

## Closing of Council

**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:** Companion Recorder, is there anything on your desk requiring attention?

**Recorder:** 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:** \*\* / Companion Steward, you will see that the Sentinel is at his post and the secret vault is made secure.

**STEW:** \*\*\* \*\* \*

**SENT:** \*\*\* \*\* \*

**STEW:** \*

**SENT:** \*

**STEW:** *(Opens door)*

Companion Sentinel, we are about to close this Council of Royal and Select Masters and you are directed to guard accordingly.

*(Closes door)*

Companion Captain of the Guards, the Sentinel is at his post and the secret vault is secure.

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: How gained you admission to the secret vault?

CG: By fervency and zeal, which were mistaken for curiosity and disobedience, and nearly cost me my life, but justice and mercy prevailed and I was admitted.

TIM: How did this occur?

CG: My fervency and zeal, through a misconstruction of a promise made by King Solomon, led me to a place where, finding a door open, I boldly entered, and thereby forfeited my life; but when justice was satisfied, mercy prevailed, and I was admitted a Companion among them.

TIM: Why were they called Select Masters?

CG: From their known integrity and secrecy, they were selected by the king to construct the secret vault.

**TIM:** How many were there?

**CG:** Twenty-two from Gebal, together with Adoniram, Ahashar, and the three Grand Masters, making twenty-seven and no more.

**TIM:** Why twenty-seven and no more?

**CG:** Because there were but nine arches and but three could be employed at an arch.

**TIM:** Where did the secret vault begin?

**CG:** At King Solomon's most retired room.

**TIM:** Where did it end?

**CG:** Under the Sanctum Sanctorum of the Temple.

**TIM:** Who constructed the ninth arch?

**CG:** The three Grand Masters alone.

**TIM:** At what time were you to have been admitted to the ninth arch?

**CG:** At the completion of the Temple; but owing to the death of our Grand Master Hiram Abif previous to that time, it was forever closed to our eyes.

**TIM:** What countryman are you?

**CG:** A Phoenician.

**TIM:** In what city were you born?

**CG:** Gebal.

**TIM:** What is your name?

CG: Giblim, or stone squarer.

TIM: What is the hour?

CG: It is the sixth hour of the night, the time to call from labor to rest.

TIM: Companion Captain of the Guards, it being the sixth hour of the night, it is my order that you assemble the Companions around the Altar to assist in closing this Council of Royal and Select Masters in due and ancient form.

CG: *(South side of Altar)*

COC: *(Goes to North side of Altar behind the Captain of the Guards)*

CG: *(Battery) \*\*\* \*\* \**

All: *(Rise)*

CG: Companions, it is the order of the Thrice Illustrious Master that you assemble around the Altar to assist in closing this Council of Royal and Select Masters in due and ancient form. *(Done)* Thrice Illustrious Master, the Companions have assembled.

TIM: Companion Captain of the Guards, you will receive and send up the word. *(Done)*

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

Chaplain: *(Prayer)*

COMPANIONS, BEING ABOUT TO QUIT THIS  
SACRED RETREAT, TO MINGLE AGAIN WITH THE



*WORLD, LET US NOT FORGET, AMID THE CARES AND VICISSITUDES OF ACTIVE LIFE, THE BRIGHT EXAMPLE OF SINCERE FRIENDSHIP SO BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED IN THE LIVES OF THE FOUNDERS OF THIS DEGREE.*

*LET US TAKE THE LESSON HOME WITH US, AND MAY IT STRENGTHEN THE BONDS OF FRATERNAL LOVE BETWEEN US, UNITE OUR HEARTS TO DUTY, AND OUR DESIRES TO WISDOM. LET US EXERCISE CHARITY, CHERISH HOPE, AND WALK IN FAITH. AND MAY THAT MORAL PRINCIPLE WHICH IS THE MYSTIC CEMENT OF OUR FELLOWSHIP REMAIN WITH AND BLESS US. AMEN.*

**All:** So mote it be.

**TIM:** \*\*\* \*\* \*

**RIDM:** \*\*\* \*\* \*

**IPC:** \*\*\* \*\* \*

**TIM:** All together Companions

**All:** (*Battery*) \*\*\* \*\* \*

**TIM:** In the name of the Supreme Grand Artificer of the Universe, I now declare this Council of Royal and Select Masters closed in due and ancient form. Companion Captain of the Guards, you will inform the Sentinel. \*

**CG:** Companion Steward, you will inform the Sentinel that this Council of Royal and Select Masters has been closed in due and ancient form

(CG notifies STEW from his post at Altar and COC closes Lights.)

**STEW:** (*Steward opens door*) Companion Sentinel, the Council has been closed in due and ancient form.