

A CONVENIENT ROOM ADJOINING THE LODGE

Before the candidate is permitted entrance, the Steward asserts that he is properly prepared. But do we ever consider in what manner he is prepared? Although we don't often question if this preparation can include more than what is stipulated in the Work? Can it embrace such areas as his mind, comfort, ease, and confidence?

Do we converse with the candidate beyond a few non-committal statements? We must impart a feeling of relaxation with the knowledge that he is in good hands and will suffer no embarrassment. Perhaps our preparation should proceed at an earlier time than the convenient room. A Worshipful Master might consider asking a qualified Mason to remain with the candidate from the time of his arrival at the Temple until he enters the convenient room.

During this period of time, the candidate could be assured that the ceremony in which he is about to take part is a solemn and dignified rite; and that there will not be hilarity nor any horseplay. That although Masonic teachings are founded on the V.O.S.L., Masonry itself is not a religion, neither does it try or intend to take the place of religion. If the candidate relaxes and concentrates on what he hears, many parts of Masonry will be unfolded to him. He will also come to understand that the



members talking to him have learnt their parts and he, in his turn, will have to commit to memory portions of the ceremony and the answers to a few questions. He need not feel overawed by this as all Masons before him have done it and survived the event.

Perhaps in these few moments when we practice what we preach we may change a man, who is somewhat apprehensive about Masonry and maybe a little reluctant, into a solid and strong advocate of the virtues of Masonry.

*The Editor
Reflections Newsletter
February 1982 Vol. 1, No.4*