WHAT IS A FREEMASON?

A mature man of sound judgement and strict morals, who has taken an obligation to make of himself the best he can, for himself, his family and his community by practising the sacred dictates of Truth, Honour and Virtue.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY

- When, Why and Where did Freemasonry originate? This is one of the great mysteries, we simply do not know. The origins and early development of Freemasonry are a matter of some debate and conjecture.
- A poem known as the "Regius Manuscript" has been dated to approximately 1390 and is one of the oldest known Masonic Script.

- There is evidence to suggest that there were Masonic Lodges in existence in Scotland as early as the late sixteenth century
- The first Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodge of England (GLE) was founded on 24th June 1717, when four existing London Lodges met for a joint dinner at the "Goose and Gridiron" Pub.
- This rapidly expanded into a regulatory body, which most English Lodges joined.
- However, a few lodges resented some of the modernisations that GLE endorsed, such as the creation of the 3rd Degree and therefore formed a rival Grand Lodge on 17th July 1751, which was called the "Ancient Grand Lodge of England".
- The two Grand Lodges competed for supremacy until they united on 25th November 1813 to form the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE).
- The Grand Lodges of Ireland and Scotland were formed in 1725 and 1736 respectively.

OFFICERS OF THE LODGE

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS:

Worshipful Master (WM)

- He is the senior most officer of the Lodge.
- He is seated in the East of the Temple which is symbolic of the rising sun.
- His jewel is the Square, which teaches us Morality.
- He directs all the business of his Lodge and presides over rituals and ceremonies.

Senior Warden (SW)

- He is the second of the three principal officers of a lodge, and is the Master's principal deputy.
- He is seated in the West of the Temple which is symbolic of the setting sun.
- His jewel is the Level which teaches us equality.
- Assists WM in the well ruling and governing of the Lodge

Junior Warden (JW)

- He is the third of the three principal officers of a lodge.
- He is seated in the South of the Temple which is symbolic of the position of the sun at midday.
- His jewel is the Plumb Rule which teaches us justness and uprightness of life and actions.
- Assists WM and SW in the well ruling and

- governing of the Lodge
- Ensures visiting Masons are in possession of the necessary credentials
- The Stewards work under his guidance

ASSISTANT OFFICERS:

Senior Deacon (SD)

- Seated at or near the right of the WM.
- His duty is to bear all messages and commands of the WM to the SW and await the return of the Junior Deacon
- Attends upon candidates at passings and raisings
- Assists Junior Deacon at initiations when required

Junior Deacon (JD)

- Seated at the right of the SW.
- His duty is to carry all messages and communications of the WM from the SW to JW and to see that they are punctually obeyed
- Attends upon candidates at initiations
- Assists SD at passings and raisings when required

Inner Guard (IG)

- Seated within the entrance of the Lodge.
- Task of guarding the door and is armed with a point or short dagger
- Admits Masons on proof

- Receives candidates and ensures they are properly prepared
- Obeys commands of the JW

Tyler (or Outer Guard)

- Situated outside the door of the Lodge.
- Ensures that those who seek admission into the Lodge are duly qualified
- Prepares candidates for their admission into the Lodge

OTHER REGULAR OFFICERS:

Treasurer

- The role of the Treasurer is to maintain Lodge accounts, collect annual dues from the members, and make payments to creditors.

Secretary

- Is the Chief Administrator of the Lodge and advises WM on matters of administrative procedures.

ADDITIONAL OFFICERS: (Not Mandatory)

- Chaplain
- Director of Ceremonies
- Almoner
- Charity Steward
- Assistant Director of Ceremonies

- Assistant Secretary
- Organist
- Stewards

INVITING MASONIC VISITORS TO YOUR LODGE

You may have some Masonic friends who you would wish to invite to one of your lodge meetings. This is encouraged practice but consult your Mentor before doing so as there are certain protocols to be observed. For example, if your Masonic friend is not known to other lodge members, particularly if he is coming from a different region or a different constitution, he may need to prove himself before entering the Lodge room. Likewise if you wish to visit other Lodges, consult your Mentor who will explain the protocols you will be required to observe.

EARLY INVOLVEMENT IN THE CEREMONIES

In order to gain confidence and become a useful member of your Lodge, it is encouraged that you start participating in giving charges during the lodge ceremonies, as soon as possible, starting with the shorter charge ie working tools and thereafter to the longer ones. Committing these charges to memory is one way of understanding the Masonic teachings and you will find yourself making a steady progress in your Masonic knowledge.

PREPARING FOR THE CEREMONY OF PASSING

Operative Masons were required to prove their proficiency at one level of ability before their Master would allow them to progress to more advanced work.

Though we are not operative, but rather free, speculative and accepted Masons, much of our ceremonies take their tone from the Operative Mason.

Before you progress to the Second Degree or the Degree of a Fellow Craft, you will be asked to prove your proficiency in the First Degree or the Degree of an Entered Apprentice. This will take the form of several questions which the Worshipful Master will direct at you and you are expected to answer them.

The following are the questions that will be put to you. You are required to learn, understand and commit the answers to memory before you are passed to the Second Degree. Your Mentor will assist you in understanding the questions and answers and assist you with the missing words.

QUESTIONS LEADING FROM THE FIRST TO THE SECOND DEGREE

Q *Where were you first prepared to be made a Mason?*

A In my H.

Q *Where next?*

A In a convenient room adjoining the Lodge.

Q *Describe the mode of your preparation.*

A I was d...v...d of m...l and h...w...d. My r...
a..., l.. b.. b.. and k.. were made b.., my r.. h..
was s.. s.. and c..t.. placed about my n...

Q *Where were you made a Mason?*

A In the body of a Lodge, just, perfect and regular.

Q *And when?*

A When the Sun was at its meridian.

Q *In this country Freemasons' Lodges are usually held in the evening; how do you account for that which at first view appears to be a paradox?*

A The Sun being the centre of our solar system, and the Earth constantly revolving about it on its axis, and Freemasonry being universally spread over the Earth's surface, it necessarily follows that the Sun must always be at its meridian with respect to Freemasonry.

Q *What is Freemasonry?*

A A peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols.

Q *Name the three Grand Principles on which the Order is founded.*

A Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

Q *Who are fit and proper persons to be made Masons?*

A Just, upright and free men, of mature age, sound judgment and strict morals.

Q *How do you know yourself to be a Mason?*

A By the regularity of my initiation, repeated trials and approbations and a willingness at all times to undergo an examination when properly called upon.

Q *How do you demonstrate the proof of your being a Mason to others?*

A By s...ns, t...s and the perfect p...ts of my entrance.