A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR LODGE TILERS

VISITOR RECOGNITION • THRESHOLD CONDUCT • FIRST IMPRESSIONS — NEW YORK

"The outer door is the Junior Deacon's door; the threshold is the Tiler's."

Practical Lodge-use reminder only. It does not replace current authorized New York ritual, Constitutions, Regulations, recognition guidance, or the direction of the Worshipful Master.

THE TILER'S PURPOSE

The Tiler is both guardian and greeter: protecting the threshold, preserving the security and dignity of the Lodge, and often creating the first impression received by a visiting Brother — or by a man curious about Freemasonry.

WHEN AN UNKNOWN VISITING BROTHER ARRIVES

- Greet him courteously and identify yourself as the Tiler.
- Ask his full name, Lodge name and number, location, and Grand Lodge jurisdiction.
- Ask whether a Brother present can properly vouch for him.
- Examine current evidence of good standing (such as a dues card) and identification when appropriate.
- Confirm recognition of his Grand Lodge jurisdiction by the Grand Lodge of New York when necessary.
- Notify the Junior Deacon and/or Worshipful Master that an unknown visiting Brother is without.
- If examination is required, it is conducted under the Worshipful Master's authority by the Brother(s) designated.
- Do not admit an unknown visitor until the Lodge is satisfied and permission to enter has been given.
- Once a visiting Brother is confirmed, the Tiler should have a basic knowledge of the evening's proceedings so he can briefly orient the Brother to the program, degree work, presentations, meals, or other scheduled activities.

QUESTIONS BEFORE THE RITUAL EXAMINATION

Ordinary questions can establish context before formal modes of recognition are requested. They do not replace an examination.

- What Lodge do you belong to, and where is it located?
- Who is the current Worshipful Master of your Lodge?
- When were you raised?
- What night does your Lodge ordinarily meet?
- Have you visited this Lodge or District before?
- Do you know any Brother present who can vouch for you?

RECOGNITION EXAMINATION — PRACTICAL CHECKLIST

Verify familiarity with the appropriate degree(s), using exact current New York work where wording matters.

- Step
- Due Guard
- Sign
- Grip / token
- Word or password, as applicable

RECOGNITION EXAMINATION (CONTINUED)

- Proper manner of communicating and receiving the word
- Reasonable familiarity with the degree sufficient to establish recognition

Recognition, not instruction. If the examining Brothers are not satisfied, do not coach the visitor toward the correct response or tell him precisely what he missed. Report that satisfactory Masonic recognition has not been established and refer the matter to the Worshipful Master.

CONDUCT AT THE THRESHOLD

- Be attentive without being intimidating; calm professionalism strengthens security and hospitality.
- Do not discuss confidential ritual or modes of recognition where they may be overheard.
- Keep unnecessary traffic and conversation away from the Lodge door while the Lodge is at labor.
- Coordinate clearly with the Junior Deacon; neither office should assume the other has communicated a visitor's status.
- Treat a visiting Brother who is delayed, questioned, or not admitted with courtesy and dignity.
- When in doubt, refer the matter inward to the Worshipful Master rather than improvising at the door.

THE TILER AS FIRST IMPRESSION

The Tiler should engage courteously with all Brothers, but especially with someone seeking admittance. He may be the first representative of the Lodge that visitor encounters.

He should present himself as both a sincere guardian of the threshold and a welcoming Brother. Vigilance and hospitality are not opposing duties; properly practiced, they complement one another.

If the person is not yet a Mason but is curious, the Tiler should be able to explain simply that Freemasonry is a fraternity centered on brotherhood, moral development, charity, service, and self- improvement. It is not a religion, political organization, or commercial networking body. Its general purposes are public; portions of its ritual and traditional modes of recognition remain private among members.

The Tiler need not lecture or recruit. Be approachable, answer reasonable questions honestly, correct obvious misconceptions when appropriate, and direct the interested person to the proper Brother or Lodge resource.

A man who arrives at the door curious about Masonry may remember his first encounter with a Mason for many years.

Guard the threshold well —
but never forget that the man standing outside it
may someday become the Brother standing beside you.