

Ritualistic Demonstration: Tying the Lodge

Tying, or *tiling*, was performed by operative masons to cover the roof of a building with tiles to conceal its interior and protect it from the elements. But we as free and accepted masons, in our speculative laboring, adopted the concept of implementing a master craftsman as a Tyler, or *Tiler*. The Masonic Tyler figuratively "covers" or protects the secrets of the lodge by guarding it from inspection or intrusion by the uninitiated; keeping, that which is within the lodge sacred and away from the enemies of masonry.

Tying the Lodge:

During the opening or closing of the lodge, the junior deacon informs the tyler of the worshipful master's intentions and instructs him to tyle accordingly. After the specific instructions, the door is then closed and "knocked on" 1, 2, or 3 times, 1st, 2nd, or 3rd degree of masonry, respectively by the junior deacon. The tyler then responds in a like manner. This knocking of the door symbolizes the "locking of the inner door."

Entertaining the Alarm

Late Brother:

When a brother enters the lodge late, it is the tyler's duty to inform that brother on the degree in which the lodge is conducting business and to ensure that the brother is properly dressed as well as, entitled to receive the rights and benefits of the worshipful lodge. Once the brother has been identified or has proven himself worthy and well qualified, the tyler alarms the inner door to inform the lodge that a brother is in waiting and in possession of the necessary qualifications. The tyler completes this part of his duties by giving 3 loud distinct knocks. The junior deacon then responds in a like manner and opens the door to ascertain the cause of the alarm. The 3 knocks signify three key points: **1.** To alarm the lodge and inform the worshipful master that a brother is waiting for admission, **2.** The brother has been proven to be a lawful brother mason, and **3.** The brother is properly dressed.

Degree Work:

When undergoing degree work, after the candidates have been properly prepared, the junior deacon is required to alarm the inner door. This part of his duties is completed by giving 3 loud distinct knocks. The knocks are then returned in a like manner by the senior deacon. However, this time instead of opening the door after 3 pairs of knocks, the junior deacon gives an extra knock. This extra knock signifies to the lodge that candidates are in order and are in pursuit of light in masonry.

As stated in Mathew 7:7 "Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you."

The senior deacon responds to the extra knock in a like manner, which signifies to the brothers without the inner door that the lodge is in order to properly receive the candidates.

Note:

It is the senior deacon's duty to ensure that before he returns with the last knock, he must be sure that the lodge is ready to receive the candidates and the brothers within are at their proper stations.

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