

The Initiation

4-person comedy scene by Samuel Stokes

(The HIGH ELDER is seated behind a table in a black hooded robe. Two CULTISTS are also dressed in black hooded robes and lead an INITIATE before the HIGH ELDER and then sit at either side of the table)

CULTIST 1: High Elder, we bring the initiate before you today, so that you may test his strength of character and see if he is worthy in your eyes.

ELDER: Initiate, step forward so your fortitude may be examined.

INITIATE: *(steps forward)* Well, gee, guys. This is a really neat place you all have here.

CULTIST 2: SILENCE!

INITIATE: Oh, oh yes, sorry. I'll be quiet.

CULTIST 1: Only speak when the High Elder asks you a question, Initiate.

INITIATE: Oh yes, of course, of course.

ELDER: Initiate, what is your profession in the mundane world outside of this hallowed sanctuary?

INITIATE: Oh, you mean where do I work? I'm a CPA. That's an accountant, by the way, but you probably knew that. I didn't always want to be an accountant. I majored in art history in college for a semester, but then I switched majors to...

CULTIST 2: SILENCE!

CULTIST 1: Initiate, you will respond to the High Elder's questions with short, succinct responses.

INITIATE: Oh yes, yes, short, yes, and succinct. I got it.

ELDER: Initiate, how will your expertise as an accountant contribute to our organization?

INITIATE: Well, let's see. I'm really good with numbers. I can take care of ledgers and do taxes and such. And I'm a real stitch around the office. I wear a sombrero every Tuesday in honor of Taco Tuesday, and every year at the Christmas party, I...

CULTIST 2: SILENCE!

CULTIST 1: Initiate, you seem to be having some trouble with brevity in your responses. Please endeavor to limit your answers to 15 words or less.

INITIATE: Actually, that should be “15 words or fewer.” You know, a lot of people get confused about when it’s appropriate to use “less” vs. “fewer.”

CULTIST 2: SILENCE!

CULTIST 1: Initiate... *(sighs and shakes head)* No more extraneous comments.

INITIATE: Oh right, right.

ELDER: Initiate, do you believe you have what it takes to be one of us?

INITIATE: Uh, well gee. I sure hope so, guys. I mean, I think I’m a pretty nice guy. I get along with people pretty well. I mean, some people wouldn’t give you the time of day, but I’m willing to go the extra mile to help. Like, this one time when I was a cub scout...

CULTIST 2: SILENCE!

INITIATE: Oh, I did it again. Sorry, sorry.

(The CULTISTS and HIGH ELDER remove their hoods)

CULTIST 1: Look, all we really need to know is – are you interested in selling Tupperware?

INITIATE: Well, sure, guys, that sounds just swell. When I was in high school marching band, we used to sell chocolate bars, and...

CULTIST 2: SILENCE!

CULTIST 1: *(to CULTIST 2)* It’s okay, we’re good.

CULTIST 2: *(in a much softer tone)* Oh, sorry, was I too loud?

CULTIST 1: *(to CULTIST 2)* It’s fine. I think we’re done here. *(to the INITIATE)* You can follow the High Elder to the back room and fill out the membership form.

(All four begin to exit the stage)

INITIATE: Oh, great! These Tupperwares will come in handy around the office for leftovers, especially on Tuesdays when we have...

CULTIST 1: Tacos, we know.

INITIATE: Oh, right. This will also be great for when I make too much tuna fish casserole at home. You see, I live alone, but I only have a 13 inch casserole dish, so...

ELDER and CULTISTS: *(while exiting)* SILENCE!

INITIATE: *(while exiting)* Oh gee, sorry, guys!