

Notes - Most Excellent Master Degree

In order to present this degree correctly there are many aspects to consider.

Opening a Lodge of Most Excellent Masters

When assembling around the altar joining hands it is the left arm over the right arm, commencing with the Brother on the left of the Jr. Warden, brethren give the Word to the person on their right & receive it from the person on their left. Each member is being proved, not passing the word on. The Sr. Warden will prove to the person on his right and again to the Worshipful Master.

The sign of Adoration should be given when opening and closing a Lodge, "worshipped the Lord saying ...", *sign*. The sign of Admiration is given only once, "well laid, true, trusty", *sign*.

During The Procession the WM should take his gavel with him to place the keystone to complete the Arch.

Seating the Ark

To correctly seat the Ark the Ark Bearers bring the Ark to base of the Arch. Removing the stave closest to the Arch they slide the Ark under the Arch being careful not to touch the Ark. Scripture tells us that if some unworthy person touched the Ark they would be turned to stone. A little practice will make an impressive presentation. A brother should never walk through the Arch.

Burnt Offering

It is extremely important that this part of the Ceremony be conducted safely. Do not make the fire not too big and ensure that it is containable. The use of lights can add to this portion of the ceremony.

- When everyone rises and stands at the Sign of Fidelity all lights are dimmed if possible.
- After the fire is displayed ½ lights on
- And after "... His mercy endureth forever." all lights on.

Closing a Lodge of Most Excellent Masters

Again, when assembling around the altar joining hands it is the left arm over the right arm, commencing with the Brother on the left of the Jr. Warden, brethren give the Word to the person on their right & receive it from the person on their left. Each member is being proved, not passing the word on. The Sr. Warden will prove to the person on his right and again to the Worshipful Master.

Rt. Ex. Comp. George Fairbairn
Grand Third Principal
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Ref:
Book of the Work, Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada in the Province of Ontario