

Additionally you will be given a set of questions and answers, which form part of your third and final degree. As before you will be required to learn the answers to the questions, which will be put to you by the Worshipful Master at the start of the Third Degree. If you do forget an answer your guide, called the Senior Deacon, will be at your side to prompt you. Your sponsor or Personal Mentor will answer any queries you might have on the meaning of some of the questions and answers.

The Third Degree Ceremony

This is the last of the ceremonies, which should take place within a few months of your previous ceremony, and is called the 'Ceremony of Raising'. During the ceremony you will become a 'Master Mason'. You will be invested with the apron of a Master Mason; this is your personal property and you should keep it safely and bring it with you to all future meetings. You will now be permitted to remain in Lodge at all future meetings, apart from the Installation of the new Worshipful Master, when you will be required to leave the Lodge at a certain point in the ceremony.

Further progression in the Lodge

At some stage during your progression in the Three Degrees you may be appointed a Steward of the Lodge. The duties vary from Lodge to Lodge and you will be informed of what these are. Once you become a Master Mason you are then eligible to take office and work towards becoming Worshipful Master of your Lodge. Your progression will depend on how you have applied yourself to learning the ritual of the Craft, through regular attendance at Lodge of Instruction.

It will also depend on your personal or business circumstances; you will need to consider if you can invest the time and commitment required. If you do decide that you wish to progress you will be given all the help and encouragement you need. Tonight you have joined a body of men who are now your Brothers and with whom you will enjoy a special bond of friendship - enjoy it.



District of Cyprus Mentoring Programme

A series of Fact Sheets for a Candidate for Initiation



Making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge

Your progression in Freemasonry

Tonight you became a member of a Masonic Lodge by means of an initiation ceremony, when you were made an Entered Apprentice Freemason. Later you will take part in another ceremony and become a Fellow Craft Freemason. Finally, in a third ceremony, you will become a Master Mason. This fact sheet explains the process of each of these ceremonies.

The ceremonies are called 'Degrees' as in each one you will attain additional knowledge of the Craft. This is similar to the days of operative masonry when a builder would progress from his apprenticeship through to being a master of his craft. The builder would work for many years before becoming a master of his craft and would have to pass a number of tests along the way to demonstrate his ability in the craft. You will also be required to pass a number of tests before becoming a Master Mason, but unlike the builders of old you will probably achieve that position in about 12 to 18 months.

Each of the three degrees through which you will pass consists of two parts. The first part is the actual ceremony and the second part is a lecture on some of the aspects of the degree.

The First Degree Ceremony

This is the 'Ceremony of Initiation' and was your first experience of a Masonic Lodge. You became an 'Entered Apprentice Freemason' and will henceforth be addressed as 'Brother'. After many years as a member of the Lodge you may be elected Worshipful Master and afterwards you will then be addressed as 'Worshipful Brother'. During the ceremony you were invested with the apron of an Entered Apprentice; this is the property of the Lodge and should have been taken from you by the Tyler (the Brother outside the door of the Lodge) when you left the Lodge.

At the end of the ceremony you were presented with a Book of the Constitutions (the rules and regulations of the United Grand Lodge of England) and your sponsor or Personal Mentor should point out the

sections that you should read at this stage. You were also presented with a copy of the Lodge By-Laws, which you should read carefully.

Additionally you were given a set of questions and answers, which form part of your next degree. You will be required to learn the answers to the questions, which will be put to you by the Worshipful Master at the start of the next degree. Your sponsor or Personal Mentor will answer any queries you might have on the meaning of some of the questions and answers.

As a member of the Lodge you are entitled to vote on any matter in open Lodge. All Lodge meetings are opened and closed in the First Degree and you will be permitted to remain in the Lodge if a First Degree ceremony is being worked. However, if a higher degree is being worked you will be required to leave the Lodge before the ceremony begins and you may not return until the ceremony is completed and the Lodge is resumed in the First Degree.

The Second Degree Ceremony

You will probably go through the Second Degree Ceremony - known as the 'Ceremony of Passing' - in a matter of months, although it can take longer. By now you should have learned the answers to the questions that will be put to you by the Worshipful Master. If you do forget an answer your guide, called the Junior Deacon, will be at your side to prompt you.

During the ceremony you will become a 'Fellow Craft Freemason'. You will be invested with the apron of a Fellow Craft Freemason; this is the property of the Lodge and will be taken from you by the Tyler (the Brother outside the door of the Lodge) when you leave the Lodge.

You will be permitted to remain in Lodge on future meetings if a First or Second Degree ceremony is being worked. However, if a higher degree is being worked you will be required to leave the Lodge before the ceremony begins and you may not return until the ceremony is completed and the Lodge is resumed in the Second Degree.