

Rusty Brother – ACT II

EX: Good evening, Brother – er... what is your name?

RM: Dumpling -- Phil Dumpling.

EX: Well, I'm pleased to meet you, Brother Dumpling. Let me introduce myself. I'm _____, the Secretary of the Lodge, and these are the other members of the Examining Committee -- Brother XX, etc. We're very pleased that you came to visit Schenectady Lodge this evening. It's a pleasure to have you with us. Have you been attending your own Lodge?

RM: Naaah -- I used to go -- but no more.

EX: Is there a particular reason why you don't attend your Lodge?

RM: Yeah – they're fightin' all the time.

EX: Fighting? What do they fight about?

RM: Mostly about money. One meeting I was at -- a guy made a motion to buy a new chandelier for \$380 -- and everybody started to holler like anything.

EX: Why did they holler?

RM: <spending adlib> Well they should spend it for better lighting in the Lodge.

EX: Did you see anyone around here tonight who knows you and can vouch for you?

RM: No -- I was expecting a friend on mine to be here to tonight to vouch for me, but I don't see him around. Matter of fact -- I saw one of your members today who knows me -- but he said he wouldn't.

EX: Who was that?

RM: A guy by the name of _____. < pick a brothers' name >

EX: _____ is a friend of yours?!

RM: Yeah.

EX: (turns to committee) I didn't know _____ had any friends.
(to visitor) Tell me Brother Cruller -- oh excuse me -- Dumpling
-- you said, right?

RM: Yeah -- Dumpling -- Phil Dumpling.

EX: Tell me, Brother Dumpling, does _____ know you very well?

RM: Oh, yeah -- he knows me good.

EX: He knows you good -- and he won't vouch for you?

RM: He said, "No."

EX: That's strange. -- he knows you -- and he won't vouch for you?
Did he say why?

RM: Yeah -- he said that's why -- because he knows me.

EX: Oh, I see. What Lodge do you hail from?

RM: Er -- let's see now -- it has something to do with being smart.
Oh, yeah -- Wisdom Lodge -- that's it.

EX: Where is your Lodge located?

RM: It's on Fifth Avenue.

EX: No, I mean is it in Albany, Schenectady, or Troy?

RM: Oh -- it's in Amsterdam.

EX: What's the number of your Lodge?

RM: (ponders a while) Let's see now -- I think it's number 49 Fifth Avenue.

EX: No, I meant your Lodge number.

RM: Oh, -- I don't remember the number -- I don't have to remember the
number -- it's printed right on my dues card.

EX: Do you have your dues card with you?

RM: Sure -- I got it here somewhere's. (pulls out long string of cards and goes through prolonged motions of looking for Lodge card)

Ahhh -- here it is! (extracts card and hands it to EX)
See ! -- there's the number right there.

EX: (looks at the string of cards) What's this -- Girl Scouts of America?

RM: Yeah -- I belong to them. I belong to the Campfire Girls too. I belong to the YMCA -- the American Legion -- the Elks -- the Volunteer Fire Department -- the Woodland Civic Assoc. -- the Friends of Wayward Women -- Our Lady of Perpetual Motion -- the Loyal Order of

EX: (holds up hands) OK -- OK -- that's enough -- I see all the cards there.
(looks at Lodge card) Let' see -- Wisdom Lodge Number 467.
(hands card to committee) Will you brothers please check that in the book?

It's a recognized Lodge? Fine -- thank you.
Oh -- just a minute -- this card is no good.

RM: It's no good ?!!! It better be -- I paid \$32 bucks for it -- in cash !!

EX: I mean it doesn't have your name on it.

RM: Sure it's got my name on it. There's my name right there.
(points to card)
See -- Philip A. Dumpling.

EX: Yes -- but you see -- it's not signed.

RM: Sure it's signed -- the Secretary signed it -- right there on the bottom.

EX: Yes -- but I don't see anything over here -- where it says signature of Brother.

RM: I don't have a brother -- all I got is two sisters.

EX: That means you. Your name is suppose to be over here where it says, "Signature of Member".

RM: Oh -- it's gotta have my name on it twice ?

EX: Well -- actually -- over here where it says, 'signature of brother', you're suppose to sign your name -- in your own handwriting.
didn't the Secretary tell you to sign it when he gave it to you?

RM: I don't remember -- he said something about signing something -- but I didn't have a pen anyway -- so I didn't ask him what I should sign.

EX: Well, he should've told you to sign it.

RM: Ahhhh --- you know them secretaries -- they won't lend you nothin' -- especially their pen !

EX: Do you have anything with you with your signature on it?
A driver's license, perhaps ?

RM: Sure -- I got that. Yeah -- here's my driver's license.

EX: Fine -- now would you mind signing your name on this card?

RM: I don't mind -- only I ain't got no pen.

EX: Well -- here -- you can use mine.

RM: (signs card, hands it to EX, and puts pen in his pocket)

EX: (hands card and license to committee) Will you check this signature against the one on the driver's license ?.
(to RM) Er -- may I have my pen back ? I might need it later.
(to committee) You're all satisfied ? Fine.

RM: OK ? Can I go in now ?

EX: Well, no -- I'm afraid not just yet -- you see, we have to put you through an examination.

RM: Oh boy ! -- an examination ? I didn't figure on that. Is it hard ?

EX: No -- it's not hard. You just have to answer a few questions.

RM: Oh -- just a couple of questions ? I shouldn't have any trouble with that -- cause I've been studyin' -- and one of the Brothers of your lodge has been helping me.

EX: One of our Brothers has been helping you ?

RM: Yeah.

EX: What's the Brother's name ?

RM: _____. <pick another brothers' name>

EX: Oh -- then it should be easy for you -- especially if _____ has been helping you.
Let's start with the first question.
Whence came you ?

RM: Amsterdam.

EX: No -- I'm afraid that's not quite the proper answer. Let's set this aside for the moment -- and try something else. Suppose you give me the signs for each of the three degrees ?

RM: (mixes them all up) There you are !

EX: Which degree is that ?

RM: Oh boy ! -- I don't know just which one that is. I tell you what -- I'll give you all of them -- and you separate them where they belong.

EX: Well --- alright, go ahead. Uh---huh Uh---huh I see you know a little about what you're suppose to be doing -- even though you're very confused.
Let's try something else.
Have you ever seen these items before ? (points to HB, Sq & Cmps)

RM: Oh yeah -- we got them in our Lodge.

EX: Well !! That's some consolation !
Now -- will you place the Sq & Cmps in the proper position for each degree ? Starting with the 1st

RM: Oh -- now let me see if I can remember that -- let's see now.
(studies back of closed fist)

EX: What are you doing now ?

RM: I was just looking at my ring.
(sets up tools on closed Bible, on 2nd degree)
There -- I think that's it.

EX: Well -- that's the 2nd degree -- but isn't something different about this Bible,
and the way that you see it in your Lodge?

RM: Different? Oh -- oh yeah -- it has to be open. Boy ! -- how stupid can
you get ? If it was closed -- the Chaplain couldn't read the prayer.

EX: That's better. Now -- how about setting it up for the 1st and 3rd degrees ?

RM: Oh -- you mean the flop-over ?

EX: (inquisitively) The flop-over ?

RM: Yeah.

EX: Is that something that _____ taught you?

RM: No -- I figured that out myself -- when I was learning the difference
between the 1st and 3rd degree.
(sets up tools on 1st degree on open Bible)
There ! -- I know that's the 1st degree -- because that's the 1st part of the
flop-over.

EX: (looks at the Bible) That's the 1st degree alright -- now that we've gone
this far -- let's see the flop-over.

RM: (does flop-over) There you are -- the flop-over !

EX: (looks at committee bewildered) Well.. it works !
(to RM) That's very good. Now let's see if you can give me the grips ?

RM: Oh boy ! I'm not too sure about these things. Let's try it and see -- I'll go
along with you.

EX: Give me the grip of E.A.

RM: Which one is that ? Is that the first one? Oh yeah -- that's up on the hill.

EX: What is that ?

RM: That's what you just asked for -- the E.A. grip.

EX: has it a name ?

RM: oh yeah -- they all got names.

EX: Will you give it to me?

RM: OK -- er -- er -- I didn't get it this way -- and I won't give it to you this way.

EX: (shakes head) Oh boy ! How will you dispose of it ?

RM: (thinks awhile, then asks inquisitively) Letter it or paint it ?

EX: Letter it and begin.

RM: (thinks awhile, then asks) Ain't you supposed to begin ?

EX: Begin you.

RM: Oh -- OK -- then I'll begin.
B -- no, wait a minute -- O

EX: B

RM: O

EX: Z

RM: Booze.

EX: I'm afraid your spelling and pronunciation are not quite correct.
The word is _ _ _ _ _.

RM: Well -- that's the way I remember it -- because up at my Lodge, they drink a lot.

EX: Will you be off or from ?

RM: An offer from who ?

EX: From what and to what ?

RM: From this one -- to the next one.

EX: OK -- on to the next one.
(shakes head, looks at committee)
Now he's got me doing it. Pass.

RM: Now, this one goes down in the valley.

EX: OK -- down in the valley. What is that ?

RM: Oh -- er -- that's the pass-grip of Fellowship !

EX: You mean F_____ . Has it a name ?

RM: Yeah -- this one's got a name too.

EX: Will you give it to me ?

RM: I didn't get it this way -- and I won't give it to you this way.

EX: How will you dispose of it ?

RM: Let's see -- this one's a little different -- letter or break it up ?

EX: OK -- beak it up and begin.

RM: Now wait a minute -- I'm trying to remember this -- it's a story about where this guy was a general in a war -- they were having a big battle -- and they were fighting this one army -- and the general passed this word around. Oh yeah, -- I got it -- "shib -- ship -- ship-ahoy!"

EX; 'ship-ahoy' ?! Well, OK -- Will you be off or from ?

RM: Another offer from who ?

EX: From what and to what ?

RM: From this to the next one.

EX; Pass.

RM: Now, this one is up on the hill.

EX: OK -- up on the hill. Has it a name ? NO -- I mean -- what is that ?

RM: That the real grip of F _____.

EX: Has it a name ?

RM: Yeah -- it's got a name.

EX: Will you give it to me ?

RM: I didn't get it this way -- and I won't give it to you this way.

EX: How will you dispose of it ?

RM: Letter or half it.

EX: Letter it and begin.

RM: Now, this one's got me a little stumped. The way I remember it -- is that we have two guys in the Lodge with the same name. I think it's a father and his son -- because they call them Senior and Junior. Oh -- I remember now -- it's "Jeacon" !

EX: Whew ! Will you be off or from?

RM: An offer from who ?

EX: NO, off -or- from.

RM: From.

EX: From what and to what ?

RM: From this one to the next one.

EX: Pass.

RM: This one is down in the valley again.

EX: Has it a name.

RM: Yeah -- this one's got a name to.

EX: Will you give it to me ?

RM: I didn't get it this way -- and I won't give it to you this way.

EX: How will you dispose of it ?

RM: Syllable it.

EX: Syllable it -- and begin.

RM: T _

EX: B _ _

RM: C _ _ _ . (gives word correctly)

EX: How come you didn't have any trouble with that one ?

RM: Oh -- I'll always remember that one! -- that's the one that gets you in !
Can I go in now ?

EX: I'm afraid not just yet.

RM: Hey !! There's _____ I taught him everything he knows !

EX: If you were his instructor -- I'm even more anxious to see it than you are.
There's just one more thing we'd like you to tell us. Do you remember whom
it was that you represented on the night that you took your 3rd degree ?

RM: I'm afraid I told you everything I remember.

EX: Are you sure you don't remember anything else ?

RM: Sure, I'm sure.

EX: There was something else, you know.

RM: Can you give me hint ?

EX: Well -- I suppose I can -- Do you remember what happened to you that night ? Maybe, if you tell us something about that -- you'll remember who it was that you represented that night.

RM: Oh -- do I remember that night ! That was a rough night ! They brought me into the Lodge and blindfolded me -- and made me kneel at the altar to say a prayer. Then the usher came over and took me by my arm -- and we went for a walk. All of sudden -- somebody rapped me on the shoulder. He said he was glad to see me -- but he sure didn't act like it -- but the usher kept saying, "No!" Every time the usher said, "No!" that guy would hit me. I wanted the usher to give him what he wanted -- but he wouldn't do it. Well -- we finally got away from him -- and went for another short walk -- when we met another guy. Boy! -- He was rougher than the first one ! He started whacking me around too...

EX: I can certainly understand why....

RM: ... but the usher still wouldn't give him what he wanted. Well -- we got away from him too -- after he told me to drop dead -- and then we took a longer walk -- and met this third guy. Boy! -- I thought he was going to kill me! I think he was interested in real estate -- because he told me he knew about several apartments. All of a sudden -- he biffed me -- and I went down on my back. Hey !! -- That's the guy I was trying to think of. The guy I represented. A guy by the name of, "Hi. Biff." Boy! -- I'm telling you -- this third guy was really rough -- as a matter of fact, ever since that night, I've been looking for him.

EX: Oh ? You know who he was ?

RM: Oh, yeah -- he told me his name -- but he must belong to some other Lodge -- because I've never heard his name since.

EX: What was his name ?

RM: Let me think now -- his name was -- er -- Oh, yeah -- his name was "Blum -- Joe Blum". well -- anyway -- after he knocked me down -- I was laying there a few seconds -- when a very nice fella came over and looked down at me, and started to apologize. He said that if there had been one less person there I would be a substitute for him -- but he lied.

EX: He lied ? -- How did he lie to you ?

RM: As I was laying there -- he told me I was going to get a raise -- and that he was going to put me on a ship. That was 15 years ago -- but I never went on no ship -- and I never got that raise either. He bent over and picked me up -- and then did a very funny thing.

EX: Oh ? -- What was that?

RM: Well -- here -- I'll show you -- he grabbed me by the hand -- and put his foot alongside mine -- so I started to Indian wrestle.
Then -- he put his knee against mine -- leaned up against me -- and blew in my ear.
Oh ! -- hey ! -- There's that guy who was going to vouch for me.
(crosses room to friend, waves to master, saying, "Hi,
_____ <brother's name> and takes a seat.)