

CEREMONY OF THE EQUINOX

Temple is opened in the First Degree.

(In this ceremony, the office of Chief of the Rite should be held by the outgoing Adept Dirigent of the lodge, or by an officer of the Grand Assembly having power to confer the rank of Dirigent.)

Chief: ! (knocks) Companions of Emerald Lodge #3 of the Companions of the Stone, let us celebrate the coming of the (Spring/Autumn) Equinox. Companion Herald, proclaim the Equinox and announce the abrogation of the Password.

Herald: (Rises and goes to NE, facing W) In the Name of the Lord of the Universe, Who works in silence and Whom naught but silence can express, I proclaim that the (Spring/Autumn) Equinox has arrived and that the Password is abrogated. (Herald returns to his place.)

Chief: Let us consecrate, according to our ancient traditions, the return of the Equinox.

Chief: LIGHT

Warden: DARKNESS

Chief: EAST

Warden: WEST

Chief: AIR

Warden: WATER

Guide: ! (knocks) I am the reconciler between them. (All make the Signs of the First Degree toward the Altar.)

K of F: HEAT

K of W: COLD

K of F: SOUTH

K of W: NORTH

K of F: FIRE

K of W: EARTH

Guide: ! (knocks) I am the reconciler between them. (All make Signs toward the Altar.)

Chief: ONE CREATOR

K of F: ONE PRESERVER

Warden: ONE DESTROYER

K of W: ONE REDEEMER

Guide: ! (knocks) One Reconciler between them. (All make Signs toward the Altar.)

Chief: (Goes to the West of the lodge, with the Sun, and thence to the Altar. If outgoing Dirigent, he lays down his insignia of rank on the Altar.) The Word is departed from among us. I will seek it among the winds of Heaven.

(Taking Rose from Altar, he goes to the West and returns to his place with the Sun.)

(Other elective officers present will lay down their insignia of rank when they come to the Altar.)

Warden: (Advances to the Altar.) The Word is departed from among us. I will seek it among the waves of the Sea. (Taking Cup from Altar, he returns to his place directly.)

K of W: (Goes with the Sun to the West of the lodge, and advances to the Altar.) The Word is departed from among us. I will seek it among the stones of the Earth. (Taking Bread and Salt from the Altar, she goes back to the West and returns to his place with the Sun.)

K of F: (Goes with the Sun to the West of the Lodge, and advances to the Altar.) The Word is departed from among us. I will seek it among the flames of the Fire. (Taking the red Lamp from the Altar, she goes back to the West and returns to his place with the Sun.)

Guide: (Advances directly to the East of the Altar.) The Word is departed from among us. I will seek it in the heart of the Light. (She remains standing at the Altar.)

Herald: (Goes with the Sun to the West, and then advances to the Altar.) The Word is departed from among us. I will seek it in the heart of the Darkness. (He hands his Lamp across the Altar to the Guide, then goes back to the West and from there to the Northeast. Guide returns to her place, taking Lamp with her.)

(Herald now goes from Northeast to East, and stands before Chief.)

Chief: (faces East, holds Rose high) Let us adore the Lord of the Universe.

Holy art Thou, Lord of the Air, Who hast created the Firmament. (Chief makes a cross in the air with the Rose; all give the Signs toward the East.)

(Herald goes to South, and stands before K of F.)

K of F: (faces South, holds Lamp high) Let us adore the Lord of the Universe.

Holy art Thou, Lord of the Fire, wherein Thou hast shown forth the throne of Thy glory. (K of F makes a cross in the air with the Lamp; all give the Signs toward the South.)

(Herald goes to West, and stands before Warden.)

Warden: (faces West, holds Cup high) Let us adore the Lord of the Universe.

Holy art Thou, Lord of the Waters, whereon Thy spirit moved in the beginning. (Warden makes a cross in the air with the Cup; all give the Signs toward the West.)

(Herald goes to North, and stands before K of W.)

K of W: (Faces North, holds Bread and Salt high) Let us adore the Lord of the Universe.

Holy art Thou, Lord of the Earth, which Thou hast made for Thy footstool. (K of W makes a cross in the air with the Bread and Salt; all give the Signs toward the North.)

(Herald returns to his place directly. All face the Altar.)

Guide: (stands East of the Altar, facing West, and holds the Herald's lamp high) Let us adore the Lord of the Universe.

Holy art Thou, who art in all things -- in whom are all things. If I climb up to heaven, Thou art there, and if I go down to Hell Thou art there also. If I take the wings of the morning and fly to the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall Thy hand lead me and Thy right hand hold me. If I say, peradventure the darkness shall cover me, evn the night shall be turned light unto Thee.

Thine is the Air with its movement. Thine is the Fire with its flashing flame. Thine is the Water with its ebb and flow. Thine is the Earth with its enduring stability.

(Guide makes a cross in the air with the Lamp; all give the Signs toward the Altar. Guide returns to her place.)

Chief: ! (knocks) In the name of the Lord of the Universe, Who works in silence and Whom nothing but silence can express, and in the presence of the Guardian Companions of our Order, I confer the new Password. It is
The officers duly elected to perform the work of the Temple during the next six months are (gives name and office of each).

! (knocks) The Initiate Companions present with us will now retire for a time. (Herald gathers up and leads out to the anteroom all who have not been exalted to the Third Degree.)

.....

Chief: The Initiate Companions will now resume their places in the lodge. (They are brought back in and take their seats.) Companions of Emerald Lodge #3 of the Companions of the Stone, behold your Dirigent, our Companion, who has been duly installed in the presence of the Guardian Companions of the Stone. I proclaim him the Preserver of Mysteries among you for the following six months. Companion Dirigent, in the presence of the members of your lodge, I call upon you to make your confession.

New Dirigent: Companions of our Order, the whole intention of our Mysteries, and of the outer Initiation they enshrine, is to purify and consecrate the soul so that, freed from the ignorance that blinds it, it may take on its proper place and power in the universe, in harmony with the Will of the Infinite. This I do confess and testify, from my throne in this lodge of the Companions of the Stone, and I pledge

myself to so guide and direct the work of this lodge that each of you may be made ready for the greater Mysteries and the supreme and inner Initiation. (he sits down)

New Dirigent: In virtue of the power committed to me, I proceed to invest the officers of this lodge. Let the Adept Adjuvant come to the East. (Adjuvant advances to the throne of the Dirigent.) By the power committed to me, I ordain you Adept Adjuvant of this lodge for the ensuing six months, and empower you to act in my stead, and with my full power, when circumstances require me to be absent from any meeting of this lodge.

New Adjuvant: I accept this responsibility. (Goes to east of the altar, and takes his insignia of office.) The Word is restored to us. (He goes to his place.)

New Dirigent: Let the Secretary come to the East. (Secretary advances to the throne of the Dirigent.) By the power committed to me, I ordain you Secretary of this lodge for the ensuing six months, and empower you to have custody of all records and resources of the lodge.

New Secretary: I accept this responsibility. (Goes to east of the altar, and takes his insignia of office.) The Word is restored to us. (He goes to his place.)

(Any other officers of the lodge may be installed at this point; their installations should follow the same form.)

(Herald then comes forward and replaces the Elements in their proper places on the altar. Dirigent then rises from his throne, relinquishing it to the Chief of the Rite, and returns to his place. The Chief may address the lodge. When he has finished, he gives one knock and begins the Closing, which is that of the First Degree.)