

Remember the obligation you took as an Entered Apprentice which included, Inter Alia ,

*“ Never improperly to disclose any of those Masonic secrets which have now been, or may at any future period be, entrusted to your keeping, and cautiously to avoid all occasions which inadvertently lead you to do so.”*

### *Giving the Masonic grip*

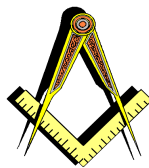
If giving a Masonic grip, unless you are in a Lodge working a higher degree or know for sure that the Brother you are shaking hands with has attained the higher degree, then give the Grip of an Entered Apprentice.

### *Other points to watch out for*

You will see persons wearing rings or lapel badges which have on them Masonic insignia. Do not assume that the person is a Freemason; many of these items can be readily purchased by non-Masons.

The Key word at all time is **CAUTION**.

Enjoy your Freemasonry.



## District of Cyprus Mentoring Programme

A series of Fact Sheets for an  
Entered Apprentice

**EA 11**  
**Try me and prove me**

# Making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge

## *Try me and prove me*

Now that you have been initiated into Freemasonry, your Personal Mentor, in conjunction with your Lodge Mentor, will go over the First Degree ritual that you have just been through. It is important that you quickly become familiar with:

*“Those Marks by which we are known to each other and distinguished from the rest of the world.”* These are the Sign, Grip and Word that you were taught in your 1<sup>st</sup> Degree.

In our everyday lives we shake hands with people all the time and you may quickly find that now you have been initiated there may be a lot of people wishing to ‘shake your hand’. These may include Masons who are acquaintances and who have heard of your initiation and wish to congratulate you or, as sometimes is the case, someone you know, perhaps a colleague at work who is not a Mason, who shakes your hand to ‘test you’ to see if you give him a ‘funny handshake’.

Whatever the reason, as a young and inexperienced Mason you should be very cautious in accepting anyone at face value who claims to be a ‘Brother’. Remember what you were taught in your 1<sup>st</sup> Degree – *“At my initiation I was taught to be cautious”*. The procedure you were taught then is designed to ‘test’ anyone you don’t know and is a Mason. That is someone you have already sat with in open Lodge or who has been vouched for by another Brother whom you have sat with in open Lodge.

If circumstances permit, you can take him aside and go through the procedure you were taught. However, this procedure requires a certain amount of privacy to carry out so the following items of advice may be useful to you.

### *Never accept a stranger’s word*

You should never accept a stranger’s word that he is a Freemason if it arises in conversation. If he claims to be a Mason, as part of the conversation ask him which Lodge he is a member of (this can be checked if necessary

through your Personal Mentor or Lodge Secretary if the person claims to be a member of a Cyprus Lodge). In any event there is nothing wrong with you acknowledging that you are a Freemason but do not divulge anything confidential to this person until you are sure of his status .

### *Do not initiate the ‘Grip’*



As an inexperienced Freemason, initially when shaking hands with someone you don’t know to be a Mason do not initiate the ‘Grip’ (as you know, the grip shown here is not a Masonic grip). However, if the person is a Mason he will no doubt give the ‘Grip’ to you and then you can respond. This however is not ‘proof’ that the person is a Mason as supplementary information, such as the Word demanded from the Grip and sight of his Grand Lodge Certificate are also required. (This is the standard of proof required of a stranger appearing at a Lodge meeting who has not been introduced by a member). In such circumstances a Senior Member of the Lodge, such as a Past Master or the Junior Warden, would ‘Test’ him with the Grip, Word and Sign of the Degree being worked and would require to examine his Grand Lodge Certificate, including a sample of his signature to compare with that on the certificate if deemed necessary. The stranger may also be asked questions such as to demonstrate the ‘knocks ’of the degree or pick out the working tools of the Degree’)

### *Do not be afraid to test anyone*

You should not be afraid to ‘Test’ anyone claiming to you to be a Freemason. If they are a Freemason as they claim, they will fully understand your caution and indeed praise you for it. On the other hand you will quickly establish if the other person is not a Freemason as he will ‘fail the test’. In such circumstances you are advised to distance yourself from this person; do not continue any conversation concerning Freemasonry with him and report the circumstances and his details to your Mentor or Lodge Secretary so that they can be checked and if necessary a warning circulated regarding this ‘Bogus mason’.