



## **CEREMONY OF EXALTATION - SAVAGE RITUAL**

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## OPENING THE CHAPTER

*Before the Chapter is opened, the DC should ensure that the Principals' sceptres have been placed on their respective Chairs. The Companions assemble, properly clothed, in the Chapter room. The sash is worn over the apron with the knot on the right side of the body. Officers' collars are worn over the sash. Surplices are not worn. All should be seated. The Principals clothe in the anteroom, their robes over their Royal Arch clothing and their collars over their robes.*

**DC** Be upstanding, Companions, to receive the Principals.

*All rise as the Principals enter, J leading, H following and Z coming last. DC closes and locks the door. The Principals line up in the W with Z in the centre facing E, J to his left and H to his right.*

**DC** To order, Companions. *(All assume the R or H sign.)*

**J** O...p...t. *(All three Principals take one step beginning with the left foot, halt and bow.)*

**H** O...sc...t. *(All three Principals take one step beginning with the left foot, halt and bow.)*

**MEZ** O...pr...t God, *(All three Principals take one step beginning with the left foot, halt and bow.)* unto Whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from Whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify Thy Holy Name.

**All** So mote it be.

*Z moves back a small pace, H and J move round in front of him until all three form a triangle, apex to the W. They lower their left hands, palms upwards with thumbs concealed to form a triangle, the forefingers of the hands being contiguous and a little below breast level. The DC picks up the small VSL and places it open on the triangle thus formed and waits to the side until the Principals have saluted the VSL. The three Principals make a similar triangle with their right hands but with the palms downwards, and the little fingers contiguous on top of the VSL. No movement of the feet or knees is made.*

**MEZ** *(H and J repeat in turn each phrase after him.)* We three - do meet and agree - in love and unity - our mysteries to keep - and never to divulge the same - unless when three - such as we - do meet and agree.

**MEZ** Agree. *(Salutes the open VSL.)*

**H** Agree. *(Salutes the open VSL.)*

**J** Agree. *(Salutes the open VSL.)*

**MEZ** Agree. *(Salutes the open VSL.)*

*The Companions drop the sign. The DC takes the VSL, closes it, restores it to the kneeling stool, and resumes his place. The Principals resume the R or H sign and align facing E as before. Z comes in front of J without squaring to the NW corner of the carpet and faces E with feet together and retaining sign. Commencing with the left foot he takes three walking paces and halts without completing the third step, i.e. with the left foot in advance of the right foot, and bows towards the altar. Commencing with the right foot he takes two paces, incomplete as before, with the left foot in front of the right, halts and bows towards the altar. At the third bow he should not be beyond the altar. He then proceeds without squaring and takes his stand in front of his Chair facing W maintaining the sign. J steps back a pace. H and J turn inwards and cross in the W without squaring, H passing on the E side of J, to gain the NW and SW corners of the carpet respectively. They turn E holding the sign and with the feet together, then advance simultaneously to the E with precisely the same steps as Z employed, halting and bowing at the third, fifth and seventh steps and ending by the altar as he did. Having gained the E they immediately stand in front of Z with their backs to the W forming a triangle with Z in order to communicate the Name. This is done on a series of four triangles. The right feet are approximated heel to toe so as to form one triangle, their right knees are bent so as to touch one another forming the second triangle. The R or H sign has been*

*maintained until now. The right hand is now dropped so as to rest on the elbow of the Principal on the left thus forming the third triangle. The left hand, which is still touching the forehead, is now shifted at that level to grasp the left wrist of the Principal on the right thus forming the fourth triangle and the arms are extended the full length. The Name is communicated in three syllables: Z gives the first, H gives the second and J gives the third. Then H gives the first, J gives the second and Z the third. J now gives the first, Z the second and H the third. Each of the Principals has in this syllabic manner given the complete Name. The syllables are spoken audibly. The Principals drop their left hands in three distinct movements and drop the sign without resuming the sign, turn E, move to their respective Chairs, pick up and salute their sceptres, and turn to face W. Ks 4 are given by the Principals.*

**MEZ** Companions, in the Name of TTALGMH I declare this Holy Royal Arch Chapter duly opened. *(Ks 4.)*

*H and J, carrying their sceptres, proceed to the N and S sides of the pedestal respectively and remove the veil. At the same time the PS opens the large VSL. It is immaterial where he opens it but Hosea chap. ii v. 1 is appropriate. H and J return to their Chairs.*

**MEZ** Companions, be seated.

*All sit.*

## CLOSING THE CHAPTER

**MEZ** *(Ks 4; all three Principals rise.)* Companions, we rise for the first time to inquire if any Companion has aught to propose for the good of Royal Arch Masonry in general, or of this the Savage Club Chapter in particular. *(The Principals sit for notices from Supreme Grand Chapter; it is at this point that the Warrant of the Chapter is displayed, and a copy of the Royal Arch Regulations presented to the newly exalted Companion, if applicable.)*

*(Ks 4; all three Principals rise.)* Companions, we rise for the second time for like purpose. *(The Principals sit for notices from Metropolitan Grand Chapter.)*

*(Ks 4; all three Principals rise.)* Companions, we rise for the third and fourth times to inquire if any Companion has aught to propose for the good of Royal Arch Masonry in general, or of this the Savage Club Chapter in particular. *(The Principals sit for notices from the Savage Club Chapter; it is at this point that a copy of the Chapter by-laws is presented to the newly exalted Companion, if applicable.)*

*(Ks 4.)* Companions, assist me to close the Chapter.

*All rise. H and J approach the pedestal, taking their sceptres with them, re-veil the plate of gold and then return in line with Z.*

**DC** To order, Companions.

*The Companions stand to order with the R or H sign. The Principals stand in a line facing W. The DC takes sceptres from them and hands them to the ADC who holds them in his arms. H and J move to face E in front of Z. The DC hands the small VSL to the Principals who stand to order supporting the VSL on left hands, with right hands upon it forming a triangle, as described for the Opening.*

**MEZ** *(All Companions present repeat each phrase after him.)* We all do meet and agree - in love and unity - our mysteries to keep - and never to divulge the same - unless when three - or more than three - such as we - do meet and agree.

**MEZ** Agree. *(Salutes the open VSL.)*

**H** Agree. *(Salutes the open VSL.)*

**J** Agree. *(Salutes the open VSL.)*

**MEZ** Agree. *(Salutes the open VSL.)*

*The Excellencies lower their left hands in three distinct movements and drop the sign. The Comprions drop their signs. The DC takes the VSL, closes it, restores it to the kneeling stool, and returns the sceptres to Principals who form a triangle with them.*

**MEZ** Comp. Principal Sojourner, the labours of the Convocation being ended, you have my command to close the Chapter.

*The Principals break the triangle and give ks 4. The DC takes the sceptres from the Principals and lays them on the floor in the form of a triangle with its apex towards the E.*

**PS** Companions, in the Name of TTALGMH and by command of the Most Excellent, I close the Chapter (*The PS closes the large VSL and returns to stand in front of his seat before continuing.*) until our next regular meeting, emergencies excepted, of which every Companion will receive due notice.

*The Principals extend their arms horizontally.*

**MEZ** Glory to God on High.

**H** On earth, peace.

**J** Good will towards men.

*The Principals drop their arms.*

**Scribe N** Companions, you are now about to quit this safe retreat of peace and friendship and to mix again with the busy world. Amidst all its cares and employments, forget not those sacred duties which have been so frequently impressed and so strongly recommended within the precincts of this Chapter. Be therefore discreet, prudent and temperate. Remember that in your respective Lodges you have solemnly and voluntarily vowed to relieve and befriend with unhesitating cordiality every Brother who might need your assistance, that you have promised to remind him in the most gentle manner of his failings; to aid and vindicate his character whenever wrongfully traduced; and to suggest the most kindly, the most palliating and the most favourable circumstances in extenuation of his conduct. Thus shall the world see how close is the bond that links Freemasons together.

But Companions, as members of this Supreme Order, you are expected to extend these noble and generous sentiments still further. Let me impress on your minds, and may it be instilled in your hearts, that every human creature has a just claim to your kind offices.

We, therefore, strictly enjoin you to be good to all; more especially do we recommend to you the household of the faithful, and that by diligence and fidelity in the duties of your respective vocations, by liberal beneficence and diffusive charity, by constancy and sincerity in your friendships and by your uniformly kind, just, amiable and virtuous deportment, prove to the world the happy and beneficial effects of our ancient and honourable institution. Let it not be said that you labour in vain, nor waste your strength for naught, for your work is before the Lord and your recompense is with TTALGMH.

Finally, Companions, be of one mind; live in peace; and may the God of Love and Peace delight to dwell within you and bless you for evermore.

**IPZ** Companions, nothing now remains but, according to ancient custom, to lock up our secrets in a safe and sacred repository, uniting in the act fidelity  
- fidelity - fidelity - fidelity.

*At each repetition of the word "fidelity" the sign of F is given; the DC does not re-arrange the sceptres.*

**DC** Companions, remain standing while Their Excellencies retire from the Chapter.

*The Principals leave the Chapter room by the S in a single line procession, led by Z and followed by H and then J. The DC does not join the procession. Scribe N opens the door as the procession approaches.*

### **CALLING OFF**

**MEZ** Comp. Scribe Nehemiah, what is the hour?

**Scribe N** *(Stands.)* It is before the hour of meridian splendour, Most Excellent.

**MEZ** Summon the Companions from the vault for rest and refreshment.

**Scribe N** Companions, it is the command of the Most Excellent that you leave the vault for rest and refreshment.

*H and J re-veil the altar. The PS closes the VSL. The Principals place their sceptres on their Chairs. All may then retire.*

### **CALLING ON**

*The Companions resume their places. Scribe N closes and locks the door and takes his place.*

**MEZ** Comp. Scribe Nehemiah, what is the hour?

**Scribe N** *(Stands.)* It is the hour of meridian splendour, Most Excellent.

**MEZ** Summon the Companions from rest and refreshment.

**Scribe N** Companions, it is the command of the Most Excellent that you cease rest and refreshment and return to the vault.

*H and J unveil the altar. The PS opens the VSL.*

## CEREMONY OF EXALTATION

*A seat on the immediate left of the IPZ is reserved for the Candidate and his regalia and a surplice is placed on it. The Candidate is not divested of his personal comforts. He wears a Master Mason's apron and is not hoodwinked.*

**MEZ** Let preparations be made for the exaltation of Brother <name>

*The PS and both AS discard their Royal Arch regalia in a convenient location in the W, put on Master Masons' aprons and sit.*

**Scribe N** *(Goes to Point of Announcement; court bow, then:)* Most Excellent, a stranger has been seen approaching this Grand Sanhedrin.

**MEZ** Comp. Scribe Nehemiah, is he a Companion of our Order? **Scribe**

**N** He is not, Most Excellent. He is clothed as a Master Mason. **MEZ**

Let him be greeted as a Master Mason.

*H & J re-veil the altar. The First AS and Second AS retire from the temple, ushered out by Scribe N, who then returns to his place. The Candidate should see as little as possible of the temple when the door is opened. The First AS and Second AS stand either side of the Candidate outside the Chapter room.*

**2nd ASoj** Comp. Janitor, we are Master Masons from Babylon, who have heard that you are about to rebuild the Temple to the honour and glory of the Most High and, in His Holy Name, we seek admission to the Grand Sanhedrin that we may offer our assistance in that great and glorious undertaking.

**Janitor** Brethren, advance to me in the Three Degrees. (Penal sign only in the 3<sup>rd</sup>).  
*( First AS, Second AS and Candidate do so simultaneously.)*

*(To Candidate:)* Do you pledge your honour as a man and your fidelity as a Mason that you have been raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason for four weeks and upwards? *(Candidate not prompted answers in the affirmative.)*

Do you likewise pledge yourself, under the penalty of all your Obligations, that you will conceal what I shall now impart to you with the same strict caution as the other secrets in Masonry? *(Candidate not prompted answers in the affirmative.)*

Then I shall entrust you with the passwords leading to the Supreme Degree. They are A... R... – repeat them! *(Candidate not prompted repeats.)*

The import of the words is MPHFM – repeat it! *(Candidate not prompted repeats. The First AS should make sure by sufficient repetition that the Candidate can confidently give the passwords and the import on demand without help.)*

Wait, while I report to the Grand Sanhedrin.

*The Janitor gives the Master Mason's knocks on the door.*

**Scribe N** *(Goes to P of A; court bow, then:)* Your Excellencies, there is a report.

**J** Comp. Scribe Nehemiah, inquire who wants admission.

**Scribe N** (Goes to door and opens it slightly, ensuring the Candidate sees as little as possible of the Chapter room; then to Janitor:) Whom have you there?

**Janitor** Three Master Masons from Babylon, having heard that we are about to rebuild the Temple to the honour and glory of TTALGMH, and in His Holy Name, have come to seek admission to the Grand Sanhedrin that they may offer their assistance in that great and glorious undertaking.

**Scribe N** How do they hope to gain admission to the Grand Sanhedrin?

**Janitor** In the Name of TTALGMH and by the benefit of the passwords.

**Scribe N** Are they in possession of the passwords?

**Janitor** They are.

**Scribe N** (To Candidate:) Give me the passwords. (Candidate not prompted does so.) The import? (Candidate not prompted responds.) Wait while I report your request. (Closes and locks the door.)

**Scribe N** (From Point of Announcement:) Excellent Companion Joshua, three Master Masons from Babylon, who have heard that we are about to rebuild the Temple to the honour and glory of TTALGMH, and in His Holy Name, have come up accordingly to offer their assistance in that great and glorious undertaking.

**J** Are they in possession of the passwords?

**Scribe N** They are.

**J** Admit them, with caution.

*Scribe N retires from the Chapter, closing the door behind him, always ensuring that the Candidate sees as little of the Chapter room as possible.*

**Scribe N** (To Candidate:) Their Excellences have acceded to your request. However, as none can be permitted to see inside the Grand Sanhedrin except Companions of our Order, your sight must be occluded before you can gain admission (3)

*Scribe N places a hoodwink on the Candidate then opens the door. The Master Masons enter in single file led by the Second AS, the First AS next and the Candidate last, the Candidate being guided by the First AS. They stand in front of the Chairs in the W facing E, The First AS in the centre, the Candidate on his left and the Second AS on his right.*

**J** Strangers, we understand that you are Master Masons who have come up from Babylon to offer your assistance in rebuilding the Holy Temple to the honour and glory of the Most High.

**1st ASoj** We are, Most Excellent.

**J** As no strangers are to be permitted to participate in that holy work, we must first inquire who you are.

**1st ASoj** Brethren of your own tribes and families, Most Excellent.

**J** Are you not descended from those who fled when the city and Holy Temple were sorely oppressed, or are you of those left behind by the Babylonish generals for the purpose of tilling the land?

**1st ASoj** We would scorn to be descended from those who basely fled when the city and Holy Temple were sorely oppressed; neither are we of those left behind by the Babylonish generals for the purpose of tilling the land. We are nobly born and, like yourselves, descended

from a race of patriarchs and Kings. Most Excellent, we are of the Royal line of David and princely tribe of Judah who, for their sins and those of the people, were led into captivity with Jehoiakin their King, by Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, as was foretold by the prophet Jeremiah. The period of our captivity expired in the first year of the reign of Cyrus, King of Persia, when it pleased the Almighty to inspire that noble Prince to issue the following proclamation:

“Thus saith Cyrus King of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the Lord God of heaven given me; and He hath charged me to build Him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all His people? The Lord his God be with him, and let him go up.”

Unlike yourselves, we did not, at that time, avail ourselves of the opportunity of returning to our native land but, now that we have heard that you are about to rebuild the Holy Temple to the honour and glory of the Most High we have, indeed, come to offer our assistance in that great and glorious undertaking.

*The Principals confer.*

**J** We acknowledge your noble ancestry, and will welcome you among us as members of our tribes and families if you will take a solemn Obligation to keep inviolate our mystic rites. Are you willing to take it? *(Candidate not prompted responds.)*

Let us pray. *(The Companions stand with the sign of R; PS ensures Candidate assumes same sign.)*

**DC** Companions, to order.

## PRAYER

**J** *(Stands and reads; no ks.)* Almighty God, at whose command the world burst forth from chaos and all created nature had its birth, we humbly implore Thee to bestow Thy spiritual blessing on this Convocation, and grant that the Bro. who now seeks to participate in the light of our mysteries may be endued with a portion of Thy Divine Spirit; may he not enter our Order lightly, nor recede from it hastily, but pursue it steadfastly, and may he ever remember that the object of our institution is the welfare of our fellow creatures, but above all, the honour and glory of Thy Most Holy Name.

**All** So mote it be. *(All drop sign of R; First AS ensures Candidate drops sign.)*

**DC** Be seated, Companions. *(All except Sojourners & Candidate sit.)*

**J** Brother <name>, you will advance by seven steps, halting and bowing at the third, fifth and seventh, for at each step you will approach nearer to the S and MN of TTALGMH.

*The First AS guides the Candidate to advance in the W in this manner.*

**J** You will attend to selected portions of our sacred writings.

**SCRIBE E** - *Stands and reads: -*

My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, If you Listen to wisdom and apply your heart to understanding, if you look for wisdom as you would for silver and search for it as you would for hidden treasure, then you will understand how to respect the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from him comes knowledge and understanding. He holds success in store for the upright, and is a shield to those whose path is blameless, for he guards the pathway of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones. Do this and you will understand what is right and just and fair. Blessed are those who find wisdom, and

who achieve understanding. Long life is in the right hand of Wisdom, And in her left hand are riches and honour. Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace. Wisdom is a tree of life to those who embrace her; And happy are those who cling to her By his wisdom the Lord laid the earth's foundations, by his understanding he set the heavens in place. by his knowledge the watery depths were divided, and the dew settles beneath the night sky *sits*.

**ASST SCRIBE E** - *Stands and reads: -*

"On the twenty-first day of the seventh month of that year, the LORD spoke to Haggai the prophet: "Say this to Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, who is governor of Judah, and to Joshua, the son of Jehozadak, who is the high priest, and to the remnant of God's people still living in the land: 'Does anyone remember this Temple in its former splendour? How does it look to you now in comparison? It must seem like nothing at all! But the LORD says: Now be strong, Zerubbabel; be strong Joshua; be strong, all you people, and start to work. For I am with you. My Spirit remains among you, just as I promised when you came out of Egypt. So do not be afraid.' "For this is what the LORD says: In just a little while I will again shake the heavens and the earth, the oceans and the dry land. I will shake all the nations, and the treasures of all the nations will be brought to this Temple and I will fill this place with glory, for the silver is mine, and the gold is mine. The future glory of this Temple will be greater than its past glory and in this place I will bring peace." *sits*.

**H** You will now reach out and endeavour to find something.

**Candidate** *(Prompted by First AS who places scroll in the Candidate's hand.)* It is found.

**H** What is found?

**Candidate** *(Prompted by the First AS.)* Something like a scroll of vellum or parchment.

**H** What are its contents?

**Candidate** *(Prompted by the First AS.)* For the want of I..., I am unable to discover. *(The First AS hands the scroll to the DC who places it on the floor on the S side of the altar next to the lifelines.)*

**H** Let that want of I... remind you that man by nature is a child of ignorance and error, and ever would have remained in a state of darkness, had it not pleased the Almighty to call him to light and immortality by the revelation of His Holy Will and Word.

You will now prepare yourself to take the sacred and solemn Obligation, without which none can be exalted into this Supreme Degree. *(The Candidate kneels, prompted and aided by the First AS. The Principals ks 4, stand and advance to the altar.)*

**DC** To order, Companions.

*The Companions rise and advance to the standards, First AS ensuring he stands to the right of the Candidate. Lights are extinguished. All except the Candidate assume the sign of F.*

**First AS** Support the Volume of the Sacred Law on your left hand and place your right hand upon it.

**MEZ** State your names at length and say after me:

I, <full name> - in the presence of TTALGMH, - and of this Holy Royal Arch Chapter, - duly constituted, - consecrated, - and congregated, - of my own free will and accord, - do hereby and hereon - most solemnly promise and swear, - that I will always hele, - conceal, - and never

divulge, -any of the secrets or mysteries, - restricted to this Supreme Order, - denominated the Holy Royal Arch of Jerusalem, - to anyone in the world, - unless it be, - to a true and lawful Companion of the Order, - whom I shall find to be such, - after strict examination. - I further solemnly promise - that I will not dare to pronounce - the S and MN - of TTALGMH - lightly or irreverently; - nor to share it by syllables - unless in the presence – and with the assistance - of two or more Royal Arch Companions. - All these points I solemnly swear to observe - without evasion, - equivocation, - or mental reservation of any kind. - So help me TTALGMH - and keep me steadfast - in this the sacred and solemn Obligation - of a Royal Arch Mason.

**MEZ** As a pledge of your fidelity, and to render what you have repeated a solemn Obligation binding on you so long as you shall live, you will seal it with your lips four times on the Volume of the Sacred Law.  
*(Done. All drop sign of F.)*

**MEZ** Comp. First Assistant Sojourner, you will raise Brother <name> in due form by the grip of a Royal Arch Mason.

**First AS** *(Right hand to right hand.)* Brother <name> ... *(Left hand to lower right forearm.)* ... now ... *(Right hand to upper right forearm.)* ... a Companion ... *(Left hand to right elbow.)* ... of our Order ... *(Right hand under right armpit.)* ... rise!

*The Principals form a triangle with their sceptres, Z's sceptre forming the base, through which the Candidate should be able to see Z when restored to light. The Companions move forward to hold the standards, angling them so that they channel the Candidate's view to the altar.*

**MEZ** Having been kept for a considerable time in a state of darkness, what, in your present condition, is the predominant wish of your heart?

**Candidate** *(Prompted by the First AS.)* L....

**MEZ** Comp. First Assistant Sojourner, let that blessing be restored to the Candidate.

**MEZ** We congratulate you on being admitted to the I... of our Order, and it is with satisfaction we express our confidence that your future conduct will fully justify our partiality in having exalted you into this Supreme Order, so truly denominated the essence of Freemasonry.

**DC** Be seated, Companions.

*PS joins First AS, Second AS and Candidate, all 4 remain standing; the Principals and Companions resume their seats. Lights are returned to their normal level.*

**MEZ** To demonstrate your worthiness as a Member of our Order, we shall engage you to prepare the ground for the foundation of the Second Temple on the site where the first formerly stood and will provide you with the proper working implements, but we lay this strict injunction upon you: that should you during your labours make any discovery you deem of importance, you will communicate it to none but this Grand Sanhedrin.

**PS** We humbly thank your Excellencies for the trust reposed in us and pledge ourselves to a faithful discharge of the duties thereof.

**MEZ** Companions Ezra and Nehemiah, let these Companions be supplied with the proper working implements.

*The Scribes leave their seats and supply the implements: The Candidate takes the shovel; the*

*First AS the crowbar; and the Second AS the pick. The Scribes resume their seats.*

**MEZ** Go, and may the God of our fathers be with you.

*The PS remains standing at the Point of Announcement. Lead by the First AS, the Candidate and the Second AS proceed round the Chapter by the N, halting in the S to the left of the DC facing N, the First AS in the middle, the Second AS to his right and the Candidate to his left. The three should stand such that the First AS is just in front of the altar while the Candidate should be able to see the front of the altar. The PS remains in the W and narrates the scene, which is acted out reverentially by the AS and the Candidate. Where the rubrics to be acted out during the narration appear at the end of a paragraph, they should be performed at the same time as the relevant words are spoken. There is no objection to a little whispering from the Sojourners for the instruction of the Candidate.*

**PS** Most Excellent, we have made a discovery of importance.

**H** Communicate to us the discovery you have made and circumstances which led to it.

**PS** During our labours this morning we discovered a pair of pillars of exquisite design and workmanship; proceeding onwards we found six other pairs of equal symmetry and beauty, which, from their position, appeared to have supported the roof of a subterranean passage or gallery leading to where the Most Holy Place formerly stood.

Our progress was here impeded by the fragments which had fallen during the destruction of the former Temple. These we cleared away and arrived at what appeared to be solid rock. Striking it with my crow (*First AS strikes the floor with the crow.*), I remarked a hollow sound. I therefore conferred with my companions, and he with the pick loosened the earth (*Second AS uses the pick.*) which he with the shovel cleared away (*Candidate uses the shovel, prompted by the First AS.*), when that which at first appeared solid rock proved to be a compact piece of masonry, wrought in the form of a dome.

Aware of who had been the Architect of the former Temple and that no part thereof had been constructed in vain, we determined to examine it further, for which purpose we wrenched forth two of the arch-stones (*First AS with the crow, figuratively, removes two arch-stones*), when a vault of considerable magnitude appeared to view. My companions and I were all equally eager to descend. We therefore cast lots. The lot was mine, Most Excellent.

*The DC takes position behind Sojourners to receive Working Tools as appropriate.*

My companions then tied a strong cord round my body by which to lower me into the vault; (*Second AS assists to tie Lifeline around First AS's waist.*) but being apprehensive of dangers from damp, noxious vapours or other unforeseen causes, I took a smaller cord in each hand by which to give pre-concerted signals should I require more liberty, or wish to be drawn up. (*Lifelines are tied around First AS's wrists, and Second AS and Candidate each retain hold of one attached to each wrist. Both hold the one tied around the waist.*)

I was thus duly lowered into the vault. On arriving at the bottom, I felt something like the base or pedestal of a column (*First AS stoops, feels the altar.*), with certain characters engraven thereon, but for the want of light, I was unable to read them. I then signalled with my left hand for more liberty, and on exploring the vault found this scroll of vellum or parchment (*First AS picks up the scroll.*), but from the same want was unable to read it either. I therefore signalled with my right hand and was drawn up, bringing the scroll with me. (*First AS stands up; Second AS and Candidate release the lifelines but do not untie them.*)

On arriving at the light of day, we found, from the first words of the scroll, that it was the long-lost part of the Volume of the Sacred Law, promulgated by our Grand Master, Moses, at the

foot of Mount Horeb in the wilderness of Sinai. *(First AS opens the scroll and causes the Candidate to read it to himself (4). First AS hands scroll to DC. DC hands crow back to First AS.)*

The discovery of this precious treasure stimulated us to further exertions; we therefore enlarged the aperture by removing the keystone *(First AS figuratively removes keystone.)* and I descended as before. *(First AS hands crow to DC. Second AS and Candidate pick up lifelines. First AS stoops at the altar.)*

The sun, by this time, had gained its greatest altitude and, darting its rays with meridian splendour into the vault, enabled me clearly to distinguish those objects I had before so imperfectly discovered. In the centre of the vault stood a block of white marble, wrought in the form of the altar of incense, a double cube. On the front *(First AS points out the altar and the symbols engraven on the front of it to the Candidate at the relevant moment.)* were engraven the names of the three Grand Masters who presided at the building of the former Temple, namely S..., K... of I..., H..., K... of T..., and H... A..., with a certain mystic character beneath, and a veil covered the altar.

Approaching with reverential awe, I raised the veil, and there beheld, engraven on a plate of gold, other mystic symbols, that which I humbly conceived to be the S and MN of TTALGMH. I carefully re-veiled it, retired with all respect and reverence, gave the agreed-on signal, and was again drawn up. *(First AS stoops, raises the edge of the veil, looks at the top of the altar, lowers the veil, backs away from the altar with the R or H sign and stands up. The Candidate should not see what is on the top of the altar.)* My companions and I closed the aperture, and we have hastened hither to communicate to your Excellencies the discovery we have made, and the circumstances which led to it.

*Lifelines are removed from the First AS and placed back on the ground. First AS leads the Candidate and the Second AS down the S side of the Chapter to the W where they stand in line with the PS facing E in the following order from S to N: Second AS, Candidate, PS, First AS. Z waits until all are in place before continuing.*

**H** Your narrative bears every appearance of truth, but to convince us you must state what you saw on that plate of gold.

**PS** That, Most Excellent, I must humbly beg to decline, for we have heard with our ears, and our fathers have declared to us, that in their days and in the old times before them it was not lawful for anyone to pronounce the S and MN of TTALGMH, save the High Priest, nor him but once a year, and then only when he entered the Holy of Holies and stood before the Ark of the Covenant to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

**H** We admire your pious caution, and your conduct considerably increases our esteem. We will, however, depute two of our Companions, Ezra and Nehemiah, to verify your narrative, and their report shall determine your reward.

*The Candidate, First AS and Second AS remain where they stand. The PS retires with Scribes E and N to the extreme NW of the Chapter. They stand to order, form a triangle, PS on the right of SE, place their palms of their right hands upwards in a triangle and grasp the left wrist of the companion to their right with their left hand., SE says to the PS "state what you saw on that plate of gold". PS begins and the Name is shared in a whisper. Their left hands are lowered in three distinct movements and the sign is dropped. The PS returns to his place next to the Candidate. Scribes E and N move to the NW and SW corners of the carpet respectively, assume the R or H sign and move towards the E with the same steps and bows as given by the Principals in the Opening, ending up either side of the altar. They drop the sign, unveil the altar and inspect it, then address the Principals from their positions.*

**Scribe E** Correct, Most Excellent, in every particular.

**Scribe N** Correct, Most Excellent, in every particular.

*The two Scribes return to their places by the way they came and sit. The Principals confer.*

**H** We concur in opinion that, as a reward for your zeal and fidelity in this discovery of the long-lost secrets of the Royal Arch, you should be at once called to that exalted rank held by your illustrious ancestors, but before we can confer it upon you, you must read aloud the contents of the scroll discovered in the vault and which you were unable to read before.

*The DC hands the scroll to Candidate. Prompted by the PS, the Candidate reads the scroll aloud. The DC then takes back the scroll.*

**H** Such are the first words of that Sacred Volume which contains the record of God's revealed will. Let us, therefore, bless, praise and magnify His Holy Name for the knowledge vouchsafed to us, and walk worthily in the light which shines around.

When you were raised to the Third Degree you were informed that, by the untimely death of our master, H... A..., the secrets of a Master Mason were lost and that certain substituted secrets were adopted to distinguish all Master Masons until time or circumstances should restore the genuine. Those secrets were lost for a period of nearly 500 years and were regained in the manner which the ceremony has just illustrated to you, somewhat in a dramatic form the more forcibly to impress on your mind the providential means by which those ancient secrets were regained.

*The DC puts the working implements and scroll in their original place on the carpet. The First AS and Second AS resume their seats. The PS and Candidate remain standing at the Point of Announcement facing E.*

**Past Z** I shall now communicate to you the signs of the Order.

**Past Z** This is the Penal sign (*Candidate is prompted to copy.*), the only perfect sign in Freemasonry given with the left hand. It signifies that the stiff-necked and disobedient will be cut off from the land of the living by the judgment of God, just as the body was slain by the sword of human justice. It is to avert this that we are taught by the Reverential or Hailing sign to bend with humility and resignation before the chastening hand of the Almighty (*Shields eyes; Candidate is prompted to copy.*) and engraft His laws on our hearts. (*Places hand on heart; Candidate is prompted to copy.*) This sign is only to be used when entering or retiring from the Chapter, always to the Name (*Points to pedestal.*), and you will note that no step is taken when giving it. It is said that this sign was used by Moses, who, when the Lord appeared to him in the burning bush at the foot of Mount Horeb in the wilderness of Sinai, thus shaded his eyes (*Demonstrates; Candidate is prompted to copy.*) from the brightness of the Divine Presence, and placed his hand on his heart (*Demonstrates; Candidate is prompted to copy.*) in token of obedience. It should be discharged before speaking.

This sign can thus be considered the parent of the Penitential or Supplicatory sign, for how should a frail and erring creature present himself to his Creator but on bended knees (*Kneels; Candidate is prompted to copy.*) and with uplifted hands (*Demonstrates; Candidate is prompted to copy.*) in token of humility and contrition?

The Monitorial sign, hands girding the loins, thumbs to the front (*Demonstrates; Candidate is prompted to copy.*), represents the frail and defenceless posture by which we acknowledge that we can do no manner of good or acceptable service but through Him from whom all good counsels and just works do proceed.

Lastly, by the Fiducial sign (*Demonstrates; Candidate is prompted to copy.*) we show that we would prostrate ourselves with our faces to the dust. Thus must we throw ourselves on the mercy of our Divine Creator and Judge, looking forward with humble but holy confidence to His blessed

promises by which means alone we hope to pass through the Ark of our redemption into the mansions of eternal bliss and glory, into the presence of Him who is the Great I AM, the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.

**MEZ** Let these Companions be invested.

*Z, H and J stand, place their sceptres on their Chairs. The PS leads the Candidate to the E to stand in front of and facing Z then returns to his seat by the S, leaving the Candidate alone facing the Principals. All three Sojourners re-clothe themselves in their Royal Arch regalia and sit in their usual seats in the W.*

*The DC approaches with the surplice and the ADC approaches with the regalia, preferably carried on a cushion. Z takes the surplice and having clothed the Candidate with it, assisted by H and J, says:*

**MEZ** We clothe you with this white robe as an emblem of that innocence of heart and rectitude of conduct which should at all times actuate those exalted into this Supreme Order. We reward you with this jewel (*Done.*) as a mark of our entire approbation and admit you a Companion amongst us. We invest you with this badge and ribbon (*Done.*), the insignia of our Order.

*The DC approaches with the staff (Judah) and hands it to Z.*

We entrust you with this staff of office (*Done.*) which you will ever have the right to bear unless seventy- two of the elders are present.

We hereby constitute you a Prince and Ruler in the Order.

*Z takes back the staff and gives it to the DC who returns it to its stand. The DC takes up a place just behind the Candidate.*

We shall now instruct you in the manner in which the S and MN may be communicated.

*J returns to his Chair, picks up his sceptre and sits; H stays in place to assist Z.*

Stand to order thus. (*Assumes R or H sign; Candidate and H copy.*) The Name is given on a series of triangles formed firstly with the right foot (*Done.*), secondly with the right knee (*Done.*), thirdly with the right hand on right elbow (*Done.*) and lastly, left hand grasping left wrist. (*Done.*)

**MEZ** Because in olden times it was not lawful for anyone save the High Priest to pronounce the Holy Name, it is our custom to divide it into three syllables, each syllable to be spoken by a different Companion, thus forming a token of recognition. (*Continues sotto voce.*) To enable you to do this, I will tell you the Name: it is J... I will now commence, and E. Comp. H... and you will follow.

*The usual procedure is followed and the trio disengage.*

**MEZ** This, the Supreme Order of the Royal Arch of Jerusalem, inspires its members with the most exalted ideas of God and leads to the exercise of the purest and most devout piety, a reverence for the incomprehensible JHV the Eternal Ruler of the Universe, the elemental life and primordial source of all its principles, the very spring and fount of all its virtues.

*The DC leads the Candidate to the correct position for the Mystical Lecture. There should be no preamble to the Lecture*

## **MYSTICAL LECTURE**

*The DC leads the Candidate to the Point of Announcement from where he can see the front of the altar, then returns to his seat. PS stands next to Candidate.*

### **PART 1 – PAST Z**

Companions, tradition informs us that at the building of King Solomon's Temple an immense number of Masons were employed, and that their names or marks were found engraved on some part or other of the building; but the names of the three Grand Masters who presided were nowhere found until, as was illustrated in the earlier part of the ceremony, they were discovered by the three Sojourners who, returning from the captivity in Babylon, had been instructed to prepare the ground for the foundation of the Second Temple.

The Sojourners discovered a vault and, knowing that no part of the former structure had been designed in vain, decided to explore it further. In its centre was a pedestal, but they could not examine this until the darkness was dispersed – so should we not expect to understand immediately all that we encounter, but try to comprehend its meaning by continued study and enquiry.

When the glorious light of the sun revealed the contents of the vault, the pedestal was seen as a block of white marble, wrought in the form of an altar of incense, a double cube. It is represented here by the pedestal which you see before you. On the top of the pedestal was a plate of gold. White, as I am sure you are well aware, is an emblem of innocence, as gold is of purity.

Engraved on the front of the pedestal were found the initials of the three Grand Masters who had presided at the building of the former Temple, namely S... of I..., H..., K... of T..., and H... A..., placed there to perpetuate their names as well as to commemorate the circumstances and proceedings attending the erection of that structure. There was likewise the triple tau. The tau, by reason of its having been used to distinguish the innocent, and those who escaped unhurt in battle, has ever been considered a mark or sign of life.

The triple tau alludes symbolically to the Deity, by whom the gloomy, horrific and unshapen chaos was changed into regular form and peaceful existence.

### **PART 2 – PAST Z**

*The Companion delivering the lecture guides the Candidate to a position in the S from where he should be able to see the top of the altar.*

On this plate of gold are a triangle and circle. These mathematical figures have ever been selected as referring to the Deity or some Divine attribute. The triangle has long been considered a sacred symbol. In times of antiquity names of God and symbols of Divinity were often enclosed in triangular figures. The circle is an emblem of eternity, for as it has neither beginning nor end, it may justly be deemed emblematic of God, who is without beginning of days or end of years, and it continually reminds us of that great hereafter when we hope to enjoy eternal life.

On the plate of gold is that great, awful, tremendous and incomprehensible Name of the Most High. It signifies I AM THAT I AM - the Alpha and Omega - the Beginning and the End - the First and the Last - who WAS, and IS, and IS TO COME - the Almighty. It is the S and MN of the actual, future, eternal, unchangeable and all-sufficient God who alone has His being in and from Himself and gives to all others their being; so that HE IS what HE WAS, WAS what HE IS, and will remain both WHAT HE WAS and WHAT HE IS from everlasting to everlasting, all creatures

being dependent on His mighty will and power.

Companions, I charge you, should you ever be about to mention that S and MN lightly or irreverently, pause, place your finger on your lips (*Places left finger on his lips and gestures for the Candidate to do the same; only these two Companions do this.*) and remember your Obligation.

### **PART 3 – PAST Z**

*The Companion delivering the lecture guides the Candidate to a position in the E in front of the Principals.*

On being restored to light you beheld the three Principals holding aloft their sceptres so that they formed a triangle. The sceptre of the Third Principal, J..., denotes the priestly function, while that of the Second Principal, H..., represents the prophetic role; these two sceptres define the limits of earthly power which the sceptre of the First Principal, Z..., represents, thus illustrating that, on earth, power must be exercised under and subject to the laws of our Divine Creator.

By this vision therefore you are led to see the Royal Arch as indeed the climax of pure, ancient Freemasonry, having virtue for its aim and the glory of God for its object, while the eternal welfare of man is considered in its every part, point and letter. Suffice it to say that it sees the teaching of the Craft in the light of eternity, being founded on the Sacred Name of God who was from all beginning, is now, and will remain, One and the Same for ever, TTALGMH.

*The Principals may now informally congratulate the Candidate on his Exaltation and welcome him to the Chapter, after which the DC takes him to his seat at the left of the IPZ.*

## **PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF SOMERSET – TEAM EXALTATION CEREMONY**

Notes to accompany Somerset format of Savage Ritual.

- As the Provincial Team will enter after the Chapter is opened, and will take the relevant offices within the Chapter, the three Sojourners will be dressed as Master Masons.
- Scribes and Sojourners do not wear white robes during the ceremony.
- The dialogue between the Janitor, Sojourners and the Candidate should be heard within the Chapter.
- The seven steps taken by Scribes, Sojourners and Candidate: Three commencing with the left foot, two commencing with the right foot and two more commencing with the right foot. The feet not being brought together between steps.
- Mystical Lecture Part 2. Presenter standing on the south side of the altar and candidate on the north side.
- Mystical Lecture Part 3. Principals form a triangle with the sceptres and drop after 'Divine Creator'.
- Warrant, Book of Regulations, By-Laws etc presented by the Chapter during the Risings.

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