

ARRIVING LATE FOR A LODGE MEETING AS A SUBSCRIBING MEMBER OR AS RECOGNIZED REGULAR VISITOR.

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 occasions, 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.

When you arrive take care to put on your Regalia; Apron, if you are an Entered Apprentice or a Fellowcraft make sure that the flap is in the correct position and the strings pass around your back and are tied together in a bow under the flap. If you are a Master Mason make sure that the light blue strings and silver tassels are both hanging down and not tucked up under them selves or the flap. If you wear Breast Jewels make sure that the ribbons are not twisted, and then report to the Tyler.

THE ATTENDANCE BOOK OR REGISTER.

Historically circa 1730 there was only a 'Visitors Book' but the Rule requiring a record in the minutes for all Brethren attending did not appear in the Book of Constitutions until 1884. the attendance Register is now a days used for the Lodge Secretary to compile the list of attendees in the Lodge Minute Book under Rule 144 of the Book of Constitutions and also it acts as a muster list in the case of an evacuation from the building – although the Director of Ceremonies normally asks if every body has signed the Attendance Book; technically he should ask if every body has printed their name in the Attendance Register. The Attendance Register should stay with the Tyler! If you are a subscribing member of the Lodge you only require to print your name in the column headed 'Members'. If you are a recognized regular Visitor you should print your name in the column headed 'Visitors' and add your Lodge Number and your Rank. Even if you are a regular 'Visitor' you should have somebody in the Lodge who can vouch for you and his name should be printed and signed in the column normally headed by 'Introduced by' or 'Vouched by'. In a perfect world the Brother himself should fill in this column.

There are only a few opportune times from when the Lodge has been opened for the Tyler to attempt to get late comers into the Temple – the harmony of the Lodge and the well being of the Candidate must be his constant care. The ideal times for late comers to be announced are:

Just after the confirmation of the Minutes when the Senior Deacon has sat down.

When the Candidate retires after having given proof and proficiency of the former Degrees.

When the Candidate retires to restore himself to his personal comforts.

If you arrive and the Candidate is already prepared and waiting outside the door of the Lodge for his Initiation, Passing or Raising, then you should retire and wait until the Candidate has retired to restore himself to his personal comforts. On no account should you try and go in front of him.

Like wise the Tyler should not announce late Comers after the Entered Apprentices retire - before the Candidate for Passing has given his proofs and proficiency in the former Degree; or when the Fellow Craft retire - before the Candidate for Raising has given his proofs and proficiency in the former Degree. Remember it is the Candidates night and they will be undoubtedly nervous; the last thing they need is a delay in their proceedings caused by a Late Comer.

The Tyler has found an opportune moment to announce the Late Comer. The Tyler will give the knocks of the Degree that the Lodge is in (NB: In earlier times it was the Candidate and the Late

Comer who gave the Knocks on the door of the Lodge; the Candidate under the supervision of the Tyler and the Late Comer after ascertaining the Degree of the Lodge.

So the first question is how do you know what Degree the Lodge is in at the time of your entrance? Of course the helpful Tyler will tell you but is he trying to catch you out! 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 Late Comers. So you can prepare yourself for what comes next. But remember you will have one last chance to prove beyond doubt what degree the Lodge is in. **See Note 1 on the final page.**

THE LODGE IS IN THE FIRST DEGREE.

Tyler EA-1.

Eventually the Inner Guard will open the door and the following colloquy will be heard:

IG *does not speak but looks directly at the Tyler.*

Tyler – Brother Hubbard *or* Brother Hubbard and other Brethren.

NB: No matter who the Late Comer is he is only referred to as Brother Xyz and not Worshipful Brother Xyz. Even if it is only two Brethren the Report is Brother Hubbard and other Brethren. Remember the Junior Warden has interpreted the knocks on the door and has given one knock.

IG *no reply and shuts the door.*

IG *sometime later opens the door and beckons for the Late Comer to enter.*

Late Comer *as you enter quickly glance at the Tracing Board – this will confirm the Degree the Lodge is working in. Step onto the carpet; Sp and EA Sn – Apologies Worshipful Master - discharge the Sn.*

The DC or ADC *will be waiting for you adjacent to the Senior Wardens pedestal, he will pick you up and escort you to a seat.*

Late Comer *turn and face the DC / ADC give a Court Bow; wait until the Court Bow is acknowledged by the DC /ADC and sit down.*

NB: Tracing Boards: In the District of Cyprus you may find the Tracing Board on a stand (easel) either to the East or to the West of the Junior Warden's pedestal. It may be in the centre of the Lodge laid horizontal or it may be in the South East corner – but in all cases you should be able to see the Board as you enter.

The Attendance Register / Book: This should be in the possession of the Tyler and he would take it in the case of an evacuation. However, in some Lodges the Tyler will pass it to the Brother Secretary before the Lodge is opened. In this case and in some Lodges the DC /ADC will escort the Late Comer first to the Secretary's table to Print their name in the Attendance Register – but this is not common practice as most Secretary's will take a note of the Late Comers name so that the business of the Lodge can continue without any further delay. But don't forget if the Attendance Register / Book is not with the Tyler, and you are not asked to print your name on entry - then at the earliest opportunity make sure that your name is correctly appended in the Attendance Register /Book. If you are a regular Visitor you will be required to add your Lodge Number and the name of the Brother who has vouched for you.

Apologies: There is no need to say any more than: 'Apologies Worshipful Master'. Remember it is you that are late: it is you that has disturbed the harmony of the Lodge. The Worshipful Master knows that you are sorry. So do not aggravate the situation any more. You will find that some Brethren are always keen to give a humorous long winded reason for their lateness – this is not required.

If you are really late and the Candidate has retired to restore himself to his personal comforts then you may be going into the Temple in a Higher Degree:

THE LODGE IS IN THE SECOND DEGREE.

Tyler will announce the Late Comer by giving the FC **➡** on the door of the Lodge and the same procedure as described previously above will be adopted.

Late Comer as you enter quickly glance at the Tracing Board – **this will confirm the Degree the Lodge is working in.** Step onto the carpet; Sp and EA Sn, discharge the Sn, take second Sp and FC Sn – Apologies Worshipful Master - Discharge the Sn

The DC or ADC will be waiting for you adjacent to the Senior Wardens pedestal, he will pick you up and escort you to a seat.

Late Comer turn and face the DC / ADC give a Court Bow; wait until the Court Bow is acknowledged by the DC /ADC and sit down.

THE LODGE IS IN THE THIRD DEGREE.

Tyler will announce the Late Comer by giving the MM **➡** on the door of the Lodge and the same procedure as described previously above will be adopted.

Late Comer as you enter quickly glance at the Tracing Board – **this will confirm the Degree the Lodge is working in.** Step onto the carpet; Sp and EA Sn; discharge the Sn, take second Sp, FC Sn, take the third Sp and convert the FC Sn to the Sn of H, pause, show the Sn of S, show the P Sn to the point of recovery and hold it – Apologies Worshipful Master - Cut the P Sn and drop your right hand to the side

The DC or ADC will be waiting for you adjacent to the Senior Wardens pedestal, he will pick you up and escort you to a seat.

Late Comer turn and face the DC / ADC give a Court Bow; wait until the Court Bow is acknowledged by the DC /ADC and sit down.

NB: Some Brethren will Cut the FC Sn ,then take the third Sp and show the MM Signs – this is likewise acceptable.

LATE COMERS TO A LODGE WORKING TAYLORS RITUAL.

In Lodges that use Taylors Working there will be some slight differences; The Tyler will announce the Late Comer by **one ➡**. The Inner Guard will ask 'Whom have you there' but the Late Comers procedure is the same as the previous paragraphs above.

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:

Early Leaver 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 the Sn of the Degree, turn your head to the East -

Worshipful Master have I your permission to retire?

WM – Certainly.

Early Leaver walk direct (squaring the Lodge if that is your custom) to the North West corner step onto the carpet take a Sp and show the Sn of the Degree the Lodge is in, discharge the Sn and retire.

Note 1. In some of the older Lodges in the Provinces outside the door of the Lodge, and under the control of the Tyler, you will find a duplicate set of the Great Lights with the Square and Compasses in the format reflecting the Degree that the Lodge is in.

This can be traced back to the Antients in the immediately pre Union period that a Late Comer had to glean for himself the Degree that the Lodge was working by the position of the Great Lights at the entrance to the Lodge. In the Minutes of the Lodge of Promulgation dated 26th January 1810 it is recorded that the Worshipful Master explained the means by which in future the Brethren would be enabled, by the Great Lights at the entrance of the Lodge, to ascertain the Degree in which it was then open. Although thus adopted by the Lodge of Promulgation and consequently no doubt ordered to be followed by all Modern Lodges, the practice was afterwards dropped. In Lodges where a duplicate set of the Great Lights were displayed they could be used in the course of a 'stranger' being proved.