

COUNCIL OPENING AND CLOSING

Council Opening

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

STEW: Companion Sentinel, we are about to open a Council of Royal and Select Masters for the dispatch of business and you are directed to guard accordingly.

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

SENT: *** ** *

STEW: 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: 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: Nine or more, Thrice Illustrious Master.

TIM: When composed of nine, of whom does it consist?

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

TIM: Station of the Steward?

CG: At the entrance to the secret vault, Thrice Illustrious Master.

(Captain of the Guards takes seat.)

TIM: **

STEW: *(Rises, Gives sign)*

TIM: Your duty there, Companion?

STEW: To guard the entrance to the secret vault with sleepless vigilance, and permit none to pass but such as are duly qualified and have your permission.

TIM: Station of the Conductor of the Council?

STEW: In the South, Thrice Illustrious Master.

TIM: **

COC: *(Rises, Gives sign)*

TIM: Your duty there, Companion?

COC: To prepare, instruct, and conduct all Candidates for reception and greeting, and to receive and examine visitors and see that they are properly accommodated.

TIM: Station of the Captain of the Guards?

COC: In the West, Thrice Illustrious Master.

TIM: **

CG: (*Rises, Gives sign*)

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 Recorder?

CG: On the left of the Illustrious Council, Thrice Illustrious Master.

TIM: **

Rec: (*Rises, Gives sign*)

TIM: Your duty there, Companion?

Rec: To record the proceedings of the Council so far as they are proper to be written, receive all moneys due, and deliver same in full measure to the Companion Treasurer.

TIM: Station of the Treasurer?

Rec: On the right of the Illustrious Council, Thrice Illustrious Master.

TIM: **

Treas: (*Rises, Gives sign*)

TIM: Your duty there, Companion?

Treas: To number, weigh, and safely keep the shekels of the sanctuary, that the Council may have the means to provide for the relief of poor and penniless Companions, their widows, and orphans.

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

Treas: On the left of the Thrice Illustrious Master.

TIM: **

IPC: (*Rises, 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: (*Rises, 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?

RIDM: 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, 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, 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. *

CG: Companion Steward, you will inform the Sentinel that a Council of Royal and Select Masters has been opened for the dispatch of business and direct him to guard accordingly.

STEW: *** ** *

SENT: *** ** *

STEW: *

SENT: *

STEW: Companion Sentinel, a Council has been opened in the Select Master's Degree for the dispatch of business, 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: *

If Work is to be Done in the Royal Master's Degree

Ascertaining if Candidates are in Waiting

TIM: Companions, the Council has been called and opened on this occasion for the purpose of work. Companion Recorder, are Candidates in waiting?

Rec: Companion "A B," a Royal Arch Mason, who has been balloted for and constitutionally elected to receive the Council Degrees, is now in waiting to be advanced to the rights and honors of a Royal Master, Thrice Illustrious Master.

TIM: Companion Recorder, are you satisfied?

Rec: I am satisfied, Thrice Illustrious Master.

Labor is then dispensed in the Select Master's Degree and resumed in the Royal Master's Degree. Refer to section on Dispensing and Resuming Labor for this procedure.