

COUNCIL OPENING AND CLOSING WITH FIVE

Council Opening with Five

(The five Officers: Thrice Illustrious Master, Right Illustrious Deputy Master, Illustrious Principal Conductor of the Work, Captain of the Guards, and Sentinel.)

(Thrice Illustrious Master, Right Illustrious Deputy Master & Illustrious Principal Conductor are standing.)

TIM: * Companions, we are about to open a Council of Royal and Select Masters for the dispatch of business only and will thank you for your attention and assistance. The Officers and Companions will clothe themselves in their appropriate regalia, Officers assume their jewels and take their respective stations; any present not Select Masters will please retire. My Illustrious Companion of Tyre, shall we resume our labors and complete the secret work which has been so happily begun?

RIDM: Thrice Illustrious Master, it is my most ardent desire to see the secret vault completed and the sacred treasures safely deposited therein, that I may return to my own country with the satisfaction of having faithfully discharged my duty to the craft.

(Thrice Illustrious Master, Right Illustrious Deputy Master & Illustrious Principal Conductor are seated.)

TIM: Companion Captain of the Guards.

CG: *(Rises)*

TIM: Are you satisfied that all present are Select Masters?

CG: I am satisfied, Thrice Illustrious Master.

TIM: Are you satisfied that there is a constitutional number present to open a Council of Royal and Select Masters?

CG: I am satisfied that there are not less than five nor more than twenty-seven, Thrice Illustrious Master.

TIM: You will see that the Sentinel is at his post and the secret vault is made secure.

CG: (*Goes to open door*) Companion Sentinel, we are about to open a Council of Royal and Select Masters for the dispatch of business only and you are directed to guard accordingly.

(*Closes door and gives battery*) *** *** ** *

SENT: *** *** ** *

CG: Thrice Illustrious Master, (*Gives sign*) the Sentinel is at his post and the secret vault is secure.

TIM: Are you a Select Master?

CG: I am, having wrought the regular hours in the secret vault.

TIM: What are the regular hours?

CG: From the third to the sixth hour of the night.

TIM: Where were you greeted a Select Master?

CG: Within the body of a just and legally constituted Council of Select Masters, duly assembled in a room or place representing the secret vault of the Temple.

TIM: How many compose a Council of Royal and Select Masters?

CG: Five, Thrice Illustrious Master.

TIM: When composed of five of whom does it consist?

CG: The Thrice Illustrious Master, Right Illustrious Deputy Master, Illustrious Principal Conductor of the Work, Companions Captain of the Guards, and Sentinel.

TIM: Station of the Captain of the Guards?

CG: In the West, Thrice Illustrious Master. (*Remain standing*)

TIM: Your duty there, Companion?

CG: To receive the commands of my chief, see them duly executed, guard well my post, and permit none to penetrate the secret vault but the select, worthy, and faithful.

TIM: Station of the Illustrious Principal Conductor of the Work?

CG: On the left of the Thrice Illustrious Master.

TIM: **

IPC: (*Stands, Gives sign*)

TIM: Your duty there, Companion?

IPC: To sound the silver trump at early morn and eve, when the sun's first and last rays gild the mountain tops, and proclaim the hours of labor and rest.

TIM: Station of the Right Illustrious Deputy Master?

IPC: On the right of the Thrice Illustrious Master.

TIM: **

RIDM: (*Stands, Gives sign*)

TIM: Your duty there, Companion?

RIDM: To sit in Council, exhibit the fellowship of kings, brighten the chain of friendship, furnish memorials of the craft, and aid and support my chief in all the requirements of his office.

TIM: Station of the Thrice Illustrious Master?

RIDM: Within the ninth arch.

TIM: His duty there?

RIM: To preside in Council, recite the sacred traditions, illustrate the moral principles, cherish the worthy, and hold in due veneration the ancient landmarks of the order.

TIM: Illustrious Principal Conductor, what is the hour?

IPC: It is the third hour of the night, when all prying eyes should be closed in sleep.

TIM: Illustrious Principal Conductor, it being the third hour of the night, it is my order that a Council of Royal and Select Masters be now opened for the dispatch of business only, and after the regular alarm shall have been given, the Companions will repair to their several stations and resume their labors in accordance with the instructions already received.

IPC: *** *** ** * Companions, it is the order of the Thrice Illustrious Master that a Council of Royal and Select Masters be now opened for the dispatch of business only, and after the regular alarm shall have been given, you will repair to your several stations and resume your labors in accordance with the instructions already received.

TIM: Companions, you will attend to giving the signs. (*RM, SM[3]*) S _____, S _____, D _____, I S D. (*Done*)

Chaplain: (*Prayer*)

MAY THE SUPREME GRAND MASTER GRACIOUSLY PRESIDE OVER ALL OUR COUNCILS, AND DIRECT, APPROVE AND BLESS ALL OUR LABORS ON EARTH. AND MAY OUR PROFESSIONS AS MASONS BE THE RULE OF OUR CONDUCT AS MEN.

MAY OUR SECRET RETREAT EVER BE THE RESORT OF THE JUST AND MERCIFUL, THE SEAT OF THE MORAL VIRTUES, AND THE HOME OF THE SELECT. AMEN.

All: So mote it be.

TIM: *** *** ** *

RIDM: *** *** ** *

IPC: *** *** ** *

TIM: All together Companions

All Companions: *** *** ** *

TIM: In the name of the Supreme Grand Artificer of the Universe, I now declare a Council of Royal and Select Masters opened in due and ancient form. Companion Captain of the Guards, you will inform the Sentinel. * (*Illustrious Principal Conductor steps to Altar and arranges lights*)

CG: (*At door*) *** *** ** *

SENT: *** *** ** *

CG: *

SENT: *

CG: (*Opens door*) Companion Sentinel, a Council has been opened in the Select Master's Degree for the dispatch of business only, and you are directed to guard accordingly. (*Closes door, returns to station*)

CG: Thrice Illustrious Master, (*Gives sign*) the Sentinel is at his post and the secret vault is secure.

TIM: *

Council Closing with Five

(*The five Officers: Thrice Illustrious Master, Right Illustrious Deputy Master, Illustrious Principal Conductor of the Work, Captain of the Guards, and Sentinel.*)

TIM: Right Illustrious Deputy Master, have you anything to bring before this Council?

RIDM: Nothing, Thrice Illustrious Master.

TIM: Illustrious Principal Conductor, have you anything?

IPC: Nothing, Thrice Illustrious Master.

TIM: Has any Companion present anything to bring before the Council? (*Pause*) If not, we will now proceed to close. ** / Companion Captain of the Guards.

CG: (*Stands, Gives sign*)

TIM: You will see that the Sentinel is at his post and the secret vault is made secure.

CG: (*Goes to door to give battery*) *** *** ** *