



MASONIC COURTESY AND PROTOCOL

Masonic Courtesy or Etiquette refers to those social graces that Distinguish Masonic Fellowship. It may be termed a system of formality, which sets Masonry apart from contemporary customs.

The authority of the Worshipful Master and proper form when entering or retiring from the Lodge are to be observed.

Improper movement of the Brethren about the Lodge room is disrespectful and is not to be tolerated by the Worshipful Master. The Brethren who persist in talking aloud to his neighbor is showing disrespect for the Worshipful Master, the Lodge and the Members. He cannot expect to escape censure, and though the Worshipful Master will avoid such unpleasantness if he can, he must maintain proper decorum in the Lodge.

Bantering and joking should be kept in control by the Worshipful Master, and within the limits of good Masonic taste. Remarks for the benefit of other Brethren are to be addressed to the Worshipful Master.

WHAT IS THE PROPER DRESS CODE OF A MASON?

A Mason's personal appearance in Lodge is normally a mark of his respect for the Fraternity.

The proper attire for attending a Lodge meeting is normally a coat and tie and street shoes. Do not let this prevent you from attending Lodge if you don't have a coat or suit. Wear the most appropriate clothing you own.

If you are taking part in a Degree or an Installation, wear the best clothing that you can afford. Others may wear tuxedos for these and other special events, but that does not require you to rush out and buy one "Unless you can afford it and wish to do so, of course".

Masonic Jewelry should not be worn unless you can prove yourself to be a Mason. The wearing of Masonic Jewelry should therefore be avoided until you have signed the By-Laws of your Lodge and paid your dues.



FORMS OF ADDRESS

In referring to a Member of a Lodge, the proper form is "Brother" (in the plural "Brethren").

The form used when addressing the Worshipful Master of a Lodge is "Worshipful Master". A Past Master is referred to as "Worshipful Brother".

In Lodge Assembled, each Officer is addressed by the title "Brother" and the title of the station he occupies. Example:

"Brother Senior Warden".

Each Brother on the sidelines is addressed as "Brother Smith" or "Brother Kenneth", not just as "Pete" or "Joe". The familiarity of nicknames may be perfectly proper elsewhere, but not in Lodge Assembled. The designation "Mister" is not used between Brothers in Lodge.

The form of address (or title) used for a District Lecturer is "Worshipful Brother".

The form of address for the Grand Master is "Most Worshipful Grand Master". Past Grand Masters are addressed as "Most Worshipful Brother".

The form of address for the other Grand Lodge Officers is as follows:

The Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and the Grand Lecturer are addressed as "Right Worshipful Brother".

The Senior Grand Deacon, Junior Grand Deacon, Senior Grand Steward, Junior Grand Steward, Grand Marshal, Grand Chaplain, Grand Orator, Grand Tiler and the Grand Musician are addressed as "Worshipful Brother".

PARLIAMENTARY LAW FOR THE MASONIC LODGES

The Master should insist at all times that all business of the Lodge be transacted in an orderly manner. Any Brother who desires to speak shall arise, address the Worshipful Master with the Proper Sign, and be recognized before he speaks. This applies to anyone who desires to make a Motion, to second a Motion, to discuss points raised in a Motion, or to comment on a subject under discussion. Anyone endeavoring to deviate from this procedure should be called to order by the Worshipful Master. Only one Brother shall have the floor at a time. Robert's Rules of Order can be used as a guide but Masonic Law, the Book of Constitutions, and the By-Laws of each Lodge should prevail.

VISITING DIGNITARIES

(Other than Official Visit of the Grand Master)

When a Grand Lodge Officer makes a casual visit to a Lodge, he should be acknowledged as follows:

- a. The Officer is in the Lodge for Opening.
- b. After the Lodge is Opened (and Hag Pledge is given), the Worshipful Master instructs the Senior Deacon to Conduct the Visiting Officer West of the Altar.
- c. The Senior Deacon does so, and presents the Visitor to the Worshipful Master.
- d. The Worshipful Master welcomes the Officer and instructs the Senior Deacon to conduct him to the East, to the Master's left.
- e. The Worshipful Master calls up the Lodge, presents the Officer to the Lodge and all greet him with applause (not with the Grand Honors).
- f. The Lodge is seated.
- g. At the proper time, as under "Good of the Order, if the Officer is invited to address the Lodge.

Past Grand Masters, District Lecturers and other Distinguished Visitors are received in the same way on their first visit each year. Upon subsequent visits it is optional.

DECORUM DURING DEGREES

Once a Degree is begun, the Conferral should continue uninterrupted by other business to its conclusion. The Candidate, the Officers, and the Brethren on the sidelines should enjoy a hushed atmosphere of a time dedicated to meditation. The Worshipful Master should not permit the Officers or Brethren to wander in and out, or to visit in the Lodge Room during Degree Work. To do so is rude and disrespectful of the Worshipful Master, the working Officers and the Candidate.

THE LIVING EXAMPLE

Good men are attracted to Masonry by the quality of its Members.

To Subdue the Passions has a much broader application than the usual interpretation. **It** means to be in control of oneself in all aspects of life, and to live charitably with one's fellows in all circumstances. **It** means to aspire to the best that is within us, and relentlessly pursue those aspirations. This is the only solicitation for Petitions that is worthy of Freemasonry. It is the kind that attracts good material for the Fraternity.



