

## **Part 1**

### **Greetings And Departures:**

#### **Casual encounters:**

**When meeting casually in public view, the junior person is expected to first extend greetings to the elder person. This gesture is viewed as a demonstration of respect and humility.**

**However, if the elder person arrives to greet the junior person in this or her house it is considered customary that regardless of age or status he, the elder person, is expected to be the first to extend greetings.**

#### **The Home:**

**Upon entering the house of the person whom you have gone to visit you will first begin by shaking hands, from right to left, if all those whom you meet while saying “Good morning, afternoon, or evening” , depending on which one applies. Following this initial greeting the host / hostess will show you where to be seated, bid you welcome and then serve you water to drink. In some areas, chalk is substituted and applied to the back of the wrist of the left hand, while in still others various other beverages or food are served.**

**After hearing this statement by the host the visitor is expected to state the reason (mission) that has occasioned his or her visit. After the visitor has stated his or her mission the host / hostess will now greet or delegate members of the family to welcome the visitors by proceeding to shake the hand of each of the guests. Following this, the host hostess once again says welcome to all the visitors. These customary gestures of the host are designed to convey to the visitor that the house he or she has entered is one of order, respect and peace.**

**At the conclusion of the visit the visitor (s ) should request that the host grant him or her permission to depart. The host will then graciously grant the permission and stand to walk the visitor to the outside door, car, or sometimes if the visitor has walked and the distance is not great, the host may choose to walk with the person mid-way to their destination or where they may obtain transportation.**

## **The Chief**

**During any occasion, whether it is alone or with others when the Chief arrives, all those who owe allegiance to him as Chief are expected to stand and remain standing until he/she has been seated. This is followed by those attending going one standing after the other to greet the Chief. Standing at the arrival of a Chief is a demonstration of respect for the office of the Chief and clearly identifies those responding as cultured within the country and of African cultural practices.**

## **The Chief's Palace:**

**When a senior chief enters the palace those assembled immediately stand until the Chief has been seated. This is followed by the Okyeame (Chief's spokesman) who announces this fact and invites the Elders to come forward to extend greetings. All the Elders then move forward one after the other and approach the senior Chief, to extend greetings.**

**The mode of greeting by visitors is as follows:**

**As the visitor enters the vicinity where the Chief and his Elders are sitting, the visitor should request that the Okyeame announce his or her arrival. After being acknowledged, the visitor then proceeds to greet the assembly, starting from the extreme right and moving in an anti-clockwise direction until everyone gathered has been greeted.**

**Greeting may take the form of shaking hands or of stopping in front of the Ohene and offer polite bow. For a guide one should either ask or observe others ahead of you in the line. The visitor should not hold objects in his or her hand when approaching a Chief for the purpose of greeting. If the person intending to greet the Chief has to support himself by a walking stick, he could be excepted.**

**If the person greeting is a man, and is wearing traditional cloth, it is customary that he lay bare his left shoulder before he greets the Chief. This gesture is both of a security measure and a show of respect.**

**If the person, man or woman, greeting the senior Chief is wearing easily removable sandals, it is a further sign of respect that he / she removes his right foot from the sandals before greeting the Chief.**

**At the conclusion of a visit to the palace and if one wishes to depart one follows a protocol similar to that observed when visiting a friend or associate. The significant difference is that permission to depart from your host (the Chief) is always sought and given through the Chief's spokesman (Okyeame) rather than directly from the Chief.**