

**GRAND COUNCIL of KNIGHT MASONS
of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA**



**COUNCIL OF KNIGHT MASONS
AND
CEREMONIAL AND DEGREES
OF
KNIGHT MASONRY**

PROPERTY OF THE GRAND COUNCIL KNIGHT MASONS
of THE UNITED STATES of AMERICA

This Ritual was approved by the Grand Council of Knight Masons of the U. S. A. at the Annual Meeting held in Washington, DC on Friday, February 16, 2001 and is issued with the approval of the Grand Council of Knight Masons of Ireland.

Given the limited frequency of the meetings of Knight Mason Councils in the U. S. A. and the busy schedules of the participants in their labors, the Ritual Committee has determined that a more detailed and descriptive instructional document is necessary to preclude misinterpretation of our ritual and floor work and to reduce the necessity for frequent rehearsals to maintain the desired level of perfection in presenting the Work of the Order. It is to this end, that this manual has been prepared.

It is intended for the guidance and instruction of Knight Masons and should not be used in Open Council.

The Ritual Committee -2000 - 2001

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**COUNCIL OF KNIGHT MASONS
RITUAL AND CEREMONIAL**

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FOREWORD

The Ritual for the Opening and the Closing of a Council of Knight Masons is to be used for all Council Meetings. All business is to be transacted in a Council of Knight Masons. When one or two of the Degrees of Knight Masonry are to be conferred, the full form Opening and Closing Ritual as contained in the Ritual for the appropriate Degree should be used in addition to that of the Council of Knight Masons. When the several Degrees of Knight Masonry are to be conferred, at the discretion of the Excellent Chief, an abbreviated form of the Opening and Closing Ritual for changeover between the several Degrees as suggested in this Manual may be used.

OFFICERS OF A COUNCIL OF KNIGHT MASONS

Excellent Chief	E. C.
Senior Knight	S. Kt.
Junior Knight	J. Kt.
Scribe	Scribe
Treasurer	Treas.
Scribe/Treasurer	Scribe/Treas*
* If both Offices are filled by the same Sir Knight	
Director of Ceremonies	D. C.
Priest	Priest
Senior Warden	S. W.
Junior Warden	J. W.
Steward	Stew.**
Sentinel	Sent.**
Tyler	Tyler

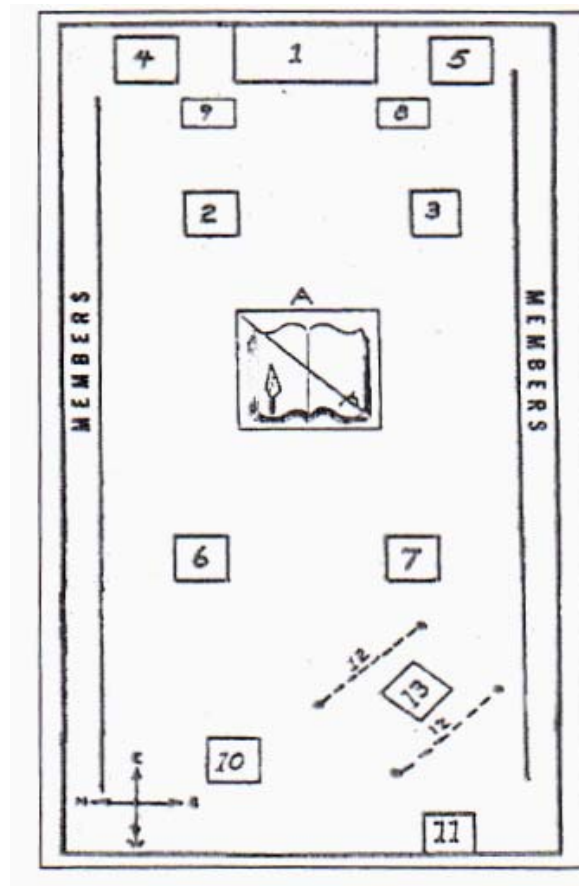
** [Note:— In Knight Mason Councils chartered by the Grand Council of Knight Masons in Ireland, the titles of these appointive officers are “1st Captain of the Guard” and “2nd Captain of the Guard” respectively. Your Ritual Committee has chosen to continue with the titles currently in use in Councils chartered by the Grand Council of Knight Masons of the U. S. A. Although the ritual for the opening of a Council of Knight Masons, as adopted from the Grand Council of Knight Masons in Ireland, uses the officer titles of “Captains of the Guard” in assuring the seclusion of the Council; it should be understood that these references in the opening ritual equate to our appointive officers entitled Steward and Sentinel.]

When meeting in a Masonic facility, Officers should be attired in Tuxedos. When possible, all Sir Knights should wear a Knight Mason's apron, a Sword with a red scabbard and red Sword belt, a Knight Mason's sash and a Knight Mason's Jewel. (The sash is worn from the left shoulder to the right hip outside the coat.) At the discretion of the Excellent Chief, Chapter or Council Robes may be worn for the Knight of the Sword and Knight of the East Degrees.

PREPARATION AND SETUP OF LODGE ROOM

The Lodge Room should be organized and the equipment arranged in accordance with the Diagram and instructions below.

OFFICER'S STATIONS



- 1- Excellent Chief
- 2- Senior Knight
- 3- Junior Knight
- 4- Treasurer
- 5- Scribe
- 6- Senior Warden
- 7- Junior Warden
- 8- Director of Ceremonies
(Conductor)
- 9- Priest
- 10- Steward
- 2nd Capt. of the Guard during
degrees
- 11- Sentinel
- 1st Capt of the Guard during
degrees
- 12- Curtains*
- 13- Bridge (Degree of
Knight of the Sword only)
- A- Altar (Bible, Sword and Trowel)
Tyler (outside the door)

**[Note:— In some Knight Mason councils, a single curtain, representing the Tower, is used during the Degree of Knight of the Sword. This curtain remains in place, following completion of that Degree, for use in the other Degrees.]*

The Presiding Officer of a Council of Knight Masons is addressed as Excellent Chief and is seated in the East. (Refer to diagram above.) The remaining Officers, both elective and appointive, are to be addressed as Brother followed by the Officer's Title (i.e. Bro. Junior Knight etc.). Members may be addressed as Sir Knight or Cousin (i.e. Sir Knight Jones or Cousin Jones etc.).

The Scribe is seated at the Blue Lodge Secretary's Desk, located as is the custom of the Jurisdiction. The Treasurer is seated at the Blue Lodge Treasurer's Desk located as is the custom of the Jurisdiction. The Senior Knight is seated in the North facing the Junior Knight. The Junior Knight is seated in the South facing the Senior Knight.

The Director of Ceremonies is seated to the left of the Excellent Chief facing West. The Priest is seated to the right of the Excellent Chief facing West. The Senior Warden is seated North and West of the Altar facing The East. The Junior Warden is seated South and West of the Altar facing the East. The Steward is seated in the West facing the East. The Sentinel is seated inside the Lodge Room at the Tiled door in the West. When Degree Work is in progress, however, the Sentinel or an approved Tyler must be stationed outside the door.

REGALIA LAYOUT

1. Veils should be located in S. W. corner of Lodge Room or near entrance to Lodge Room. Place Royal Arch Apron and chain outside of the Veils.
2. Bridge (for the Knight of the Sword Degree only) should be between the sets of Veils in S. W. Corner. *[Note: After completion of the Degree of Knight of the Sword, remove one set of curtains and supports along with bridge.]*
3. Charter should be in East. The Director of Ceremonies should be holding the Signet Ring.
4. Place Large Trowel on Excellent Chiefs Pedestal and the 3 Billets for Knight of the East Degree in the East.
5. For the Opening, place the closed Bible on the Altar. The small Trowel should be placed on the North—side Altar pad and the Alter Sword should be placed on the South—side Altar pad.
6. On the East—side Altar pad, place a Sword, small Trowel, watered silk Scarf, green breakaway Sash, Knight Mason Apron and Knight Mason Sash.
7. Place the Scroll for Knight of the East Degree at the Senior General's station.

SWORD INSTRUCTION

Draw Swords

On this command, you will draw your sword from its Scabbard and bring it to the position known as the Carry Swords position.

Carry Swords

This position is to the right side of the body, with the upper arm vertical against the body, the forearm at right angles to it and parallel with the floor, the sword pointing vertically upwards.

Present Swords

At the command “Swords”, raise and carry the Sword to the front. The cross of the hilt of the Sword should be located at chin level, the edge of the Sword blade to the left, and the point of the Sword inclined forward approximately six inches from the vertical. All fingers should be grasping the grip; the thumb is extended on the Grip to the right, about one inch from the chin.

Dividing the Sign

During the opening ceremony, all Sir Knights will be instructed to divide the sign. Members on the sidelines, attired with swords, will cross their swords at breast level with that of their neighboring Brother Knight—about halfway up the blade, making an angle of approximately sixty degrees between the blades. Members not situated next to a Brother Knight, should place their sword across and inside their left forearm, both being in front of the body at breast level, again forming an angle of about sixty degrees.

Completing the Sign

The sign is completed in both instances, when acknowledged by the Excellent Chief by returning your sword to the carry position.

Depress Swords

The attitude for prayer is adopted when the Junior Warden commands “Sir Knights, depress swords.” You should lower the point of the sword and your right forearm so that they form a straight line at an angle of about forty—five degrees to the vertical. After prayer, the command is given to “Carry swords” again.

Sign of Assent

The sign of Assent is used during the Degree of Knight of the Sword, and is given by taking a pace forward with the right foot at the same time lowering the point of the sword (as in the Depress Swords position; then raising the sword with the arm still straight until the sword is almost Vertical, after which the right foot is withdrawn and the sword returned to the carry position.

Return Swords

On the command "Return", you should guide the tip of your sword back into the scabbard and continue until about ten inches of the blade is still exposed, then await the command "Swords" so that all Sir Knights will complete the final movement at the same time.

Retiring Salute

The sword is brought across the body so that the right hand is over the left breast and the sword is still pointing vertically. Those without Swords give the "Hand Sign".

KNIGHT MASON SIGN

After the ceremonial opening and during labor within a Council of Knight Masons, when addressing or saluting the Excellent Chief, all Officers and Members, without Sword in hand, should give the Knight Mason Sign (i.e. the Hand Sign). *[Place your right forearm across and inside your left forearm in the position in which your sword blade would otherwise have been. Fingers should be straight, edge of palms out, cross arms at wrist.]*

SALUTES OF HONOR

Salutes as follows are to be given as appropriate during Degrees, Installations, or at the reception of Grand Council Officers. (Hand claps; right hand over left.)

Knight of the East and West - ●●● ●● (3 & 2)

Knight Mason Council - ●●●●● ●● (5 & 2)

Installed Chief - ●●●●●●● ●● (7 & 2)

Grand Council Officers - ●●●●●●● ●● (9 & 2)

COUNCIL OF INSTRUCTION

The Ritual Committee recommends that, on an at least a once a year basis, each Council schedule and hold a Council of Instruction to ensure that all Officers remain well versed in the requirements of their respective offices and that the Council is prepared to conduct the Degree work in a satisfactory manner. It is further recommended that the participants in this Council of Instruction be made aware of the duties incumbent on each Office of a Council of Knight Masons.

To ensure, with the annual election of a new Sir Knight to the Office of Excellent Chief, that each Council maintain an adequate governance capability; it is recommended that all Officers, elected and appointed develop a comfortable familiarity with the Statutes and Bylaws governing their respective Councils. A copy of the Handbook of the Grand Council of Knight Masons of the United States of America should be provided to each Officer entering the line.

**GRAND COUNCIL of KNIGHT MASONS
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COUNCIL OF KNIGHT MASONS

OPENING PROCESSION – Optional

The forming and conduct of the processional described below, although optional, is recommended whenever a Council is convened in a Masonic Building. If the logistics of the meeting place preclude the procession being conducted in a dignified manner, the Council can be opened with the Officers seated in their respective stations. The Director of Ceremonies should ensure that all of the Council's offices are filled before he assembles and conducts the Procession into the Council room. *[Note:— Officer's Swords are drawn and in the Carry position.]*

Director of Ceremonies
Steward Sentinel
Senior Warden Junior Warden
Priest
Scribe Treasurer
Senior Knight Junior Knight
Excellent Chief

[Note:— The Director of Ceremonies conducts the Procession into the Council room, passing west of the Altar, to a position just northeast of the Altar. The Procession halts and all officers with the exception of the Excellent Chief and the Senior and Junior Knights, divide, face in ward and come to the Present Swords position. The Priest steps to his left and takes a position in the line behind the Senior Warden. The Priest and all Officers without Swords will give the Hand Sign.

The Senior and Junior Knights proceed through the lines to the East followed by the Excellent Chief. After the E. C. passes by, the Priest drops his hands to his side and steps forward and faces left behind the E. C. and follows him through the lines dropping off at his station. The Senior and Junior Knights divide, face inward, and come to the "Present Swords" position at the East so that the Excellent Chief can pass between them to his station in the East. The Priest and the Excellent Chief perform an About Face in unison and remain standing.

The Director of Ceremonies then gives the command "Carry Swords" followed, after the order has been executed, by the Command "Officers Take Your Stations". The Senior and Junior Knights, in unison, perform a Right and Left Face, facing to the West. The Senior and Junior Knights, perform a Left Wheel, proceeding two abreast to their stations via the South, West and North, keeping the Altar on their right. Following the movement of the Senior and Junior Knights, the remaining Officers proceed to their stations; under the direction of the Director of Ceremonies, who makes one complete circuit (clockwise) of the Council room via the East, South, West and North before assuming his station.

When the Officers are in their respective stations, the Director of Ceremonies gives the command to Return Swords. After this order is executed, the Excellent Chief orders the Officers to be seated and proceeds with the Opening.]

OPENING – COUNCIL OF KNIGHT MASONS

[Note.— The D. C. should see that the Officers are in their places and the outer door is closed, then he should present the Signet of Authority to the E. C. and afterwards take his station in front of and to the left of the E. C.]

D. C.— Excellent Chief, I present to you the Signet of Authority,

E. C.— Sir Knights and Ancients arise. • *[E. C. raps using large trowel handle as a gavel.]* **I am about to open a Council of Kt. Masons.**

J. W.— Sir Kts. Draw Swords.

Knocks ●●●● ●● *[E. C. with trowel, S. K. and J. K. with hilt of sword on floor holding tip of blade in left hand.]*

E. C.— Bro. Jun. Kt. In opening a Council of Kt. Masons, what is the first duty to be discharged?

J. Kt.— To see that the Captains of the Guard are at their post and that the Council may meet in seclusion, Excellent Chief.

E. C.— See that the Capts. of the Gd. are so placed.

[Keeping the Altar on his right, the J. KT. proceeds to a position in front of the Steward and exchanges sword salute with Steward. J. Kt. proceeds to a position in front of the Sentinel and exchanges sword salute with Sentinel. Sentinel turns and gives knocks ●●●● ●● on the door. The knocks are answered by the Tyler. The Sentinel opens the door so that the J. Kt. can observe that the Tyler is positioned outside the door. The door is closed and the J. Kt. returns to his station, via the South.]

J. Kt.— E. C., the Captains of the Guard are at their post and the seclusion of the Council is assured.

E. C.— Bro. Sen. Kt., what next demands our attention?

S. Kt.— To prove that all present are Kt. Masons, Excellent Chief.

E. C.— How shall all present prove themselves to be such?

S. Kt.— By imparting The Word and dividing the sign.

E. C.— Bro. S. Kt., Direct the Wardens to prove that all present are in possession of the Word.

S. Kt.— Bro. Wardens, it is the command of the E. C. that you prove that all present are in possession of the Word.

[During a full form opening and if the logistics of the meeting room allow, the Word (SH—SH—B—ZZ—R,) is taken from all present except the Excellent Chief The S. W. takes the Word from the Kts. on the North side and the J. W. from those on the South. Both Wardens start in the East and move to the West. After completing the taking of the Word, each Warden returns

to his respective station. The Wardens then proceed towards the East along the South and North sides of the room. They stop in front of the S. Kt's. and J. Kt's. stations, execute a right and left face, and take the Word from the Junior and Senior Knights. The Word is communicated by the senior officer to the junior officer. The Wardens execute a right and left face and return to positions in front of their respective stations. The Wardens execute a right and left face and proceed to a position in the center of the room, west of the Altar facing each other. The Word is communicated aloud by the Junior Warden to the Senior Warden. The Wardens return to their respective stations.]

[Note.— At the discretion of the E. C., the Word may be taken from the Senior and Junior Knights only, as described above.]

S. W.— Bro. S. Kt., All present (“except the Candidates”, if present) are in possession of the Word.

S. Kt.— E. C., All present (“except the Candidates”, if present) are in possession of the Word.

E. C.— Bro. J. Kt, direct all present to divide the Sign.

J. Kt.— Sir Knights, it is the command of the E. C. that you divide the sign.

[Refer to Sword Instructions. Members without swords give the Knight Mason Sign (i.e. hand sign).]

[After having ascertained that all have divided the sign or displayed it on their own, the J. W. and S. W. step forward, perform a Right and Left face and approach each other West of the Altar.

J. Kt.— Excellent Chief, all present (“except the Candidates”, if present) have divided this Sign.

[The J. Kt divides the Sign with the S. Kt.]

[Note:— The E. C. acknowledges the Sign and on his declaration all present with swords will complete the sign. Those without swords will drop hand to sides. The Wardens return to their station]

E. C.— I declare all present (“except the Candidates”, if present) to be Knight Masons. Before opening the Council, let us render homage to the Great Creator.

[Priest moves to Altar, kneels and opens Bible to Ezra 1.8, rises and faces East.]

J. W.— Sir Kts., Depress Swords.

Priest— O Great Creator of Heaven and Earth, guide us in our labors that the work we endeavor to accomplish may be bonded with Chivalry and cemented with Brotherly Love. Amen.

All — So mote it be.

J. W. — Sir Kts., Carry Swords.

[Priest steps back two paces, the Wardens return swords and advance to the Altar together. S. W. takes position on North side of Altar, retrieves the Trowel from cushion and stands facing the Altar. J. W. takes position on South side of Altar, retrieves Sword from cushion and stands facing the Altar.]

E. C.— It is my will and pleasure that this Council of Kt. Masons do now open for the transaction of business which may be regularly brought before it, requiring all Sir Kts. to apply themselves to that constructive work which is symbolized by the trowel [Sen. Warden deposits trowel on lower left page of Bible with point facing East] and to see that their conduct becomes true Kts. of Chivalry as indicated by the Sword [Jr. Warden places sword across both pages of Bible from lower right corner of right page to upper left corner of left page. Hilt will be to the South West.]

[The Wardens return to their stations and execute an About Face in unison. Wardens draw swords. After Wardens have left Altar, Priest returns to his station and executes an About Face.]

E. C.— Let the Sen. and Jun. Knights proclaim that this Council of Kt. Masons is now open.

[Sen. and Jun. Kts. take one step forward and execute an About Face in unison.]

S. Kt.— Sir Kts. This Council of Kt. Masons is now open.

J. Kt.— Sir Kts. This Council of Kt. Masons is now open.

[After J. Kt. completes his proclamation, the S. Kt. and J. Kt. will execute an About Face in unison.]

Knocks ●●●●● ●● *[E. C. with trowel, S. Kt. and J. Kt. give raps with hilt of sword on floor holding tip of blade in left hand.]*

E. C.— Sir Kts., you will join with me in saluting the flag of our country.

J. W.— Sir Kts., Salute Swords. *[At command Salute, execute Present Swords and then drop the point of the sword as in the command Depress Swords.]*

[Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by E. C.]

J. W.— Sir Kts., Carry Swords.

[All present with swords should divide the Sign, in pairs if possible or singularly. Those members without swords give the Knight Mason hand sign. The E. C. acknowledges the Sign.]

J. W.— Return Swords.

[Note: An Ode may be sung at this point]

E. C.— Be seated Sir Kts,

[Note:— When work in the Degrees is to be limited to the Knight of the Sword and the Knight of the East, the Degree of Knight of the East must be given immediately after the Degree of Knight of the Sword and during the same meeting. The full form opening and closing of each Degree should be performed in this instance.]

DEGREE CHANGE OVER RITUAL

At the discretion of the E. C., when work in the several Degrees of Knight Masonry is to be performed by Degree Teams during the same meeting: at the conclusion of the Work in each Degree, the Presiding Officer in the East will usually call on the appropriate Cast Director to introduce members of his Degree Team Cast. After the introductions are completed, the Presiding Officer in the East will then change over for Work in the next Degree as follows:

- E. C.— I declare labor in this Council of Kt. Masons suspended and a Council of Kts. of the Sword open. The Kt. of the Sword Degree Team will assume their stations.**
- G & M. K.— I declare this Council of Kts. of the Sword closed and a Council of Kts. of the East open. The Kt. of the East Degree Team will assume their stations.**
- G & M. K.— I declare this Council of Kts. of the East closed and A Council of Kts. of the East And West open. The Kt. of the East And West Degree Team will assume their stations.**
- E. C.— I declare this Council of Kts. of the East And West closed and labor resumed in a Council of Kt. Masons. *[The E. C. will then continue with the work of the Council of Kt. Masons.]***

CLOSING — COUNCIL OF KNIGHT MASONS

E. C.— Sir Knights and Ancients arise. • *[E. C. raps using large trowel handle as a gavel.]* I am about to close this Council of Kt. Masons.

J. W.— Sir Kts., Draw Swords.

[All officers except the Wardens draw Swords. Wardens proceed to North and South sides of the Altar, and turn facing the Altar.]

E. C.— Bro. Wardens, what are our duties in closing this Council of Knight Masons?

S. W.— To seek the blessing of the Great Creator on the Work we have accomplished.

[S. W. removes Trowel from Altar and places it on the Altar cushion.]

J. W.— To see that at all times our Work is in keeping with the highest motives of Chivalry.

[J. W. removes the Sword from the Altar and places it on the Altar cushion.]

[Wardens return to their stations, About Face in unison and draw swords.]

E. C.— Let us seek the blessing of the Great Creator. *[Priest moves to Altar via the North and faces East.]*

J. W.— Sir Kts., Depress Swords.

Priest— May the favor of the Great Creator of Heaven and Earth be upon the Work we have accomplished and may his blessing rest upon and abide with us now and forevermore. Amen.

All— So mote it be.

[Priest closes Bible after Prayer.]

J. W.— Sir Kts., Carry Swords.

[Priest returns to his station and executes an About Face.]

E. C.— Let the Sen. and Jun. Knights proclaim that this Council of Kt. Masons is now closed.

[Sen. and Jun. Kts. take one step forward and execute an About Face in unison, facing members on sidelines.]

S. Kt.— Sir Kts., This Council of Kt. Masons is now closed.

J. Kt.— Sir Kts., This Council of Kt. Masons is now closed.

After J. Kt. completes his proclamation, the S. Kt. and J. Kt. will execute an About Face in unison.]

Knocks ●●●●● ●● *[E. C. with trowel, S. Kt., J. Kt., and Steward give raps with hilt of sword on floor holding tip of blade in left hand. Sentinel gives raps on the door, answered by the Tyler.]*

[All present should Divide the Sign with Swords in pairs, if possible, singularly or give the Hand Sign.]

J. W.— Sir Kts., Return Swords.

[Note:— At the discretion of the E. C., an Ode may be sung at this point.]

[The Director of Ceremonies approaches the East to receive the Signet. The E. C. descends to the floor, returns the Signet to the D. C. and resumes his station]

E. C.— Sir Knight Director of Ceremonies, I return to you the Signet of Authority.

[D. C. returns to his station.]

[Note:— If the Retiring Procession is not to be employed at the Closing, the H. C. can dismiss the Sir Knights in short form using the ritual below.]

E. C.— Sir Kts., You are dismissed.

RETIRING PROCESSION — OPTIONAL

E. C. Sir Knight D. C., You will form the Officers for retiring.

[D. C. moves to a position on the Northeast side of the Altar, facing the West]

D. C.— Officers and Sir Knights, draw Swords.

D. C.— Sir Knights Senior and Junior Knights, you will attend to the forming of the Procession.

[Note:— S. Kt. moves directly from his station to a position in front of and to the North side of the D. C. The J. Kt moves, via the South, West and North keeping the Altar to his right, to a position to the right of the S. Kt. Both face the D. C.]

D. C.— The Officers will assemble for the purpose of retiring.

[Note:— At the above command, the remaining Officers assemble behind the Senior and Junior Knights, facing East, in the order as follows:]

Director of Ceremonies
Senior Knight Junior Knight
Excellent Chief
Scribe Treasurer
Priest
Senior Warden Junior Warden
Steward Sentinel

D. G.— The Officers are about to retire, Sir Knights on the sidelines will extend the Retiring Salute.

D. C. Officers, Forward March, Column Right March.

[The D. C. marches the Procession across the East and South and out of the Council Room. He then returns to the door and gives orders to the members on the sidelines as follows:]

D. C.— Sir Knights Carry Swords, Return Swords. You are Dismissed.

[Note:— Those Knights giving the “Hand Sign” will drop their hands to the side at the carry command.]

End of Closing Ceremony

**GRAND COUNCIL of KNIGHT MASONS
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**COUNCIL OF KNIGHT MASONS
COUNCIL OF KNIGHT OF THE SWORD**

COUNCIL OF KNIGHTS OF THE SWORD
(formerly Red Cross of Daniel or Babylonian Pass)

DEGREE CAST PARTICIPANTS

The Cast for this Degree consists of the following:

Great & Mighty King (G. & M. K.) — seated in the East.
Conductor — seated to left of G. & M. K. on the floor.
Priest — seated to right of G. & M. K. on the floor
Senior General — seated in the North East.
Junior General — seated in the South East.
Senior Warden — seated in the North West.
Junior Warden — seated in the South West.
2nd Capt. of the Gds. — seated in the West outside of the curtains.
1st Capt. of the Gds. — seated in the South West behind
the curtain near the Tiled door.
Tyler — outside the door.

The Cast members — wear a broad watered green silk sash over the left shoulder, having removed the Knight Masons sash. All others remain clothed as in a Council of Knight Masons.

Candidate Exemplar — after the Rubric and Obligation has been given by the Director of Ceremonies (Conductor), Candidate is prepared by being aproned as a Royal Arch Mason and having hands bound with Chains.

OPENING CEREMONY

G. & M. K.— Sir Knights arise. • [G. & M. K. raps using large trowel handle as a gavel.] I am about to open a Council of Knight of the Sword.

J. W.— Sir Knights, Draw Swords.

Knocks • [G. & M. K. with trowel, and it is repeated by the S. Gen. and the J. Gen. with hilt of sword on floor holding tip of blade in left hand.]

G. & M. K.— Sir Kt. Jun. Gen., what is the first care of a Kt. of the Sword?

J. G.— To see that the Guards are placed at the Tower that the Council may meet in seclusion, Great and Mighty King.

G. & M. K.— See that the Guards are so placed.

[Keeping the Altar on his right, the J. Gen. proceeds to a position in front of the 2nd Capt. of the Gd. and exchanges sword salute with the 2nd Capt. of the Gd. The 2nd Capt. of the Gd. knocks • [taps softly with his foot]. The J. Gen. opens the curtain with his sword and looks to see if the 1st Capt.

of the Gd. is at his post, closes curtain and returns to his station, via the South.

J. Gen.— Great and Mighty King, the Guards ~re properly posted and the seclusion of the Council is assured.

G. & M. K.— Sir Knight Senior General, what next demands our attention?

S. Gen.— To prove that all present are true Knights of the Sword, G. & M. K.

G. & M. K.— Direct the Wardens to prove that all present are true Knights of the sword,

S. Gen.— Brother Wardens, it is the command of the G. & M. K. that you prove that all present are true Knights of the Sword.

[The Wardens proceed towards the East along the South and North sides of the room. They stop in front of the S. Gen's. and J. Gen's. stations, execute a right and left face and receive the P. W. from the S. Gen. and J. Gen. They execute a right and left face and return to positions in front of their respective stations. They execute a right and left face and proceed to a position in the center of the room west of the Altar, facing each other. The Pass Word (L—B—RT—S) is communicated aloud to the Senior Warden by the Junior Warden. The Wardens return to their respective stations.]

[Note; If the logistics of meeting room permit, the Wardens will receive the Pass Word from each Sir Knight (except for the Candidates) on the sidelines and return to their respective stations before proceeding as described above.]

S. W.— Sir Knight Senior General, all present (“except the Candidates”, if present) are true Knights of the Sword.

S. Gen.— Great and Mighty King, all present (“except the Candidates”, if present) are true Knights of the Sword.

G. & M. K.— I now declare this Council of Knights of the Sword open and let the Generals so proclaim it.

[The S. Gen. and J. Gen. take one step forward and execute an About Face in unison, before giving their ritual.]

S. Gen.— Sir Knights, this Council of Knights of the Sword is now open.

J. Gen.— Sir Knights, this Council of Knights of the Sword is now open. [Sen. and Jun. Gens. execute an about face in unison.]

Knocks • [G. & M. K. with trowel, and it is repeated by the S. Gen. and the J. Gen. with hilt of sword on floor holding tip of blade in left hand.]

J. W.— Sir Knights, return Swords.

G. & M. K. — Be seated Sir Knights

(Note:— All Sir Knights are seated.)

WORK OF THE DEGREE OF KNIGHT OF THE SWORD

[Note: If several Candidates are to be received, the Conductor will take a position in front of the class of Candidates to deliver the Rubric and Obligation.]

Cond.— The date of the degree of Kt. of the Sword is B.C. 535. The Candidate represents Z., Prince of the House of Judah. The Presiding Officer represents King Cyrus of Persia in his court at Ecbatana.

Cond.— Are you willing to make a solemn declaration of secrecy?

[On receiving an affirmative reply, the Conductor administers the Obligation, as follows:]

Cond.— You will place your right hand over your left breast and repeat the following obligation. I solemnly declare on my word of honor as a man and a Mason that I will always conceal whatever I may see, hear, or learn upon being admitted into a Council of Kts. of the Sword or may at any time hereafter be instructed in concerning the Council or its usages, and that I will not communicate the same to any but to a well known Br. Kt. of the Sword or in a lawful Council of the same. All this I do solemnly and voluntarily promise on my sacred word of honor.

[Conductor escorts the Candidate Exemplar behind the curtain adjacent to the Tiled door. He then prepares the Candidate as described above for the Degree, takes candidate by the left arm and approaches the outer curtain. The 1st Capt. of the Gd. positions himself inside the curtains and stands at the side of the Bridge.]

[Note: if the class consists of only one Candidate, the Rubric and Obligation can be administered to the Candidate while behind the curtain adjacent to the tiled door.]

Cond.— Knocks • [taps softly with his foot.]

1st Capt. of Gd.— What is the cause of the alarm?

Cond.(forZ.)— One Z., the first amongst his equals, a Mason by rank and a captive by misfortune, entreats permission to present himself before the Throne of the G. & M. K.

1st Capt. of Gd.— He cannot enter until the pleasure of the G. & M. K. be made known.

1st Capt. of Gd.— Knocks • [taps softly with his foot.]

[2nd Capt. of Gd. on hearing signal, rises, draws his sword and proceeds to Sen. Gen.]

2nd Capt of Gd.— Sir Kt S. Gen., *(S. Sen., rises, sword salutes are exchanged)* **The Guard gives signal of approach.**

(S. Sen. accompanied by the 2nd Capt. of Gd. on his right approaches the East)

S. Gen.- G. & M. K., *(S. Gen. gives Sword Salute.)* **The Guard gives signal of approach.**

G. & M. K.— Generals, make the necessary inquiries and take all due precautions for the safety of the Council.

(Jun. Gen. rises, draws his sword and joins the S. Gen. and 2nd Capt. of Gd. in East taking position at right of 2nd Capt. of Gd., They about face and proceed three abreast keeping the Altar on the right between the Wardens to the inner Curtain. They perform a Left Wheel and come to a halt lining up parallel to the curtain.)

S. Gen.— Knocks • *[taps softly with foot]* **What is the cause of the alarm?**

1st Capt of Gd.— One Z., the first amongst his equals, a Mason by rank and a captive by misfortune, entreats permission to present himself before the Throne of the G. & M. K.

[The 2nd Capt. of Gd. returns to his station, returns his sword and is seated. The S. Gen. and J. Gen. about face and keeping the Altar on the right, proceed two abreast to the East. After the Generals have left the Curtain, the 1st Capt of Gd. will admit and escort the Candidate and Conductor around the Bridge to a position behind the Inner Curtain]

S. Gen.— G. & M. K., *(S. Gen. gives Sword Salute)* **One Z.,** the first amongst his equals, a Mason by rank and a captive by misfortune, entreats permission to present himself before the Throne of the G. & M. K.

G. & M. K. • *(gives knock.)* **Generals and Knights attend.**

(S. Gen. and J. Gen. return to stations, about face In unison, other Officers will rise.)

J. W. — Sir Kts. Draw Swords.

G. & M. K. — I will relate the particulars of a dream. Interpret and assist me with your counsel. “In my sleep, I perceived a lion ready to devour me, and at a distance Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar (my predecessors) in chains contemplating that which Masons know as the G.A.O.T.U. In the clouds above appeared an Eagle from whose beak issued a scroll whereon was written, “Render liberty to the Captives.”

G. & M. K.— Generals and Kb. deliberate— Do you consent to the stranger being Interrogated?

[The Gens. and Kts. advance one step with the right foot at Carry Swords, then depress their swords in token of assent. They raise their swords, while stepping back with right foot, and return to Carry Swords. Time for these movements are taken from the J. W.]

G. & M. K. — Let the stranger be admitted and the S. and J. Gens. escort him into our presence.

[The Generals approach the East, give Sword Salute and about face. They proceed (two abreast) to the inner Curtain (keeping the Altar on the right) and Left Wheel into position. The S. Gen. parts curtain with his sword.]

S. Gen.— You have permission to enter.

(Conductor takes Candidate by the left arm and steps through the inner Curtain. S. and J. Gens. perform an About Face and with swords at Carry, escort Z.— (Candidate) and Cond. to a position West of Altar, remaining in a straight line with them. The line up from North to South should be: S. Gen., Cond., Candidate, and J. Gen.)

G. & M. K.— Worthy Stranger, for what reason do you appear before us? [Note.' The Conductor will respond for Z.]

Cond.— G. & M. K., I wish to gain your esteem and supplicate your justice.

G. & M. K.— Upon what account?

Cand.— G. & M. K., For my companions who have been seventy years in bondage.

G. & M. K.— What do you request?

Cond.— G. & M. K., To grant us liberty: to permit us to return to our own country, and to assist us in rebuilding the Temple of the Most High.

G. & M. K.— We are ready to grant your request on condition that you communicate to us the Secrets of Masonry, an Order for which we have always had a high esteem, but to which we do not belong.

Cond.— G. & M. K. My engagements are inviolable and I cannot reveal to you our Secrets. If my liberty is to be thus purchased, I prefer captivity.

G. & M. K.— We admire your Zeal, Courage, and Fidelity. Generals and Kts., the Captive merits liberty for his attachments to his engagements. Worthy stranger, we grant your request and consent to your being set at liberty. Free him from his chains.

[Conductor removes chains and hands them to the 2nd Capt of Gd. who then returns to his station. The S. Gen. (via the North) and the J. Gen. (via the South) return to their stations and about face in Unison.]

J. W— Sir Kts., Return Swords.

G. & M. K. — The Class will rise.

[Conductor moves Candidate to Altar and causes him to kneel, V Vest of the Altar. The J. W. and S. W. conduct other members of the Class to the Altar and position them in a straight line approximately three feet behind the kneeling Exemplar. When the movement ceases, The G. & M. K. will approach from the East and stop East of the Altar.]

G. & M. K.— Henceforth, we All be to you a friend and as a token of our esteem, we create you a Kt. of the Sword *[The G. & M. K. will tap the Exemplar on the left shoulder using the Sword from the Altar.]*

G. & M. K.— Rise Sir Kt. _____, Knight of the Sword.

[For multiple candidates, keeping the Altar on his right, the G. & M. K. will move in front of each member of the Class and tap each on the left shoulder while repeating the phrase “We create you a Kt. of the Sword. After exalting the last Candidate, the G. & M. K. will return (keeping the Altar on his right) to the East of the Altar. Replacing the Altar Sword, he then retrieves the Sword from the Altar cushion and presents it to the Exemplar.]

G. & M. K.— We arm you with this Sword, the Emblem of our Order. You will never use it save in the Cause of Justice or in your own defense.

[The Conductor will make sure that Candidate’s sword is at Carry position. The G. & M. K. retrieves the breakaway Green Sash from the Altar cushion and, with the assistance of the Conductor, places it upon the Candidate.]

G. & M. K.— We decorate you with this Green Sash which though not accompanied with any mysteries like those of your Order, we grant as an honor to the Princes of our Court. You will hereafter enjoy the same distinction. Go into your Country. We grant you liberty to rebuild the Temple destroyed by our predecessors, and will give instructions to our Guards to allow you and your Companions to pass safely through our Dominions.

[The G. & M. K. returns to the East and raps. (with handle of Trowel) to seat all. The J. W. and S. W. will seat the Candidates, with the exception of the Exemplar, and returning to their stations, are seated.]

[Priest remains standing and after all movement has ceased, reads Ezra 1.~1,2,and 3 from Scroll.]

Priest—

- 1. Now in the first year of Cyrus, King of Persia, that the Word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus, King of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his Kingdom and put it also in writing, saying.**

2. Thus saith Cyrus, King of Persia, The Lord God of Heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.
3. Who is there among you of all his people? His God be with him and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the House of the Lord God of Israel (he is the God) which is in Jerusalem.

[Priest is then seated.]

G. & M. K.— Further instruction will now be given by your Conductor,

[Conductor will tell Exemplar (at a voice level loud enough for the Class to hear) that he will receive a Password from the G. & M. K. On leaving the Court, he will be challenged by a Guard on the near side of the Bridge and will be allowed to pass by giving the Pass. After crossing over the Bridge, he will again be challenged by a Guard, who will again demand that he give a Pass. When Pass is given, this Guard will accost and attack him but he is to feign resistance using his Sword to escape. In the ensuing struggle to escape, he is to allow the Guard to remove his Green Sash.]

[Note; At the discretion of the E. C., the Conductor can include the instructions contained in the Supplement to this degree]

Cond.— Now accompany me to the throne of the Great and Mighty King.

[The Conductor will take the Candidate by the left arm, left wheel and keeping the Altar on the right, conduct him to the East.]

Cond.— G. & M. K. Prince Z's mission is now completed and he intends to take leave of your Court.

G. & M. K.— *(Rising)* Sir Kt. Zerubbabel, you are about to take leave of us to return to your fellow countrymen in Babylon, To do that you must pass beyond the confines of our Kingdom.

[G. & M. K. descends to Candidate.]

G. & M. K.— Our Guards at the frontier of our Kingdom will demand from you a Pass Word. That Word is L—b—rt—s. Once past our Guards, our protection ceases. Should you at any time thereafter meet with armed resistance, you must defend yourself, but fear not for your cause is just.

[G. & M. K. returns to East and is seated. Conductor and Candidate, right wheel and, keeping the Altar to the right, return to the West. At the inner curtain, they are accosted by the 2nd Capt. of the Gd.]

2nd Capt. of Gd.— *(With sword at Guard)* Who comes here? Give me the Pass.

Cand.— L—b—rt—s.

2nd Capt. of Gd.— The Pass is right. Pass on.

[2nd Capt. of the Gd. returns to his station and is seated. Conductor and Candidate proceed thru curtain. Candidate is caused to traverse the Bridge with Conductor walking along side to assist him. After passing thru the outer curtain, they are accosted by the 1st Capt. of Gd.]

1st Capt. of Gd.— Who comes here? Give me the Pass.

Cand.— L—b—rt—s.

1st Capt. of Gd.— The Pass is not right. Defend yourself.

[After a few careful parries with his sword, the 1st Capt. of Gd. removes the Green Sash. At the completion of the Work at the Bridge, the Candidate's apron and sword are removed and put away. The Candidate is conducted by the Conductor to his seat on the Sidelines. The Conductor resumes his station and is seated.]

End of Degree of Knight of the Sword

CLOSING CEREMONY

G. & M. K.— *(One Knock ●)* **Sir Knights. arise, I am about to close this Council of Knights of the Sword.**

J. W.— Sir Knights, draw Swords.

G. & M. K.— Generals, our labors being ended, proclaim that this Council of Knights of the Sword is now closed.

[The Sen. and Jun. Gens. take one step forward and execute an About Face in unison, before giving their ritual.]

S. Gen.— Sir Knights, this Council of Knights of the Sword is now closed.

J. Gen.— Sir Knights, this Council of Knights of the Sword is now closed.

[Sen. and Jun. Gens. execute an about face in unison.]

G. & M. K.— Accordingly, I now declare this Council of Knights of the Sword closed.

[Note: G. & M. K. gives the knock of the Degree (●), and it is repeated by the S. Gen., the J. Gen., the 2nd Capt. of the Gd. and the 1st Capt. of the Gd. with hilt of sword on floor holding tip of blade in left hand.]

J. W.:— Sir Knights, return Swords.

G. & M. K.:— Be seated Sir Knights.

[Note: All Sir Knights are seated.]

SUPPLEMENT — COUNCIL OF KNIGHTS OF THE SWORD

EXAMPLE OF INSTRUCTION*

(Note:— All the instruction is given by the Conductor and should include the following points.)

The history of the Judean people, as contained in the Roll of the law, records three outstanding episodes intimately connected with Irish Universal Masonry

- (1) The building of King Solomon's Temple — Craft Masonry
- (2) The repairs by King Josiah — Irish Royal Arch Masonry
- (3) The building of the Second Temple by Z after the return from captivity in Babylon — Knight Masonry

So by becoming a Knight Mason you are completing a sequence intimately related to the teaching of Masonry

There are three Degrees in Knight Masonry now known as Knight of the Sword, Knight of the East, and Knight of the East and West, and in this Degree of Knight of the Sword you have taken the principal part in demonstrating one of the greatest feats of faith and courage recorded in the entire history of these peoples.

In the Book of Jeremiah we read where that prophet foretold the destruction of the Temple and that the people would serve the King of Babylon for a period of seventy years, before being permitted to return to Jerusalem:

In about the year 606 B.C.E. the prophesy began to be fulfilled. In that year Nebuchadnezzar conquered Judea and removed the bulk of the inhabitants to captivity in Babylon.

Rabbinical tradition tells that the Judean people (in captivity) carefully preserved and handed down all their legends, prophesies and traditions and so, when 70 years later about 536 B.C.E., King Cyrus conquered Babylon, the Judean people saw in the changed conditions the hand of God interfering to bring about the end of the captivity and the return to Jerusalem

This faith that Jeremiah's prophesy would be fulfilled was strongly held by the Judean people. At that time there was "one Z" a Prince of the House of David, so strong in his faith that, at great personal risk, he undertook the journey to the Persian capital to plead with King Cyrus for the release of his people.

As soon as he had reached the capital, he was made captive, put in chains and brought to the centre of government.

The announcement of a captive in chains at the Persian court reminded King Cyrus of a dream he had had. So remarkable was the coincidence that he summoned his councilors, related the dream to them and asked them to interpret it and advise him.

(Note:— The dream should be retold at this point.)

His councilors saw in the dream that Cyrus had been vouchsafed a vision of his predecessors suffering for the wrongs they had inflicted on the Judean people, and in The lion, which they recognized as the emblem of Judah, the fate that would overtake Cyrus should he continue in their footsteps. And so when they were asked if the Captive should be interrogated they gladly signified that he should be.

Cyrus then received him graciously, heard his request and offered to grant them all on the one condition that he would reveal to him the secrets of Masonry — an Order he said, to which he did not belong but one which he always held in high esteem,

Without hesitation, Z. replied “No, my engagements are inviolable. If my liberty is to be thus purchased, I prefer captivity.” This was an extremely courageous reply, for the King was an absolute monarch with powers of life and death over his subjects, and he could easily have ordered Z’s execution. This reply could also have postponed indefinitely any chance of ending the Captivity in Babylon. However, the dignity of Z’s reply so impressed the King that he granted all his requests without any conditions whatsoever. He went further and by creating him a Knight of the Sword, he admitted him a member of his own Order of Chivalry and invested him with the insignia of the Order.

Z’s mission was now completed and he took leave of the Persian court, and returned to his people in Babylon, who rejoiced greatly at the news he had brought. They began making arrangements for an early return to Jerusalem.

We were told at that time forty and two thousand, three hundred and threescore left Babylon.

It took some four months and they were continually harassed by the unfriendly people who lived in those parts, but especially by their enemies who brought them to battle at the Bridge across the river.

In this fight Z. was despoiled of the green sash with which Cyrus had invested him but he retained his sword and eventually secured the bridgehead and his people journeyed on, still suffering hardships and hostilities but pressing on in the hope that they would take part in the glorious work of rebuilding the Temple.

(Note:— the Conductor should turn the Candidate to face the Tower and Bridge.)

Notice the Tower which, when you were admitted formed part of the defenses of the capital.

You still have to make another symbolic journey this time from Babylon to Jerusalem. The Tower will now represent a frontier post through which you must pass as it marks the limits of the Persian Empire The Bridge at which the battle was fought will be further away on the journey, if you encounter any opposition, you will draw your sword and defend yourself but fear not for your cause is just.

You will have noticed that I have not given you any (Masonic) secrets.

There is only one and that will be given to you by the Great and Mighty King when you now attend to symbolically take leave of King Cyrus and his Court. This password will guarantee your safety throughout the King's dominion. Once past the frontier post you will be on your own and must defend yourself

(Note: After the instructions, the Candidate is conducted to the G. & M.K.)

** This ritual was approved by the Grand Council of Knight Masons sitting in Dublin, Ireland, at the Stated Meeting held in Omagh, Ireland, on Saturday 28th October 1995.*

**GRAND COUNCIL of KNIGHT MASONS
of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA**



**COUNCIL OF KNIGHT MASONS
COUNCIL OF KNIGHT OF THE EAST**

COUNCIL OF KNIGHTS OF THE EAST

(or Jordan Pass)

DEGREE CAST PARTICIPANTS

The Cast for this Degree consists of the following:

Great & Mighty King (G. & M. K.) — seated in the East.

Conductor— seated to left of G. & M. K. on the floor.

Priest — seated to right of G. & M. K. on the floor

Senior General — seated in the North East.

Junior General — seated in the South East.

Senior Warden — seated in the North West.

Junior Warden — seated in the South West.

2nd Capt. of The Gd. — seated in the West

1st Capt. of the Gd. — seated in the South West behind the curtain near the tiled door.

Tyler — outside the door.

The Cast members wear a pale watered silk sash with gold fringe tied around the waist, the ends hanging at the left side. The Knight Masons sash is removed. All others remain clothed as in a Council of Knight Masons.

Candidate Exemplar — after the Rubric has been given by the Director of Ceremonies (Conductor), Candidate is prepared by being aproned as a Royal Arch Mason and wears the Sword from the Degree of Knight of the Sword.

OPENING CEREMONY

G. & M. K.— *(One knock)* **Sir Knights arise, I am about to open a Council of Knights of the East.**

J. W.— **Sir Knights, draw Swords.**

Knocks • *[G. & M. K. with trowel, and it is repeated by the S. Gen. and the J. Gen. with hilt of sword on floor holding tip of blade in left hand.]*

G. & M. K.— **Sir Knight Junior General, what is the first care of a Knight of the East?**

J. Gen.— **To see that the Council is duly guarded, Great and Mighty King.**

G. & M. K.— **See that duty performed.**

[Keeping the Altar on his right, the J. Gen. proceeds to a position in front of the 2nd Capt. of The Gd. and exchanges sword salute with 2nd Capt. of The Gd. The J. Gen. proceeds to a position in front of the 1st Capt. of The Gd. at the door and exchanges sword salute with him. The 1st Capt. of the Gd. turns and gives a knock on the door. The knock is answered by the Tyler. The 1st Capt. of The Gd. opens the door so that the J. Gen. can observe that the Tyler is positioned

outside the door. The door is closed and the J. Gen. returns to his station, via the South.]

J. Gen.— Great and Mighty King, the Council is guarded.

G. & M. K.— Sir Knight Senior General, what next demands our attention?

S. Gen.— To prove that all present are true Knights of the East, Great and Mighty King.

G. & M. K.— Direct the Wardens to prove that all present are true Knights of the East.

S. Gen.— Brother Wardens, it is the command of the Great and Mighty King that you prove that all present are true Knights of the East.

[During a full form opening, if the logistics of the meeting room allow and all members on the sidelines have swords, the Pass Word (T—TN—I and SH— TH—R—B—ZN—I) is divided with all members present except the Excellent Chief The S. W. divides the Word with the Kts. on the North side and the J. W. with those on the South. Both Wardens start in the East and move to the West. After completing the taking of the Word, each Warden returns to his respective station. The Wardens then proceed towards the East along the South and North sides of the room. They stop in front of the S. Gen. and J. Gen. stations, execute a right and left face, and divide the Pass Word with the Junior and Senior Generals. The Wardens execute a right and left face and return to positions in front of their respective stations. The Wardens execute a right and left face and proceed to a position in the center of the room, west of the Altar facing each other. The J. W. divides the Pass Word with the S. W. The Wardens return to their respective stations.]

[Note: — At the discretion of the E. C., the Pass Word may be divided with the Senior and Junior Generals only, as described above.]

[Note.— The Pass Word is divided in the following manner: Advance left feet and place them beside each other. Interlace fingers of left hands. One strikes the other's right shoulder with the hilt of his sword and says T—TN—J. The other similarly strikes the right shoulder and responds SH-TH-R-8-ZN-I.]

S. W.— Sir Kt. S. Gen., all present (“except the Candidates”, if present) are true Knights of the East.

S. Gen.— G. & M. K., all present (“except the Candidates”, if present) are true Knights of the East,

G. & M. K.— I now declare this Council of Knights of the East open, and let the Generals so proclaim it.

[The S. Gen. and J. Gen. take one step forward and execute an About Face in unison, before giving their ritual.]

S. Gen.— Sir Knights, this Council of Knights of the East is now open.

J. Gen.— Sir Knights, this Council of Knights of the East is now open.

[Sen. and Jun. Gent execute an about face in unison]

Knocks • *[G. & M. K with trowel, and MIs repeated by the & S. Gen. and J. Gen. with hilt of sword on floor holding tip of blade in left hand. 1st Capt of the Gd. gives knock on the Door answered by the Tyler]*

J. W.— Sir Knights, return Swords.

G. & M. K. — Be seated Sir Knights.

[Note:- All Sir Knights salute the G. & M. K with the sign and are seated. The Sign is given by grasping the collar of your own coat between the thumb and forefinger at the right side of the neck and giving a sharp tug upwards]

WORK OF THE DEGREE OF KNIGHT OF THE EAST

[Note:- If several candidates are to be worked the Conductor takes a position In front of the class of Candidates to deliver the Rubric. if the class consists of only one candidate, the Rubric can be given to the candidate while behind the curtain in the West]

Cond. — The date is B.C. 520 which is sixteen years later than the visit of Z. to King Cyrus when he Journeyed from Babylon. This time Z. comes from Jerusalem to visit King Darius. The scene is laid at the Court of Persia in Ecbatana. The Presiding Officer represents King Darius.

[Conductor escorts the Candidate Exemplar behind the curtain adjacent to the Tiled door He than prepares the Candidate as described above for the Degree, takes candidate by the left arm and approaches the curtain. The Candidate's sword should be at Carry]

Cond. — Knocks • *(taps softly with his foot]*

2nd Capt. of Gd.— G. & M. K., there is an alarm.

G. & M. K. — Ascertain the cause.

[2nd Capt of Gd. proceeds to Curtain, knocks once (taps lightly with foot) and moves curtain slightly aside at center with his sword to allow him to see and address Cond. and Candidate.]

2nd Capt of Gd. — What is the cause of the alarm?

Cond.— One Zerubbabel, who having received liberty from Cyrus to rebuild the Temple, comes to demand justice from the G. & M. K.

2nd Capt. of Gd.— How does he expect to be admitted?

Cond.— By the liberty he has received.

[2nd Capt. of Gd. returns to his station.]

2nd Capt. of Gd— G. & M. K., *[gives Sword Salute.]* One Z., who having received liberty from Cyrus to rebuild the Temple, comes to demand justice from the G. & M. K.

G. & M. K.— How does he expect to be admitted?

2nd Capt. of Gd.— By the liberty he has received.

G. & M. K.— Let him be admitted.

[2nd Capt. of Gd. proceeds to curtain, knocks once (taps lightly with foot) and opens curtain at center with his sword to permit Cond. and Candidate to pass thru. 2nd Capt. of Gd. moves to side of curtain facing East.]

2nd Capt. of Gd.— It is the will of the G. & M. K. that he be permitted to enter.

[Cond. takes candidate by the left arm and conducts him thru curtain to West of the Altar. The Candidate's sword should be at Carry. After Cond. and Candidate pass by, 2nd Capt. of Gd. closes curtain, returns to his station and is seated.]

G. & M. K.— Worthy stranger, who are you?

Cond.— G. & M. K., I am one Z., who having found favor in the sight of Cyrus your predecessor, obtained from him liberty to rebuild the Temple of the Most High, but on the journey to my country, I was attacked by the enemies of my Nation, despoiled of the Insignia with which I had been honored by Cyrus and was enabled to force my way over the bridge which crosses the river only by means of this Sword which Cyrus bestowed upon me. *[Cond. should pause and gesture towards Candidate's Sword.]*

Cond,— I now crave your gracious permission to continue the building of the Temple at Jerusalem and to be favored with your protection during the progress of the work.

G. & M. K.— Generals and Councilors.

[S. Gen. and J. Gen. rise and face the G. & M. K.]

G. & M. K.— Let search be made amongst the records of our predecessor to see if the Stranger's declaration be confirmed.

[S. Gen. searches in Northeast corner of Lodge Room. J. Gen. searches in Southwest corner of Lodge Room. S. Gen. retrieves the Scroll at his station and signals his

find to the J. Gen. The Generals return to their stations.]

S. Gen.— G. & M. K., we have searched the records and have found at Achmeta which is in the Province of Medes a Roll by which the Declaration of the Stranger is confirmed.

G. & M. K.— Let the Roll be read.

[Note: S. Gen. reads Ezra VI:3 and 4.]

S. Gen.—

3. In the first year of Cyrus the king the same Cyrus the king made a decree concerning the house of God at Jerusalem. Let the house be builded, the place where they offered sacrifices, and let the foundations thereof be strongly laid: the height thereof threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof threescore cubits;

4. With three rows of great stones, and a row of new timber: and let the expenses be given out of the King's house.

G. & M. K.— Z., Approach.

[Cond. instructs Candidate to place his Sword on the cushion at the Altar and then to kneel on it with both knees with both hands resting on the Holy Bible. Cond. stands behind the Candidate.]

[Priest reads Ezra VJ:6—8, 11—13.]

Priest—

6. Now therefore, Tatnai, Governor beyond the river, Shethar—boznai, and your companions the Apharsachites, which are beyond the river, be ye far from thence:

7. Let the work of this house of God alone; let the Governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God in his place.

8. Moreover I make a decree what ye shall do to the elders of these Jews for the building of this house of God; that of the King's goods, even of the Tribute beyond the river, forthwith expenses be given unto these men, that they be not hindered

11. Also, I have made a decree, that whosoever shall alter this word, let timber be pulled down from his house, and being set up, let him be hanged thereon; and let his house be made a dunghill for this.

12. And the God that hath caused his name to dwell there destroy all kings and people, that shall put to their hand to alter and destroy this house of God which is at Jerusalem. I, Darius have made a decree; let it be done with speed.

13. Then Tatnai, Governor on this side of the river, Shethar—boznai, and their companions, according to that hich Darius the King had sent, so they did speedily.

G. & M. K.— (*rises and gives Knock* •) **All Sir Knights and the Candidates will rise.**

[The J. W. and S. W. conduct other members of the Class to the Altar and position them in a straight line approximately three feet behind the kneeling Exemplar. The Cond. proceeds to the East of the Altar, keeping the Altar on his right and stands East of the Altar.]

Cond.— it is now necessary for you to take an Obligation, with the assurances usually given before taking Masonic Obligations, are you willing to do so?

Exemplar and Class— I am.

Cond.— Place your right hand on your left breast and your left hand on the Roll of the Law. You will insert your full name after the personal pronoun “I” and repeat after me.

OBLIGATION

Cond.— I, _____, of my own free will and accord, in the presence of Almighty God and of this August Council of Knights of the East, do hereby solemnly promise, vow, and declare that I will ever hail, conceal, and never will reveal any of the secrets of, or belonging to the Degree of Knight of the East which have heretofore, shall now, or may hereafter become known to me in any manner, whatever, and that I will not communicate the same to anyone but a well known Brother Knight of the East or in a lawful Council of the same.

I will hold myself bound in as close a tie to a Brother of this Degree as to a Brother of any of my former Degrees.

All these points I solemnly promise, vow, and declare to observe without either equivocation or mental reservation whatsoever, bearing in mind the ancient penalty invoked by King Darius of having my house pulled down, the timbers taken, and being set up, of being hanged thereon, and binding myself under the real penalty of being degraded from knighthood should I ever violate in letter or in spirit this my solemn, sincere and voluntary obligation, being that of a Knight of the East, and I invoke the aid of the Great King of Heaven and Earth to keep me steadfast in the due observance of the same, You will now seal your OBLIGATION by kissing the Roll of the Law.

[Cond. proceeds, keeping the Altar to his right, to his position behind the Candidate. Simultaneously, the G. & M. K. leaves his station and proceeds to the East of the Altar.]

G. & M. K.— Zerubbabel, we admire your zeal and perseverance in endeavoring to promote the work you have undertaken. We will give orders for the future protection of your brethren in rebuilding the Temple. In the meantime, as a mark of our esteem and favor, we create you a Knight of the East.

[Starting with the Exemplar, the G. & M. K. knights each member of the Class by tapping him with the Sword (taken from the Alter) on the left shoulder. When knighting the other members of the class, he repeats, “We create you a Knight of the East”. He replaces the Sword on the Bible and stands at the South side of the Altar to assist the Exemplar to arise.]

G. & M. K.— Rise Sir Kt. _____, Knight of the East.

G. & M. K.— We appoint you one of our Guards and as a further mark of approbation invest you with this (pause)

[G. & M. K. picks up the scarf from the Altar cushion. He holds up the scarf for the members of the class to see. The Cond. places the scarf on the Exemplar in accordance with and in concert with the instructions given by the G. & M. K.]

G. & M. K.— scarf of pale blue watered silk with gold fringe (pause) tied around the waist, (pause) the ends hanging at the left side, (pause) in token of the victory you obtained over your enemies at the passage of the river.

[G. & M. K. performs an About Face and returns to his station. The Cond. moves to the left side of the Exemplar.]

G. & M. K.— Further instruction will now be given by your Conductor. Be seated Sir Knights.

[The Wardens conduct the Class of Candidates to seats on the sidelines and resume their respective stations and remain standing. After all movement ceases, the Conductor, after telling the Exemplar to stand fast and keeping the Altar on his right, takes a position about three quarters of the distance between the East and the Altar.]

Cond.— With the assistance of the Wardens, I will now demonstrate the Pass Word and Grip, the Secret Word and Grip and Sign of this degree.

[Wardens (with swords drawn) proceed left and right of the Altar to positions about half of the distance between the Conductor and Altar. They halt, perform a Right and Left Face in unison and move towards each other, stopping about three feet apart. After the Cond. describes each of the various grips and signs, the Wardens will demonstrate them.]

Cond.— The Pass Word and Grip is given in the following manner: Advance left feet and place them beside each other. Interlace fingers of left hands. One strikes the other's right shoulder with the hilt of his sword and says T—TN—I. The other similarly strikes the right shoulder and responds SH—TH—R—B—ZN—I. Demonstrate!

[Wardens demonstrate; J. W. says T—TN—I. In a similar manner the S. W. responds SH—TH—R—B—ZN—I. The Wardens Return Swords in unison.]

Cond.— The Secret Word and Grip is given in the following manner: Advance left feet and place them beside each other. Interlace fingers of left hand. Place the right hand, palm down, flat on each other's right shoulder. The word is L—B—RT—S. Demonstrate!

Wardens demonstrate; S. W. says L—B—RT—S.]

Cond.— The Sign, which alludes to the penalty of your OBLIGATION, is given as follows: Grasp the right collar of your own coat between the thumb and forefinger at the right side of the neck. Give a sharp tug upwards. Demonstrate!

[Wardens demonstrate. Then Wardens perform an About Face and return to their stations in the West, via the North and South of the Altar. Cond. proceeds clockwise around the Altar, moving behind the Exemplar to his left side and faces East.]

[Note: At the discretion of the E. C., the Conductor can include the instructions contained in the Supplement to this Degree.]

Cond.— In the remaining portion of this Ceremony will be enacted scenes of a famous discussion in which you will take part.

[At the conclusion of the instruction, the King beckons to the S. Gen. who rises and goes to the Throne and holds a quiet conversation with the King. The G. & M. K. leaves his station and placing the pillow under his head; reclines in the vicinity of the East. The S. Gen., having received the three billets from the King, proceeds to a position about halfway between Altar and the East and announces.]

S. Gen.— Sir Knights, the G. & M. K. makes known his pleasure through me that we three should each of us give his opinion in answer to this question— “Which is the strongest, Wine, the King or Women?” And he that shall overcome, and whose sentence shall seem wiser than the others, unto him shall Darius give great gifts and great things in token of Victory.

[The S. Gen. gives a billet to the J. Gen., thence to the Exemplar, returns to his station and is seated. During the reading of I. Esdras 111:4—8 and 10—12 by the Priest, the S. Gen. and J. Gen. will act as if in deep thought and will pretend writing their sentence in the billet.]

Priest—

Then three young men that were of the Guard that kept the King's body spake one to another.

Let everyone of us speak a sentence: He that shall overcome and whose sentence shall seem wiser than the others, unto him shall the King Darius give great gifts and great things in token of victory; as, to be clothed in purple, to drink in gold and to sleep upon gold, and a chariot with bridles of gold and a headtire of fine linen, and a chain about his neck, and he shall sit next to Darius because of his wisdom and shall be called Darius his cousin.

And then everyone wrote his sentence, sealed it and laid it under King Darius his pillow.

The first wrote— Wine is the strongest.

[Priest pauses while S. Gen. places his billet under the King's pillow.]

The second wrote— The King is strongest.

[Priest pauses while J. Gen. places his billet under the King's pillow.]

The third wrote— Women are strongest, but above all things, Truth bearest away the Victory.

[The Cond. and Exemplar, keeping Altar on the right, approach the East. Cond. instructs Candidate to place his billet under the King's pillow. Cond. and Exemplar, keeping Altar on their right, return to West of Altar. Priest is then seated. King rises up, draws the billets from under his pillow and resumes his throne.]

G. & M. K.— Knocks •. [raps with handle of Trowel.] Sir Knights attend. [Officers remain seated.]

G. & M. K.— Sir Kt. S. Gen., deliver your judgment on the strength of wine.

[S. Gen. approaches East and receives his billet from G. & M. K. The S. Gen. returns to station and reads I. Esdras 111:18—24.]

S. Gen.—

18. O ye men, how exceeding strong is wine! it causeth all men to err that drink it.

19. It maketh the mind of the King and of the fatherless child to be all one; of the bondsman and of the freeman, of the poor man and the rich:

20. It turneth also every thought into jollity and mirth, so that a man remembereth neither sorrow nor debt:

21. And it maketh every heart rich, so that a man remembereth neither King nor Governor, and it maketh to speak all things by talents:

22. And when they are in their cups, they forget their love both to friends and brethren, and a little after draw out swords:

23. But when they are from the wine, they remember not what they have done.

24. O ye men, is not wine the strongest, that enforceth to do thus?

[S. Gen. resumes his seat.]

G. & M. K.— Sir Kt. J. Gen., deliver your judgment on the “Strength of the King”.

[J. Gen. approaches East and receives his billet from G. & A4. K. The J. Gen. returns to station and reads I. Esdras IV:2,3,4,8,9,and 12.]

J. Gen.—

2. O ye men, do not men excel in strength, that bear rule over sea and land and all things in them?

3. But yet the King is more mighty: for he is lord of all these things, and hath dominion over them and whatsoever he commandeth them they do.

4. If he bid them make war, the one against the other, they do it: if he send them out against the enemies, they go, and break down mountains, walls, and towers.

8. If he command to smite they smite; if he command to make desolate, they make desolate; if he command to build, they build.

9. If he command to cut down, they cut down; if he command to plant, they plant.

12. O ye men, how should not the King be mightiest, when in such sort he is obeyed?

[J. Gen. resumes his seat.]

G. & M. K.— Prince Z., deliver your judgment on the “Strength of Women”.

[Cond. leads Exemplar to East, keeping the Altar on the right. Cond. Instructs Candidate to approach the Throne and to receives his billet from the G. & M. K. The Cond. instructs Candidate to face West and to read from billet (I. Esdras IV:14—17, 32, 34, 35, 36, and 38). Note.’ Cond. may choose to read for the Candidate.]

Prince Z, or Cond.—

14. O ye men, it is not the great King, nor the multitude of men, neither is it wine, that excelleth; who is it then that ruleth them, or hath the lordship over them? Are they not Women?

15. Women have borne the King and all the people that bear rule by sea and land.

16. Even of them came they; and they nourished them up that planted the vineyards, from whence the wine cometh.
17. These also make garments for men; these bring glory unto men; and without women cannot men be.
32. O ye men, how can it be but women should be strong, seeing they do thus?
34. O ye men, are not women strong? Great is the earth, high is the Heaven, swift is the sun in his course, for he compasseth the heavens round about, and fetcheth his course again to his own place in one day.
35. Is he not great that maketh these things? Therefore great is the Truth, and stronger than all things.
36. All the earth calleth upon the Truth, and Heaven blesseth it! All works shake and tremble at it, and with it is no unrighteous thing.
37. Wine is wicked, the King is wicked, women are wicked, all the children of men are wicked and such are all their wicked works; and there is no Truth in them; in their unrighteousness also they shall perish.
38. As for the Truth, it endureth , and is always strong; it liveth and conquereth for evermore.

[The G. & M. K. and Officers all rise in unison, raising their hands to Heaven, they exclaim.]

ALL— Great is Truth and mighty above all things!

[G. & M. K. and Officers resume seats. Cond. causes Exemplar to face East.]

G. & M. K.— Ask what thou wilt more than is appointed in the writing and we will give it thee because thou art found wisest and thou shalt sit next to us and be called Cousin.

Cond.— O King, remember thy vow, which thou vowed to build Jerusalem in the day when thou camest to thy Kingdom. And now, O Lord the King this is that which I require, and which I desire of thee, and this is the princely liberality proceeding from 'thyself; I desire therefore that thou make good the vow, the performance whereof with thine own mouth thou hast vowed to the King of Heaven.

G. M. K.— We grant your request and will perform our vow.

[The G. & M. K. descends to the Exemplar and embraces him. He guides the Candidate in giving the Grip and imparts the Grand Word.]

G. & M. K.— Advance your left foot and place it beside my left foot (*pause*). Interlace fingers of your left hand with mine (*pause*). Place your right hand, palm down, flat on my right shoulder as I place mine on yours (*pause*). “Great is Truth and mighty above all things, Magna est Veritas et praevalabit.” The Grand Word is V—R—T—S.

[G. & M. K. conducts Exemplar to a seat at his right hand. Cond. returns to station and is seated. After all movement ceases) Priest rises and reads I. Esdras IV:4 7.]

Priest— Then Darius the King stood up and kissed him, and wrote letters for him unto all the Treasurers and Lieutenants and Captains and Governors that they should safely convey on their way both him and all those that go up with him to build Jerusalem,

G. & M. K.— Let the S. & J. Generals conduct Prince Z. safely on his way.

[Cond. instructs Exemplar to rise and step down to the floor facing the G. & M. K. Cond. moves to the left side of the Candidate. The S. Gen. rises (sword is not drawn) and proceeds to the left of the Cond., the J. Gen. rises (sword is not drawn) and proceeds to the right of the Candidate. Taking cue from S. Gen., all salute the G. & M. K. in unison with the Sign (given by grasping the right collar of your own coat between the thumb and forefinger at the right side of the neck and giving a sharp tug upwards.)]

[The Generals draw swords. The four perform an About Face and proceed four abreast to the curtain, keeping the Altar on the right. They perform a Left Wheel and line up before curtain. The Generals face inwards and come to Present Swords. The Cond. and Exemplar pass through the curtain. The Generals return to their stations, passing to the North and South sides of the Altar, return Swords and remain standing.]

[Cond. removes Apron and Sash from the Exemplar and conducts him to a seat on the sidelines. Candidates sword should be removed from Altar cushion by Conductor before returning to his station.]

G. & M. K.— Be seated Sir Knights.

[Note.— All Sir Knights salute the G. & M. K. with the Sign and are seated.]

End of Degree of Knight of the East

CLOSING CEREMONY

G. & M. K.— (*One Knock* ●) Sir Knights, arise, I am about to close this Council of Knights of the East.

J. W.— Sir Knights, draw Swords.

G. & M. K.— Generals, our labors being ended, proclaim that this Council of Knights of the East is now closed.

[The Sen. and Jun. Gens. take one step forward and execute an About Face in unison, before giving their ritual.]

S. Gen.— Sir Knights, this Council of Knights of the East is now closed,

J. Gen.— Sir Knights, this Council of Knights of the East is now closed.

[Sen. and Jun. Gens. execute an About Face in unison]

G. & M. K.— Accordingly, I now declare this Council of Knights of the East to be now closed.

[Note: G. & M. K. gives the knock of the Degree (●), and it is repeated by the S. Gen., the J. Gen. and the 2nd Capt. of the Gd. with hilt of sword on floor holding tip of blade in left hand. The 1st Capt. of the Gd. gives knock on door, answered by the Tyler.]

J. W. :— Sir Knights, return Swords.

G. & M. K.:— Be seated Sir Knights.

[Note: All Sir Knights salute the G. & M. K. and are seated.]

SUPPLEMENT — COUNCIL OF KNIGHTS OF THE EAST

*EXAMPLE OF INSTRUCTION**

(Note:— All the instruction is given by the Conductor and should include the following points.)

In the degree of Knight of the Sword, Cyrus was so impressed by Z, that he granted permission to rebuild the Temple, but he did not give protection to the workmen from their unfriendly neighbours.

There was one among those present on that occasion who formed an intimate friendship with Z, and made a vow that if ever he should succeed to the throne of Persia and if Jerusalem was still unbuilt. that he would see to the building of it. He was Prince Darius, not then in the direct line of succession,

The hostility of the neighbouring peoples greatly impeded the work during Cyrus's reign, but worse was to follow. When his son Cambyses succeeded him, these people hired scribes to write to the new King. It is a long letter, (in Ezra, Chapter 4) which succeeded in conveying to the King that the Jews were never a peaceful nation and that their building programme was suspect. The King looked up their history and decreed that all building should cease, and so it remained for the remainder of his reign.

After his accidental death a usurper seized the throne, but after a few months he was deposed and Darius was enthroned — the same Prince who had made the vow about rebuilding Jerusalem.

As soon as Z. was sure that the new King was his one time friend he restarted the building. The Satraps came and demanded why he disobeyed the late King's edict. Z decided to pay a second visit to the Persian court and demand the King's justice. His reception by Darius was symbolically enacted in the earlier part of this degree. Although it was sixteen years since the two had met, there is little doubt that Darius remembered him, for— Firstly he ordered a search to be made for Cyrus's degree, and when it was read he confirmed it.

Secondly he granted the protection needed for the builders.

And thirdly he conferred two great honours on Z — he created him a Knight of the East and made him a member of his own bodyguard, a distinction hitherto reserved for and coveted by his own subjects.

The scriptural extract is the promulgation of Darius's decree. It is specially directed to T and S, the Satraps who made the report. These names form the Password when given with this Grip (*given with the Sword*).

Our degrees are linked together by personalities, events and the interweaving of the Secrets. The Secret Word of this degree is the only Secret of the Knight of the Sword, L but given with this Grip (*given without the Sword*).

There is also a Grand Word but it is given to you by the Great and Mighty King at the appropriate time. The Salute is taken from the penal clause of the Obligation, itself taken from the same scriptural extract.

(Note:— The Conductor should demonstrate the Salute.)

Z's. visit coincided with one of the great Persian feasts. These were not orgies of dissolution as those of Babylon as described in the Book of Daniel They would correspond to a modern Commonwealth Conference, to which the Princes and Governors of the Provinces would come to make their reports, discuss their problems and receive fresh instructions. These feasts would last several days until the business was completed, and when evening came their refreshment board became a cultural and educational centre at which metaphysical problems were proposed and discussed.

Once this question was posed:— “Which is the greatest Wine, the King or Women?” so when the King retired at night, he asked his Bodyguard — one of whom it is important to remember was Z — to answer the question and promised honours and rewards to him who should answer best.

**GRAND COUNCIL of KNIGHT MASONS
of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA**



**COUNCIL OF KNIGHT MASONS
COUNCIL OF KNIGHT OF THE EAST AND WEST**

COUNCIL OF KNIGHTS OF THE EAST AND WEST

(or Royal Order)

DEGREE CAST PARTICIPANTS

This degree is usually performed by the elected and appointed Officers of the Council of Knight Masons. Officer's dress is Tuxedo, with Knight Mason Jewel, K. M. Apron, K. M. Sash and Sword. All others remain clothed as in a Council of Knight Masons. Officers are stationed as follows:.

Excellent Chief— seated in the East.
Director of Ceremonies (Conductor) — seated to left of E. C. on the floor.
Priest — seated to right of E. C. on the floor
Senior Knight — seated in the North East.
Junior Knight — seated in the South East.
Senior Warden — seated in the North West.
Junior Warden — seated in the South West.
Steward — Acting as 2nd Capt. of the Gd. is seated in the West
Sentinel —Acting as 1st Capt. of the Gd. is seated in the South West behind the curtain near the tiled door.
Tyler — outside the door.

Candidate Exemplar — after the Rubric has been given by the Director of Ceremonies (Conductor), the Candidate is prepared by being aproned as a Royal Arch Mason and wears the blue Sash and Sword from the Degree of Knight of the East. Cond. should review with and prepare Candidate to exhibit the duegard and sign of an E. A., F. C., M. M., M. M. M., and R. A.

OPENING CEREMONY

E. C.— *(One knock)* **Brother Knights and Ancients arise, I am about to open a Council of Knights of the East and West.**

J. W.— **Sir Knights, draw Swords.**

Knocks ●●● ●● [*G. & M. K. with trowel, and it is repeated by the S. Kt. and the J. Kt. with hilt of sword on floor holding tip of blade in left hand.*]

E. C.— **Brother Junior Knight, in opening a Council of Knight of the East and West, what is the first duty to be discharged?**

J. Kt.— **To see that the Captains of the Guard are at their post and that the Council may meet in seclusion, Excellent Chief.**

E. C.— **Brother Junior Knight, see that the Captains of the Guard are so placed.**

[Keeping the Altar on his right, the J. W. proceeds to a position in front of the 2nd Capt. of The Gd. and exchanges sword salute with 2nd Capt. of The Gd. J. Kt. proceeds to a position in front of the 1st Capt. of The Gd. at the door and exchanges sword salute with him. The 1st Capt. of The Gd. turns and gives the knocks on the door. The knocks are answered by the Tyler. The 1st Capt. of The Gd. opens the door so that the J. Kt can observe that the Tyler is positioned outside the door. The door is closed and the J. Kt. returns to his station, via the South.]

J. Kt.— Excellent Chief, the Captains of the Guard are at their post and the seclusion of the Council is assured.

E. C.— Brother Senior Knight, what next demands our attention?

S. Kt— To prove that all present are true Knights of the East and West, Excellent Chief.

E. C.— Brother Senior Knight, direct the Wardens to prove that all present are true Knights of the East and West.

S. Kt— Brother Wardens, it is the command of the Great and Mighty King that you prove that all present are true Knights of the East and West.

J. Kt.— Sir Knights, return Swords.

[During a full form opening, if the logistics of the meeting room allow, the Pass Word (V—R—T—S) is taken from all members present except the Excellent Chief. The S. W. takes the Word from the Kts. on the North side and the J. W. from those on the South. Both Wardens start in the East and move to the West. After completing the taking of the Word, each Warden returns to his respective station. The Wardens then proceed towards the East along the South and North sides of the room. They stop in front of the S. Kt. and J. Kt. stations, execute a right and left face, and receive the Pass Word from the Junior and Senior Knights. The Wardens execute a right and left face and return to positions in front of their respective stations. The Wardens execute a right and left face and proceed to a position in the center of the room, west of the Altar facing each other. The J. W. gives the Pass Word to S. W. The Wardens return to their respective stations.]

[Note:— At the discretion of the E. C., the Pass Word may be taken from the Senior and Junior Knights only, as described above.]

[Note:— The Pass Word and Grip are given in the following manner: Advance left feet and place them beside each other. Interlace fingers of left hands. Each grips the right collar of other's coat between thumb and forefinger of the right hand. The P. W. is V—R—T—S]

J. W.— Sir Knights, draw Swords.

S. W.— Brother S. Kt., all present (“except the Candidates”, if present) are true Knights of the East and West.

S. Kt.— E. C. all present (“except the Candidates”, *if present*) are true Knights of the East and West.

E. C.— Brother S. Kt., what is the hour?

S. Kt.— The hour of rebuilding the Temple, Excellent Chief.

E. C.— Let the Senior and Junior Knights proclaim to the Knights and Ancients of the Tribes of Judah and Benjamin that this Council of Knights of the East and West is now open for the fulfillment of our labors.

[The S. Kt. and J. Kt. take one step forward and execute an About Face in unison, before giving their ritual.]

S. Kt.— Brother Knights and Ancients, this Council of Knight of the East and West is now open for the fulfillment of our labors.

J. Kt.— Brother Knights and Ancients, this Council of Knight of the East and West is now open for the fulfillment of our labors.

[Sen. and Jun. Knights execute an About Face in unison]

Knocks ●●● ●● [G. & M. K. with trowel, and it is repeated by the S. Kt. and J. KT. with hilt of sword on floor holding tip of blade in left hand. The 1st Capt. of the Gd. gives knocks on the Door, answered by the Tyler.]

J. W.— Sir Knights, return Swords.

E. C.— Be seated Sir Knights.

(Note:— All Sir Knights salute the E. C. with the Grand Sign and are seated. The Sign is given by placing the right hand flat on the left shoulder and drawing it, in a wavy motion down across the breast to the right side at the hip.)

WORK OF THE DEGREE OF KNIGHT OF THE EAST AND WEST

[Cond.— takes position in front of the class of Candidates to deliver the Rubric.]

Cond.— The date is B. C. 520 synchronizing with the return of Z. to Jerusalem, from his visit to King Darius and with the latter’s confirmation of the Decree of Cyrus. The scene is laid in Jerusalem. This is a Masonic Council.

[Cond. escorts Exemplar to position behind curtain where he is prepared as described above. The Exemplar’s Sword should be at Carry. Cond., taking Candidate by the left arm, escorts him to curtain.]

Cond.— Knocks ●●● ●● [(taps softly with foot.) The 2nd Capt. of Gds. rises and draws sword.]

2nd Capt. of Gd.— E. C., [Sword Salute.] there is an alarm.

E.C. — Ascertain the cause.

[The 2nd Capt. of Gd. proceeds to curtain and, using his sword, draws one side of the curtain aside.]

2nd Capt. of Gd.— What is the cause of the Alarm?

Cond.— A Brother who had received liberty from Cyrus to rebuild the Temple and afterward obtained a confirmation of the same from Darius now comes to reside with his brethren in Judea.

2nd Capt. of Gd.— His Name?

Cond.— Zerubbabel.

2nd Capt. of Gd.— You will await the pleasure of the E. C.

[The 2nd Capt. of Gd. returns to station.]

2nd Capt. of Gd.— E. C., [Sword Salute.] a Brother who had received liberty from Cyrus to rebuild the Temple and afterward obtained a confirmation of the same from Darius now comes to reside with his brethren in Judea.

E. C.— His Name?

2nd Capt. of Gd.— Zerubbabel.

E. C.— Brothers Knights and Ancients, Z. is the Prince of the favored Tribe. He it is who is to finish the rebuilding of the Temple. Let Z. enter the Council.

[The 2nd Capt. of Gd. returns to curtain. Using his sword, he opens the curtain and stands to one side.]

2nd Capt. of Gd.— You have permission to enter.

[Cond. and Exemplar proceed to West of the Altar. The 2nd Capt. of Gd. returns to his station, returns Sword and is seated.]

E. C.— Let us be made acquainted with your claims.

Cond.— E. C., when the years of our captivity had expired I appeared before the Throne of Cyrus who admitting the Justice of my claims granted me liberty and arming me with this Sword, admitted me a Brother of his Order, the insignia of which I lost in a contest with our enemies at the Bridge, and had it not been for my good Sword.

[Cond. should pause and gesture towards Candidate's Sword.]

Cond.— I should not have been able to force a passage. The strength and opposition of our enemies continuing to increase, I presented myself before King Darius who, having honored me with the rank of KT. of the East, of which the sash I now wear is the Emblem, has given orders for our protection during the progress of our Work. I now claim your gracious permission to be received into your Order.

E. C.— Bro. Z., the Zeal and Perseverance you have shown in the great cause, merits participation in the highest honors we can bestow. but you must first convince us that the long and painful captivity you in common with our Brothers have suffered, has not obliterated from your memory the knowledge of the mysteries you have already received; therefore advance to the Altar

[The Cond. instructs Candidate to advance to the Altar. Cond. takes and holds Candidate's Sword. The E. C. will pause after each due gard and sign is given by the Candidate as if deliberating with himself as to the correctness of each.]

E. C.— and exhibit the signs of the E. A., F. C., M. M., M. M. M., and R. A.

[After signs are demonstrated, Cond. returns sword to Candidate.]

E. C.— We are convinced that Zeal and Perseverance can overcome all difficulties and dangers. You have been despoiled of the Insignia granted you by Cyrus, and have retained those Principles of Masonry implanted in your mind by the several gradations of our Order. This will convince you (if anything should be lacking) that no honors are so permanent as those of Masonry.

E. C.— Lay your sword on the cushion on which I now ask you to kneel on both knees.

E. C.— It is necessary for you to take a further Obligation, with the assurances usually given before taking Masonic Obligations, are you willing to do so.

E. C.— *[rises.]* All Sir Knights and the Candidates will rise.

[J. W. and S. W. assembles other members of the class of Candidates in a line approximately three feet behind the Exemplar.]

[E. C. descends and proceeds to East of Altar.]

E. C.— You will place your right hand on your left breast and your left hand on the Roll of the Law. You will insert your name in full after the personal pronoun “I” and repeat after me,

OBLIGATION

E. C. — I, A. B., of my own free will and accord, in the presence of Almighty God and of this August Council of Knights of the East and West, do hereby solemnly promise, vow and declare that I will ever hail, conceal and never will reveal any of the secrets of or belonging to Knight Masonry which have heretofore, shall now or may hereafter become known to me in any manner whatever and that I will not communicate the same to anyone but a worthy Brother Knight of the East and West or in a lawful Council of the same. I will hold myself bound in as close a tie to a Brother of this Degree as to a Brother of any of my former Degrees. All these points I solemnly promise, vow and declare to observe without either equivocation or mental reservation whatsoever and bind myself under the penalty of being degraded from Knighthood. I hereby invoke the aid of the Great Chief of Heaven and Earth to keep me steadfast in the due observance of the same.

E. C. — You will now seal your OBLIGATION by kissing the Roll of the Law.

[E. C. picks up the small trowel from the Altar cushion, holds it up for the Class to see and presents it to Exemplar.]

E. C.— Cyrus created you a Kt. and invested you with a sword. I present you with this Trowel that in the future you may use either one or the other in the rebuilding of the Temple.

[E. C. replaces trowel on cushion. Priest reads NEH. IV: 17— 18.]

Priest— They that builded on the wall and they that bare burdens with them that laded, everyone with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.

For the builders, everyone had his sword girded by his side and so builded, and he that sounded the trumpet was by me.

[E. C. picks up Sword from Altar.]

E. C.— As a token of my esteem, I create you a Knight of the East and West.

[Starting with the Exemplar, the E. C. knights each member of the Class by tapping him with the Sword (taken from the Altar) on the left shoulder. When knighting the other members of the class, he repeats, "I create you a Knight of the East and West". He replaces the Sword on the Bible and stands at the South side of the Altar to assist the Exemplar to arise.]

E. C.— Arise Sir Kt. _____, Knight of the East and West

[E. C. picks up the K. M. Apron from cushion. The Cond. removes R. A. Apron and Blue Sash from Exemplar and hands them to the 2nd Capt. of Gd., who returns with them

to his station. E. C. holds up the K. M. Apron for all the Class to see and with assistance of the Cond. places it on Exemplar. Likewise the K. M. Sash is picked up and shown before placing it on the Exemplar.]

E. C.— This Sash and Apron are the Emblems of the Degree or Rank to which you have attained and in commemoration of the Green Sash with which Cyrus presented you, we have added Rosettes of the same color.

[E. C. returns to East and is seated. Priest reads EZRA 1:5.]

Priest— Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin and the priests and the Levites with all them whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem.

E. C.— Be seated Sir Knights. Further instruction will be given by your Conductor.

[After all movement ceases, the Conductor, after telling the Exemplar and Class to stand fast and keeping the Altar on his right, takes a position about three quarters of the distance between the East and the Altar.]

[Note: At the discretion of the E. C., the Conductor can include the instructions contained in the Supplement to this Degree in addition to the following instructions]

Cond.— With the assistance of the Wardens, I will now demonstrate the Pass Word and Grip, the Secret Word and Grip and Grand Sign of this degree.

[Wardens proceed left and right of the Altar to positions about half of the distance between the Conductor and Altar. They halt, perform a Right and Left Face in unison and move towards each other, stopping about three feet apart. After the Cond. describes each of the various grips and signs, the Wardens will demonstrate them.]

Cond.— The Pass Word and Grip is given in the following manner: Advance left feet and place them beside each other. Interlace fingers of left hands. Each grips the right collar of other's coat between thumb and forefinger of the right hand. The Pass Word is V—R—T—S. Demonstrate!

[Wardens demonstrate; S. W. says V—R—T—S.]

Cond.— The Secret Word and Grip is given in the following manner: Advance left feet and place them beside each other. Interlace fingers of left hand. Each grips the right collar of other's coat between thumb and forefinger of the right hand. One says J—D—H; the other responds B—NJ—M—N. Demonstrate!

[Wardens demonstrate: J. W. says J—DH; S. W. responds B—NJ—M—N.]

Cond.—The Grand Sign is given as follows; Place right hand flat on your left shoulder, palm down. Draw it in a wavy motion down across the breast to your right side at the hip. Demonstrate! *[Wardens demonstrate the Grand Sign.]*

[Cond. proceeds clockwise around the Altar, moving behind the Candidate to his left side and faces East.]

[Cond. instructs Candidate to salute the E. C. with the Grand Sign. E. C. rises and returns the sign.]

[Note: At the discretion of the E. C. an abbreviated form for closing the Council of Knights of the East and West and resuming labor in a Council of Knight Masons (see below.) can be used at this point in the Degree and the Wardens would stand fast to demonstrate the Dividing of the Sign.]

End of Degree of Knight of the East and West

RESUMPTION OF LABOR KNIGHT MASON COUNCIL - OPTIONAL FORM

E. C.— I declare this Council of Knights of the East and West closed and labor resumed in a Council of Knight Masons.

[Note: If the full form Closing (see below) is to be used, the Wardens return to their stations and are seated. The Cond. seats the Candidate and returns to his station. The Candidate is saluted as a Knight of the East and West.]

CLOSING CEREMONY

E. C.— Brother Knights and Ancients arise, I am about to close this Council of Knights of the East and West.

J. W.— Sir Knights, draw Swords.

E. C.— Brother Senior Knight, what is the hour?

S. Kt.— Excellent Chief, the hour when captivity has ceased and the building of the Temple is to be completed.

E. C.— Let the Senior and Junior Knights proclaim to the Knights and Ancients of the Tribes of Judah and Benjamin that this Council of Knights of the East and West is now closed.

[The S. Kt. and J. Kt. take one step forward and execute an About Face in unison, before giving their ritual.]

S. Kt.— Brother Knights and Ancients, this Council of Knights of the East and West is now closed.

J. Kt.— Brother Knight. and Ancients, this Council of Knights of the East and West is now closed.

(Sen. and Jun. Knights execute an About Face in unison)

E. C.— Brother Knights and Ancients, accordingly I declare this Council of Knights of the East and West to be now closed.

Knocks ●●● ●● *[G. & M. K. with trowel, and it is repeated by the S. Kt. and the J. Kt. with hilt of sword on floor holding tip of blade in left hand. The 1st Capt of Gd. gives knocks on door which are answered by the Tyler]*

J. W.— Sir Knights Return Swords.

E. C. — Be seated Sir Knights.

[Note: — All Sir Knights salute the E C. and are seated.]

SUPPLEMENT — COUNCIL OF KNIGHTS OF THE EAST AND WEST
EXAMPLE OF INSTRUCTION*

(Note:— All the instruction is given by the Conductor and should include the following points.)

In the instructions you received in The degree of Knight of The East you were told that the three degrees of Knight Masonry were dovetailed or linked together and the first such connecting link was pointed out to you in the degree of Knight of The East. Here you learned that The Password of The degree of Knight of the Sword became the Secret Word of the degree of Knight of the East, when accompanied by a certain grip.

A similar connecting link exists between the degree of Knight of the East and this degree, the Knight of the East and West. The Grand Word of the Knight of the East becomes the Password of this degree, but accompanied by a different grip.

(Demonstrate grip)

Of the original twelve tribes of Israel, there remained, at the time of the destruction of King Solomon's Temple, two main tribes and it was these tribes who were carried into captivity and after seventy years returned to Jerusalem to build the second Temple.

These two tribes were Judah and Benjamin. You heard the names mentioned when the Priest read Ezra, Chapter 1, Verse 5, a few moments ago. These names form the Secret Word of this degree, and are divided, accompanied by the same grip as the Password. *(Demonstrate)*

The sign of this degree is twofold, a sign and a counter— sign, with the counter— sign being given only by the Excellent Chief. *(Demonstrate)* The sign and the counter— sign remind us of the watered silk sashes you wore as a Knight of the Sword and as a Knight of the East.

The knocks are given in this manner. *(Demonstrate)*

You will notice that the secrets have taken on a familiar pattern. Password and grip, Secret Word and grip, signs and knocks, similar to what you had in your earlier degrees in Freemasonry. The two earlier degrees of Knight Masonry are symbolic pageants, demonstrating what took place in the courts of the great Kings.

This third degree is represented as taking place before a Council of Knight Masons in Jerusalem, before whom Zerubbabel presents himself to inform them of the satisfactory completion of his journey to the court of King Darius.

As a reward for his labours he is created a Knight of East and West. So in this Council everything has a familiar Masonic appearance. We are presided over by an Excellent Chief dressed in exactly the same regalia as the rest of the Sir Knights, rather than as a Great and Mighty King, dressed in gorgeous robes, as in the previous degrees; you were announced here as a Brother rather than as "One Zerubbabel"; and you were asked to demonstrate within the Council that you had in fact received the earlier degrees of Freemasonry.

I would now like to digress for a moment and talk about the time you first entered Freemasonry. You were hoodwinked; the significance of this is fairly clear when you think about it. The Judean people received much enlightenment with the building of King Solomon's Temple, as you entered Masonry hoodwinked, symbolically to receive enlightenment

When the long lost Roll of the Law was discovered during the repair of that Temple by King Josiah, the people saw light again after a long period of darkness, and you again were hoodwinked and in darkness when you were admitted to be exalted to the degree of Royal Arch Mason.

Again there was great enlightenment when the second Temple was built, contrasting with the darkness of the captivity which had gone before. Again you were hoodwinked and in darkness before being admitted to be created a Knight of the Sword.

The symbolic significance is obvious!

Four years after the events depicted in this degree, the Temple was completed and dedicated, having taken twenty years in all to build from the return from captivity.

These degrees deal with a most interesting period in Judean history, but to understand properly their symbolic significance it is important to remember that the first two are represented as taking place at the courts of two Persian Kings, neither of whom was a Mason.

In the degree of Knight of the Sword in the presence of King Cyrus, we have represented to us the most outstanding example of Masonic Fidelity.

In the degree of Knight of the East are displayed played faith and courage It took no small courage to proclaim to the assembled courtiers of King Darius, the most powerful King that Persia had ever known, that there was something greater than their King.

In the degree of Knight of the East and West the fidelity, faith and courage of Zerubbabel are finally rewarded, as we believe such virtues must always be.

In the Books of Ezra, Nehemiah and Haggai, we are reminded that though the Jews were in captivity for seventy years and were forbidden to leave Babylon, it was a nominal captivity. They were allowed to own land, take part in trade and commerce, and to be active in the political life of Babylon. Many of them rose to positions of power and wealth in the land. In general they had experienced nothing but peace and prosperity, and one can understand the tremendous attraction that a wealthy and fertile country would have for such a people as the Jews.

Yet notwithstanding all these worldly attractions, they rise and leave all that behind them and undertake a hazardous journey through a desert country, swarming with their hereditary enemies, to settle in a land laid desolate by war. In reading all this in

the Book of Ezra, one naturally asks why did the Jews do This? Why did they appear to sacrifice themselves, their interests and their prospects in such a way?

The degrees of Knight Masonry provide us with an answer. It was solely in order that they might prosecute the search for truth and worship according to their faith in the home and Temple of their fathers.

By that journey they had demonstrated to the world of those days that the main object in life for them was the search for truth.

Zerubbabel proclaimed to the assembled courtiers of King Darius that there was no greater power on earth, it was greater than all the worldly power they could imagine their King to possess.

“As for truth” he exclaimed “it endureth and is always strong. It liveth and conquereth for ever more.”

(Note: The Candidate is now seated in the South, and is then saluted as a Knight of the East and West.)

**GRAND COUNCIL of KNIGHT MASONS
of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA**



**COUNCIL OF KNIGHT MASONS
RESUMPTION OF LABOR**

RESUMPTION OF LABOR IN A KNIGHT MASON'S COUNCIL

E. C.— I declare labor resumed in a Council of Knight Masons.

[Note if the Candidate(s) had been seated following the completion of the Degree of the Knight of the East and West, the E. C. requests that the Conductor bring the Candidate(s) to the West of the ALTAR.]

Cond.— The Wardens will now demonstrate the Dividing of the Sign.

[The Wardens draw Swords and demonstrate the Dividing of the Sign. The Wardens perform an About Face and return to their stations in the West, via the North and South of the Altar. Wardens return Swords and are seated.]

Cond.— When addressing the E. C., you will use the Hand Sign.

[Cond.— Demonstrates the Sign.]

Cond.— The Pass Word of a Knight Mason is SH—SH—B—ZZ—R. *[Note: At the discretion of the E. C., the Conductor can include the instructions contained in the Supplement to this Degree.]*

E. C.— Conduct the Candidates to the East.

[Conductor brings the Candidates to the East, placing them in a line approximately three feet from dais steps facing the E. C. The Conductor resumes his station and is seated.]

[E. C. displays the Jewel of the Order.]

E. C.— The Jewel of the Order is a star with crossed swords upon it, suspended from a green ribbon. The Candidates will face the West. Sir Knights, arise and salute our new members with a battery of five and two.]

[Members respond with battery of five and two starting with right hand over left and left hand over right.]

E. C.— Sir Knights, you will welcome our new members to this Council. *[Members greet Candidates in the East.]*

E. C.— Sir Knights be seated.

[Note:— the address can be read by the E. C. or given from memory by any designated Sir Knight.]

E. C.— The Address will be given by Sir Knight _____.

THE ADDRESS

Three of the most outstanding events in the religious history of the Jews were the building of the first Temple by King Solomon, the restoration of that temple by King Josiah and the building of the second Temple by Zerubbabel, a Prince of the House of Judah.

The first of these represents the traditions and teachings of Ancient Craft Masonry, the second forms the subject of Royal Arch Masonry in Ireland, whilst the return of the Jews from Babylon and the building of the second Temple form the theme of **KNIGHT MASONRY**.

You have now attained to the rank and dignity of a **KNIGHT MASON**.

As a Knight of the Sword, you were invested with a sword, the emblem of Justice, to remind you to deal justly by all men.

As a Knight of the East and West, you were presented with a Trowel, a symbol of labor, to remind you that it should be your constant care to labor with us in our efforts to achieve the **IDEAL OF MASONRY — THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN**.

We dramatize the return of the Judeans from their captivity in Babylon and the building of the second Temple by Zerubbabel under hostile attacks by enemies and in doing so adhere closely to the records of **THE HOLY WRIT**. In your **SYMBOLIC JOURNEY** through these Degrees you have represented a great prototype who has left us outstanding examples of **FIDELITY, FAITH AND COURAGE** and in enacting these scenes you have demonstrated the great lesson **THAT TRUTH BEARETH AWAY THE VICTORY**.

End of Degree Work

SUPPLEMENT — COUNCIL OF KNIGHT MASONS

(Note.— After the Council of Knights of the East and West has been closed, the E. C. requests the Conductor to bring the Candidate into the centre of the Council room, to the West of the Altar and continue with the following instruction.)

EXAMPLE OF INSTRUCTION

You have now received the three Degrees of Knight Masonry and having just seen the closing of the Council of Knights of the East and West, you may be puzzled by the fact that we are still at labour.

When you attended to receive the Degree of Knight of the Sword and Knight of the East; before you were admitted, a Council of Knight Masons was opened, following which a Council of Knights of the Sword was opened. You received your Degree and the Council of Knights of the Sword was closed.

A Council of Knights of the East was then opened and you were admitted to receive the Degree of Knight of the East, and then the Council of Knights of the East was closed. Subsequently, the Council of Knight Masons was closed.

On this occasion, before you were admitted, a Council of Knight Masons was opened here, and subsequently a Council of Knights of the East and West was opened.

You were admitted and, when you had received your degree, you saw the Council of Knights of the East and West closed. You will later be present when the Council of Knight Masons is closed. Thus you see that the Councils of Knight of the Sword, Knight of the East and Knight of the East and West always work within a Council of Knight Masons at labour.

The historical reasons for this are interesting. In olden days all the degrees including these Knight Mason degrees were given in Craft Lodges.

Various Grand bodies were eventually formed to take charge of the higher degrees, and in Ireland these Knight Mason degrees were taken over by the Great Priory.

In Scotland these degrees were in the charge of the Royal Arch, while in other constitutions degrees similar to these are also found.

The important point is that when these degrees were given, it was always within another Masonic body at labour.

Thus, when the Grand Council of Knight Masons was constituted in Ireland in the early 1920's to take charge of these degrees, it was necessary to provide a body within which the Councils of Knights of the Sword, Knights of the East and Knights of the East and West could work, and that body is a Council of Knight Masons.

I referred earlier to the fact that these degrees used to be given in Ireland by the Preceptories and are currently given in Scotland in the Royal Arch Chapter and that similar degrees are still given under other Constitutions. It is only as the degrees are now given under the Irish Constitution that they are given in the correct chronological sequence.

When you next attend a Council meeting, you will be present for the opening of a Council of Knight Masons, so it is necessary that you be instructed in the secrets and method of working of that body.

However I must remind you that the Obligation you have just taken covered the secrets of Knight Masonry, as well as those of the Degree of Knight of the East and West.

Firstly, there is a password. That word is S..... You will find it in the last verse of the first chapter of Ezra

Throughout these degrees you have represented Zerubbabel, which was his Babylonian name, but he was a Prince of the House of Judah, and so had a Court name. That name was S..... You must remember that name for you will have to whisper it to one of the Wardens each time a Council of Knight Masons is being opened.

I will now instruct you in the use of the sword.

The first command which you will hear given is “Sir Knights, draw swords.” On this you will draw your sword and bring it to the position known as the carry, this is to the right side of the body, with the upper arm vertical against the body, the forearm at right angles to it and parallel with the floor, the sword pointing vertically upwards.

Later during the opening ceremony all the Knights will be instructed to divide the sign; this is done by crossing your sword with that of your neighboring Brother Knight — about half— way up the blade, making an angle of approximately sixty degrees between the blades.

If you are on your own, you should place your sword across and inside your Left forearm, both being in front of your body, again forming an angle of about sixty degrees. The sign is completed in both instances, when acknowledged by the Excellent Chief by returning your sword to the carry position.

The attitude for prayer is adopted when the Junior Warden commands “Sir Knights, depress swords.” You should lower the point of the sword and your right forearm so that they form a straight line at an angle of about forty— five degrees to the vertical. After prayer the command is given to “Carry swords” again.

The sign of Assent is used during the Degree of Knight of the Sword, and is given by taking a pace forward with the right foot at the same time lowering the point of the sword (as in the attitude for prayer); then raising the sword with the arm still straight until the sword is almost vertical, after which the right foot is withdrawn and the sword returned to the carry position.

The Retiring Salute is called by the Second Captain of the Guard when the Officers of the Council are about to retire at the conclusion of the meeting. The sword is brought across the body so that the right hand is over the left breast and the sword is still pointing vertically. The Second Captain of the Guard will command all Knights to carry swords before the final command of "Return swords" is given.

On the command "Return swords", you should guide the tip of your sword back into the scabbard and continue until about ten inches of the blade is still exposed, then await a signal from the Junior Warden so that all Sir Knights will complete the final movement at the same time.

If you are required to salute the Excellent Chief without your sword in hand, you should place your right forearm across and inside your left forearm in the position in which your sword blade would otherwise have been.

The Knocks of the various Degrees are now explained. Knight of the Sword, Knight of the East, Knight of the East and West and Council of Knight Masons.

As a Knight Mason, you now have the right to propose candidates. The qualification for joining is being a Royal Arch Mason for one year. If you know of a suitable candidate, you are at liberty to discuss the matter with him before proposing his name.

As a Knight Mason you now have the right to attend the Grand Council of Knight Masons, the Grand Council of Instruction and to visit all subordinate Councils

Unlike in the Craft and the Royal Arch, there is not a set form of challenge for a visitor who arrives late at a Council, It is hoped that you will visit other Councils, and as a result cement the deep feeling of brotherhood and fellowship among the members.

There are Councils throughout Ireland. There are many Knight Masons Councils in America and you will find others in Hong Kong, and in Western and Southern Africa. All these Councils originally worked under the Grand Council of Knight Masons, which was established and works in Ireland, (Incidentally, it is the Grand Council of Knight Masons, and not the Grand Council of Knight Masons of Ireland.)

Some few years ago most of the American Councils broke away to form their own

Grand council, but very friendly relations are still maintained with the Grand Council.

Thus wherever you visit a Knight Masons' Council you should find exactly the same ritual being worked, and will be assured of the same welcome.

(Note.— The Candidate is now presented to the Excellent Chief for the address and presentation of the jewel the Laws and Constitutions of Grand Council and the By-Laws of this Council.)

**GRAND COUNCIL of KNIGHT MASONS
of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA**



COUNCIL OF KNIGHT MASONS

APPENDIX

OPENING ODES
[Optional]

Presented to the Grand Council of Knight Masons sitting in Dublin, Ireland, by the then Most Excellent Great Chief Arnold J. Cooke 1995.

I

(Tune Hursley)

O, Great Creator. we implore
Thy blessing on our work begun
That we may persevere with zeal.
And earn the guerdon of "Well done."

Thy Light illumines the path we tread.
Fraternal! bonds our hearts enchain.
And Chivalry's high motives mark
The heights to which we would attain.

We would be knights in word and deed
And fit our purpose to Thy Cause---
Erect an edifice of Truth
On the foundation of Thy Laws.

o, Great Creator. may we feel
We have Thy favor as we try,
Through form and symbol. to divine
The Truth Thou send est from on high.

II

(Tune — Dundee)

Within Thy tabernacle. Lord.
Who shall abide with Thee?
And in Thy high and holy hill
Who shall a dweller be?

'Tis he who walketh uprightly, And worketh
righteousness:
Who as he thinketh in his heart So doth he
Truth express.

Who doth not slander with his tongue
Nor to his friend doth hurt
Nor yet against his neighbour doth
Take up an ill report.

III

(Tune — Irish)

O, Thou Great Master Builder,
Hear Our prayer: that we may. seek
At all times to maintain the right.
And to uphold the weak

Almighty Architect, we pray
That we may learn aright
To use our symbols so that they
May guide us to Thy light.

Teach us to live as brethren true
To pilgrims here below.
And as we journey on through life.
May friendship with us grow.

CLOSING ODES
[Optional]

IV

(Tune—Abends)

O, Lord of Life. ere we disperse.
A parting note of thanks we raise
For love and succour in our need,
And Faith that doubt and fear allays.

For Judah when from durance freed.
The trail to Zion Thou didst blaze.
Show us alike the way to Truth.
Light our dark vision with its rays.

Be this the prayer we ever breathe
To Thee. Blest Author of our days---
Through cloud and sunshine, weal and
woe.
Direct and govern all our ways.

V

(Tune — St. Oswald)

Great and Mighty King of Heaven,
Humbly here Thy servants call
For Thy blessing on their labour:
Grant it. Lord. to one and all.

Grant us Liberty of action.
That in Truth we may proclaim
To the outer world of darkness,
We are knights in deed and name.

Then shall we, with strength renewed
Do our knightly deeds in love.
To the glory of Thy Kingdom,
Here and in the realms above.

VI

(Tune — O Perfect Love)

Now that the labours of this day are ended,
And all our cares and duties laid aside,
And hours of rest and darkness have
descended,
We pray God 'nay with each of us abide.

O, Great Creator, Thou Great Master
Builder,
We seek Thy blessing as our labours
cease,
Thy benediction on the work accomplished,
Thy Presence with us as we part in peace.

Great Master Builder, we have been
created
To work according to Thy great design.
May all our work be ever consecrated,
To Thee, Almighty Architect Divine.