

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa, No. 144 February 2024



Most Worshipful Brother Godfrey Place.

The Mysticism of our Initiation Ceremony

Initiation rites steeped in tradition, mysticism and symbolism, have permeated human societies for millennia. These rites mark transitions into new phases of life, knowledge, or spiritual understanding. Our Order is no different, in that our ceremonies hold a unique allure, drawing individuals into the realms of the mysteries of our ancient and honourable craft.

We explain this to our newly initiated brethren towards the end of the first-degree ceremony, where we remind them that they were taken to a solitary place where they were examined as to the motives which induced them to come to us. This examination takes place on two levels, one being the completion of answers to specific questions, to which, if the answers are deemed satisfactory by the brethren of the Lodge, they are allowed to proceed with the ceremony of initiation. The other being that the room in which they are placed, is generally darkened, a candle being the only light source and they are asked to meditate on admonitions placed before them. Meditation allows the mind to expand and achieve a state of awareness, of sounds, smells, breathing, energy and other sensations. The cards placed in that room prompt the initiate's thoughts in a certain direction, to enable the candidate to meditate on why he wants to join us.

There are numerous initiation records from ancient times. In many the initiation starts with an initiate being placed in a dark space, often a dark cave. From there they were lead through a ceremony which involved tests of some form or other, symbolic rituals and teachings which were imparted by elders or

spiritual guides. This too is explained in our first degree: "blindfolded and in a helpless condition you were led to the doors of our temple, but the hand of love, in the service of duty, conducted you, and if on your journey through life you entrust yourself to such a guide, you will always travel safely".

Our ceremony offers the candidate a profound experience of spiritual awakening. This awakening is what in ancient times was referred to as "light". We at one stage ask the candidate what he desires, to which the answer is "Light". In this instance, light refers to self-knowledge, which is the highest form of wisdom. This is very symbolic, and the meaning is often missed or misunderstood. The removal of the blindfold denotes the transition from darkness of ignorance to the light of self-knowledge. This Symbolism plays a crucial role, with objects, gestures, and words carrying deeper meanings that resonate with the subconscious mind of the initiate. Being blindfolded fosters a sense of vulnerability and openness, (we know that when some of our senses are deprived of us, others step up and become heightened) allowing initiates to undergo profound spiritual or psychological transformation.

Our initiates participate in our rituals and ceremonies, which are designed to challenge their perceptions, expand their consciousness and initiate them into the mysteries of the Order. The secrecy surrounding these practices adds to the allure, fuelling speculation and intrigue among outsiders as to our Order. Through a combination of our rituals, the symbolism contained therein, and communal support (brotherly love), initiates confront their fears, shed their old identities, and emerge reborn with a renewed sense of purpose and self-awareness.

Our ceremonies and rituals offer a pathway to spiritual awakening, personal growth, and communal belonging. A new initiate recently described his first few days working for a bank, where after two days of induction he was sent to a branch office and dumped. No one cared about him, it was each for himself and good luck as you found your own way. His experience on joining our Order has been the complete opposite. The brotherhood has been welcoming, supportive and one of genuine acceptance. This is Brotherly love!

The mysticism surrounding our initiation practices serves as a testament to the human quest for meaning, transformation, and connection to the divine (as we go on a journey of self-discovery). By delving into these mysteries, we uncover profound insights into the nature of existence and the limitless potential of the human spirit - who we are and how we can make a difference in the world around us. The light inside of us being lit for all to see.

**MW Bro Godfrey Place
Grand Master**



The Grand Master of the GL of Ireland, MW Bro Rodney McCurley (centre), RW Bro Johan van der Merwe (seated left) with Irish constitution members and visitors. The GLSA Eastern Division Officers are, of course, in their gold regalia.

Eastern Division meet Irish Grand Master

On 10 February the new PGM of the Irish PGL of Natal, RW Bro Richard Dempsey, was installed by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, MW Bro Rodney L McCurley, who was accompanied by their Grand Secretary, RW Bro Phillip AJ Daley.

RW Bro Johan van der Merwe, PGM (Eastern) and his team were invited to attend by their local Irish counterparts and were suitably impressed by the interesting and well-conducted Installation. Our PGM describes MW Bro McCurley as a very friendly and humble man, and a man of few words.

Eastern Cape bikers help set a World record

Our motorbike world 24 hour record holder, the legendary Wor Bro Bushy McKelvey, will love this! The Eastern Cape motor-cycle community decided to try to break the world record of 2,000 bikers riding in formation and had 2,616 bikes in a staggered formation from Storms River to Jeffreys Bay.



Congratulations to Wor Bro Herdus Snyman and Bro Mias Jansen van Vuuren who represented Lodge Jeffreys Bay on this memorable ride.

Integrity

is choosing your thoughts and actions based on values rather than personal gain.



AASR South Western Install new ESGIG

On Wednesday 28 February, the new ESGIG of the AASR for South Africa's South-Western Division, M Ill Bro Michael Burchell, was formally Installed in Cape Town's de Goede Hoop Temple.



Seated – M Ill Bros John Smith, Geoff Edwards MA, Michael Burchell, MP Bro Vic Mühlembeck, V Ill Bros Ernest Malherbe, Jim Duggan, M Ill Bro Mahmoud Patel

MP Bro Victor Mühlenbeck, our Sovereign Grand Commander, participated, while the Installation was performed by M Ill Bro Geoff Edwards MA. The evening was further enriched by the presence of the English SGIG, V Ill Bro Ernest Malherbe, and his predecessor, V Ill Bro Jim Duggan. Our SGC also took the opportunity to obligate M Ill Bro John Smith as an active member of our Executive.

De Broederband Install new Master

On Wednesday 21 February, De Broederband installed Wor Bro Dean Liversage as their new Worshipful Master. The ceremony was performed by Wor Bro Gerald Bosch, and he was ably assisted by Wor Bro Max Matjane.



"Here's health to the Worshipful Master!"

The outgoing Master, Wor Bro Fritz Ganz, provided his Annual Report, and then the Installing Officer read his most interesting address "Embracing Change and Continuity in Lodge Leadership".



TIM Ill Bro Dino Kyriatzis (4L), MEC Johan Britz MSA (2L), MEC Marius Mostert (6L) and the Companions.

Cryptic Councils have combined Installation

The Brixton and Acacia Cryptic Councils had a combined installation at Kensington Masonic Centre. Ill Comp Dino Kyriatzis was installed for the 4th time as Thrice Installed Master, while first time Officers included Comps Godfrey Place, Allen Shabangu and Samuel Zwane. MEC Marius Mostert attended as the Grand Superintendent of Northern Division and as a proud member of the Acacia delegation.

De Goede Hoop raise Bro David Tshikala

On Wednesday 14 February de Goede Hoop raised Bro David Tshikala to Master Mason.



The ceremony was, as is always the case at our No 1 Lodge, extremely well performed by RW Bro Tommy Hardiman and his team and the candidate was suitably moved by this profound degree.

Jeffreys Bay support Alzheimer's initiative

At the beginning of the year, our Grand Master, MW Bro Godfrey Place, drew attention to the need to provide some sort of assistance to patients suffering from Alzheimers. We were advised that providing them with such items as teddy bears with various buttons and fabric pieces sown on to them was a really worthwhile contribution. Some of our Lodges, such as Jeffreys Bay, have responded and we have been

informed that the reaction of the recipients has been more than just heart-warming. Well done Brethren –



Wor Bro Herdus Snyman with appreciative recipients

and, of course, our Masonic ladies who do so much of the hard work. Although, for most of you, I suspect, the joy seen in the recipient's faces will be more than enough recognition. We pride ourselves on being a caring organisation and this really is a wonderful way of show-casing ourselves.

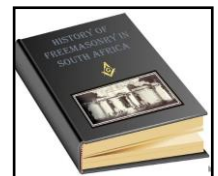
GLSA Online Shop

If you are looking to purchase GLSA or Masonic items or memorabilia, log into our GLSA Online Shop and explore our offerings. The link is:

[GLSA Online Shop](#)

There are various items available, but 2 well worth your consideration are:

The Heritage Book In 2022, South Africa celebrated 250 years of Freemasonry. To mark this event, we published a Heritage Book which explored our history over all Constitutions and Divisions. A few remaining copies of the A4 book are still available.



GLSA and RA Ties

If you wear ties to work or for any other purpose, you really should include these handsome additions in your collection. The GLSA tie is navy blue, while the RA tie comes in navy blue or red.



De Vereeniging's 9 new Members

Our No 3 Lodge is based in Port Alfred in the Eastern Cape. They are half way between East London and Gqeberha and attract members from Lodges in both. Wor Bro Hendrik Rademeyer is a strong driving force and they recently obligated 9 new members.



Wor Bros Hendrik Rademeyer (7L) with Lodge Brethren.

Balanced Lodge 2023 Results

At the end of December we had reached the end of our "Most Balanced" Lodge assessments for 2023 and are now able to announce last year's "champions". The leaders in the different Groupings are:

Most Balanced Lodge of 2023 - Jeffreys Bay

Large Lodges

1. Star of the East 348
2. President Burgers 274
3. De Goede Hoop 255

Medium Lodges

1. Prins Frederik 395
2. Alpha 366
3. De Broederband 307

Small Lodges

1. Jeffrey's Bay 451
2. Dagbreek 384
3. Meerensee 297

Congratulations to all the Lodges on our list. Inevitably, I guess, these are the Lodges who are consistently showing positive progress and whose members are really enjoying their Masonry. It's also worth noting that some of our Lodges would have achieved better results except that they failed to submit consistent returns. For aspirants to being the GLSA's "Most Balanced Lodge", I'm afraid that missing a month or two comes at a high price!

Eastern Cape support their UGLE Brothers

One of the special privileges in South African Freemasonry is the warm relationships between the Constitutions. Eastern Cape recently attended the Investiture of the UGLE's new Assistant DGM, Wor Bro Tony Chambers, by their District Grand Master, RW Bro Red de Pontes. RW Bro Ric Gillmer and his GLSA team, as always, had a memorable evening.



RW Bro Ric Gillmer, Wor Bro Tony Chambers, RW Bro Red de Pontes and Brethren of our 2 Constitutions

Consistory Eendrag Maak Mag 32nd Degree

On Thursday 15 February, AASR Consistory Eendrag Maak Mag had a 32nd Degree working. It took place at the Park Lane Masonic Centre in Johannesburg and they advanced two new Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret. Ill Bro Ignatius Muthien was the Eminent Commander while Ill Bros Ian Huntly and Juan de Villiers were the candidates.



Ill Bro Jacques Fouche, M Ill Bro Johan Britz, Ill Bros Ian Huntly, Ignatius Muthien, Juan de Villiers and Marius Mostert

Consistory Unie 32nd Degree

AASR Central Division's Consistory Unie have been going through a period of change. The immediate Past Eminent Commander, V Ill Bro Marcel de Kock, has now handed over the reins to Ill Bro Jan Conradie.

Ill Bro Conradie was advanced to the 32nd Degree at a working held in the Welkom Masonic Centre with V Ill Bro Marcel de Kock in the Chair.



M Ill Bros Alf Brönnner, Cor van Zyl, V Ill Bro Marcel de Kock, Ill Bro Jan Coetzee, V Ill Bros Frans Appelgryn, Fred Meiring and Mike Britz

Almoner's Report

It is with some sadness that we have to report the passing of Wor Bro Rocky Smit (ex Star of the East and Sonop). He had been a Mason for 20 years and was a Past Grand Tyler. Our sincere condolences are extended to his family at this difficult time.

Brethren, we are often saddened at the way in which some of our older members get forgotten. In many cases they have served their Lodge well and made a real contribution over the years, but they have now reached a stage where attending Lodge or Lodge functions has become a challenge to them. Brethren, they are still our Brothers and, in many cases, need us now more than ever. Please do not just forget them!

If anything is known about a Brother in distress, please share it with your Divisional Almoner.

Southern Wor Bro Llew Lloyd-Jones	072 9653572
Northern Wor Bro Herman Roos	082 3184238
Central Wor Bro John Meyer	073 3525832
Eastern Wor Bro Bushy McKelvey	076 8912058
E Cape Wor Bro Ian Hetherington	082 9545297

People are always blaming their circumstances for what they are. I don't believe in circumstances. The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and, if they cannot find them, they make them.

George Bernard Shaw