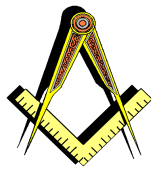




District of Cyprus Mentoring Programme

A series of Fact Sheets for a
Master Mason



MM 10
**Arriving late and leaving a
meeting early**

Making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge

Introduction

All Brethren attending Lodge meetings, whether to their own Lodge or as a Visitor to another Lodge in the District, should ensure that they arrive in good time before the published time that the Lodge will be tyled. However, it is acknowledged, that on occasion, due to circumstances beyond the control of the Brother concerned he may arrive at the Lodge after the start of the meeting. In such circumstances the following procedures should be followed. These procedures are in accordance with strict Emulation and Taylors Working. Your own Lodge may have their own customs and traditions which you should follow.

Arriving late

When you arrive take care to put on your Regalia and check that you have adjusted it properly, then report to the Tyler. There are only a few opportune times after the Lodge has been opened for the Tyler to attempt to get latecomers into the Temple – the harmony of the Lodge and the well being of any Candidate must be his constant care. The Tyler will give a report on the door of the Lodge at the earliest convenient opportunity on your behalf. Depending on which stage the Lodge business is at you may have to wait a while or until the Lodge is 'Called off'.

How to tell which Degree the Lodge is working in

In strict Emulation the Tyler is instructed in the rubric to give the knocks of the degree that the Lodge is in on the door of the Lodge for Latecomers. So listen to the knocks he gives on the door and this will indicate which Degree the Lodge is working in. As a confirmation, on entering the Lodge quickly glance to see which Tracing Board is on display .

On entering the Lodge

After the IG has admitted you step onto the carpet; and for a Lodge working in the **Third Degree**, take Sp, give EA Sn, discharge, take another Sp, give FC Sn, then take third Sp and convert the FC Sn to the Sn of H, Sn of S, give MM P Sn to the position of R and say '*Apologies Worshipful Master*' then discharge the Sn. Note: There is no need to give an explanation for your lateness.

The DC or ADC will pick you up and escort you to a seat. On arrival at your seat, turn and face him and exchange a Court Bow with him then sit.

Latecomers to a Lodge working Taylor's workings

In Lodges that use Taylor's Working there will be some slight differences; The Tyler will announce the Late Comer by one knock on the door of the Lodge. The Inner Guard will ask 'Whom have you there', and the procedure is then the same as the previous paragraphs above.

The Attendance Book or Register

The Attendance Register in some Lodges is retained by the Tyler and in other Lodges is handed by the Tyler to the Lodge Secretary just before the start of the meeting. It is **your** responsibility to make sure you sign (print) your name in the appropriate column of the Attendance Register at the earliest opportunity after arriving at the Lodge and, if a visitor, making sure you enter the name of your sponsoring Member. (Do not assume the Secretary or Tyler will insert it on your behalf).

Leaving the Lodge early

In the unlikely event that you require to leave the Lodge early before the end of the Meeting the following procedure should be adopted.

At an opportune moment during a pause in proceedings, stand and, assuming that you were sitting in the North or South side of the Lodge, face the South or North, take a Sp and show Sn, of the Degree, turn your head to the East and say:

'Worshipful Master, have I your permission to retire?'

The WM will give his assent. Discharge the Sn and then walk direct (squaring the Lodge if that is your custom) to the North West corner step onto the carpet take a Sp and give the Sn of the Degree, discharge the Sn and retire.

This fact sheet is an abbreviated version of a more comprehensive and enlightening version which can be found on the Education pages of the Cyprus Freemasons website at: www.cyprus-freemasons.org.cy