



## LEVEL 3: UNIT RESOURCES

Engage > Engage > *Developing Understanding*

*Simple Explanation of the Initiation Ceremony* *Isupport material*

### SIMPLE EXPLANATION OF THE INITIATION CEREMONY

Brother..... this evening you have experienced a very old and, to a certain extent, confusing ceremony.

It is unlikely to compare with anything you have experienced before and may be quite different from what you expected. You may have experienced a range of emotions and might now be wondering what it was all about. These responses and reflections are quite normal.

When you return home I am sure that you will be asked whether you have had a good evening and what the ceremony was all about. This has happened to all of us and so I would like to give you a short explanation of the ceremony to help you.

But first, the words “secret” and “secrecy” have been used a lot this evening. As I have said this is a very old ceremony and over the years the common usage of some words has changed. These days it would be more appropriate to use “private”. The only things that we keep secret are the sign, token and word. These are the forms of recognition that you will be asked for when you take your second and third degrees. They should only be used during our ceremonies, or when visiting a Lodge where you are not known and should be guarded much as you would guard a pin number or user id and password.

The ceremony itself included a number of stages. First, you were admitted and identified to the members. You were also escorted round the Lodge so that they could be satisfied that you were “properly prepared”. You then confirmed that you met the requirements and qualifications for membership, after which you took your obligation on the Volume of the Sacred Law. From this point onwards you became a Freemason, addressed as Brother. The hoodwink was then removed so that you could see. The Master then entrusted you with the “secrets”, or modes of recognition, of an Entered Apprentice Freemason, which is your rank or degree in Freemasonry. You were then escorted around the Lodge once again so that you could demonstrate you had learned these, before you were invested with your Entered Apprentice’s apron. The final stage involved passing on the lessons of the first degree, including the original and symbolic meanings of the “Working Tools” and the delivery of what we call the [Charge after Initiation](#). This final piece of ritual describes how we are expected to act for the benefit of society in general and that our principles are not confined just to Freemasons but for the whole of mankind. It also explained your duties to this Lodge and to the Craft of Freemasonry in general. You are free to communicate this to others if you so wish.

The main theme of the ceremony is to teach us about our relationship with, and reliance on, each other in this world. This evening you placed your trust in all of us and especially in the Junior Deacon, that nothing unpleasant would happen to you, and you found that your trust was not misplaced. It could be said that you were as reliant on others as a new born child. The way you were dressed and blind-folded was to emphasise that reliance. We would hope that you would always be able to trust and rely on your fellow Masons because they have all had the same experience.

You are free to tell whoever you wish that you are a Freemason, although you should never use your membership to seek personal gain financially, personally or professionally. You may also describe what we do in general terms using your own words. However, we do ask that you do not reveal the signs, tokens or



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words of this or any other degree that you take in the future.

You may also find it useful to remember that at the heart of the ceremony is the Golden Rule: always to treat others as you would wish them to treat you.



Welcome Apprentice is an interactive module designed to help you make sense of your initiation and explain some of the initiation ceremony's symbolism

This module will be included in your 'Starter Pack' after you have been registered on Solomon. This module is part of the Solomon Academy for which you can earn badges and a downloadable certificate.

You can access the course [here](#) (to access you will need to ensure the Brother is enrolled to Solomon)