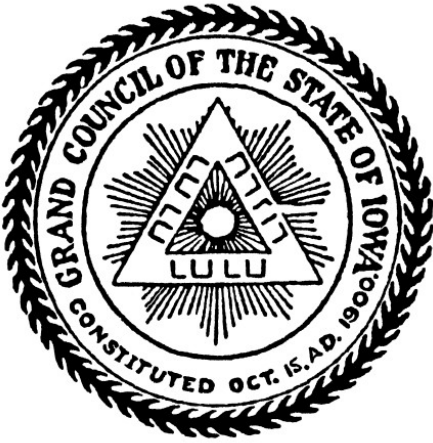


Grand Council of
Royal and Select Masters
Of Iowa



Fourth Edition

GRAND COUNCIL RITUAL

FOURTH EDITION
February 2015

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RITUAL (2015)

Norman D. Rank, P.G.M., Chairman, Board of Custodians

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PROLOGUE

After several years of Councils and Companions lacking a written version of the rituals of Cryptic Masonry in Iowa (the third edition was released in 1985, and supplies had been exhausted about 2011), it was determined that a closer look at the Cryptic work in Iowa needed to be done prior to again releasing the work for printing.

With changes to the manner in which the work was communicated, the number of Companions proficient in the work, and technology, much work needed to be done to keep Cryptic Masonry relevant.

On December 9, 2014, Most Illustrious Companion Kurt Hoffmann, Grand Master released a poll to the membership to gain further opinion on the subject of moving the ritual toward plain-English. The results of this survey indicated that 60% of the membership favored plain-English, rather than encoding. However, the obligation, and any 'secret work' should remain encoded.

On December 20, 2014 M.I.Comp. Hoffmann formed a Special Committee on the Ritual. This committee consisted of: M.I.Comp. Norman Rank, Chairman of the Board of Custodians, M.I.Comp. Don Mosier, and I.Comp. W. Charles Smithson. They were charged to review the work, see that it was properly converted to plain-English, and that digital versions of the work would be made available. This committee had a deadline of January 15, 2015 in which to complete these tasks.

The committee consulted with several sources to ensure accuracy in the ritual, including the first three editions of the Iowa ritual, the 24th edition of the rituals of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International, and rituals from other Cryptic jurisdictions.

Then on January 10, 2015, the Committee announced to M.I.Comp. Hoffmann that they had completed their work. However, the Committee asked that their draft be pre-released to the membership for their review and comment. Thus, the work was distributed electronically for 30 days for the membership to review. After considering numerous comments and suggestions from the membership, the committee made changes as they saw necessary. Finally, on February 15, 2015, the Special Committee on the Ritual released their final work, which you now hold in your hands.

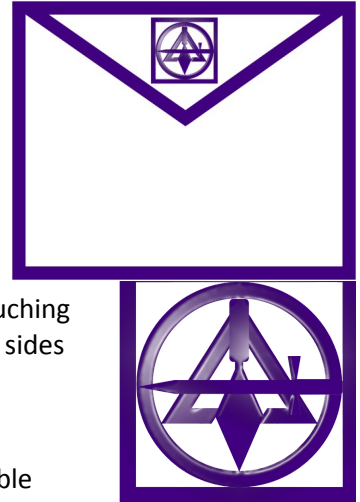
APRONS, DRESS AND PARAPHERNALIA

Councils must be equipped with the following aprons, robes and paraphernalia:

APRONS

The aprons are white bordered on the sides and bottom and on the flap with a band of purple, and are provided with purple strings. The emblem of the Council is to be on the flap.

The emblem of the Council shall be as follows: In the center is a trowel in an erect position with the handle up and the blade or bowl down; outside of the trowel is a broken equilateral triangle with the missing or broken side on the lower or horizontal side; across and on top of the trowel and broken triangle in a horizontal position with hilt at right is laid a sword; around all of the above and touching the outer points is a circle; and outside of the whole touching the top, bottom and sides of the circle, is a square.



DRESS

Robes, if used, should be in good condition, with appropriate footwear and no visible jewelry. The dress of the first three officers of subordinate Councils should be as follows:

- The Illustrious Master is dressed in a royal robe of purple.
- The Deputy Master is dressed in a royal robe of red or scarlet.
- The Principal Conductor of the work is dressed in a royal robe of blue.
- The Captain of the Guard, the Steward and the Sentinel may be clothed in ancient military costume with a helmet on the head and a sword in the hand.
- The Conductor of the Council is dressed in a robe of scarlet.
- Use robes or dusters for craftsmen in the Select Master degree.

PARAPHERNALIA

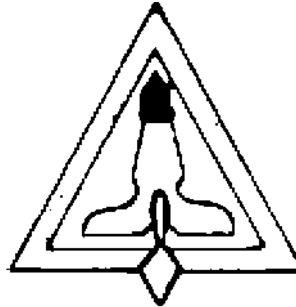
- A representation of the nine arches.
- Three small tables for stations in the East.
- One seven branched candelabra. One Royal Arch Ark, with Triangular bronze plate containing the Royal Arch cryptogram, Aaron's Rod, Pot of Manna, Book of the Law and three ancient squares.
- Trowels, swords, and shackles.

The above-mentioned equipment, with, possibly, the exception of the furnishings of the Sanctum Sanctorum, is essential for the proper presentation of the degrees.

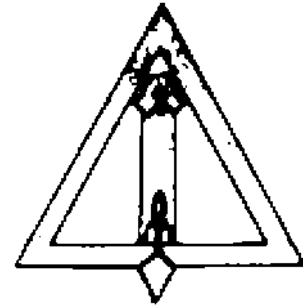
OFFICERS



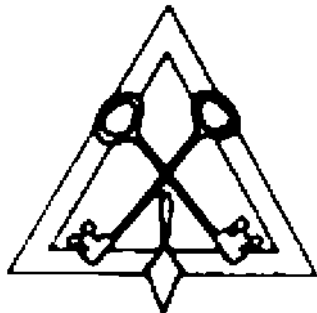
Illustrious Master



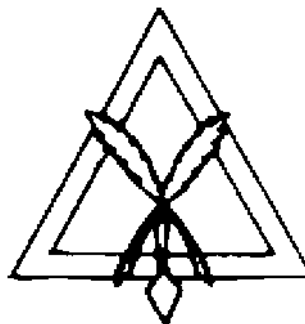
Deputy Master



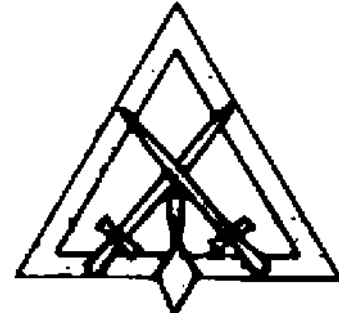
Principal Conductor of the Work



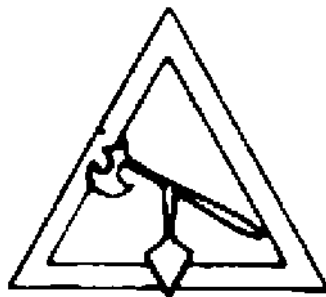
Treasurer



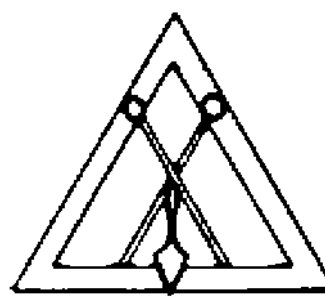
Recorder



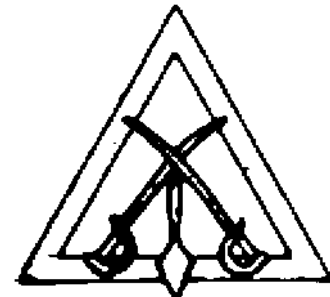
Captain of the Guard



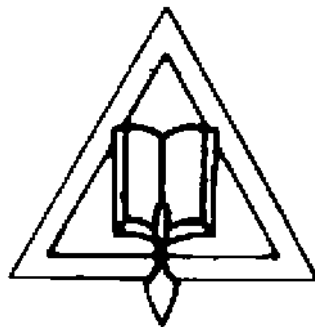
Conductor of the Council



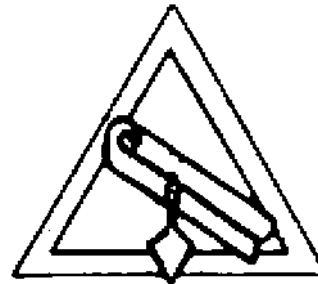
Steward



Sentinel



Chaplain



Marshal



Illustrious Master



Deputy Master



Principal Conductor of the Work



Treasurer



Recorder



Captain of the Guard



Conductor of the Council



Steward



Sentinel



Chaplain



Marshal

OPENING (SELECT MASTER DEGREE)

Officers and Stations

1. Illustrious Master (IM)
2. Deputy Master (DM)
3. Principal Conductor of The Work (PCW)
4. Treasurer (Tr)
5. Recorder (Rec)
6. Captain of The Guard (CG)
7. Conductor of The Council (CC)
8. Chaplain
9. Steward (St)
10. Sentinel (Sent)

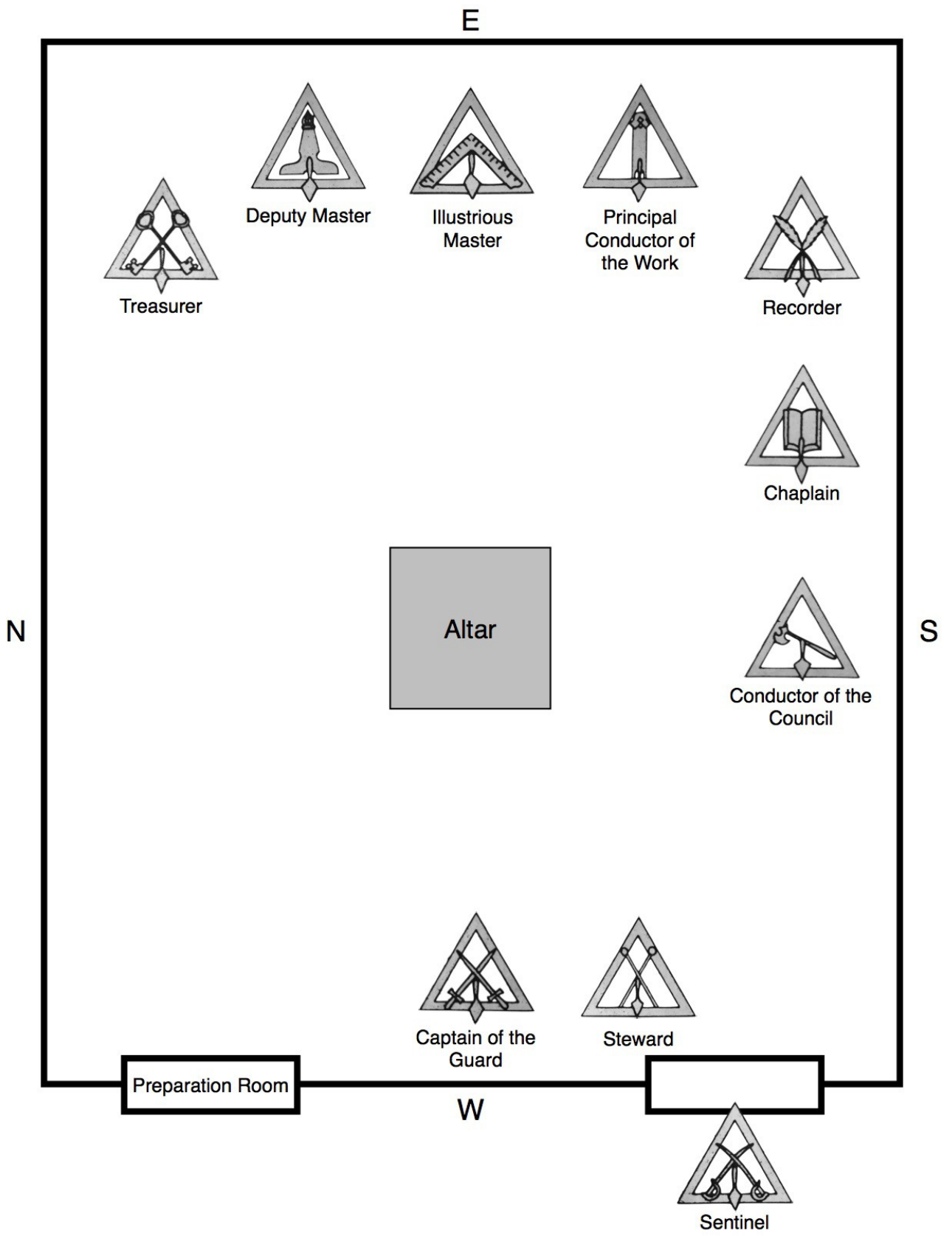


Diagram 1

OPENING

At the appointed time the Illustrious Master will assume his station and give one knock () to call the assembly to order. All officers will take their respective stations and all will be seated. Steward will see that the doors are closed (Diagram 1).*

IM: Illustrious Companion of Tyre, (*Deputy Master rises*) shall we resume our labors in the Secret Vault?

DM: Illustrious King Solomon, it is my ardent desire to see the Secret Vault completed, and the Sacred Treasures safely deposited therein, that I may return to my own country with the satisfaction of having faithfully discharged my duty to the Craft. (*DM is seated.*)

IM: (*) Companion Captain of the Guard, (*Captain of the Guard rises*) are all present Select Masters?

CG: (*Being satisfied*) Illustrious Master, all present are Select Masters.

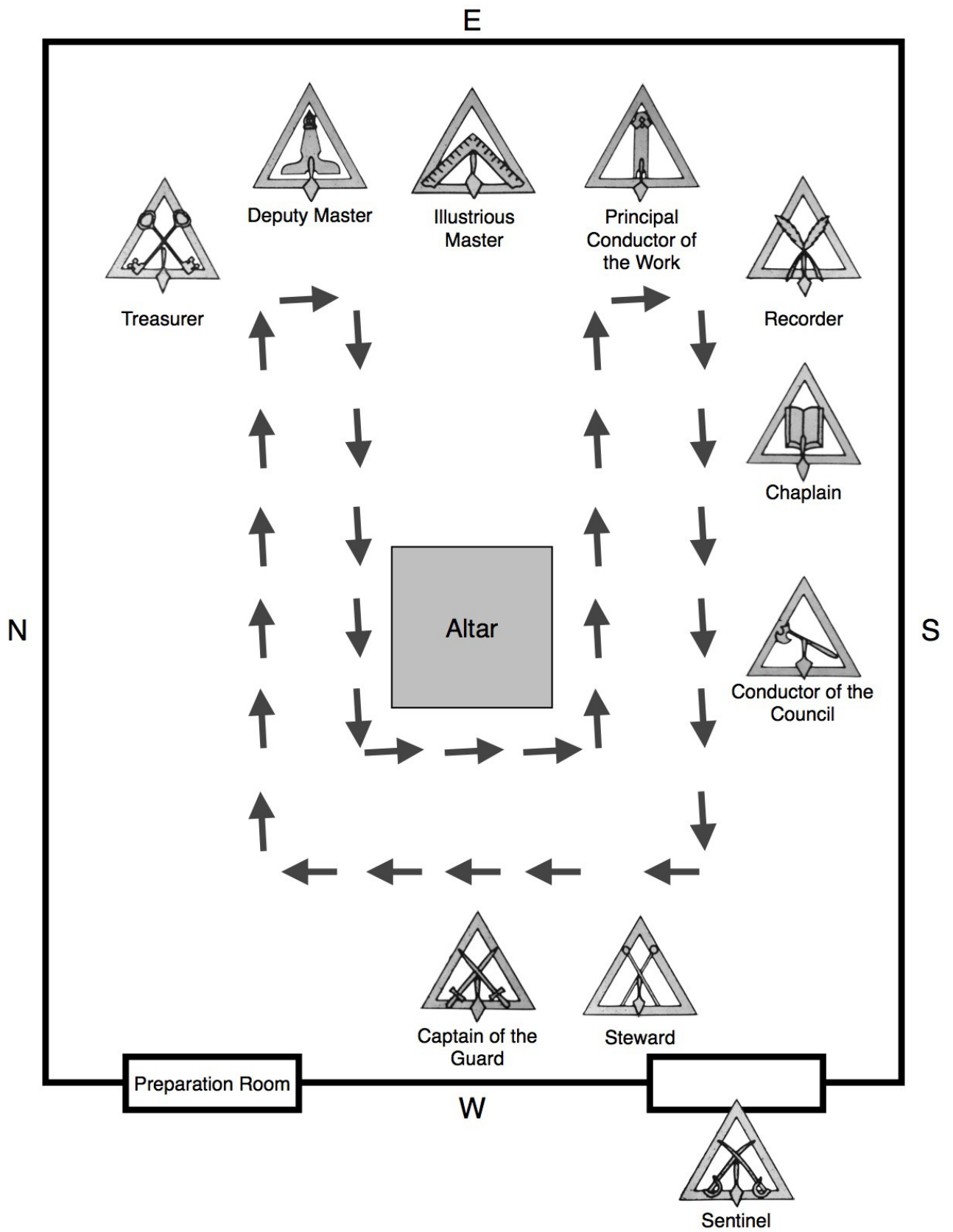


Diagram 2

PURGING

If Captain of the Guard is not satisfied, he will call on the Steward.

CG: Companion Steward, (*Steward rises*) are all present Select Masters?

St: I will ascertain and report.

Steward goes north to just in front of sidelines, then east to end of sidelines, about faces and returns to a line just west of Altar, turns left and goes south to just in front of sidelines, then east to end of sidelines, about faces and returns along south side of room to his station, purging north sidelines as he goes east and south sidelines as he goes west, making square corners. (Diagram 2).

When challenging a Companion, Steward will halt, face the Companion, cause him to rise, right or left face - he should never turn his back to the Companion challenged - and say:

St: Companion Captain of the Guard, a visitor for whom I cannot vouch.

CG: (*If he cannot vouch for the visitor*) will any Companion vouch for the visitor? (*The visitor being vouched for, the Captain of the Guard will say*) Companion Steward, the visitor is properly vouched for.

Steward will again face the Companion, direct him to be seated, and proceed with his duties.

If the visitor is not vouched for, the Illustrious Master will appoint a committee of three who will retire with the visitor and examine him.

An examined visitor, having the proper credentials, and there being no objection, may be introduced at any convenient time after the Council has been duly opened.

Having completed his duty of purging, the Steward returns to his station, faces the Captain of the Guard and, reports:

WORK

St: Companion Captain of the Guard, all present are Select Masters. (*Steward is seated*)

CG: Illustrious Master, all present are Select Masters.

IM: Is our number complete?

CG: I find the number three times nine.

IM: See that the Companions are in order as Select Masters.

CG: (***) (*All rise*) Companions, be in order as Select Masters.

All give first sign (pl--- ou- ey--) and hold it until released by the knock () in the East. The Illustrious Master does not rise or give sign.*

CG: Illustrious Master, the Companions are in order.

IM: (*) (*All drop hands to side. All are seated except Captain of the Guard*) Companion Captain of the Guard, you will see that the Secret Vault is securely guarded.

CG: Companion Steward, (*Steward rises*) see that the Secret Vault is securely guarded, and inform the Sentinel that the Illustrious Master is about to open _____ Council Number _____ of Select Masters. Direct him to take due notice thereof and guard accordingly.

St: (*Opens door*) Companion Sentinel, the Illustrious Master is about to open _____ Council Number _____ of Select Masters. Take due notice thereof and guard accordingly.

Closes door, gives () answered by the Sentinel (*). Returns to his station and reports:*

St: Companion Captain of the Guard, the Sentinel is at his post and the Secret Vault is securely guarded. (*Steward is seated*)

CG: Illustrious Master, the Secret Vault is secure.

IM: Companion Captain of the Guard, are you a Select Master?

CG: I am acknowledged as such, and have wrought my regular hours.

IM: What are the regular hours?

CG: From nine at night 'till twelve, the time when prying eyes are closed in sleep.

IM: Where were you greeted as a Select Master?

CG: In a legally constituted Council of Select Masters assembled in a place representing the Secret Vault erected by King Solomon under the Sanctum Sanctorum of the Temple.

IM: How many compose a Council of Select Masters?

CG: Nine or more.

IM: When composed of only nine, who are they?

CG: The Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of the Work, Treasurer, Recorder, Captain of the Guard, Conductor of the Council, Steward, and Sentinel.

IM: The Steward's station?

CG: At the entrance to the Secret Vault.

IM: (**) *(All officers rise except the Illustrious Master)* Companion Steward, your duty?

St: To guard the entrance to the Secret Vault with sleepless vigilance.

IM: The Conductor of the Council's station?

St: In the South.

IM: Companion Conductor of the Council, your duty?

CC: To prepare, introduce and conduct all candidates for reception and greeting; examine visitors and see that they are properly accommodated.

IM: The Captain of the Guard's station?

CC: In the West.

IM: Companion Captain of the Guard, whom do you represent?

CG: Adoniram.

IM: Your duty?

CG: To guard well my post, and suffer none to pass it but the select, the faithful, and the worthy; to aid in organizing and preserving order and decorum in the Council; to obey the commands of my chief and be near at hand to see them duly executed.

IM: The Recorder's station?

CG: On the left of the Illustrious Council.

IM: Companion Recorder, your duty?

Rec: To observe the will and pleasure of the Illustrious Master, and record the proceedings of the Council so far as the same are proper to be written.

IM: The Treasurer's station?

Rec: On the right of the Illustrious Council.

IM: Companion Treasurer, your duty?

Tr: To number and weigh out the shekels of the Sanctuary, and provide for the helpless orphans.

IM: The Principal Conductor of the Work's station?

Tr: On the left of the Illustrious Master.

IM: Companion Principal Conductor of the Work, whom do you represent?

PCW: Hiram Abiff

IM: Your duty?

PCW: To sound the silver trumpet at early dawn and eve of day, when the Sun's first and last rays guild the mountain tops, announce high twelve, and proclaim the time for refreshment and labor.

IM: The Deputy Master's station?

PCW: On the right of the Illustrious Master.

IM: Companion Deputy Master, your duty?

DM: As the representative of Hiram King of Tyre with the Illustrious Master in Council, to exhibit the fellowship of Kings; to brighten the chain of friendship; to furnish memorials of the ancient craft, and to aid and support my chief in all the requirements of his office.

IM: The Illustrious Master's station?

DM: In the East of the Ninth Arch.

IM: His duty?

DM: As the representative of Solomon King of Israel in Council, to recite the secret traditions; to illustrate the moral principles of our order; to cherish the worthy, and hold in due veneration the ancient landmarks.

IM: Companion Captain of the Guard, what is the hour?

CG: Nine at night.

IM: *(Rises) (***) (All rise)* Since it is nine at night, it is the time to resume our labors. The Companions will repair to their several stations, and, after the regular alarm of the mysterious nine, each will resume his labors as he may be directed. Give your orders accordingly.

CG: Companions, it is the order of the Illustrious Master that you repair to your several stations and, after the regular alarm of the mysterious nine, each will resume his labors as he may be directed.

IM: Companions, attend to giving the Signs.

(All present will give the signs in unison with the Illustrious Master as follows: 1: ha--- to he--; 2: pl--- ou- ey--; 3: ch-- of- ha--- (le-- ha-- fi--); 4: bo-- qu----- an-- th---- am----- th- ru-----. After each sign, drop hands to side before giving the next sign.)

IM: *(*** ***)*.

DM: *(*** ***)*.

PCW: *(*** ***)*.

IM: Companions, let us pray. *(Illustrious Master may give the prayer or call on the Chaplain thus:)* Companion Chaplain, you will lead us in our devotions.

PRAYER

May the Supreme Grand Master graciously preside over all our Councils, and direct us in all such things as He will be pleased to approve and bless. May our profession as Masons be the rule of our conduct as men. May our secret retreat ever continue to be the resort of the just and merciful; the seat of the moral virtues, and the home of the select. Amen.

Response: So mote it be.

IM: I now declare _____ Council Number _____ of Select Masters duly opened. Companion Captain of the Guard, you will inform the Sentinel; Companion Conductor of the Council, attend at the Altar.

CG: Companion Steward, inform the Sentinel.

(Conductor of the Council and Steward leave their stations simultaneously to perform their respective duties.

Conductor of the Council goes to Altar, opens Bible at Exodus 16:32-35, places Square and Compass on left hand page, gives first two signs, (pl--- ou- ey--and ch-- of-ha---) which are acknowledged by Illustrious Master, and returns to his station.)

St: *(At the door) (***)*

Sen: *(Outside) (***) (***) (***)*.

St: *(Opens door)* Companion Sentinel, the Council is duly opened.

(Steward closes door, gives () answered by Sentinel (*) and returns to his station.)*

Stew: *(At his station)* Companion Captain of the Guard, the Sentinel is informed.

CG: Illustrious Master, your order has been obeyed.

IM: *(*) (All are seated.)*

-End of opening-

TRANSITION TO THE ROYAL MASTER DEGREE

(The business of a Council will be transacted in the Select Master degree. When work is to be done in the Royal Master degree, labor will be suspended in the Secret Vault as follows:)

IM: *(***) (All rise)* Companion Captain of the Guard, I now declare labor suspended in the Secret Vault and a Council of Royal Masters duly opened for work. Inform the Sentinel.

CG: Companion Steward, inform the Sentinel that labor is suspended in the Secret Vault and a Council of Royal Masters opened for work. Direct him to take due notice thereof and guard accordingly.

St: *(At the door) (***) (***) (***)*.

Sen: *(Outside) (***) (***) (***)*.

St: *(Opens door)* Companion Sentinel, labor is now suspended in the Secret Vault and a Council of Royal Masters opened for work. Take due notice thereof and guard accordingly.

(Steward closes door, gives () answered by the Sentinel (*), returns to his station and reports:)*

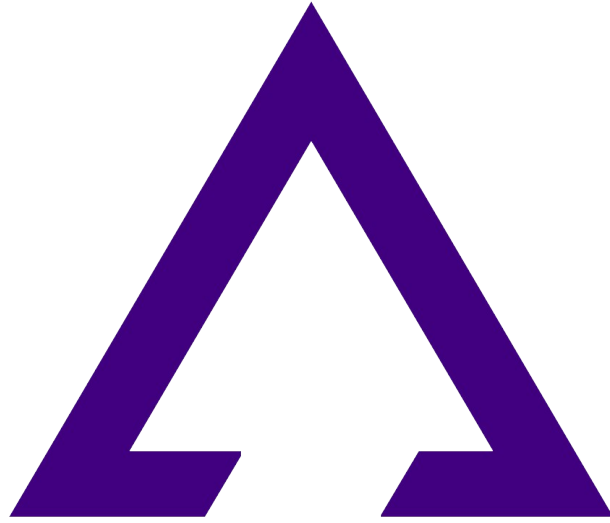
St: Companion Captain of the Guard, the Sentinel is informed.

CG: Illustrious Master, your order has been obeyed.

(Bible remains open)

IM: *(*) (All are seated.)*

ROYAL MASTER DEGREE



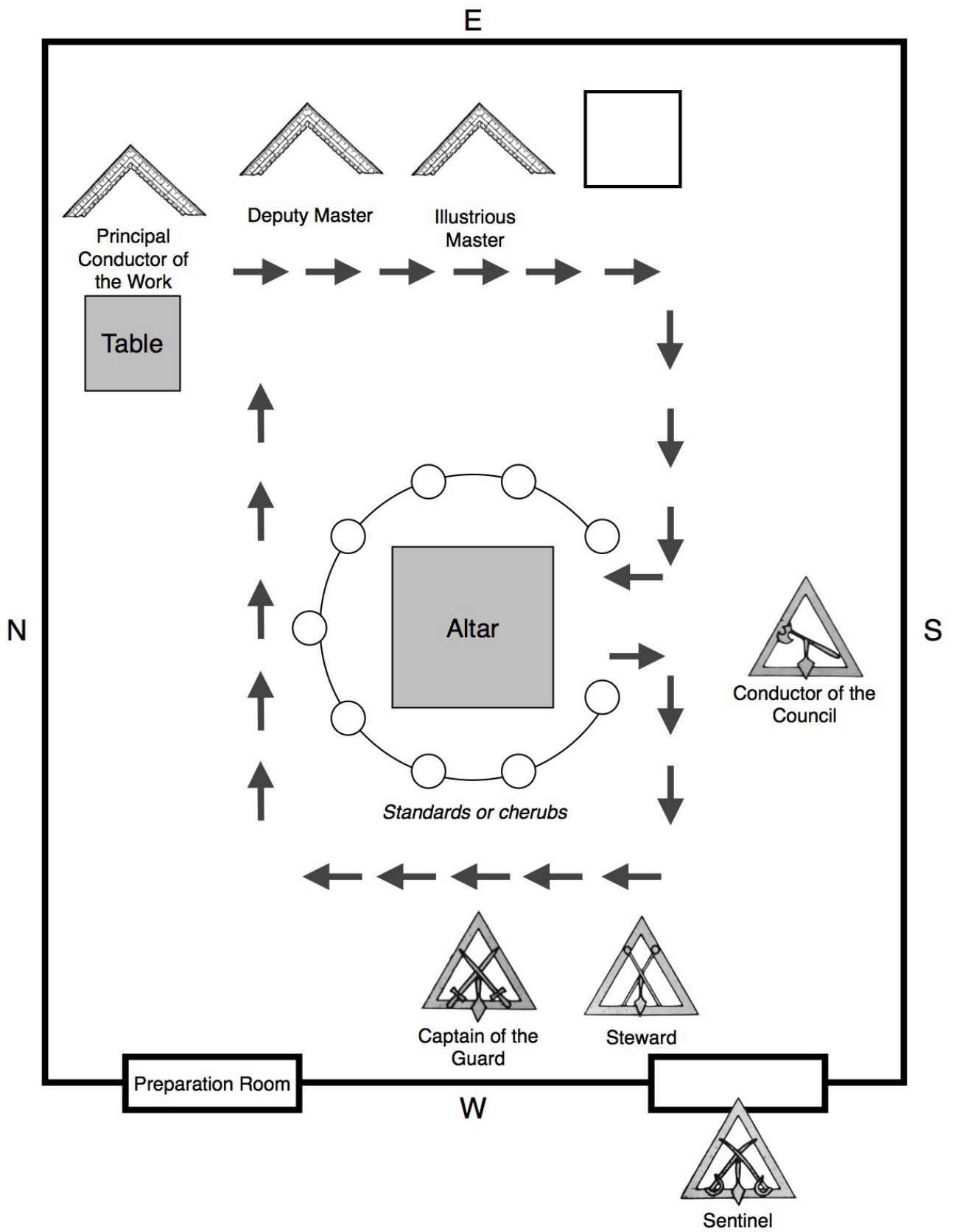


Diagram 3

FIRST SECTION

In this section the Illustrious Master, Deputy Master and Principal Conductor of the Work represent Solomon King of Israel (KS), Hiram King of Tyre (HKT), and Hiram Abiff (HA) respectively.

The council room should be set up as in Diagram 3. A representation of the Cherubim should be formed by the use of standards (9), each with a burning taper on it or standards connected by silk ropes or other suitable material enclosing the Altar with opening at the south.

In the northeast corner of the room there should be a table on which are several articles as described in 1 Kings 7:48-50 and a trestle board on which are several geometric designs. Hiram Abiff is at work there as the degree opens.

Candles on the table remain lighted throughout entire first section.

Each of the three Grand Masters should have a pedestal with a lighted candle upon it. All three are in their stations when candidates are brought in. Hiram Abiff remains there until after the prologue.

Aprons should not be worn over robes except HA who puts his on after repairing to the northeast corner.

When all is in readiness the Conductor of the Council will conduct the candidates into the Council chamber and seat them on the south side of the room east of Conductor of the Council station; assume his station and be seated.

All candidates, (Cand) or Adoniram (Ad), should wear plain white aprons.

Only one active candidate should be used in the first section.

The Illustrious Master may give the prologue or request some Companion to do so.

PROLOGUE

Companions, you have repeatedly been informed that Masonry is a never-ending search for light. In the Craft degrees you received light, more light, and further light, but your search was not ended. In the Chapter degrees additional light was imparted to you, and you found, as you find in life, that each advancement in knowledge simply opens the eyes to a vaster field of knowledge yet to be attained. Every revelation in Masonry is also a reveilment. Every discovery of new truths also reveals a veil in front of some other truth, to be again the object of further search. Ultimate Truth will be discovered only when we have passed the final veil and entered into the presence of Him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

In taking our degrees there is one thing you must remember, namely, the order in which events happen is seldom the order in which we learn about them. The successive degrees in Masonry picture events in the order we learn about them, not the chronological order in which they occurred. For instance, the events of the Mark Master degree took place before those of the Master Mason degree, but they were not presented to you in that order. The degree you are about to receive pictures events that happened prior to and after the tragedy of the third degree, and we would have you notice how well they fill the gaps in our knowledge of that tragedy and its meaning.

In this degree you, as a candidate, will represent Adoniram, one of the most skilled of the craftsmen employed by King Solomon at the building of the Temple, who was a close personal friend of the Grand Master Hiram Abiff.

WORK

KS: Companion Captain of the Guard, *(Captain of the Guard rises)* see that the Candidate is prepared and presented.

(Captain of the Guard selects one Candidate, retires with him to the preparation room and prepares him by divesting him of his outward apparel (coat), his shirt sleeves rolled up, wearing apron as a Fellowcraft and places a beautiful piece of work in his hands. This piece of work should be a miniature representation of the three lesser lights which can actually be lighted.)

As the active Candidate is taken out, Hiram Abiff leaves his station, goes to table in the northeast corner, puts on apron and is working there as the Captain of the Guard and the Candidate enter.

The Captain of the Guard takes the Candidate by right arm. They enter without alarm and pass directly to the northeast corner of room where HA stands at the table examining the Holy Vessels.

The Candidate now represents the character Adoniram (Ad.)

Ad: Grand Master Hiram Abiff, I have a piece of work for your inspection.

(Hiram Abiff takes the piece of work, examines it carefully, then turns to King Solomon and says:)

HA: This is a beautiful piece of work and the craftsman who wrought it is worthy of the confidence of the Craft, but its office and purport are unknown to me; neither is it of my designing.

(Hiram Abiff takes work up to King Solomon, then steps back toward his station in the northeast corner and stands there while King Solomon makes his speech.)

KS: *(Rises.)*

KS: *(Holding up piece of work)* My Illustrious Companion Hiram Abiff, this is a piece of work which I myself gave orders to be made, and which, I observe, has been executed according to my command. It is intended to serve as a reminder of the mysterious triad, expressive of the essence and attributes of Deity and of those great Masonic virtues - Faith, Hope and Charity. You will deposit it in the Holy of Holies, with the other sacred furniture, and hereafter, in every Regular Masonic Lodge, let there be displayed about the Altar of Obligation, three burning tapers, placed in a triangular position; and may the virtues which they symbolize, be a light unto the feet of every true and faithful Mason, in all walks of life, until that perfect day when the glory of the Lord shall illumine our souls forever.

(Hiram Abiff advances and receives work from King Solomon)

HA: *(Turns to Adoniram and says:)* Adoniram, your work is accepted, and in due time you shall receive your reward.

(Hiram Abiff places work on table with the other Holy Vessels and Captain of the Guard and Candidate stand aside to west of table, facing south.)

HA: *(After examining all the vessels on the table)* Yes, the furniture of the Holy of Holies is now nearly completed.

(Gong sounds 12 times.)

KS: Illustrious Companion Hiram Abiff, what is the hour?

HA: High twelve, Illustrious King Solomon.

KS: It being high twelve, call the craft from Labor to Refreshment.

HA: (*)** *(All rise)* Companions, it is the order of Illustrious King Solomon that the craft be now called from Labor to Refreshment. Take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly.

(The Craft remains standing. Hiram Abiff removes his apron and proceeds to the Altar, going south, then west to south of Altar, then north to center of west of Altar, proceeding by right angles as he goes. (Diagram 3).

When Hiram Abiff starts for the Altar, Captain of the Guard with Candidate turns west and timing speech, stops directly north of Altar, faces south and says "to enter" just as Hiram Abiff enters from the south.)

CG: *(As they proceed westward)* It is now high twelve, at which hour it is the custom of our Grand Master Hiram Abiff to enter the Sanctum Sanctorum and offer up his devotions to Deity.

(Hiram Abiff kneels at Altar and prays. Any suitable prayer may be used but the following is recommended.)

PRAYER

Let me do my work each day and if the darkened hours of despair overtake me, may I not forget the strength that comforted me in the sadness of other times.

May I still remember the bright hours that found me walking over the silent hills of my childhood or dreaming on the margin of the quiet river, when a light glowed within me and I promised my early God to have courage amid the tempests of the changing years.

Spare me from bitterness and from the sharp passions of unguarded moments. Though the world know me not, may my thoughts and actions be such as shall keep me friendly with myself. Lift my eyes from the earth and teach me the uses of the stars. Forbid that I should judge others lest I condemn myself. Let me not follow the glamour of the world but walk calmly in my path.

Give me a few friends who will love me for what I am and not for what little I may possess. And though age and infirmity overtake me and I come not within sight of the castle of my dreams, teach me still to be thankful for life and for time's olden memories that are good and sweet, and may the evening's twilight find me gentle still. Amen.

(As the prayer is ended, the Captain of the Guard and the Candidate proceed to a point just west of the Altar, then south to await Hiram Abiff. Captain of the Guard talks as they move.)

CIRCUMAMBULATIONS

CG: Our Grand Master Hiram Abiff having concluded his devotions, let us await his return by way of the South gate.

(Hiram Abiff passes around Altar and out at the opening in the south, then turns west. The Captain of the Guard and the Candidate meet and stop him as he turns west. Captain of the Guard does not touch Hiram Abiff)

CG: Grand Master Hiram Abiff, when shall I receive the Master's Word?

HA: My worthy friend Adoniram, I do not know that you will ever receive it, for it is agreed by Solomon King of Israel, Hiram King of Tyre, and myself, that the Master's Word can only be given when the Temple is completed, and then only in the presence of all three.

(Hiram Abiff attempts to proceed westward and is again interrupted.)

CG: Grand Master Hiram Abiff, suppose one of you three, even you yourself, should be removed by death prior to that event, how shall I then receive it?

(Hiram Abiff hesitates, meditating a few moments, then takes Candidate by left arm, goes west to a line one pace east of Captain of the Guard's station, then north; the Captain of the Guard follows directly behind Candidate until opposite his station where he turns west and assumes his station. As Captain of the Guard

reaches his station, King Solomon gives one knock (*) which seats everyone except Hiram Abiff and the Candidate.

Hiram Abiff proceeds slowly north, then east, and should not begin talking until all are seated. Hiram Abiff with Candidate moves slowly around Altar, speaking as they go, and pausing west of altar, one pace west of standards, each time around, faces east, gives three taps with toe (***) and pointing down (to a point beneath the Altar), with right hand over left, says: "It will be," etc.)

HA: Companion Adoniram, death is a theme not lightly to be broached by those subject to its power. The young may die, the old must die, and the wisest knoweth not how soon. There is none that escapes the inexorable doom. The youngest Entered Apprentice upon the checkered pavement below dwells ever in the shadow of death, while the invisible hand extends equally above King Solomon on his ivory throne. We walk upon the ashes of the generations who have gone this way before us, to which our ashes must in turn contribute. It is not for me, Companion Adoniram, to hope for an exemption from the common doom of man. I may not live to see the Temple completed; the Master's Word may be lost, but if I die, (***) (*Pointing down*), it will be buried there.

(Circumambulates 2nd time.)

HA: Companion Adoniram, death terminates the labor of a man. Thenceforth the generations may build and occupy, but he will not be there. The teeming brain, the skillful hand and the sinewy arm are alike useless and superfluous in the grave. As our Most Excellent King Solomon has said, "The dead know not anything; their love, their hatred and their envy is now perished; neither have they any more a portion forever of anything that is done under the sun." What an incentive is this to an industrious use of our time and our faculties, that we should build industriously while our strength endures and labor to complete our work ere the week closes and the Sabbath of Eternity sets in. My work, Companion Adoniram, is not complete, though I have labored long and faithfully to execute it. I may not live to see the Temple completed, but if I die, (***) (*Pointing down*), it will be buried there.

(Circumambulates 3rd time.)

HA: Companion Adoniram, it is through the gate of death that we find an entrance to the place of wages, refreshment and rest.

The Supreme Master of the Universe, before whom we bow in adoration, and whose All-Seeing Eye has marked our labors in the Lodge below, promises to spread before us in the Celestial Lodge above, all the joys and glories of His Eternal Sabbath. After the strong hand of death has leveled all in the humiliation of the grave, the Almighty Hand of the Supreme Master shall prevail and exalt every brother to the glorious companionship of that un-dissolving Lodge. There the designs upon the trestle board will be seen completed. There the adoration of the twelfth hour will be everlasting joy. There the noontide bliss will eternally shine. There the scales of doubt and darkness shall fall from my eyes, and the wise purpose of the Divine Architect will be displayed in all their splendor.

With the light of this faith beaming upon me, O death, where is thy sting? My hope, Companion Adoniram, rests in the higher Lodge to which I am advancing. I may not live to see the Temple completed, but if I die, (***) (*Pointing down*), the Word will be buried there.

*(Captain of the Guard rises as Hiram Abiff gives (***) and goes to right rear of the Candidate. As Hiram Abiff leaves, the Captain of the Guard will step up beside the Candidate. Hiram Abiff returns to his station and puts on apron which is the signal for one (*), one gong.)*

KS: Illustrious Companion Hiram Abiff, what is the hour?

HA: One hour past high twelve, Illustrious King Solomon.

KS: It being one hour past high twelve, call the craft from Refreshment to Labor.

HA: (*)** *(All rise)* Companions, it is the order of Illustrious King Solomon that the craft be now called from Refreshment to Labor. Take due notice thereof, and govern yourselves accordingly.

*(When Hiram Abiff gives (***) to call up the Craft, Conductor of the Council goes to right rear of the Candidate (behind Captain of the Guard). After Hiram Abiff gives the order to resume labor, the CG steps to the rear of the Candidate. and the Conductor of the Council takes position on the right of the Candidate. and gives his speech there.)*

CC: (To the Candidate) The Craft being called from Refreshment to Labor, we will repair to the clay grounds between Succoth and Zaredatha, and there resume our labors.

(Conductor of the Council and the Candidate face south and proceed to a point just in front and to west of Conductor of the Council's station. Captain of the Guard follows directly behind Candidate.

If there is a class present on south side of room east of Conductor of the Council's station, they halt and the Conductor of the Council will ask the class to follow him, single file. Captain of the Guard will stand fast as class passes and fall in behind the last candidate.

Conductor of the Council will conduct class west to a point on a line just in front of Captain of the Guard station, then north to a point opposite preparation room door, then column left and out.

Captain of the Guard drops out of procession when opposite his station and assumes same.

As Captain of the Guard reaches his station, King Solomon gives one knock () and all are seated together.)*

OPTIONAL ADDITION TO THE WORK

The following optional work must be performed in pantomime and in such a manner as to maintain dignity and decorum in the Council. Roughness must not be permitted at any time.

At the conclusion of his speech following the 3rd circumambulation, HA will proceed clockwise around the Altar, again enter from the south and kneel a few moments in silence. He will then rise and proceed around the Altar and out at the south as before. This time he is met by the first ruffian who thrice demands of him the Secrets of a Master Mason. On being refused the first ruffian gives him a blow across the th---- with a twenty-four inch gauge.

Hiram Abiff proceeds west to a point on a line just east of Captain of the Guard station, then north. Opposite Captain of the Guard station he is met by the second ruffian who also thrice demands of him the Secrets of a Master Mason. On also being refused, the second ruffian gives him a blow across the br---- with a square.

Hiram Abiff proceeds north to a point on a line opposite his station in the northeast corner, then east. As he reaches a point on a line just east of Altar, he is met by the third ruffian who likewise thrice demands of him the Secrets of a Master Mason. On likewise being refused, the third ruffian gives him a blow to the fo----- with a setting maul which fells him down on the spot. The three ruffians then carry him out to prep room.

If this addition to the work is used, the Captain of the Guard and Candidate will remain west of Altar, the Captain of the Guard turning the Candidate. so that he may see all the action. They will be facing east as HA meets the third ruffian.

This additional scene serves to refresh the memory of the Candidate concerning the great tragedy of the third degree, enabling him to better understand how the whole story fits together and also why Hiram Abiff is missing in the second section.

When the ruffians with Hiram Abiff have left the room, a gong will sound ().*

Since Hiram Abiff is missing, King Solomon will address Conductor of the Council.

KS: Companion Conductor of the Council, *(Conductor of the Council rises)* what is the hour?

CC: One hour past high twelve, Illustrious King Solomon.

KS: It being one hour past high twelve, call the craft from Refreshment to Labor.

CC: (***) *(All rise)* Companions, it is the order of Illustrious King Solomon that the craft be now called from Refreshment to Labor. Take due notice thereof, and govern yourselves accordingly.

(Immediately after giving the order to resume labor, the Conductor of the Council will take his position at right of Candidate, give his speech and the section will be concluded as previously described.)

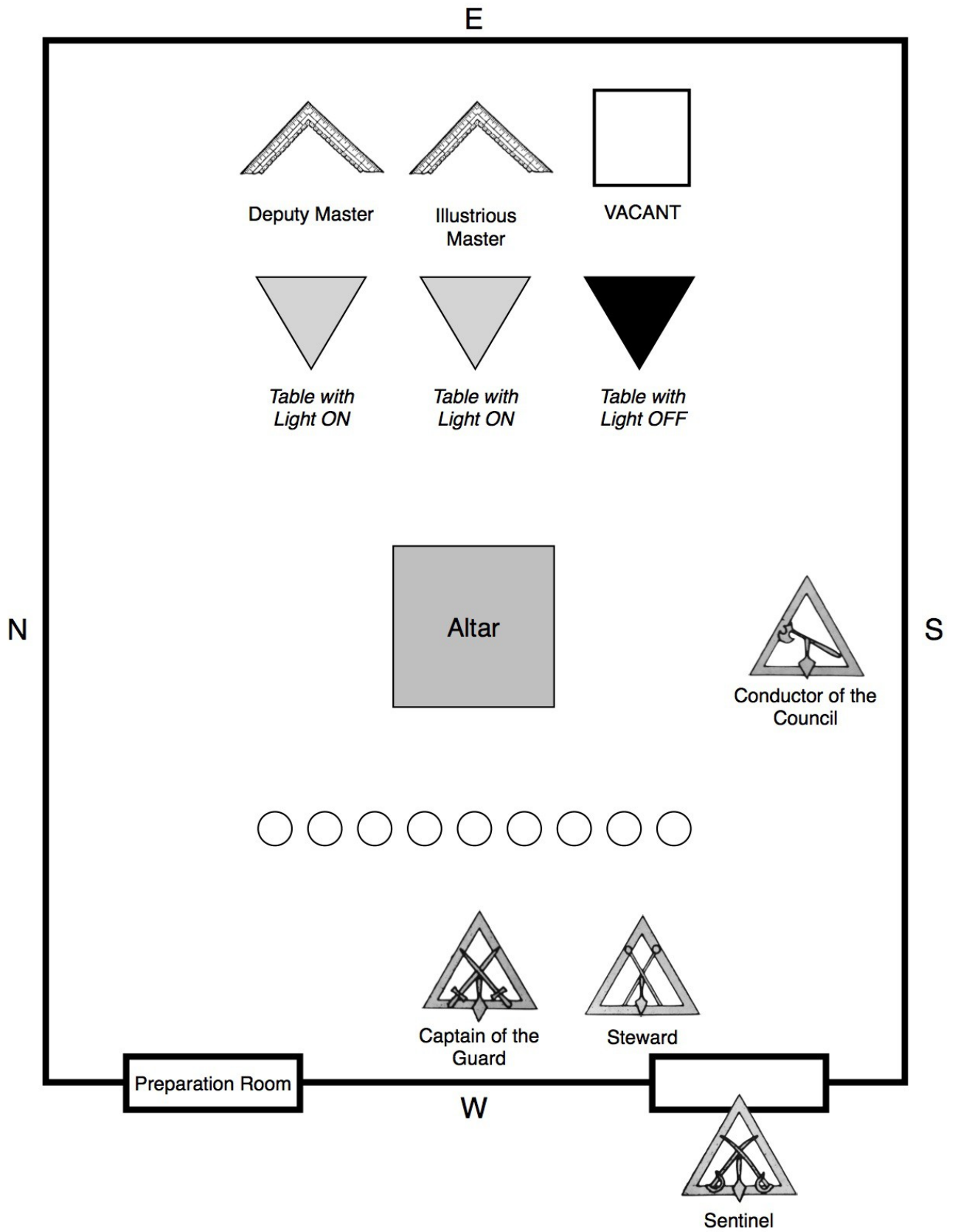


Diagram 4

SECOND SECTION

In this section the Illustrious Master and Deputy Master represent Solomon, King of Israel (KS) and Hiram. King of Tyre (HKT), respectively.

The Principal Conductor of the Work's (Hiram Abiff (HA)) Jewel lies on the table, his seat is vacant and draped in mourning, and the light at his station is extinguished.

The standards representing the Cherubim should be placed in a line equidistant between Captain of the Guard station and Altar and extending almost to marching line on north and south sides. Diagram 4.

House lights bright.

Conductor of the Council will instruct all candidates regarding due guards and signs and inform them that events depicted in this section occurred shortly after the death of the Grand Master Hiram Abiff.

All candidates should wear white aprons.

All candidates should take part in the circumambulations, but if class is too large, one active candidate may be used and the others brought in, after being instructed and seated on the south side east of Conductor of the Council station before beginning the work.

WORK

CC: *(With the Candidate in prep room) (***) (***) (***)*.

CG: *(Rises)* Illustrious King Solomon, there is an alarm.

KS: Attend to the alarm.

CG: *(Goes to door) (***) (***) (***) (Opens door)* Who comes here?

CC: A Companion Royal Arch Mason, who wishes to be advanced to the rights and honors of a Royal Master.

CG: Is it of your own free will and accord?

Cand: It is.

CG: Is he duly and truly prepared?

CC: He is.

CG: Worthy and well qualified?

CC: He is.

CG: Has he made suitable proficiency in the preceding degrees?

CC: He has.

CG: By what further right or benefit does he expect to gain admission?

CC: By the benefit of the Pass.

CG: Has he the Pass?

CC: He has it not. I have it for him.

CG: Advance and give it. *(A---, P--- H----. Grip is not given)*

CG: Wait until King Solomon is informed of your request and his answered returned.

(Captain of the Guard closes door, goes to his station and reports:)

CG: Illustrious King Solomon, there is without a Companion Royal Arch Mason who wishes to be advanced to the rights and honors of a Royal Master.

KS: It is of his own free will and accord?

CG: It is.

KS: Is he duly and truly prepared?

CG: He is.

KS: Worthy and well qualified?

CG: He is.

KS: Has he made suitable proficiency in the preceding degrees?

CG: He has.

KS: By what further right or benefit does he expect to gain admission?

CG: By the benefit of the Pass.

KS: Has he the Pass?

CG: He has it not. I have it for him.

KS: Give me the Pass.

CG: (A---, P--- H----.)

KS: The Pass is right. Admit him.

CG: (Goes to door, opens it and says:) Enter.

(Captain of the Guard steps aside until Conductor of the Council and the Candidate have passed, then closes door, resumes his station and is seated.)

Conductor of the Council and the Candidate enter, Conductor of the Council on the right and make one complete circumambulation, halting in the east.

As they arrive in the east, the Deputy Master will rise.

They remain standing during the Scripture readings.

The reading should be done from the Bible or from a scroll prepared for the purpose. The Illustrious Master may give the readings or have a Chaplain do them.

The Illustrious Master will give the appropriate knocks after each section of Scripture is read. After each set of knocks the Candidate will give the due guard and sign of that degree led by the Deputy Master the Illustrious Master will remain seated.)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

(The first reading should begin as Conductor of the Council and the Candidate pass the Captain of the Guard's station)

And he set the Cherubim within the inner house, and they stretched forth the wings of the Cherubim so that the wing of one touched the one wall and the wing of the other Cherub touched the other wall, and their wings touched one another in the midst of the house. *(1 Kings 6:27)*

(*)

And Solomon made all the vessels that pertained unto the house of the Lord; the Altar of gold and the table of gold whereupon the shewbread was.

(**)

And the candlesticks of pure gold, five on the right side, and five on the left, before the oracle, with the flowers, and the lamps, and the tongs of gold.

(***)

And the bowls, and the snuffers, and the basins, and the spoons and the censers of pure gold; and the hinges of gold, both for the doors of the inner house, the most holy place, and for the doors of the house, to wit, of the Temple. *(1 Kings 7:48-50)*

(*** *)

And Hiram made the lavers and the shovels and the basins. So Hiram made an end of doing all the work that he had made King Solomon for the house of the Lord. *(1 Kings 7:40)*

(*** **)

So was ended all the work that King Solomon made for the house of the Lord. *(1 Kings 7:51)*

(*** ***)

And, behold I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

(*** ***)

(After giving the due guard and sign of the Royal Arch, the Conductor of the Council and the Candidate will make one circumambulation and again halt in the east. Deputy Master is seated.

The last Scripture reading will begin as they pass the Captain of the Guard station.)

Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have a right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. *(Revelations 22:12-14)*

(*** ***)

CC: *(With foot)* (*** ***)

KS: *(Rises)* Who comes here?

CC: A Companion Royal Arch Mason, who wishes to be advanced to the rights and honors of a Royal Master.

KS: Is it of your own free will and accord?

Cand: It is.

KS: Is he duly and truly prepared?

CC: He is.

KS: Worthy and well qualified?

CC: He is.

KS: Has he made suitable proficiency in the preceding degrees?

CC: He has.

KS: By what further right or benefit does he expect to gain admission?

CC: By the benefit of the Pass.

KS: Has he the Pass?

CC: He has it not. I have it for him.

KS: Advance and give it.

(The Conductor of the Council ascends the dais and gives it (A---, P--- H----) in a low breath. Grip is not given. He then backs down to his position on the right of the Candidate.)

KS: The Pass is right. Re-conduct the candidate to the Captain of the Guard in the west, who will teach him how to advance to the Altar for the eighth time in Masonry in due and ancient form.

(Conductor of the Council conducts the Candidate to the west, where they halt and face Captain of the Guard)

CC: Companion Captain of the Guard, *(Captain of the Guard rises)* it is the order of Illustrious King Solomon, that you teach this Candidate how to advance to the Altar for the eighth time in Masonry in due and ancient form.

CG: Cause the Candidate to face the East.

(Conductor of the Council will direct the Candidate to about face, and he will hold his position on the north.)

CG: Advance one step with your ri--- fo--; bring the he---- together, feet forming two sides of an eq----- tr-----.
(Done)

CG: *(Steps to right front of Candidate)* I will now conduct you to the Altar where you are about to be made a Royal Master in due and ancient form, *(takes Candidate by the left arm (the one on the south end of line) and conducts him to the Altar, passing around south end of standards; Conductor of the Council follows in the rear)* which is by kneeling on both knees, *(Done)* both hands resting upon the Holy Bible, Square and Compass. *(Done)* Illustrious King Solomon, the Candidate is in due form.

(On arriving at the Altar, Conductor of the Council will assist in placing the candidates.)

If class is seated on the south side of room, Conductor of the Council will bring them up at this point in the work. Every candidate should be caused to kneel, class forming a triangle with each placing his hand upon the shoulder of the man in front of him.

When candidates are in position, Conductor of the Council and Captain of the Guard step to right and left rear, respectively, forming a triangle with the active candidate at center of Altar.)

OBLIGATION

KS: *(Rises)* Companion, you are again kneeling at the Sacred Altar of Freemasonry and are in due form to take upon yourself the solemn obligation of a Royal Master which contains nothing that will conflict with your duty to God, your country, your neighbor or yourself. With this assurance on my part are you willing to take the Obligation?

Cand: I am.

(Deputy Master rises and leaves the dais with the Illustrious Master; they form a broken circle with the Captain of the Guard and Conductor of the Council around the Altar. Steward remains at his station.)

KS: Say I, pronounce your name in full, and repeat after me.

I, _____, of my own fr wl nd ac, in th pr of th S.A. of th Un nd ths Cou. of R.M., do hby nd hrn mst slmly nd snclly pr nd sw, that I wl frvr kp nd cncl th sec of ths deg nd wl nt rvl thm ex to hm or thm to whm they of rgt blng.

I fthmr pr tht I wl not be pres or as at th con of ths deg upn an per unls he shl ha regly rec al th prcdng degs frm E.A. to R.A.M. inclusive, and thn only in a legly cnstd Cou. of R.M.

Al ths, I mst slmly nd snclly pr nd sw, without eq, men res, or sec ev in me whatever, bndng mysf un no le pen thn tht of bng bu al, shld I ev, knly or wlfly, vi ths my sol ob of a R.M., so h m G, a k m s in the du per of the sa.

(Solomon, King of Israel removes candidate's hands from Bible.)

KS: In token of your sincerity of purpose in these solemn engagements, you will kiss the Holy Bible now open before you. *(Done)* Arise.

KS: *(Steps back so that all may see)* The step of a Royal Master is made by advancing one step with the ri--- fo--, bringing the he--- together, feet forming two sides of an eq----- tr-----. *(Demonstrates as he talks)*

This is the sign of a Royal Master. (*Demonstrates*) With the fi----- interlaced, place both ha--- palms down on top of the he---. It alludes to the penalty of your obligation, that of being bu---- al---, and is the sign with which you salute the Illustrious Master on entering or retiring from a Council of Royal Masters.

The sign of recognition of this degree is given as follows:

(Conductor of the Council advances to left of Solomon, King of Israel)

KS: (*Takes broken triangle from Altar, hands it to Conductor of the Council and says:*) Do you know anything about this?

CC: I do. I know the beginning. What do you know about it? (*Returns it*)

KS: I know the ending. What is the beginning?

CC: Al---. What is the ending?

KS: Om---.

CC: The first.

KS: The last.

CC: The beginning.

KS: The ending.

(Conductor of the Council returns to his position at right rear of Candidate.

Hiram, King of Tyre approaches Solomon, King of Israel and they start to form a living arch, but one of the indispensable three being absent, they place hands on each others shoulders, and Solomon, King of Israel pointing to feet says:)

KS: What do you see there?

HKT: A Br----- Tr-----.

(Both raise their hands above their heads and exclaim:)

KS: A---. (*Drops hands to side*)

HKT: P--- H----. (*Drops hands to side*)

KS: This is the Grip of a Royal Master (*Demonstrates with HKT*) With the left feet forming two sides of an eq----- tr-----, place both hands on each others shoulders and the words " A---, P--- H----" is the Pass of this deg.

The principal words of this degree are A----. and O----.

KS: We learn from Masonic tradition that the origin of this grip is as follows: (*Demonstrates with HKT as he explains*)

Solomon King of Israel and Hiram King of Tyre, meeting in the Sanctum Sanctorum shortly after the death of Hiram Abiff, placed themselves involuntarily in the position to give the Master's Word, when suddenly realizing that one of their number was wanting, they immediately placed their hands on each other's shoulders, and Solomon, pointing down, asked "What do you see there?" Hiram King of Tyre replied, "A Br----- Tr-----"; both throwing up their arms, Solomon exclaimed, "A---". Hiram King of Tyre replied, "P--- H----."

KS: Companion Conductor of the Council, you will seat the candidates.

(Solomon, King of Israel, Hiram, King of Tyre and Captain of the Guard return to stations. Conductor of the Council conducts class to seats and returns to his station.

KS gives one knock () and all are seated.*

KS or an appointed Companion will take position in front of class and give the Historical Lecture.)

HISTORICAL LECTURE

This degree originated in consequence of a conversation between Grand Master Hiram Abiff and Adoniram, just before the death of the former.

After the Sanctum Sanctorum was completed, and a portion of the furniture deposited therein, Adoniram, on a certain day near high twelve, went there to deposit one of the Holy Vessels. At high twelve, when the Craft were called from labor to refreshment, Adoniram did not retire with the rest, but lingered behind with Hiram Abiff, whose custom it was at that hour to enter the Sanctum Sanctorum and offer his devotions to Deity and to draw designs upon the Trestle Board. After the rest of the Craft had retired, Adoniram asked Hiram Abiff when he should receive the Master's Word. He answered, "I do not know that you will ever receive it, for it is agreed by Solomon King of Israel, Hiram King of Tyre and myself that the Master's Word can only be given when the Temple is completed, and then only in the presence of all three." Adoniram then said, "Suppose one of you three, even you yourself, should be removed by death prior to that event, how shall I then receive it?" After commenting on the subject of death, Hiram Abiff with a significant gesture replied, "If I die, it will be buried there."

This conversation having been related to King Solomon by Adoniram, the Master's Word was deposited in the Secret Vault, as will be more fully explained to you in the succeeding degree, to which this is preparatory.

After the untimely death of Grand Master Hiram Abiff, the two surviving Grand Master's instituted this degree of Royal Master in token of their respect for his memory, and as a partial substitute for the Master Mason degree. Being unable to form the triangle in giving the Master's Word, as one of their number was dead, they substituted the br---- tr-----, being the nearest they could come to the original.

They first conferred the degree upon the noble Adoniram, and then upon other particular friends of Hiram Abiff. As his friend we now confer it upon you, and we give it as illustrative of the Master Mason and Royal Arch degrees.

The furniture of the Sanctum Sanctorum consisted of many Holy Vessels made of pure gold, but the most important article there was the Ark of the Covenant, called the Glory of Israel, which was seated in the midst of the Holy Place under the wings of the Cherubim. It was a small chest, or coffer, three feet nine inches long, two feet three inches wide and deep. It was made of wood excepting only the mercy seat, but overlaid with gold, both inside and out. It had a ledge of gold surrounding it at the top, into which the cover, called the mercy seat was let in. The mercy seat was of solid gold, the thickness of a hand's breadth. At the two ends of it were two Cherubs, looking inward toward each other, with their wings extended; which, embracing the whole circumference of the mercy seat, met on each side in the middle; all of which, the Rabbis say, was made out of the same mass without any soldering of parts.

Here the Shekina, or Divine Presence, rested and was visible in the appearance of a cloud over it. From hence the Bathkol issued, and gave answers when God was consulted. And hence it is that God is said in the Scriptures to dwell between the Cherubim; that is between the Cherubim on the mercy seat, because there was the Seat or Throne of the visible appearance of His Glory among them.

IM: This concludes the degree of Royal Master. You will now retire with your conductor, while necessary preparation is made for the succeeding degree.

(Conductor of the Council will conduct candidates to west of Altar where they receive the prologue.)

PROLOGUE TO THE SELECT MASTER DEGREE

Companions: The degree you have just received was preparatory to the one that is to follow, but the events it pictures occurred prior to those of the Third Degree and those of the Royal Master.

As a candidate in the various Masonic degrees, you represented a seeker for Truth symbolized by the Master's Word. In the Craft degrees this Word was lost when it seemed almost attained. You were given a substitute with

the hope that the true one would be recovered. You again became a seeker for the Word, and in the Chapter degrees it was found. Then the question arose: How was it thus preserved, and how came it to be in the place where you found it? In the Royal Master degree you had the definite assurance, not given in the Third Degree, that it would be preserved, and you were given a hint as to where it would be buried. In the degree you are about to receive, you will learn how and why it was buried there.

In the Select Master degree, Hiram Abiff is still alive and the three original Grand Masters are the principal characters in the scenes portrayed.

You, as a candidate, will represent Zabud, who was the son of Nathan, and a very close personal friend of King Solomon.

(Conductor of the Council and the Candidate give sign (hands to head); IM responds.

Conductor of the Council conducts the Candidate to prep room.)

IM: *(***) (All rise) I declare this Council of Royal Masters closed and labor resumed in the Secret Vault. Companion Captain of the Guard, inform the Sentinel.*

CG: Companion Steward, inform the Sentinel.

St: *(At the door; (***) (***) (***) answered by Sentinel) (***) (***) (***) (Steward opens door) Companion Sentinel, the Council of Royal Masters is duly closed and labor resumed in the Secret Vault.*

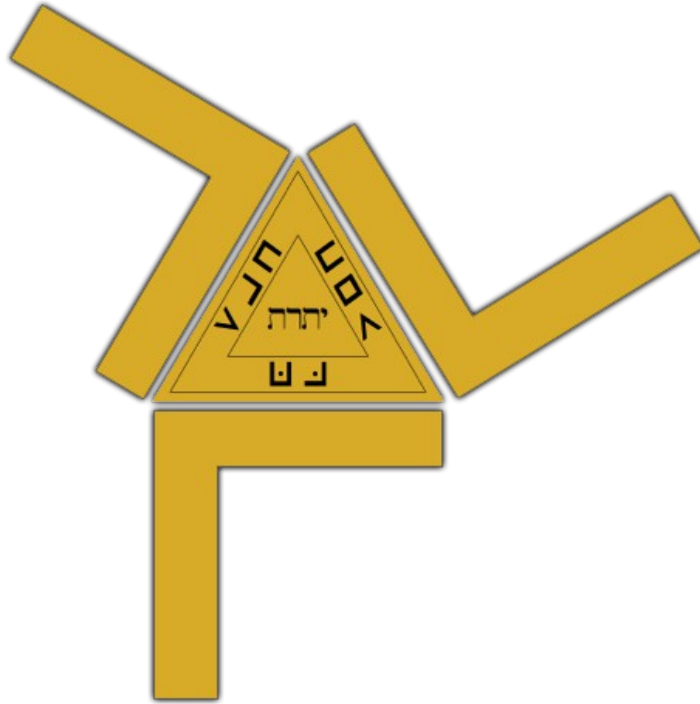
(Steward closes door, gives one knock () answered by Sentinel (*) and returns to his station.)*

St: Companion Captain of the Guard, the Sentinel is informed.

CG: Illustrious Master, your order has been obeyed.

IM: *(*) (All are seated.)*

SELECT MASTER DEGREE



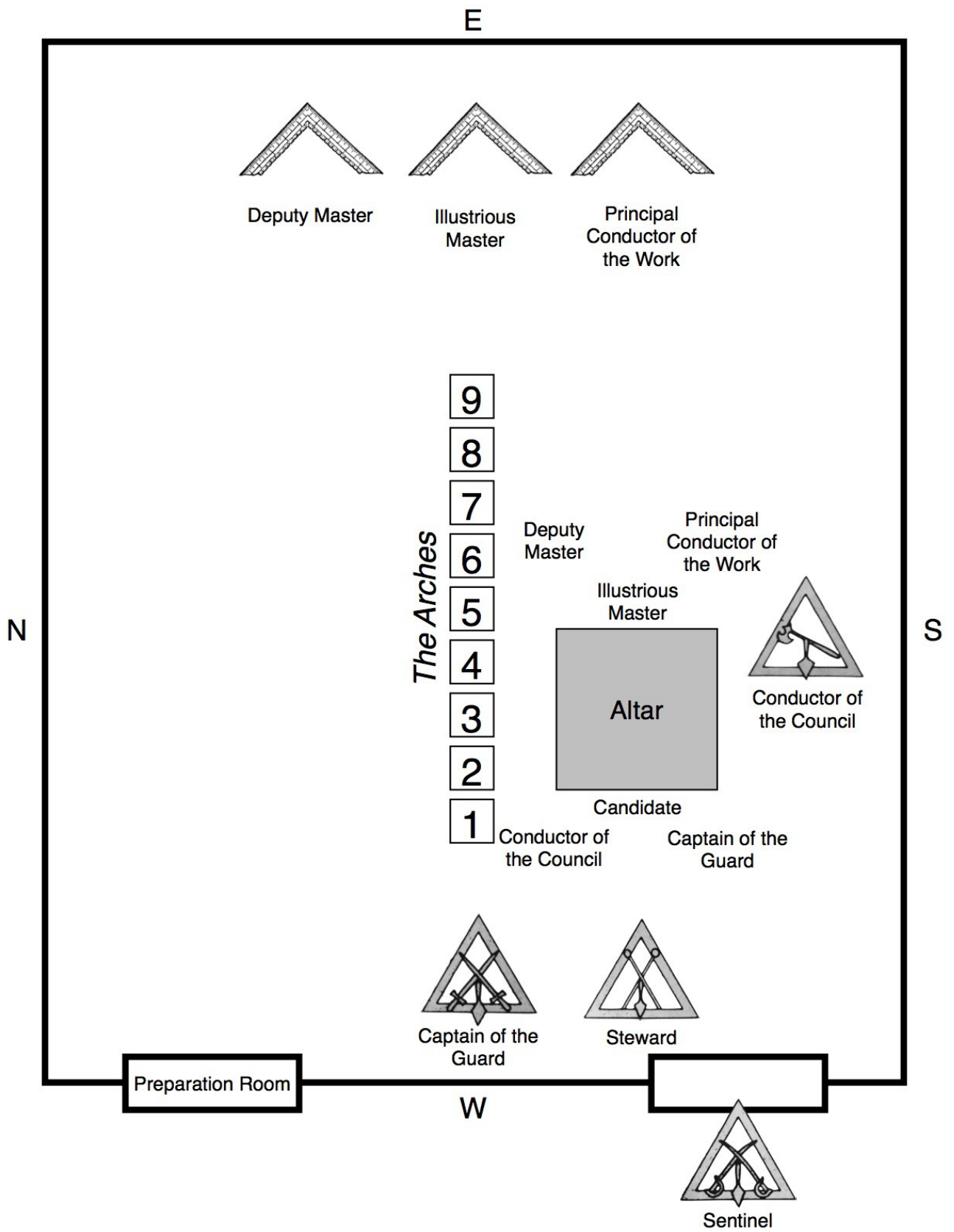


Diagram 5

In this degree the Illustrious Master, Deputy Master and Principal Conductor of the Work represent Solomon, King of Israel (KS), Hiram, King of Tyre (HKT) and Hiram Abiff (HA), respectively.

The preparation room represents King Solomon's most retired room, and the Council chamber, the Secret Vault with its nine Arches, eight of which are in process of construction, and the ninth completed. The west part of the room represents the first Arch, and the east part the ninth Arch.

Arches are placed directly in front of east leaving the ninth Arch as large as room permits. Diagram 5.

Altar is in the southwest.

Dim lights as candidate enters. Bright lights after the obligation.

The Conductor of the Council takes Candidate into the preparation room and instructs him that in this degree he represents Zabud, a particular friend of Solomon, King of Israel, and that he is to enter and proceed toward the East; if asked. "Who comes here?" to answer, "A zealous brother, desirous of participating in your labors."

Craftsmen with trowels are working on the first eight Arches. Each has a sword within reach.

The Captain of the Guard is guarding the first Arch with sword at carry.

AHISHAR'S SOLILOQUY (Optional)

Ahishar: *(as he falls asleep across inner door opening)* In truth this is the life of a mongrel dog. Evening after evening I walk here; up and down, back and forth, until my feet are weary and my legs scarce hold me to my path. Nine to twelve, night after night, "When prying eyes sleep," they say.

(Yawns and stretches)

I could do with a little sleep myself. Would I were with my friends at the inn by the City Gate. They know how to treat a man. But no, here I must stand guard where never a soul comes to share a word with me. Full three months since anyone approached this arch save those who work behind there.

(Walks a few steps in silence.)

I wonder what they work at? A precious secret it must be within those arches, to make a man suffer so. And - if I ask, wherefore I stand guard, what answer is given? Solomon says, "Be content good Ahishar, in due time you will receive your reward."

(Begins to lean back on one elbow)

"Guard well your post," they say to me. A foolish task for a man to guard against no one.

(Yawns and settles farther back)

Two long hours to pass before low twelve. My eyes will scarce open now.

(Falls back on floor asleep and snores)

(Only one active candidate should be challenged; however, all candidates should be brought in from preparation room and caused to step over Ahishar. Having given his instruction in the prep room, the Conductor of the Council, on the left, will conduct the class, single file, into the Council chamber and direct them to be seated on the northwest side of room. He will then take his position on the left of the last candidate as he is challenged by the Captain of the Guard)

WORK

CG: Who comes here?

Zabud: A zealous brother, desirous of participating in your labors.

CG: Advance and give the Sign and Token of your entrance.

Zabud: I cannot.

CG: An intruder! An intruder!

(The workmen quickly drop their working tools, seize swords and rush to the spot. Only two workmen should actually go to the assistance of the Captain of the Guard so as not to obstruct the view of the class.)

(At the same time the three Grand Masters enter hurriedly from the ninth Arch. They pass through the Arches with Solomon, King of Israel in the lead.)

KS: What is the cause of this alarm?

CG: An intruder has entered our Secret Vault.

KS: Put him to instant death.

(One of the guards (workmen) raises his sword as if to carry out the order on the spot. The Captain of the Guard suddenly recognizing the prisoner, steps forward, parries the blow with upraised sword and exclaims:)

CG: Hold! *(Turns to Solomon, King of Israel)* Illustrious King Solomon, are you aware upon whom you are about to execute this sentence? This is none other than your particular friend Zabud.

KS: *(Surprised)* Zabud! *(Approaches for a closer look at the prisoner, pauses a moment in thought, then says:)* Companion Captain of the Guard, *(Captain of the Guard salutes with sword; Solomon, King of Israel responds)* bind him fast and have him forthcoming when called for, or your life shall answer for his escape.

KS: *(To Hiram, King of Tyre and Hiram Abiff)* Illustrious Companions, Let us retire to the ninth Arch for consultation.

(Guards bind the Candidate under direction of the Captain of the Guard. They step back to northwest corner of the room. Candidate should not be taken out of the room. Captain of the Guard guards prisoner. As the three Grand Masters retire to the ninth Arch for consultation, the workmen return to their labors. On arrival in the East, the three Grand Masters do not assume their stations but hold their consultation standing in front of the dais. Curtains at ninth Arch remain open.)

KS: Companions, you are aware that Zabud has long been my particular friend and favorite. If it were possible, I should be glad to pardon him. My worthy Companion of Tyre, what is your opinion?

HKT: Illustrious King Solomon, our Obligations are such that but twenty-seven can be admitted. Our number is full. How then can he be pardoned?

KS: My worthy Companion Hiram Abiff, what do you say?

HA: Illustrious King Solomon, it would seem that curiosity and disobedience prompted him to enter. He should therefore suffer the penalty.

KS: *(Meditates a moment)* It seems indeed impossible to save him. Let us return to the first Arch and announce our decision.

(They return to the first Arch; Solomon, King of Israel in the lead. At the return of the three Grand Masters, the workmen cease their labors and stand silently by, watching and listening to the proceedings.)

KS: Bring forth the prisoner.

(On the order of Solomon, King of Israel, the Candidate is brought forth, Conductor of the Council on the left and Captain of the Guard on the right.)

KS: My unfortunate friend Zabud, your curiosity and disobedience have cost you your life. I have consulted with my colleagues and found them inexorable. The nature of our obligations is such that I cannot pardon you. You must therefore prepare for death.

(Conductor of the Council and the Candidate fall on their knees and remain in this position until ordered to rise.)

CC: *(Speaking for Candidate)* Illustrious King Solomon, I pray your Majesty to remember my great and sincere attachment to your sacred person, your service and your secrets; of late, finding a secret work going on with which I was not made acquainted, I feared I had lost your Majesty's favor and grieved in silence until unable to bear it longer; I humbly made known my fears to your Majesty, when you directed me to remain content, for a door would soon be opened for my reception. This assurance satisfied me. This evening having important business to communicate to your Majesty, I sought you as usual at your private apartment.

On finding the door open, I took it for granted that it had been left open for my reception, and entered. But I beg your Majesty to believe that it was not curiosity or disobedience that led me hither, but fervency and zeal in your Majesty's service.

(Toward the end of the above plea, Hiram Abiff proceeds to the west where Ahishar is sleeping, looks down at him for a moment and then returns to the first Arch.)

HKT: Illustrious King Solomon, if this be true, Zabud is not guilty of the charge alleged against him. His offence was owing to an unguarded explanation of your own. He ought to be pardoned and admitted one of our Select Masters.

KS: My worthy Companion of Tyre, how can that be? Is not our number already full?

HA: 'Tis true, Illustrious King Solomon, our number is already full, but Ahishar, the guard, (*points to him*) is no longer worthy of our confidence. He is sleeping at his post. Let him be dismissed and executed, and Zabud appointed to the work.

KS: My worthy Companion, I thank you for this advice. It shall be done. Companion Captain of the Guard, (*CG salutes with sword; KS responds*) let Ahishar be put to death instead.

CG: (*Goes to Ahishar and shakes him*) Ahishar, Ahishar! Awake! Arouse! Thou art condemned to die.

Ahishar: (*As he rises*) Mercy! Mercy! Is there no mercy?

CG: (*As they go out through preparation room door*) None for you. It has been extended to another.

(*After a few moments, Captain of the Guard returns and reports.*)

CG: Illustrious King Solomon, (*Salutes with sword; Solomon, King of Israel responds*) your order has been duly executed.

KS: Zabud, are you willing to take upon yourself a solemn obligation to keep the secrets of the Secret Vault?

Z.: I am.

KS: Then arise. (*Conductor of the Council and the Candidate rise*) Free him from his shackles, and conduct him to the Altar.

OBLIGATION

(*Captain of the Guard returns sword. Captain of the Guard and Conductor of the Council remove shackles. Captain of the Guard conducts the Candidate to Altar. If there is a class, Conductor of the Council directs them to follow the active Candidate to the Altar. Conductor of the Council follows behind and assists Captain of the Guard in placing them. The candidates should be arranged in a triangular position. One at the Altar and those behind each placing his hand upon the shoulder of the man in front of him. Candidates kneel.*)

Captain of the Guard active Candidate, and Conductor of the Council form a triangle back of Altar; Captain of the Guard on the right and Conductor of the Council on the left.

The three Grand Masters form a triangle in front of Altar, HKT on the right and two paces back of Solomon, King of Israel. Hiram Abiff on the left and two paces back of Solomon, King of Israel

As the Candidate is conducted to the Altar, the workmen retire to the sidelines and are seated.

Steward remains at his station.

Candidate is placed at the Altar, kneeling on both knees, both hands resting on the Holy Bible, square, and compass.)

CG: Illustrious King Solomon, the Candidate is in due form.

KS: Say I, pronounce your name in full, and repeat after me.

I, _____, of my own fr wl and ac, in th pr of the Su Ar of th Un and ths Ill. Cou. of S.M., do hby and he mst sol and sinc pr and sw tht I wi frvr kp and con the sec of ths deg, and wl nt reveal thm ex to hm or thm to whm thy of rt belong.

I furthermore promt tht I wi st to and ab by the B.L., Ru and Reg of any Cou. of S. M. of wh I ma bec a mem; also the Con., La and Edicts of the Gr. Cou. un wh the sa is holden, so far as thy may co to my kn.

I fu pr tht I wl ans nd ob all du si and su, given or coming to me in a constitutional manner, fm a Cou. of S.M. or fm a wor Comp. of ths deg, if in my pwr so to do.

I fu pr tht I wi he, ai and as all po and dis wor Comp. S.M., thr wid and orps, ac to thr necsts and my ability.

I fu pr tht I wl nt be pres or as at the con of ths deg upn any per unless he shl ha regly recd al th precdg degs frm E.A. to R.M. inclusive, and thn only, in a legly con Cou. of S.M.

I fu pr tht I wi nt ch, wr or def a Cou. of S.M., or a Comp. of ths deg.

I fu pr tht I wl nt penetrate th nth A. wtht per of th IM

All this I mst sol nd sin pr nd sw, wtht eq, men res or sec ev in me whtvr, bi mysf und no le pen thn tht of hvng my eys pl ou, my ha ch of, my bo qu and th am th rub, sh I ev kn or wfly vio ths my sol ob of a S.M., so he me God and kp me st in the du per of th sa. (*Bright lights*)

(Solomon, King of Israel removes candidate's hands from Bible.)

In token of your sincerity of purpose in these solemn engagements, you will kiss the Holy Bible now open before you. (*Done*) (In so doing you are acting on behalf of your fellow candidates).

This is the First Sign of a Select Master. (*Gives it*)

(The ends of the thmb nd fst two fin of ea ha placed at th eys; thrust th hands forward as tho ping ou eys.)

and this is the Second Sign. (*Gives it*)

(Strike the lft wri wth th edge of th ri ha and th ri wri wth th edge of th lft ha, as tho chpng of hnds.)

They allude to a portion of the penalty of the Obligation, that of having your ey-- pl----- out and your ha--- ch----- of-. With these signs you are to salute the Illustrious Master, on entering or retiring from a Council of Select Masters.

This is the Grand Hailing Sign, or sign of distress. (*Gives it*)

(Draw the edge of the ri ha fr th lft shldr to th ri hip, and th lft ha fm th ri shldr to th lft hip; then throw the hands to th lft as if to throw it amg th rub.)

It alludes to the additional portion of the penalty, that of having your bo-- qu----- and th---- among the ru-----.

The signs by which you will be enabled to pass the first eight Arches, and in which you were deficient when challenged by the Captain of the Guard, are as follows:

On being asked, "Who comes here?" you reply, "G-----." The Guard then says, "Advance and give the Sign and Token of your entrance." You answer with the Sign of Silence, thus: (*Gives it*) He responds with the Sign of Secrecy, thus: (*Gives it*) Then both give the signs of Silence and Darkness, thus: (*Gives them*)

(S of Sil: Wth th thu nd last two fin of th ri ha closed in th palm thereof, place th fir two fin diagonally across the mo.

S of Sec: Ri ha on the lft br.

Signs of Sil and Dar: S of Sil as above; lft ha ov th ey.)

With these signs you will be enabled to pass the first eight Arches.

(Solomon, King of Israel goes around south of Altar, with left hand grasps active candidate's left coat lapel inserting his first two fingers under coat lapel thumb on top palm out, with slight pressure, and says: "Arise" He retains grip until explanation is completed. All candidates will rise at the same time.)

KS: Arise, Zabud, henceforth be dumb and blind to all you have seen and heard. This is the grip of a Select Master. Its name is "Ish Sodi," which signifies, "Man of my choice," or "Select Man."

Zabud, being obligated and instructed, you are qualified to advance to the ninth Arch.

(The three Grand Masters return to the East through the Arches, close the curtains, assume their stations and are seated.)

Captain of the Guard follows the Grand Master and takes position guarding the first arch, draws sword and stands at carry, facing west.

Conductor of the Council and the Candidate will stand fast west of Altar until the above movements are completed, then approach the first arch)

CG: Who comes here?

Cand: Gi----.

CG: Advance and give the Signs and Tokens of your entrance.

(Conductor of the Council and Candidate: Give Sign of Silence)

(If there is a class, all candidates will give signs.)

CG: *(Returns sword and gives Sign of Secrecy)*

(Captain of the Guard, Conductor of the Council and candidate(s) all give signs of Silence and Darkness)

CG: You have my permission to pass the eight arches.

(As Conductor of the Council and candidate(s) pass to the ninth arch, Captain of the Guard will assume his station and be seated.)

CC: *(At ninth Arch) (***) (***) (***)*

HA: *(Rises and steps down to entrance)* Who comes here?

CC: Zabud, the King's friend, who has King Solomon's permission to advance to the ninth Arch, desires to be admitted.

HA: Illustrious King Solomon, your friend Zabud desires to be admitted.

KS: Admit him.

HA: Enter.

(Hiram Abiff resumes his station and is seated. Conductor of the Council conducts class into the ninth arch. The Ark should be so placed that the class will have a good view as the deposits are made.)

KS: *(From his seat)* Zabud, my Illustrious Companions, being deeply impressed with the zeal you have displayed in our service, have, in unison with myself, determined to reward your devotion by admitting you to the secrets of the ninth Arch.

God has revealed to us in His Word, that this city and Temple which we are now erecting, will, at some future period, be destroyed, the nation carried away into captivity, where the worship of the true God will cease for a time among them, and the forms and ceremonies which He has enjoined upon us to pursue, will

also be forgotten. To avert so dire a calamity from the Craft and Jewish people, He has enjoined upon us in His Word to deposit those sacred treasures, which the people most revere, in a secret and secure place, for He has promised us that in three score and ten years, He will restore this people to the land which they now inhabit, and He will put it into the heart of a Prince of the House of Judah to rebuild the Temple to His Holy Name, and He will give him a sign as a reward and encouragement for his zeal and fidelity, and the sign shall be the recovery of the Word.

You are fortunate in having come forth at this time, as we are about to make that deposit, and which you will now have the privilege of witnessing.

We will now make the deposit.

(The three Grand Masters rise, step down from the dais and form a triangle at the Ark, facing the class.)

KS takes up Scroll or Book of the Law and says:)

KS: The record of the Book of our Fathers says: *(Reads Exodus 16:32-34)* "And Moses said, this is the thing which the Lord commandeth: fill an omer of it to be kept for your generations; that they may see the bread wherewith I have fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you forth from the land of Egypt. And Moses said unto Aaron, take a pot, and put an omer full of manna therein, and lay it up before the Lord, to be kept for your generations. As the Lord commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the testimony, to be kept."

(Solomon, King of Israel hands pot of manna to Hiram, King of Tyre, and he to Hiram Abiff, who deposits it in the Ark, after Hiram, King of Tyre has lifted the lid.)

KS: *(Reads Numbers 17:10)* "And the Lord said unto Moses, bring Aaron's rod again before the testimony, to be kept for a token."

(Deposit made as before.)

KS: *(Reads Deuteronomy 31:24-26)* "And it came to pass when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished, that Moses commanded the Levites, which bare the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord, saying, Take this Book of the Law, and put it in the side of the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee."

(Solomon, King of Israel takes key and places it inside of Book as he says:)

KS: Within the Book of the Law we will place a key to the characters upon the Ark.

(Deposit made as before.)

KS: We will now deposit on the top of the Ark, this triangle containing the Master's Word or Great and Sacred Name *(Done)* And that it may be known that this Ark contains treasures belonging to the craft, we will place our three squares on the sides of the triangle.

(After the squares are placed, Solomon, King of Israel raises his hands and prays - extemporaneously or as follows:)

O Lord God of Israel, we ask that Thou protect and preserve these Sacred Treasures until it pleases Thee to reveal them to future generations. Amen.

All is finished.

(Hiram, King of Tyre and Hiram Abiff do not raise hands. The three Grand Masters resume stations and are seated.)

KS: Companion Conductor of the Council, you will seat the Candidate.

(Conductor of the Council seats the Candidate, goes to his station and is seated. Solomon, King of Israel or an appointed Companion will take position in front center of the class and give the Historical Lecture.)

HISTORICAL LECTURE

In giving the history of this degree, we revert to the building of the Temple.

Our three Grand Master's, Solomon King of Israel, Hiram King of Tyre, and Hiram Abiff, being in possession of the writings of Moses and the Prophets, well knew that if the Children of Israel deviated from the laws therein contained, their enemies would be let loose upon them, their cities and Temple sacked and destroyed, and all the Sacred Treasures in the Sanctum Sanctorum would be forever lost. In order to prevent this evil, they agreed to erect a secret vault under ground leading from King Solomon's most retired apartment and ending under the Sanctum Sanctorum or Holy of Holies.

This secret vault was divided into nine arches or apartments. The ninth Arch was erected by our three Grand Masters as a place wherein to deposit a true copy of all the Holy Vessels and Sacred Treasures contained in the Sanctum Sanctorum above; also to meet in Grand Council to confer the Master Mason degree when the Temple should be completed. There were employed on the other eight Arches, twenty two men from Gebal, a city of Phoenicia, together with Ahishar and Adoniram, all of whom were well skilled in the arts and sciences generally, but particularly in sculpture. Their hours of labor were from nine at night 'till twelve, the time when prying eyes are closed in sleep.

During the erection of this Vault, a circumstance occurred which characterized this degree, and upon which the ceremony of initiation is founded.

One of King Solomon's particular friends, whose name was Zabud, discovered that there was a secret work going on with which he had not been made acquainted, and for a long time he grieved in silence. At length he complained to King Solomon, and received for an answer, "Be content, friend Zabud, the time will come when a door shall be open for your reception," meaning that when the Temple should be completed he should receive the Master Mason degree. This satisfied him.

One evening, having some particular business with King Solomon, he went to his most retired room in search of him, and finding the door of the Secret Vault open, and not guarded, as usual, by the Grand Steward, Ahishar, who was sleeping at his post, he took it for granted that it had been left open for his reception, whereupon he entered and was dealt with as you have already learned.

When the ninth Arch was completed, our three Grand Master's deposited therein an exact imitation of the Ark of the Covenant, and placed within it an imitation of the Pot of Manna and Aaron's Rod, and also a true copy of the Book of the Law, or all the writings of the Bible up to that period, and that it might be known by whom and for what purpose it was deposited, they placed on three sides of the Ark the initials of their names, and on the fourth, the time when, meaning, "Deposited in the year of light 3000, by Solomon King of Israel, Hiram King of Tyre and Hiram Abiff, for the benefit of the Craft in general, but the Jewish nation in particular."

The Master's Word was then placed on the top of the Ark, engraved on a triangular plate of gold, on the sides of which, in certain mysterious characters were engraved the Key, or cover words by which the Master's Word may be revealed. A key to these characters was placed inside the Ark in the Book of the Law, so that if the Children of Israel should ever be carried into captivity, and remain so long as to forget their mother tongue, yet on their return, if found, by means of this key, the Word might be restored; and that it might be known and distinguished as the Master's Word when found, they placed on the top of the Ark their three Jewels, one on each side of the triangle, knowing that a description thereof would be handed down to the latest posterity. Thus was preserved the long lost Master's Word, now the Grand Omnificent Word or Great and Sacred Name, which Royal Arch tradition informs us was first communicated by God to Moses at the Burning Bush, and remained in use until near the completion of King Solomon's Temple.

It was then lost at the death of our Grand Master Hiram Abiff, and lay buried in darkness 470 years, when, as you are aware, at the building of the Second Temple after the Babylonian captivity, through the merits of Jeshua, Zerubbabel and Haggai, it was again restored to the Craft, in whose possession we trust it may forever remain.

APRON LECTURE

I now present you with the apron of a Select Master. Its color is white bordered with purple. The white is Ancient Masonry's final reminder of that purity of life symbolized in the first Apron you received as an Entered Apprentice; while the purple, the color of kings, exhorts us to rule well our own lives that we may be numbered with that select nobility who truly practice our Royal Art.

The sword designates us as guardians, whose peculiar duty is the preservation of those sacred treasures, which are ours through Masonic heritage.

The trowel reminds us that we are builders, and that our lives should be constructive in their influence upon the Brotherhood and upon the world.

The broken triangle speaks to us of mortality - of the uncertainty of our tenure of life, of the importance of an industrious use of our time and our faculties, and of the place of wages, refreshment and rest, which awaits our entrance through the gate of death.

Enclosing this emblem of our mortal life is the unbroken triangle, emblematic of Deity, whose love enfolds us all, whose justice and mercy are alike infinite and alike perfect, and whose Word points the way of life immortal.

May you wear this Apron with such honor that it may ever distinguish you as a Mason who is truly a Select Master.

CHARGE TO THE CANDIDATE

Companion(s), having attained to this degree, you have passed the circle of perfection in Ancient Craft Masonry. In the capacity of Select Master you must be sensible that your obligations are increased in proportion to your privileges. Let it be your constant care to prove yourself worthy of the confidence reposed in you, and of the high honor conferred, in admitting you to this select degree.

Let uprightness and integrity attend your steps; let justice and mercy mark your conduct; let fervency and zeal stimulate you in the discharge of the various duties incumbent upon you; but suffer not an idle or impertinent curiosity to lead you astray, or betray you into danger.

Be deaf to every insinuation, which would have a tendency to weaken your resolution, or tempt you to an act of disobedience.

Be voluntarily dumb and blind, when the exercise of those faculties would endanger the peace of your mind, or the probity of your conduct; and let silence and secrecy, those cardinal virtues of a Select Master, on all necessary occasions, be scrupulously observed.

By a steady adherence to the important instructions contained in this degree, you will merit the approbation of the select number with whom you are associated, and will enjoy the high satisfaction of having acted well your part in the important enterprise in which you are engaged, and after having wrought your regular hours, may be admitted to participate in all the privileges of a Select Master.

CLOSING (SELECT MASTER DEGREE)

IM: (*) Companion Captain of the Guard, (*Captain of the Guard rises*) I am about to close this Council. You will see that the Secret Vault is securely guarded.

CG: Companion Steward, (*Steward rises*) see that the Secret Vault is securely guarded, and inform the Sentinel that the Illustrious Master is about to close _____ Council Number _____ of Select Masters. Direct him to take due notice thereof and guard accordingly.

St: (*At the door*) (***) (***) answered by Sentinel (***) (***) (*Stew opens door*) Companion Sentinel, the Illustrious Master is about to close _____ Council Number _____ of Select Masters. Take due notice thereof and guard accordingly.

(Steward closes door, gives one knock () answered by Sentinel (*) and returns to his station.)*

St: Companion Captain of the Guard, the Sentinel is informed. (*Steward is seated*)

CG: Illustrious Master, the Secret Vault is secure.

IM: Companion Captain of the Guard, are you a Select Master?

CG: I am acknowledged as such and have wrought my regular hours.

IM: What are the regular hours?

CG: From nine at night 'till twelve, the time when prying eyes are closed in sleep.

IM: Where were you greeted as a Select Master?

CG: In a legally constituted Council of Select Masters assembled in a place representing the Secret Vault erected by King Solomon under the Sanctum Sanctorum of the Temple.

IM: Whom did you represent?

CG: One of those who for their fidelity and skill were selected to assist in building the Secret Vault.

IM: How many were employed in the erection of the Secret Vault?

CG: Twenty-two from Gebal, Ahishar, Adoniram, and our three Grand Masters, twenty-seven in all, and no more.

IM: Why but twenty-seven?

CG: Because there were but nine Arches, and three only could be employed on each Arch.

IM: Where did the Secret Vault begin?

CG: In King Solomon's most retired apartment.

IM: Where did it end?

CG: Under the Sanctum Sanctorum of the Temple.

IM: For what purpose was it erected?

CG: As a place wherein to deposit a true copy of the Ark of the Covenant, containing imitations of the Pot of Manna and Aaron's Rod, also the Book of the Law.

IM: Where was the deposit made?

CG: In the ninth arch of the Secret Vault.

IM: What countryman are you?

CG: A Phoenician.

IM: Of what city?

CG: Gebal.

IM: What is your name?

CG: Gi----.

IM: What is your age?

CG: Three times nine, or twenty-seven.

IM: What are your implements?

CG: The Sword and Trowel.

IM: How explained?

CG: As the Sword and Trowel were used by our ancient brethren for defense and protection, and to cement and complete the Secret Vault, so should we as Select Masters devoutly guard the inestimable secrets of our venerable fraternity, and unite and cement the brotherhood.

IM: What is the hour?

CG: Low twelve.

IM: What remains to be done?

CG: To retire in peace, practice virtue, and maintain silence.

IM: *(Rise) (***) (All rise)* Companion Captain of the Guard, it is my order that _____ Council Number _____ of Select Masters be now closed and stand closed until its next stated assembly, unless especially convened by order, of which due and timely notice will be given. Proclaim this to the Companions present, that having due notice thereof, they will govern themselves accordingly.

CG: Companions, it is the order of the Illustrious Master that _____ Council Number _____ of Select Masters be now closed and stand closed until its next stated assembly, unless especially convened by order, of which due and timely notice will be given. Take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly.

IM: Companions, attend to giving the Signs.

(IM will lead in giving all signs from the R.M. through the S.M. degrees.)

PCW: *(*** ***)*

DM: *(*** ***)*

IM: *(*** ***)*

CHARGE AT CLOSING

Companions, being about to quit this sacred retreat, to mix again with the world, let us not forget, amid the cares and vicissitudes of active life, the bright example of sincere friendship, so beautifully illustrated in the lives of the founders of this degree. Let us take the lesson home with us; and may it strengthen the bonds of fraternal love between us; incite our hearts to duty, and our desires to wisdom. Let us exercise Charity, cherish Hope,

walk in Faith. And may that moral principle, which is the mystic cement of our fellowship, remain with us and bless us. Amen.

Response: So mote it be.

IM: I now declare this Council duly closed. Companion Captain of the Guard, inform the Sentinel. Companion Conductor of the Council, attend at the Altar.

CG: Companion Steward, inform the Sentinel.

(Conductor of the Council and the Steward leave their stations simultaneously to perform their respective duties.)

CC: *(goes to Altar, closes Bible and returns to his station.)*

Stew: *(At the door) (***) answered by Sentinel (***) (Steward opens door) Companion Sentinel, this Council is closed. (Door is left open; the Steward returns to his station.)*

Stew: Companion Captain of the Guard, the Sentinel is informed.

CG: Illustrious Master, your order has been obeyed.

IM: (*)

-End of closing-

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companions, the installation of officers in a Council marks the completion of one year's work and the beginning of the next. It impresses upon us the democratic nature of our institution and teaches the peculiar art of laying aside the insignia of rank with willingness and gracefulness and of assuming the honors and responsibilities of office with humility. As the present officers have relinquished their stations in token of the completion of the past year's duties, we are once more reminded of the equality that should always exist among the members. Companion Recorder, you will announce the names of the officers elected and appointed for the ensuing year. Companion Marshal, as the names are called you will place the officers in position.

(After all are in position, with Illustrious Master on right of line west of Altar, Marshal says:)

MARSHAL: Illustrious Master, I present these worthy Companions who have been selected as officers of this Council for the ensuing year and are now ready to be installed.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companions of _____ Council Number _____, you see before you the Companions who have been selected to serve as officers of this Council during the ensuing year. If any Companion knows of any just cause why they, or any of them, should not be installed, let him now make it known or forever hold his peace. That we may have the needed strength and guidance to accomplish the task before us, let us invoke the blessing of Deity. *(Gives knocks ***, all rise)* Companion Chaplain, you will lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN: *(The following prayer is optional. Any suitable prayer may be used.)* Oh, Thou Grand Master of Heaven and Earth, we approach Thee with reverence and implore Thy blessing upon these Companions who are about to assume the duties of their important offices. Grant them firmness of mind and kindness of disposition, that they may govern the affairs of this Council with justice and moderation. Bless them, O Lord, and bless those whom Thou hast placed under them. May Thy richest blessing rest upon all our Companions wherever dispersed throughout the world. Amen. *(Audience is seated)*

INSTALLING OFFICER: My Companions, before proceeding to officially install you, it is necessary for you to take upon yourselves a solemn obligation. You will, therefore, each of you, place your right hand over your heart, say "I", your name, and repeat after me:

"do solemnly promise on my honor as a Royal and Select Master, that I will support and maintain the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Iowa, the By-Laws of this Council, and all ancient Masonic usages; that I will, to the best of my knowledge and ability, perform the duties of the office with which I am now to be invested."

(Officers drop hands and are seated)

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion Marshal, you will present the Illustrious Master elect for installation.

(Marshal, on the left, conducts officer elect to the East, directly in front of, and facing Installing Officer)

MARSHAL: Illustrious Master, I present Companion _____ who has been elected to serve as Illustrious Master of this Council and is now ready to be installed.

INSTALLING OFFICER: My Companion, I feel great satisfaction in installing you into the office of Illustrious Master of this Council. It is a station highly honorable to him who diligently and faithfully performs the important duties connected therewith; but before investing you with the honors and responsibilities of your office, it is mandatory that I propound to you certain questions to which, at the close, I must require your unequivocal answers.

1. Do you solemnly promise that you will use your utmost endeavors to correct the vices, purify the morals, and promote the happiness of your Companions?
2. That you will never suffer your Council to be opened unless there shall be present at least nine Select Masters?
3. That you will not suffer any person to receive the degrees in your Council in whose integrity, fervency and zeal you have not entire confidence?
4. That you will not acknowledge or hold communication with any Council that does not work under some regular and constitutional authority?
5. That you will admit no visitor into your Council who has not been regularly and lawfully invested with the Council degrees?
6. That you will faithfully observe the By-Laws of your Council and the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Council?
7. That in the government of your Council you will administer justice tempered with mercy?
8. That you will pay due respect and obedience to the Grand Officers when duly installed and will sustain them in the discharge of their duties?
9. That you will faithfully attend all assemblies of the Grand Council upon receiving proper notice thereof?

Do you submit to all these requirements and do you promise to observe them faithfully?

ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER-ELECT: I do.

INSTALLING OFFICER: With entire confidence in the purity of your intentions, and in the integrity of your character as a Select Master, I now declare you duly installed as Illustrious Master of this Council. You will now be invested with the apron and jewel of your office.

(Marshal invests him with apron and jewel)

Having been elevated by the voice of your Companions to the highest station in their gift, you are now to assume the functions of that office. It is your duty to set an example of diligence, industry and fidelity; to see that the officers associated with you faithfully perform their respective duties, and that the interests and reputation of your Council are not endangered by imprudence or neglect. The important trust committed to your care will call for your utmost exertions and the exercise of your best faculties. As the representative of Solomon, King of Israel, it will be your duty to recite the secret tradition, illustrate the moral principles of our order, cherish the worthy and hold in due veneration the ancient landmarks.

I now present you with the Charter under which your Council will work; you will receive it as a sacred deposit and never permit it to be used for any other purpose than those expressed therein; and at the expiration of your term you shall duly transmit it to your successor in office.

Receive also the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Iowa, together with the By-Laws of this Council. Familiarize yourself with them and keep them handy at all times for ready reference.

Receive in charge the Holy Bible, Square and Compass, the three great lights of Masonry. May they guide you through your year as Illustrious Master and remind you of the whole duty of man. You will now assume your station in the East.

(Installing officer conducts the new Illustrious Master to his station) (removes hat)

I cover you with that mark of distinction, which agreeably to an ancient custom, you are to wear while presiding over your Council.

*(Installing officer will call up Council (***) and say:)*

Illustrious Master, behold your Companions. Companions, behold your Illustrious Master. Let us salute him with the Public Grand Honors of Masonry by three times three. *(Done)*

Finally, my Illustrious Companion, I place in your hand this gavel, the emblem of your authority. Wield it, my Companion, with prudence and discretion.

(New Illustrious Master seats Council () and may proceed to install the remaining officers or he may invite the Installing Officer to continue. In the latter case he will uncover and surrender the gavel until the completion of the installation ceremonies)*

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion Marshal, you will present the remaining officers in the order of their rank.

CHARGE TO THE DEPUTY MASTER

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, the duties of your office will require your constant and earnest attention. As the representative of Hiram King of Tyre with the Illustrious Master in Council you are to occupy the second seat in this Council, and it will be your duty to aid and support your chief in all the requirements of his office. In his absence you are to preside and perform his duties; in his presence you are to assist him. In this important trust it will be your duty and should be your pleasure to justify the confidence of your Companions. You will be invested with the jewel and apron of your office and be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, as the third officer in the Council, it is your duty to sound the silver trumpet at early dawn and eve of day, when the sun's first and last rays gild the mountain tops, to announce high twelve and proclaim the time for labor and refreshment. In the absence of both your superiors you will be called upon to preside. As the interests of the Council should never be permitted to suffer through the lack of preparation by its officers, you will allow me to urge upon you the necessity of being always prepared and qualified to meet such an emergency. You will be invested with the jewel and apron of your office and be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE TREASURER

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, you have been elected to the very important and responsible office of Treasurer of this Council and the qualities which should distinguish you are accuracy and fidelity in carefully preserving the property and funds of the Council and in rendering a just account when required. Your interest in this Council, your attachment to the Craft and your known integrity of character are a sufficient assurance that the duties of your office will be faithfully performed. You will be invested with the jewel and apron of your office and be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE RECORDER

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, you have been elected to an important office in this Council, which will require your discriminating judgment as to what is proper to be written. The possession of the requisite qualities has designated you as a suitable Companion for this office, and I doubt not that you will discharge its duties with diligence and fidelity. You will be invested with the jewel and apron of your office and be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE CHAPLAIN

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, to you is committed the devotional exercises of our assemblies and to perform the sacred functions of your office at our public ceremonies. I do not doubt that

you will discharge the duties of your present appointment with steadfastness and perseverance in well doing. You will be invested with the jewel and apron of your office and be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, guard well your post and suffer none to pass it but the select, the faithful, and the worthy. Obey the commands of your chief and be near at hand to see them duly executed. You will be invested with the jewel and apron of your office and be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE CONDUCTOR OF THE COUNCIL

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, in the discharge of the duties of your office, and with which you are doubtless familiar, be fervent and zealous. You will thus merit the respect and esteem of your Companions and the approbation of your own conscience. You will be invested with the jewel and apron of your office and be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE STEWARD

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, your duty is to guard the entrance to the Secret Vault with sleepless vigilance and suffer none to pass it without permission of the Illustrious Master. You will be invested with the jewel and apron of your office and be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE ORGANIST

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, you have been appointed Organist of this Council. As harmony is the strength and support of all institutions, so may the harmony furnished by you strengthen and support every gentle and ennobling emotion of the soul and be an inspiration to your Companions. You will be invested with the jewel and apron of your office and be conducted to your station.

CHARGE TO THE SENTINEL

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion _____, as the first application from visitors is usually made to the Sentinel, it is therefore essentially necessary that you exemplify that spirit of friendliness, which is manifest in the Council. It is your particular duty to prepare the Council Chambers for the Assemblies and to care for its paraphernalia. You will be invested with the jewel, apron and instrument of your office and be conducted to your station.

ADDRESS TO THE ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER

INSTALLING OFFICER: Illustrious Master, you now occupy the highest office in the power of your Companions to bestow. You have accepted a trust to which is attached a responsibility that will require your best efforts to discharge with honor to yourself and satisfaction to your companions. You are to keep a watchful eye over the general conduct of the Council, see that the members are properly instructed and that due solemnity be observed in the practice of our rites. Moreover, you should be an example to your officers and members, which they need not hesitate to follow, thus securing for yourself the favor of Heaven and the approval of your Companions.

*(Installing officer calls up Companions***)*

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companions, from the very nature of the constitution of every society, some must rule and others obey. While justice and moderation are required of the officers in the discharge of their official duties, subordination and respect are equally demanded of the members. The relation is reciprocal. The interests of both are inseparable. Without mutual cooperation the labors of neither can succeed. A house divided against itself cannot stand. Let brotherly love, therefore, prevail among you. Let each be emulous of the others in promoting peace and unity and in striving to see who can best rule and best obey. And may He whose watchful care is over all who put their trust in Him ever keep and preserve this Council to the glory of His name.

PROCLAMATION

INSTALLING OFFICER: Companion Marshall, you will make the proclamation.

(Marshal goes to west of Altar, raises right hand and says:)

MARSHAL: In the name of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Iowa, I proclaim the officers of _____ Council Number _____ duly installed. All interested will take due notice and govern themselves accordingly.

(Marshal drops hand to side and returns to place on sidelines)

(Installing officer presents gavel to IM who puts on hat and seats the Council ())*

-End of installation-