



## Replying to the Visitors Toast

Replying to the Visitors toast is a privilege as you are responding on behalf of all the visitors present.

Here are a few tips to make your response worthwhile and appreciated:

- Remember that you are replying to the Visitors toast already made, not making it.
- Keep your reply short and sweet.
- Normal form to open "*Worshipful Master, Bro (who gave the toast), Brethren all. Thank you Bro (who gave the toast) for the way you proposed that toast and thank you Brethren for the way you honoured /received it.*"
- You can then comment on: *the welcome you receive; on the ritual you observed (some highlight anything exemplary, others prefer not to); on any history you may have with the lodge (regular visitor, etc.); congratulations.*
- In finding something good to say or to congratulate the Lodge on, never say that the work was dreadful. Firstly it is impolite and secondly the Lodge knows this already. In congratulating the Lodge, it is good to pick on some specific events, those that other people may not notice. This shows that you have been paying attention and that you are a discerning member of the audience.
- Avoid anecdotes that are personal as not everyone will be on the same page with you.
- Avoid jokes even if you're good at telling them.
- Add a personal thank-you to your host (if you have been invited by a Brother)



# THE FREEMASONS TOOLBOX



- Find and keep with you one or more small Masonic quotes you can recite.
- Do not lead the visitors in a return toast to the host lodge.
- If you know in advance you're replying it is a good idea to keep pen and paper by you in Lodge so that you can make a few notes on things to comment on.
- You can close your response at just about any time, simply by saying, *"But that is enough from me. Brethren, on behalf of all your visitors, thank you for inviting us – and please do so again."*
- You might make some fun of your closing – *"Brethren, people have asked me how I time my speeches. I usually answer that I stand up when they nudge me and sit down when they tug the hem of my jacket. I can feel the tugs now so I will close by saying ..."*
- If you wish to keep your response really short - *"WM, brethren all, thank you for those kind words and the wonderful hospitality you have shown us here today. I'm sure I speak for all of the visitors when I say we have very much enjoyed our time with you and look forward to visiting again".*

