

# Masonic Lodge Etiquette

Masonic etiquette is, simply, the rules of good manners which make lodge meetings pleasant for everyone.

Good manners imply observance of the formal requirements governing man's behavior in polite society, and a sense of what is appropriate for a person of good breeding, with high morals, and good taste.

The spirit of brotherly love and affection, by which we are bound together, will be exemplified in our conduct, our carriage and our behavior at all times.

## 1. THE MASTER'S AUTHORITY

During his term in office, the brother who has been elected as Master is the member with the highest authority in the Lodge. He shoulders its many responsibilities. He can decide what can and cannot be discussed, and rule any brother out of order on any subject at any time. If a brother insists on speaking after the Master has ruled that he is out of order, he may be committing a Masonic offense. Courteous brethren accept the requests made by the Master to serve on various committees and perform other duties, as determined by the Lodge's needs.

## 2. ALWAYS FULLY DRESSED

Brethren do not enter their Lodge room without their apron, not even while putting on that apron. Dress should be appropriate for the evening: Highland Dress, Tux, or Business Suit.

## 3. STAND WHEN YOU SPEAK

No Brother sits while speaking in the lodge room, no matter if he addresses an officer or another brother. If more than one person stands at the same time, let the Master decide who speaks first.

## 4. SALUTE THE MASTER WHEN STANDING TO SPEAK

Salutes should reflect your heart-felt respect for all that for which the Master stands. The salute to the Master is your pledge of honor and service, your publicly shown obligation. A lazy, sloppy or improper salute is Masonically impolite and, thus, exhibits poor Masonic etiquette.

## 5. TURNING YOUR BACK ON THE MASTER

Never turn one's back on the Master to address the lodge, without first receiving permission from the Master to speak.

## 6. TALKING:

**"Side" talk, while a degree is being conferred, is considered bad manners.**

The lodge room is a Temple. Just as it is impolite to talk in a church, synagogue or mosque service, so it is improper to distract the officers and the workers in the degree, especially the candidate. Talking without asking to do so shows irreverence for the proceedings. This also means no whispering.

## **7. SITTING IN THE EAST**

Brethren do not take a seat in the East without an invitation... even if all other seats are full. It is the Master's prerogative to recognize certain senior Brethren, and their loyalty, by inviting distinguished visitors, or a special member whom the Master wishes to honor, to sit in the East.

## **8. SMOKING:**

No smoking in the banquet room. Smoking can be irritating to other people's senses (nose and eyes, etc.) and it is bad manners to not consider others.

## **9. PROMPTING**

No person should prompt the person performing the ritual, except the official Prompter. More than one person prompting can be confusing. A prompt should only be given when requested, or if the Brother has missed a part.

## **10. TURN CELL PHONES OFF**

All cell phones should be turned off before entering the lodge room, so as not to disrupt the proceedings.