

CEREMONY OF RAISING TO THE THIRD DEGREE

Entrusting candidates with the pass grip and password

In entrusting the Candidates with the pass grip and password, the WM goes to the candidate led by the JD and gives him the pass grip and password. Past Masters of the Lodge assist him by simultaneously giving the other candidates the pass grip and password, ensuring they repeat the password and then passing them to their guides with the words 'pass T.....'. On leaving the Lodge, the SD ensures the candidates all salute the WM in unison.

Admitting the Candidates

The IG asks each candidate for the password in turn. As in the previous degrees, he tests each in turn with the compasses and raises them above his head to show that he has done so.

Perambulating the Lodge

On arrival at the JW's pedestal, the candidates line up in front of the pedestal. The JW descends to the floor and the Past Masters join him to assist with the signs and grip. The candidates show the sign to the JW in unison. The lead candidate, (with the SD) communicates the grip to the JW, the others turn to the Past Masters to give it while answering the JW's questions.

The procedure is repeated at the SW's pedestal for the second degree and the pass grip. On the second sequence, once he has tested the lead candidate, the SD wheels the candidates to the right to form a line facing east. The Deacons now stand behind their candidates whilst the SW he raises the right hand of the SD's candidate while the others place their right hands on the left shoulder of the candidate to their right for the presentation.

Advancing to the East

The candidates are instructed to advance to the East in a similar manner to the second degree with the SD first demonstrating it to them all. Each Deacon then takes his candidate in turn, placing them either at the pedestal or a table in front of it if there is inadequate space for them at the pedestal. (NB If a table is used; the WM descends from his chair at the appropriate moment to continue the ceremony).

The Obligation

As in the other degrees the candidates assume the appropriate position and repeat their obligations in unison. At the word 'hereby' the WM touches the hand of each candidate. At the conclusion of the obligation the candidates salute their own VSLs. The WM invites each in turn to rise with the words 'Rise, duly obligated Master Mason'. Once all are standing, the Deacons conduct the candidates a few steps backwards.

When the Wardens leave their places and advance to stand beside the candidates, the Deacons all move to stand behind their respective candidates, putting their wands down beforehand if necessary. The Wardens and Past Masters demonstrate the actions of the ruffians to each candidate respectively with each candidate in turn falling to his knees as instructed. When it comes to the WM's turn he too assaults each candidate in turn with each immediately falling to the floor afterwards.

The Wardens and Past Masters try to raise each candidate in turn moving from N to S and S to respectively. The candidates are then raised simultaneously with the WM taking the SD's candidate and the Past Masters taking one each. The Deacons assist in each case. When all are standing and the Wardens have resumed their seats, the WM moves each candidate in turn by the hands to the NE corner for the charge.

Communicating the signs

The WM communicates the signs to all the candidates simultaneously with them copying in unison. For the grip, however, he takes the SD's candidate and shows him the grip and communicates word while the Past Masters do the same for the other candidates, whispering the word to them and making sure that they can repeat it.

Restoring personal comforts

The candidates are allowed to retire from the Lodge to restore themselves to their personal comforts. On their return they salute the WM in unison and are presented in the usual manner with the SW raising the hand of the SD's candidate with the others putting their right hands on the left shoulders of the candidates next to them. The DC, ADC and Past Masters should assist with the aprons as before to speed things up.

The Traditional History & Working Tools are then presented to all of the candidates together.