

Masters of Tyre

Officers needed for conferral:

Expert Master - in the East
Deputy Expert Master - in the West
Master of Exchequer - Treasurer's station
Master of Scrolls - Secretary's station
Senior Expert - Senior Deacon's station
Junior Expert - Junior Deacon's station
Sentinel - Tiler's station

First Section:

Same as opening, except:
Hiram King of Tyre - in the East
Hiram Abiff - in the West

Second Section:

3 Craftsmen - between altar and West
Hiram Abiff - between altar and West
Runner - between altar and West

Third Section:

Same as opening, without Deputy Expert Master

Equipment needed:

2 scrolls for messages
Mauls, chisels, quarry tools
Black drape
Apron - Triangular, royal purple edged with gold
Jewel - Square and Compasses, containing in the center a crown, and at the tips of the points of the Compasses and at the apex of the Square are suspended a Seal of Solomon (2 Interlaced triangles). The seal on the left shall contain the initial "M," the center seal "O, and the seal on the right "T".

Lodge arrangement:

A Quarry of Masters of Tyre is arranged like a Craft Lodge, but with no Junior Warden's station or altar candles. At the Altar, the Square is placed with the apex pointing East and the compasses folded and placed at the apex, making a "T" readable from the West.

Introduction

This degree was part of an originally separate organization entitled "The Supreme Quarry of the World, Masons of Tyre". M.V. John Raymond Shute II conceived of, wrote the ritual for, and instituted this organization in Monroe, North Carolina around 1930. It was intended as "an historic degree to further enlighten its members on the traditions and landmarks of Ancient Craft Masonry" and an elaborate structure and Constitution was established. It met with limited success, however, and was surrendered to the Grand Council of the AMD in 1933, who adopted the ritual (with a slight name change) as one of its degrees. Many of the lessons learned by M.V. John Raymond Shute II in this early, unsuccessful venture would later be rectified with the institution and operation of the Allied Masonic Degrees. An interesting feature of this body was a requirement that "lectures and papers sent from the Supreme Quarry" were to be read verbatim before the subordinate Quarries. Brother M.V. John Raymond Shute II was the first and only "Sovereign Grand Expert Master" of this body.

Opening

EM - * Craftsmen, clothe yourselves. Officers, take your stations.

EM - ** Junior Expert, are all present Masters of Tyre ?

JE - All present are Masters of Tyre. They have wrought in the quarry and have the word of this degree.

EM - What is the word ?

JE - "The Widow's Son is dead !"

EM - Deputy Expert Master, why do Masters of Tyre use the name of quarry for their place of assembly ?

DEM - As the builder goes to the quarry for his material, so do we, as Masters of Tyre, go to the rich storehouse of Ancient Craft Masonry for the material with which to further beautify and adorn our great Masonic Structure.

EM - What does a quarry of Masters of Tyre represent ?

DEM - The Royal Court of Hiram King of Tyre.

EM - How many constitute a quarry ?

DEM - Seven or more.

EM - Who are the Officers and where stationed ?

DEM - The Expert Master, in the East; the Deputy Expert Master, in the West; the Senior Expert, in front of and to the right of the Expert Master; the Junior Expert, at the door of entrance; the Master of Scrolls to the left of the Expert Master; the Master of Exchequer to the right of the Expert Master and the Sentinel just outside the door.

EM - Craftsmen, assemble in the center of the Court; form a triangle and face the East. (Triangle is formed). Give the due guard and sign of this degree. (done)

EM - Craftsmen, before we proceed further, let us offer up our invocation to the Supreme Architect of the Universe. You will join me in prayer. (Done.)

EM - I now by the authority in me vested, declare this Quarry duly opened and its labors resumed. Senior Expert, attend at the Altar

(SE opens the Sacred Writings at the 15th Psalm and places folded compasses in the apex of the square, which forms or represents the letter T); Junior Expert, inform the Sentinel (JE goes to the door and raps * * * *** which is answered in like manner by the Sentinel).

JE - Sentinel, the Expert Master now declares this Quarry duly opened and its labors resumed (closes door and Sentinel raps * * * ***, to which the JE answers in like manner).

JE - Expert Master, the Quarry is duly guarded.

EM - Deputy Expert Master, read a lesson from the Sacred Writings (DEM reads the 15th Psalm).

(Expert Master gives one rap which seats the Craftsmen.)

Reception

(This degree is divided into three sections. The First and Third represent the Royal Court of Hiram King of Tyre. The Second represents a quarry near Jerusalem and should be so arranged.)

First Section

Hiram King of Tyre - * Junior Expert, retire and ascertain if there are any candidates in waiting, if so, present them in the usual form and manner.

(JE retires and conducts candidate into ante-room. He causes him to remove his coat and roll up his sleeves, then says:)

JE - My friend, you are now prepared as a craftsman ready for the quarry. In order for you to better understand and appreciate this degree, I will now explain some of the history of the ancient Tyrians. Tyre was an ancient city of Phoenicia, which in the time of King Solomon, was celebrated as the residence of Hiram King of Tyre, to whom Solomon and his father David were indebted for great assistance in the construction of the Temple at Jerusalem; for Hiram was ever a lover of David. Tyre was about one hundred miles from Jerusalem by sea and about ninety miles by land. An intercourse between these two cities and their respective monarchs was, therefore, easily cultivated. The inhabitants of Tyre were distinguished for their skill as artificers, especially as workers in brass and other metals: it was the principal seat of that skillful body of architects known as the Dionysiac Fraternity. The city of Sidon, which was under Tyrian government was twenty miles from Tyre, and was situated in the forests of Lebanon. The Sidonians were, therefore, naturally woodcutters and were engaged in the felling of trees, which afterwards were sent in floats by sea to Joppa, and thence by land to Jerusalem, to be used in the building of the Temple. The glass of Sidon, the purple of Tyre, and the exceedingly fine linen they wove, were the products of their own country and the workmanship of their own hands. The Tyrians were famous for their skill in the working of metals, hewing of timbers and stone, and were also famous for their knowledge of that which was solid, great and ornamental in architecture. One only needs to think of the great work which they did at the building of King Solomon's

Temple to get a clear idea of what their own buildings at Tyre must have been. Their fame was so extensive for taste, design and invention that whatever was elegant was distinguished with the title Sidonian, or as the workmanship of Tyrian artists. The city of Tyre and the temple of Dagon built by the Phoenicians at Gaza were masterpieces of art and rendered the name Tyrian architects deservedly celebrated throughout the world. The ancient Hebrews were not expert operative masons, probably due to the fact that they had for generations led a nomadic life and dwelt in tents. They made very little contribution to science. They produced no new order in architecture. Their religion forbade their making "graven images" so they did nothing in sculpturing. These two major facts are responsible for the part the Masters of Tyre had in the construction of the Temple on Mount Moriah. With these thoughts fresh in your mind, you are now ready for initiation. You will now be caused to represent a Courier from King Solomon to King Hiram just before the Temple was begun at Jerusalem. When you are admitted into a place representing the Royal Court of Hiram King of Tyre, you will present this scroll to the King and say, "Illustrious Hiram King of Tyre, I have a message from my lord and sovereign, Solomon King of Israel." You will now follow me. (Leads candidate to the door of entrance and knocks * *** ***)

SE - Your Majesty, there is an alarm.

HKT - Attend the alarm.

SE - (Goes to the door and says:) Who comes here ?

JE - A Courier from Solomon King of Israel, with a message for your majesty.

SE - Let him enter and present the message. (SE conducts the candidate to the East).

CAN - Illustrious King of Tyre (makes a low bow), I have a message from my lord and sovereign, Solomon King of Israel.

HKT - Present the message to the Master of Scrolls. (Candidate does so.)

HKT - Master of Scrolls, read the message.

MS - (Reads) From Solomon King of Israel to Hiram King of Tyre:

Greetings; As thou didst deal with David my father, and didst send him cedars to build him an house to dwell in, even so deal with me. Behold, I build an house to the name of the Lord my God, to dedicate it to him, and to burn before him sweet incense, and for the conditional shewbread, and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts of the Lord our God. This is an ordinance forever to Israel, and the house which I build is great; for great is our God above all gods. But who is able to build him an house, seeing the heaven of heavens cannot contain him ? Who am I then, that I should build him an house, save only to burn sacrifices before him ? Send me therefore a man cunning to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, and in iron, and in purple, and in crimson, and in blue, and that can skill to grave with the cunning men that are with me in Jerusalem, whom David my father did provide. Send me also cedar trees, fir trees, and algum trees, out of Lebanon; for I know that thy servants can skill to cut timbers in Lebanon; and, behold, my servants, shall be with thy servants, even to prepare me timbers in abundance; for the house which I am about to build shall be wonderfully great. And, behold, I will give to thy servants, the hewers that cut timbers, twenty thousand measures of beaten wheat, and twenty thousand measures of barley, and twenty thousand baths of wine, and twenty thousand baths of oil. And to the Masters of Tyre, who shall come up and aid in the house which I am about to build, I shall give abundant wages, together with the finest gifts, as a reward for their skill. And to thee, O mighty King of Tyre, I shall give as a token of my appreciation for thy services, twenty flourishing cities in Galilee.

HKT - Craftsmen, as we did aid David to build him an house, so think I that we should aid Solomon to build him an house to the Lord his God. For what King in all the world is wiser or greater than is Solomon ? Who among all men are more expert to hew timbers than are our own people of Sidon ? What craftsmen in all the world are more skilled in the work of architecture than are the Masters of Tyre ? And what Master in all the world is more cunning in gold, in silver, in brass, in iron, in linen, in purple, in blue, in crimson, and in the graving of works than is our own craftsman the Widow's Son ? What say ye, Masters of Tyre, shall we go up to unto Jerusalem and aid and assist in this great and glorious work?

Craftsmen - Yea, we shall go.

HKT - Craftsmen, ye have wisely said. This is to be a work that shall become the marvel of all ages and a monument to our craftsmen there employed. What says the Widow's Son ?

HA - Though I am a man of Tyre by habitation, my mother is of the tribe of Naphtali. We both worship the Lord God of Abraham and live according to the law of Moses, therefore will I gladly go and aid in the building of an house to the Lord my God.

HKT - Then go thou every man unto his own house and prepare to go up unto Jerusalem: and do thou Junior Expert go forth and send unto the Sidonians and have them prepare cedar trees, and fir trees, and algum trees which shall be sent in floats by sea to Joppa, thence by land to Jerusalem. And do thou Master of Scrolls prepare this message to be sent to Solomon King of Israel.

(HKT dictates and the MS writes:)

From Hiram King of Tyre to his majesty Solomon King of Israel: Greetings; Because the Lord hath loved his people, he hath made thee king over them. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, that made heaven and earth, who hath given to David the king a son, endued with prudence and understanding, that might build an house for the Lord, and an house for his kingdom. And now I have sent a cunning man, endued with understanding, of Hiram my father's, the son of a woman of the daughters of Dan, and his father was a man of Tyre, skilled to work in gold, and in silver, in brass, in iron, in stone, and in timber, in purple, in blue and in fine linen and in crimson: also to grave any manner of graving, and to find out every device which shall be put to him, with the cunning men, and with the cunning men of my lord David thy Father. Now therefore, the wheat, and the barley, the oil and the wine, which my lord has spoken of, let him send unto his servants: And we will cut wood out of Lebanon, as much as thou shalt need: and we will bring it to thee in floats by sea to Joppa; and thou shalt carry it up to Jerusalem. (MS writes and hands message to candidate.)

HKT - (To candidate) Take this message to your lord the king, with the good wishes of myself and my subjects.

(Candidate takes it and the SE conducts him to the door of the ante-room.)

Second Section

(In this section, a number of craftsmen are working in a quarry near Jerusalem and should be dressed to suit the part, using mauls, chisels and other quarry tools.)

(JE reconducts candidate into quarry and seats him.)

1st Craftsman - How tired I am of this work and how my soul wearies of the constant babble of the Jewish workmen. Their thoughts seem to dwell only on sewing and reaping, the tending of sheep and goats and the valor of their ancestors. They chant all day, singing praises to the God of Abraham and their prophets. Some of them are being paid the same wages as we Masters of Tyre. Today I, by chance, overheard a conversation among some of our own craftsmen concerning this injustice. They were also dissatisfied at not yet having obtained the secrets of a Master whereby they could receive a Master's wage and be enabled to travel in foreign countries as Expert Masons. They are plotting to demand these secrets of the Master Craftsman, and if he refuses, to extort them from him. When they beheld me, they slunk away like jackals into the night.

2nd Craftsman - Last night I dreamed a dream in which I saw a hind plunging through the wood. It had been wounded at the throat and as I gazed an arrow pierced it near the heart, which was well nigh fatal. While making a frantic effort to escape, a club descended upon its head, which felled it dead near me. I awoke quite startled as though the dream was real. This troubles me, as the Master Craftsman is the son of the Widow, of the tribe of Naphtali, and the hind is an emblem of that tribe. There is an evil omen in that dream and I shall tell it to the Master when he next visits our quarry.

3rd Craftsman - I, too, have heard of the conspiracy against our Master and it troubles me greatly. This morn on my way to the spring, I came upon fifteen craftsmen in earnest but subdued conversation. When they beheld me they made known their plans to obtain the secrets from our Master, and insisted that I join them in their evil design. I spoke to them sharply reminding them of their obligations and also of the promise of our Grand Masters; that when the Temple is completed, those who have wrought

faithfully and diligently shall receive the secrets, which shall entitle them to a Master's wage. Jubulum became very angry and would have done me bodily harm had it not been for the other craftsmen. However, I persisted in my efforts and finally twelve of them recanted and agreed to wait until the Temple is completed.

(Hiram Abif enters)

All Craftsmen - Hail the Master.

HA - Craftsmen, you seem very much concerned and ill at ease. Let me know the nature of your troubles.

1st C - It is for thee we are concerned, Master Hiram. We have heard of a conspiracy among the craftsmen to obtain the Master's secrets from thee. We fear that, at a time when thou least expect it, harm may befall thee.

HA - Why should they plot against me or demand that which I cannot impart to them ? Your fidelity is commendable and it shall not be forgotten.

2nd C - Master Hiram, last night I dreamed a dream that a hind was heartlessly slain near me. Thou knowest the hind is an emblem of thy mother's tribe and I fear this dream is an omen of danger that awaits thee.

HA - (In deep meditation) Thy dream concerns me greatly.

3rd C - O Master, wilt thou not cease from going about alone and unprotected. Allow us to be near thee, lest at a time unforeseen, the unfaithful ones use foul play, accomplish their evil purpose and take from us one whose place can never be filled.

HA - In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid of what man can do unto me. (HA retires from quarry)

2nd C - Alas for Hiram. Would that he would harken unto us. How unfortunate that one so great and good should be needlessly exposed to the evil intentions of his enemies. I hang my head in shame that our own countrymen should stoop to so dastardly a deed.

1st C - It is indeed deplorable. I weary of it all and will welcome the time when I can return to my native land. My heart yearns for the spires of Tyre and the companionship of my friends and kindred.

3rd C - I have learned to admire the Israelites for their many noble traits. I shall remain and dwell among them.

A Runner - (Enters hastily) Woe unto us, the Master is dead.

All Craftsmen - What, the Builder ?

Runner - It is the same. Fifteen Craftsmen entered into a conspiracy to extort the secrets of a Master from Hiram Abif, or take his life. For some reason twelve of them recanted, but the other three persisted and committed the foul deed. They attempted to make their escape, but were captured. They have been executed beyond the West gate of the city. The body of our Master has been found and we are ordered to report to the apartment of our King for further instructions.

All Craftsmen - Let us be off. (Leave room.)

(At this period, the following lecture is to be given.)

Lecture

This intermission represents the time required for the craftsmen to convey the body of Hiram Abif to the Temple, whence it was buried with all Masonic honors due that great character. I quote from the ancient writings: The consternation excited by this melancholy event was much increased by a circumstance which prevented the ceremonies, usual in such cases, from being performed before interment. His eyes were not closed by his nearest relatives; his body was not washed or baptized with the customary formalities, nor was his corpse embalmed. To compensate for these omissions, after being fittingly raised, the honors of his funeral were splendid beyond all former precedent. This great architect was not removed unto his own nation, and among his kindred, to be interred with the rite of idolatry; for being, by his mother's side, of Israelitish extraction, he appeared to have worshipped the true God, according to the usage and direction of the Mosaic law, and the Jews were extremely superstitious respecting the place of their interment. They believed that, if an Israelite was buried out of

Canaan, he would not so much as be entitled to a resurrection from the dead, much less to eternal felicity, unless God vouchsafed to form subterranean cavities in the bowels of the earth, through which the body might pass from its place of interment into the promised land. This ground is taken, hereof, from the charge of Jacob unto his son Joseph, that he should not bury him in the land of Egypt, but in Canaan. At the dedication of King Solomon's Temple there were thousands present to witness the placing of the Ark of the Covenant within the Sanctum Sanctorum; and an offering of twenty-two thousand oxen and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep was made as a sacrifice to the Lord God of Israel. After the dedication ceremonies, the craftsmen of Tyre returned to their native city with feelings of pride and satisfaction in work well done. But for the death of Hiram Abif, their joy would have been complete.

(JE reconducts candidate to ante-room.)

Third Section

Expert Master - Senior Expert, retire and admit the candidate to a seat in the Quarry.

(In this section, the West is unoccupied and draped in black.)

HKT - Craftsmen, we are again in our beloved city of Tyre. Our families are rejoiced over our safe return. We should be justly proud of having had such an important part in the erection of that magnificent edifice which Solomon builded at Jerusalem. It will stand as a monument to our skilled workmen. The Masters of Tyre shall be remembered throughout the days of man as expert craftsmen. As I meditate upon the honors that are ours and the gifts that have been lavished upon us, I am also reminded of that great sorrow that befell us at Jerusalem (gives three raps and Craftsmen rise and face the West). Ah, what a great calamity to be deprived of that Master Craftsman, Hiram Abif, that man of all men, who bore the banner of our craft and was slain by our own countrymen (gives one rap which seats craftsmen). I shall create an order to his memory, which shall be known as Masters of Tyre. I shall dedicate it to Hiram Abif and receive into it all those loyal craftsmen who went up unto Jerusalem and into the forests of Lebanon to assist in that great and noble work of building the Temple. Let all those who participated in that work approach the Altar, kneel on both knees and take the obligation of the new order which I now found.

(Candidate does so.)

HKT - (Raps ***, places himself just in front of the Altar and says:)

Place both hands just in front of your body in a position as if holding a chisel in your left hand and a maul in your right, the your name in full, and repeat after me; do solemnly vow, of my own free will and accord and on my word of honor as a Master Mason, that I will abide by the rules, regulations and by-laws of any quarry of Masters of Tyre of which I may be a member, and will uphold and support the Constitution, Laws and Edicts of the Grand Council under which the same operates; I furthermore vow that I will willingly aid and assist all deserving Masters of Tyre in their time of trouble and need, in so far as I am able; I furthermore vow that I will endeavor to emulate that celebrated Master Craftsman Hiram Abif in his steadfast loyalty to duty and honor, and like him sacrifice my all rather than betray any trust reposed in me; I furthermore vow that I will, when possible, endeavor to familiarize myself with the history, traditions and landmarks of Ancient Craft Masonry and use that knowledge for the advancement of this order; I furthermore vow that I will not reveal the secrets of this degree to any one, except he be a known Master of Tyre; I furthermore vow that I will not be present at or assist in the conferring of this degree upon any one, except he be a Master Mason in good and regular standing, nor will I sit in a quarry composed of less than seven members, and then only when the same is operating under a legal warrant or charter. To all this, I solemnly pledge my sacred word of honor to keep and perform the same without any reservation whatsoever, binding myself under no less penalty than that of having my body buried alive in an unmarked grave beneath the ruins of the ancient city of Tyre.

(Candidate rises)

HKT - As you are now a obligated Master of Tyre, I will invest you with the Due Guard, Sign, Grip, Word and apron of this degree. The Due Guard is given by placing both hands just in front of the body in a position as if holding a chisel in the left hand and a maul in the right, the right fist being about six inches above the left.

The Sign is given by dropping both hands limply, and is symbolical of the untimely death of the Master Craftsman, when he suddenly dropped forever

the working tools of life. **The Word** is "The Widow's Son is dead !", and is to be given to the Junior Expert on entering a Quarry.

The Grip is given by taking a brother's hand in a friendly grasp and pressing it twice in quick succession.

The Due Guard and Sign must be given to the Expert Master on entering or retiring from a Quarry. The Due Guard must be given when addressing the Expert Master, or a Superior Officer.

The apron worn in this degree is of triangular shape and is to remind you of the fellowship of Hiram King of Tyre, Solomon King of Israel and Hiram Abif. The color is purple, emblematic of the renowned purple of Tyre. Its border is of gold, to signify the royal origin of this order. The union of these two colors emphasizes the friendly alliance of King Hiram and King Solomon, the rulers of Tyre and Jerusalem. Tyre being noted for its purple and Jerusalem for the Temple with its profusion of gold. (Apron placed on candidate.) You will now approach the East and receive the lecture. (SE conducts candidate to East)

Lecture

There are in this degree, three sections. In the first, you were caused to represent a Courier from Solomon King of Israel to Hiram King of Tyre just before the Temple was begun at Jerusalem. In the second, you represented one of the craftsmen of Tyre in a quarry near Jerusalem. You there witnessed the discontent manifested among the Tyrian craftsmen which finally culminated in the death of Hiram Abif. In the third section, you participated in the founding of a new order, by Hiram King of Tyre, because of your past experience as an expert craftsman. You gained admission into the quarry by a series of knocks consisting of one, two and three consecutively. The first is to the memory of Hiram Abif, the next two to the two monarchs Hiram King of Tyre and Solomon King of Israel, and the three to the three craftsmen who warned Hiram Abif of approaching danger.

The Sacred Writings are opened at the fifteenth Psalm to remind you that this was the original obligation of a Master Mason. Upon the Sacred Writings are placed the folded compasses in the apex of the square, which represent the letter "T", the initial of Tyre. It also suggests an arrow pointing from the Sacred Writings to the Expert Master, reminding him to be ever

watchful in following and exemplifying the teachings therein contained. The working tools of a Master of Tyre are all the implements of the craft, but more especially the chisel and maul which we are, symbolically, to use in shaping our rude and imperfect natures into living stones for that building not made with hands eternal in the heavens. A Quarry of Masters of Tyre represents the Royal Court of Hiram King of Tyre and commemorates the important part the Masters of Tyre had in the erection of King Solomon's Temple. This degree represents the meritorious order conferred upon those deserving craftsmen who served at the building of King Solomon's Temple and is dedicated to the memory of that celebrated architect Hiram Abif, who lost his life just before the Temple was completed. His death left a vacancy in Tyrian Masonry which was never filled. His cunning knowledge in the mechanical arts was derived largely from his father who was an expert craftsman of Tyre. Hiram Abif, by his assiduous study and constant intercourse with the distinguished artisans of Tyre, added greatly to the knowledge acquired from his father so that in time he became the most celebrated architect of his day. His mother was a Jewess, of the tribe of Naphtali, and it was at her knee that the Master Craftsman learned of the Lord God of Israel. His wife was a sister of the noble Prince Adoniram and she was also a Jewess. She was devoutly attached to her husband and Masonic tradition informs us that, on hearing of his untimely death, she went up into a high mountain and cast herself to instant death, rather than go through life without her beloved husband. In memory of this devoted couple, the Masters of Tyre erected three bronze statues; one at Tyre, one at Joppa and one at Jerusalem. The priests of Dionysus, having devoted themselves to architectural pursuits established, about one thousand years before the Christian era, a society of builders in Asia Minor which is styled by the ancient writers the "Fraternity of Dionysian Architects". To this society was confined exclusively the privileges of erecting temples and other public buildings. The members of the Fraternity of Dionysian Architects were linked together by the secret ties of the Dionysian mysteries into which they were initiated. Thus constituted, the Fraternity was distinguished by many peculiarities that strikingly assimilate it to our order. In the exercise of charity, the more opulent were sacredly bound to provide for the exigencies of the poorer brethren. For the facility of labor and government they were divided into communities, each of which was governed by a Master and Wardens. They held a general assembly or grand festival once each year, which was solemnized with great pomp and splendor. They employed in their ceremonial observances many implements which are still to be found among Freemasons; and used, like them, a universal language by which one

brother could distinguish another in the dark as well as in the light and which served to unite the members, scattered over India, Persia and Syria, into one common brotherhood. The existence of this order in Tyre at the building of the Temple is universally admitted; and Hiram the Widow's Son, to whom Solomon entrusted the superintendency of the workmen, as an inhabitant of Tyre, a skilled architect and a cunning and curious workman was very probably one of its members. Hence we legitimately suppose that the Dionysiacs were sent by Hiram King of Tyre to assist King Solomon in the construction of the house he was about to dedicate to Jehovah, that they communicated to their Jewish fellow laborers a knowledge of the advantages of their fraternity and invited them to participate in the mysteries and privileges. In this union, however, the apocryphal legend of the Dionysiacs would naturally give way to the true legend of the Masons which was unhappily furnished by a melancholy incident which occurred at the time; that is, the death of Grand Master Hiram Abif. This may explain to the initiates the cause for Solomon's sending to Tyre for his architects and for that distinguished character, the Widow's Son, and will also possibly show why Ancient Craft Masonry is a combination of Tyrian operative masonry and Jewish religious worship. This concludes the lecture and the degree. (Candidate seated.)

Closing

EM - Craftsmen, the time has arrived to cease work in this quarry. Has anyone anything to offer for the good of the craft ? (pause)

EM - Master of Scrolls, you will read the minutes. (done) Are there any corrections ? If not, they stand approved as read.

EM - I now, by authority in me vested as Expert Master of this Quarry, declare it duly closed.

EM - (**) Senior Expert, attend the Altar. (SE closes Sacred Writings.) Junior Expert, inform the Sentinel.

(JE goes to the door and raps * * * which is answered in like manner by the Sentinel).

JE - Sentinel, the Expert Master now declares this Quarry duly closed. (Returns to station.)

EM - (Gives one rap.)