

The Director of Ceremonies will rise and announce 'Brethren, the Initiate'. By tradition you are not expected to say much – guidelines are:

Address: Worshipful Master, Brother Wardens, Brethren.

Thank your proposer and seconder. Thank the Junior Deacon for conducting you through the ceremony. Say a few words about how you felt about the ceremony, what you hope to get out of Freemasonry, and more importantly what you hope to contribute. Then sit down!

The next meeting

At the next meeting, and indeed subsequent meetings, there are a few formalities which you should follow. Your Personal Mentor should be on hand to advise you of these. You should enter your name in the Attendance Book under the column marked 'Members'. You will need to obtain an Entered Apprentice's apron from the Tyler (the Brother that stands guard outside the door of the Lodge). You may also have to pay for your meal prior to the meeting, if that is the custom of your Lodge. Your Personal Mentor will also advise you on where to sit in the Lodge.

If a degree higher than that of an Entered Apprentice is being worked you will have to leave the Lodge before it is opened in the higher degree - your Personal Mentor should accompany you outside. You will be permitted to return to the Lodge after the degree has been worked.

Visiting other Lodges

Visiting is an important part of Freemasonry and enables a Brother to meet brethren from other Lodges around the island and overseas. The Lodges on the island are located at Paphos, Episkopi, Limassol, Larnaca, Dhekelia, Paralimni and Nicosia. At the earliest opportunity you should try to visit one or more Lodges at which a ceremony of Initiation is to be carried out. This will allow you to see the same ceremony that you went through. Your Personal Mentor will be able to provide details of such meetings and should accompany you on the visits.



District of Cyprus Mentoring Programme

A series of Fact Sheets for a
Candidate for Initiation



Making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge

Your Initiation night

Very shortly you will be attending the Lodge for the ceremony of your initiation into Freemasonry. You have probably heard rumours about what happens on the night of an initiation and no doubt you will be feeling some apprehension. Please be assured that there is absolutely nothing to worry about. All the Brethren present at your initiation have gone through the same ceremony. It is a time-honoured way of welcoming a person into the Brotherhood of Freemasonry in a symbolic manner in which he forms a bond with his fellow Brethren. In fact, during the ceremony every Brother present will be reliving the night of his initiation and remembering the special moment when he was accepted as a Brother.

To enable you to benefit from this unique experience it is important that you prepare yourself mentally for the ceremony. Try to relax and listen to what is being said to you and you will find that it is a most enjoyable and moving experience.

Prior to attending

You have been made aware of the dress code for meetings - dark suit/morning suit/dress suit, white shirt, black tie and black shoes and socks, and white gloves. If you are a member of the Armed Forces it is permissible to wear uniform. You will also need to bring along your cheque book to pay for your initiation fee, fees to the District Grand Lodge of Cyprus and the United Grand Lodge of England, and annual subscription to the Lodge. Your proposer will probably take you to the meeting and you will arrive about 30 minutes before the meeting begins. This will allow time for you to sign a Declaration Book stating you freely and voluntarily offer yourself as a candidate for Freemasonry, and to pay the fees and dues. It is also an opportunity to meet a few of the Brethren.



Preparation for your Initiation

Shortly before the start time of the meeting the Brethren enter the Lodge Room and you will be left outside in the care of the Tyler (the Outer Guard

of the Lodge Room) who will prepare you for your initiation. The preparation may seem strange but there is a good reason for it. After the Brethren have sung the Opening Ode (Hymn), opened the Lodge and conducted some of the business of the Lodge, you will then be admitted to the Lodge. You will be met by the Junior Deacon, who will accompany you throughout the initiation ceremony and will prompt you on what to do and say. At the end of the ceremony you will be led from the Lodge Room to restore yourself to your personal comfort whilst the Brethren take a short break. You will then be re-admitted for the presentation of a Charge. Try to stand relaxed and listen carefully to the Brother presenting the Charge, which is probably one of the most important pieces of ritual in Freemasonry. It is based on the ancient charges that operative masons had to follow, and it tells you how to lead your life as a Freemason, as a citizen of the world and as an individual. Following the delivery of the Charge you will then take your seat in the Lodge on the right of the Senior Deacon, and the business of the Lodge will continue. A charity collection is taken and the amount contributed by an individual is dependent on his personal circumstances.



At the end of the proceedings the Lodge will be closed - the Senior Deacon will prompt you on what to do - and then the Worshipful Master, his Wardens and distinguished Brethren will process out of the Lodge. As the Initiate you will be placed at the side of the Worshipful Master.

At the Festive board

Following the meeting in the Lodge a meal is taken, which is called a Festive Board. All the Brethren take their places at the tables and you will then process in with the Worshipful Master and sit on his right. On your right will sit the senior brother of the Lodge. During the meal there will be some formal toasts and much clapping (Masonic Fire), which will be explained to you by those sitting on either side of you.

At some time during the festivities your proposer will propose a toast to you, to which you will be expected to give a short reply. Your cue is that