

Saluting in Lodge & the Sign of Fidelity

Everyone is reminded that you only salute in the following circumstances:

- 1) Upon entering the lodge.
- 2) When leaving the lodge.
- 3) When addressing the Worshipful Master

The proper protocol is only to salute before you speak, not after, and certainly not before and after. Many Masons, which you have probably observed, will give this **“Second Salute”**, and it is wholly unnecessary.

If you are going to address the Worshipful Master or are addressed by him, make sure to stand, take the appropriate step, then salute, and finally speak. It may be a helpful to think of the salute as a form of a greeting and as a symbol of respect to the office of the Worshipful Master. *When you are finished speaking there is no requirement for you to salute again.* You have already acknowledged the Worshipful Master, why would you acknowledge him again? (If you say hello when entering a room full of people, would you say hello again as you leave?)

Salutes are also not given to indicate that you have concluded your remarks, or to somehow thank the Worshipful Master for giving you the opportunity of sharing some information with the brethren. The **Sign of Fidelity** is often misused as an acknowledgement that one has finished a piece of ritual or finished addressing the Worshipful Master, this also incorrect Masonic protocol, refrain from doing this.

The salutes, which are used in each degree, are simply the Sign of Salutation of that Degree. It is also not necessary to salute to acknowledge any instructions that have been given to you by the Worshipful Master, unless provided for in the Book of the Work. During any degree, salutes only go one way, from the brethren up to the Worshipful Master. (e.g., the I.G would salute the W.M., not the other way around) The Worshipful Master should always return salutes, even when seated.

(Protocol & Etiquette Essentials Issue No. 5)

The sign of fidelity is one of the most misused signs in Masonry. It is often used when neither called for, nor required.

The sign has specific and limited use, namely:

- It is used when the VOSL is being attended.
- It is used during obligations.

- It is given during prayers, in ceremonies.
- In the Masonic Memorial Service in the Funeral Home. (when the W.M. says: “Let Us Pray”)
 - During the closing of lodge in the First Degree, when saying “F.F.F.”.
- By the S. W., when presenting a candidate.
- When receiving the Grand Honours, or when accompanying a brother who is receiving them.
- As directed in the Installation Ceremony, when the Master Elect is assenting to the Ancient Charges.

The Sign is NOT given:

- When you have completed an assigned piece of work.
- In the Banquet Room.
- When acknowledging greetings from the W. M.
- By the W. M. when receiving visitors.
- When you are not wearing your apron.

Also, in this Grand Jurisdiction, we do NOT bend or bow when the affirmation “So mote it be” is said at the conclusion of any Prayers.

(Protocol & Etiquette Essentials Issue No. 5)

(Meeting the Challenge, p.102)

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