

side of man symbolises weakness and evil and stepping off with the left foot is symbolical of putting down evil before starting out on our journey.

You entered the Lodge Room on three distinct knocks on the door of the Lodge. These allude to the ancient and venerable exhortation: "Seek and you shall find, ask and you shall have, knock and it shall be opened unto you". You, my Brother, sought in your own heart, you asked a friend, he knocked on your behalf and the door to Freemasonry was opened to you.

Your entrance through the door into Freemasonry, in a state of darkness, helpless and reliant on others, and the subsequent restoration to light and the removal of the cable tow, is symbolic of the birth of your Masonic life. It is no coincidence, therefore, that this Lodge is now called your Mother Lodge and we are called your Brothers. As your Brothers we will guide and instruct you in the rituals and traditions of Freemasonry, and introduce you to the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry; and whichever path your Masonic life may take you in the future you should never forget the Brothers of your Mother Lodge and this very special moment when they so ably and sincerely set you on that path".

In a few Lodges this explanation is given to the Candidate immediately before he retires to restore himself to his personal comfort.



District of Cyprus Mentoring Programme

A series of Fact Sheets for a Candidate for Initiation



CA 03 Your preparation for Initiation

Making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge

Your preparation for Initiation

No doubt you, like every other candidate for Initiation, were rather mystified by the mode of your preparation for the ceremony of your Initiation, but please be assured that everyone that has been initiated into a Lodge under the United Grand Lodge of England has undergone the same preparation as you this evening. There are good reasons for this, which are explained below.

“You were divested of all money and metallic substances of value; one reason for being divested of money was demonstrated to you when you were placed in the northeast part of the Lodge. As you were admitted into Freemasonry in a state of seeming poverty, you should always be mindful of those less fortunate than yourself. It was also intended to point out to you that in a Freemason’s Lodge a man is not esteemed on account of his worldly substance, for herein all men are equal, meeting on the Level and parting on the Square.

You were divested of all metallic substances because it had reference to the building of King Solomon’s Temple, for it is upon the circumstances surrounding the erection of that edifice that our ceremonies are chiefly based. There was not heard the sound of any hammer or other implement of iron, and as this evening you have begun to build a spiritual temple within yourself, likewise no metallic substances were permitted.

You were then blindfolded or hoodwinked for three reasons. First, to remind you that the heart must be made to conceive before the eye can be permitted to discover. Second, as you were received in a state of darkness regarding the mysteries of Freemasonry so you should keep our secrets from the outside world. And lastly that if you had decided not to continue with the ceremony you could be led from the Temple without discovering its form.

Your right arm was made bare to show that you were able and willing to work in furtherance of the interest of the Craft, and to prove to the

Brethren that you brought nothing offensive or defensive into the Temple.

Your left breast was made bare to prove that you were not an imposter as regards sex, for the rules of our Order forbid the admission of females into our assemblies. It was also that you might be received on the point of a sharp instrument presented thereto to intimate to you that you were about to engage in something serious and solemn. This was further enforced by having one point of a pair of compasses presented to your naked left breast when you took your great and solemn obligation.

Your left knee was made bare because it was on that, that you took your great and solemn obligation never improperly to reveal any of those Masonic secrets which have been entrusted to your keeping. And although the obligation you took was sacred and binding, it is deemed imperfect without others which are to follow. You therefore took it on your left knee because the left side of man has always been considered the weaker; though your inherent weakness was supported by placing your right hand on the Volume of the Sacred Law.

Your right heel was slipshod. This was to point out to you that our Lodges are considered to stand on Holy Ground, and in token of an ancient custom amongst Eastern peoples, referred to in the Third Chapter of the Book of Exodus, the 5th verse, where it is recorded that the Lord spake thus to Moses from the Burning Bush — “Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is Holy Ground.”

Finally a cable tow with a running noose was placed round your neck, first as a means of restraint should such have been necessary, and secondly, symbolical of your being in a state of bondage, the bondage of ignorance of Freemasonry. In ancient times the EA wore a cable tow to remind him to keep within hail when summoned to his Lodge unless prevented from so doing by sickness.

Throughout the ceremony your guide instructed you to step off with the left foot, which we always do in the Lodge. The reason for this is that the left