



**DISTRICT GRAND LODGE
OF
EAST AFRICA**

**LODGE
MENTORING
PROGRAMME**

THE MASTER MASON

Brother.....

Raised On/...../.....

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Congratulations, you have now taken your third and final step in Craft Freemasonry. You are entitled to take your place in any Master Masons Lodge. You will no longer need to retire from the Lodge in any Degree. The only exception to this is at the Installation of a new Master when only Worshipful Masters and Past Masters can be present at the Installation Ceremony. (The first time you will see this Ceremony is when and if you become Worshipful Master of your Lodge). You have reached a very important and significant stage in your Masonic development; however this is not the end of the road, far from it! On the contrary, a new journey of enlightenment is just beginning for you. Apart from very few exceptions, a wealth of Masonic experience is now available for you to explore.

Your Mentor will now help to explain some of the issues you need to know now. But his job does not stop there. Shortly he will be helping and advising you to your future Masonic development. And we trust he will always be on hand to give support and advice throughout your Masonic journey.

The following subjects are covered in this booklet:

- Brief explanation of the Third Degree Ceremony
- The United Grand Lodge of England
- Next Step in your Lodge
- Visiting other Lodges
- The Lodge of Instruction
- A short while after the Third Degree
- Social Functions
- Openness
- In Conclusion

The following topics will be explained to you by your Mentor:-

- Detailed discussions and questions on the 3rd Degree
- Signs, Token and Word of the Third Degree
- The Five Points of Fellowship
- Learning the Ritual
- The responsibilities of Lodge Officers
- The Organisation of The District Grand Lodge of East Africa

BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE THIRD DEGREE CEREMONY

You should receive a briefing as regards the ritual of the previous Degree. It will be obvious from the outset that this ceremony is the most dramatic of the three through which you have progressed. It is also the one that has the deepest meanings. You will now have received your own copy of the book of ritual. Take time to read through the Ceremony. In the exhortation, you were encouraged to reflect on the previous degrees in order to prepare yourself for the teaching of this degree. You were told that its peculiar object of contemplation is to reflect on death itself. This forms an appropriate conclusion to the study of yourself and is reiterated in the Charge after Raising. However there is so much more to it and, again, reflection over time will lead you to consider many points. You are introduced to the Legend of King Solomon, King Hiram and Hiram Abif.

Clearly, there was a genuine secret that they possessed, but that it was lost following the death of Hiram Abif. A highly dramatic and poignant moment occurs when you represent the murdered Hiram Abif, following which you are raised on the Five Points of Fellowship.

Through your preparation in the earlier two Degrees, you are now capable of being raised to a new sublime level of speculative thinking. This will lead you to

consider the purpose of improving yourself allegorically with the working tools that you have thus received.

The purpose lies in searching for whom you have been building the Temple.... yourself. Through your work and especially through the Light received from the Volume of the Sacred Law you can now, as a Master Mason, contemplate this.

After due time, your Mentor should discuss fully the pending presentation of your Grand Lodge Certificate when it's meaning and purpose will be explained to you. He will inform you of the further Degree of the Holy Royal Arch, where you can to some extent complete your knowledge of the core Degrees. Exaltation into the Holy Royal Arch (frequently referred to simply as 'Chapter') whilst it is not obligatory, extends the knowledge and signification of the three Craft Degrees, concerning their nature and purpose as well as our relationship to the Most High, i.e. its puts our Masonry into the context of eternity.

UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND (U.G.L.E)

Grand Lodge is the ruling body for the craft in England and Wales and its Districts overseas. It is located in Great Queen Street in London where it holds its own meetings as well as housing rooms used by many London Lodges.

Craft Freemasonry in Scotland and Ireland has its own Constitutions and Grand Lodges with whom U.G.L.E maintains a very close relationship. Other countries also have their Grand Lodges. However it is important to note that in some countries there are bodies that style themselves as Grand Lodges which are not recognized as "regular" by U.G.L.E. This is because they do not practice Freemasonry along sufficiently similar lines to us or because, occasionally, they have involvement in activities such as political or religious issues that are contrary to the principles of our own Constitution.

Should you ever wish to visit a Lodge outside your own District, it is imperative that you seek advice from the office of the Grand Secretary at Grand Lodge (in your case from the District Grand Secretary at Freemasons Hall, Nairobi) as to whether we recognise the Grand Lodge that rules the individual Lodge concerned. In practice, it is essential to ask your Lodge Secretary to enquire on your behalf. He will

also be able to get advice from our own District Grand Lodge. If we are not in amity with a Lodge overseas, we must not visit it, as doing so would imply recognition of their activities that our Grand Lodge deems unacceptable.

Grand Lodge has its own officers in the same manner as District Grand Lodge of East Africa. It is governed by Most Worshipful The Grand Master, H.R.H. The Duke of Kent, and assisted by other highly distinguished Brethren. Appointment as an officer in Grand Lodge may be conferred by the Grand Master on individuals who have records of meritorious service in the Craft. They are recognized by regalia that includes aprons with a wider dark blue trim than that on a District Grand Officer's apron and by an embellished dark blue collar.

Officers of Grand Lodge sit in the Northeast of our Lodges to the right of the Worshipful Master. Having received their honours because of their high level of service to the Craft, Grand Officers are available to offer you advice and assistance on any Masonic matter. Despite the protocol that is rightly accorded to them due to their rank, they are all individually accessible and would be disappointed if you felt reluctant to talk to them at any time.

NEXT STEP IN YOUR LODGE

To a junior member of your Lodge, the work undertaken by the more senior Brethren, particularly with regard to ritual, can appear daunting. There is no need for this to be so. The offices and duties that you will soon acquire are progressive in their demands. As you progress you will find your confidence, ability and readiness to participate in Lodge activities will likewise increase. Those who have gone before are no different from you!

The first office to which you will be appointed is that of Steward. This is a delightful role. You will then be a fully-fledged officer of the Lodge and have a vital role of welcoming and looking after visitors and assisting at the Festive Board. This gives you a marvellous opportunity to get to know people and speak to them. Enjoy it! You can also start to understand the duties of the Inner Guard and the Junior and Senior Deacons.

You will in due course be undertaking their offices. Start to rehearse their roles in your mind and the ritual book. Follow what they do in the ceremonies. Once it is your turn, you will then find it so much easier and natural.

VISITING OTHERS LODGES

One of the delights of Freemasonry is visiting other Lodges. It has been said that visiting is the life blood of Masonry. Your Mentor should encourage you to visit other lodges either by taking you or arranging for you to go in order to allow you to experience the warmth and camaraderie that exists between Lodges. The 'visitor's toast' should also be explained and if you are asked to respond, you should be reassured that if you feel unable or unwilling to speak, you will not be forced to do so.

LODGE OF INSTRUCTION

To help you progress confidently and happily, your Lodge will hold Lodges of Instruction. These are informal occasions when the Brethren of a Lodge get together, usually in a Lodge room, to learn more about the ceremonies. This is when we iron out mistakes and ensure that we understand our individual roles.

Senior Officers will also practice their ceremonial ritual. It should also be the occasion when we are taught the meaning of the circumstances, and the reasoning behind the ritual. There is no point and little enjoyment in undertaking office unless we enjoy it.

Most Lodges will use at least one of their evenings to rehearse the upcoming Lodge Ceremony. You will appreciate how important this is when you take office. However, it does not preclude those not in office

whose attendance would be greatly appreciated to assist in other roles. It also gives an excellent opportunity to learn and understand the ritual as well as having a happy experience with one's Brethren.

Attending Lodge of instruction will also help you realize and understand the offices which you may occupy in the future. These informal and extremely worthwhile sessions are usually led by an experienced Past Master of your Lodge known as the Preceptor. He is very much the ceremonial Mentor for the whole Lodge and will be happy to help you with all aspects of Masonic activities.

A SHORT WHILE AFTER YOUR THIRD DEGREE

Your Mentor will want to discuss with you among other things those topics listed below.

- To discuss going forward in Office
- Holy Royal Arch and introduction to the Chapter Representative in the Lodge
- Grand Lodge Certificate: what should I do with it?
- Recruitment: what to look out for and what to avoid
- The Future

LODGE SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Whilst our principle is to practice Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, we also want to have fun! Most Lodges have social events during the year and some

combine with other Lodges to hold larger events. These are intended for your family and friends, Mason and non-Masonic. The activities can be as diverse as 'Ladies Nite' , 'White Table' evenings to trips abroad.

Enjoying ourselves and involving our ladies and friends is most important. It is important to know what type of social event appeals to our new members. Suggest ideas to your Lodge. Even better, arrange it and have fun!

OPENNESS

This is a topic which creates much confusion and leads many new Freemasons wondering what they can and cannot say in public. Our ceremonies expound the virtue of keeping a confidence whereas; we are being urged to be open about our Freemasonry. This can produce a contradiction which leads to members not knowing if they are doing the correct thing when being quizzed by their family and friends? Your Mentor will be discussing this with you and directing you to the Grand Lodge website: www.ugle.org.uk which endeavours to explain and also provide ready answers to what can be tricky questions.

An inevitable consequence of your readiness to talk openly about your Freemasonry is that you will find many people will be interested. You will get the inevitable jibes (we have all experienced that) but if you handle them with humour and show pride and

happiness of being a Freemason, they will soon go away.

If a friend or relation may be considering membership then it may be very helpful to set up a meeting between you, your Mentor and them so that their questions and queries can be fully addressed.

IN CONCLUSION

Enjoy your Masonry. Learn from it and contribute to it. Ask any Brother for help or advice. Let it improve your attitude to life and help you to make a constructive role in improving the lot of those less fortunate than yourself.

Be proud of your being a Mason and maybe introduce it to your friends.