

FALL EQUINOX RITUAL

Emerald Lodge #3
Companions of the Stone
Fall Equinox 1994

OPENING OF THE 1ST DEGREE

(Officers enter in procession and circle with sun to their places. All officers with staves carry them throughout the Opening.)

Chief: ! (one knock) Procul, procul esti profani! Companions of Emerald Lodge #3 of the Companions of the Stone, assist me to open this lodge in the First Degree. Companion Herald, see that the lodge is properly guarded.

Herald: (goes to door) Chief of the Rite, the lodge is properly guarded. (Returns to place.)

Chief: Companion Warden, confirm that all who are present have sought and seen the Light of the Stone. !!! (knocks; all rise)

Warden: Companions, give the signs of the First Degree. (All do so; Warden gives them toward Chief.) Chief of the Rite, all have sought and seen it.

Chief: (gives Sign of Enterer) Let the officers and stations of this Degree be proclaimed, that the Powers whose images they are may be awakened in the Spheres of those present and in the Sphere of our Order --- for by Names and Images all powers are awakened and reawakened. (Gives Sign of Silence.) Companion Warden, how many officers preside in this Degree?

Warden: Three officers preside in this Degree: the Chief, the Guide, and the Warden.

Chief: Companion Guide, what stations constitute the Lodge?

Guide: Seven stations constitute the Lodge:

The place of the Chief in the East, the place of the Guide East of the Altar, the place of the Warden in the West: these are the visible thrones.

The place of Water in the North, the place of Fire in the South, the place of the Gateway to the Outer World: these are the visible bounds.

The place of the Altar in the midst of the Lodge: this is the visible center.

Chief: Whose charge is the Gateway?

Warden: I govern the Gateway, admit the Companions, and appoint Sentinels to keep out intruders and prepare the candidates.

Chief: Whose charge is the Lodge?

Guide: I govern the Lodge, prepare the furnishings and regalia, and appoint Assistants to work within the Lodge and guide the

candidate.

Chief: And the number of Assistants in the Lodge?

Guide: There is one, the Herald.

Chief: Companion Herald, your station and work?

Herald: My station is in the East, beside and below the Throne of the East. My work is to lead and report, to make all announcements within the lodge, and to watch over the reception of the candidates. My lamp is the symbol of the Ancient Wisdom, and my staff is the symbol of its directing power.

Chief: Companion Guide, your station and work?

Guide: My station is to the East of the Altar, facing toward the Altar and the West. My work is to watch over the sanctuary of the Ancient Wisdom, for I am the reconciler between Light and Darkness. I guide the candidates and assist in their reception among us. My emblems are the emblems of the higher aspirations of the soul which should govern its actions.

Chief: Companion Warden, your station and work?

Warden: My station is the Throne of the West. My work is to govern the increase of Darkness and decrease of Light, for I am the Master of Darkness. I keep the Gateway to the Outer World and watch over the Companions in their work. My emblems are the emblems of darkness and Judgement. I bear the Banner of the West, which is the Banner of the Evening Twilight, and I am called Fortitude by the unhappy.

Chief: My station is the Throne of the East, in the place where the Sun rises, and I am the Master of Light. My work is to govern the Companions of this Lodge in accordance with the rites and laws of our Order, as That Which I represent governs all who seek the Ancient Wisdom. My emblems are the emblems of uncreated fire and of created fire. I bear the Banner of the East, which is the Banner of the Morning Light. I am called Power and Mercy and Light and Abundance, and I am the Revealer of the Mysteries. ! (knocks) Let the lodge be purified with water and consecrated with fire.

Warden: (purifies) I purify with Water.

Guide: (consecrates) I consecrate with Fire.

Chief: Let the Circumambulation take place in the Path of Light.

(Circumambulation is performed:

(Chief rises, staff in one hand. All other circumambulate with the Sun; passing the East, each officer makes the Sign of

Entering.)

Chief: The Circumambulation, symbolizing the rise of Light, is accomplished. Let us invoke the Lord of the Universe.

All: Holy art Thou, Lord of the Universe.
Holy art Thou, Whom nature hath not formed.
Holy art Thou, the vast and the mighty One,
Lord of the Light and of the Darkness.

Chief: Companion Herald, proclaim this Lodge open.

Herald: 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 proclaim that the Sun now rises and the Shadows flee away.

Chief: ! (knocks)

Warden: ! (knocks)

Guide: ! (knocks)

Guide: ! (knocks) Yehi Aur.

Warden: ! (knocks) Fiat Lux.

Chief: ! (knocks) Let there be Light.

All three together: And there is Light.

(Chief knocks once, and all officers sit.)

CEREMONY OF THE EQUINOX

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

Herald: (rises) In the Name of the Lord of the Universe, Who works in silence and Whom nothing but silence can express, I proclaim that the Spring Equinox has arrived and that the Password of the past term is abrogated.

Chief: !!! (knocks; all rise) 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.)

(Herald goes to S of Lodge, Warden to N.)

Herald: HEAT

Warden: COLD

Herald: SOUTH

Warden: NORTH

Herald: FIRE

Warden: EARTH

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

(Warden returns to W.)

Chief: ONE CREATOR

Herald: ONE PRESERVER

Warden: ONE DESTROYER

All (except Guide): ONE REDEEMER

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

Chief: (Returns his staff to its place, goes to the West of the lodge, with the Sun, and thence to the Altar.) The Word is departed from among us. I will seek it among the winds of Heaven and the flames of Fire. (Taking Rose and Lamp from Altar, he goes to the West and returns to his place with the Sun, then circumambulates once to put the lamp in the S, standing before his altar upon his return.)

Warden: (Returns her staff to its place and advances to the

Altar.) The Word is departed from among us. I will seek it among the waves of the Sea and the stones of the Earth. (Taking Cup and Paten from Altar, she returns to her place directly, circumambulates to put Paten in N, and stands before her altar.)

Herald: (Returns his staff to its place and, taking his lamp, goes to W of lodge with the Sun, and thence to the Altar.) The Word is departed from among us. I will seek it in the heart of the Light. (He remains at altar, holding lamp.)

Guide: (Returns his staff to its place and advances directly to the East of the Altar.) The Word is departed from among us. I will seek it in the heart of the Darkness. (Herald gives him the Lamp, then goes to the West and returns to his place with the Sun. Guide returns to his place, taking Lamp with him.)

(Herald now goes from his place 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; Chief puts down Rose, and goes to South.)

(Herald goes to South, and stands before Chief.)
Chief: (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. (Chief makes a cross in the air with the Lamp; all give the Signs toward the South; Chief remains in 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. Warden then goes to North.)

(Herald goes to North, and stands before Warden.)
Warden: (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. (Warden makes a cross in the air with the Bread and Salt; all give the Signs toward the North. Warden remains in North.)

(Herald returns to his place directly. All face the Altar.)
Guide: (stands East of the Altar, facing West, and holds the lantern 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, even 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 Lantern; all give the Signs toward the Altar. Guide returns to his place.)

Acting Chief Adept: (goes to the East, takes the Chief's staff, and 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 in procession to the anteroom all who have not been exalted to the Third Degree.)

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Chief: The Initiate Companions will now resume their places in the lodge. (They are readmitted by the Warden, in procession, and take their seats.) Companions of Emerald Lodge #3 of the Companions of the Stone, behold your Dirigent, our Companion 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 Initiations they enshrine, is to purify and consecrate the soul through symbol, ceremony and sacrament so that it may be withdrawn from the domination of outer things, and, once withdrawn, to assist it to know its true direction that it may take on its their proper place and power in the universe, in harmony with the Will of the Infinite. This therefore I do confess and testify, from my throne in this Lodge of the Companions of the Stone, and I pledge myself, to the best of my ability, 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 inward Initiation.

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.) 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.) The Word is restored to us. (She goes to her place.)

New Dirigent: Let the Summoner come to the East. (Summoner advances to the throne of the Dirigent.) By the power committed to me, I ordain you Summoner of this lodge for the ensuing six months, and empower you to proclaim and execute the laws of our Order.

New Summoner: I accept this responsibility. (Goes to east of the altar.) The Word is restored to us. (He goes to his place.)

(Chief 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 begins the Closing.)

CLOSING OF THE 1ST DEGREE

(At this point officers with staves take them from their places.)

Chief: ! (One knock) Companions of Emerald Lodge #3 of the Companions of the Stone, assist me to close this lodge in the First Degree. Companion Herald, see that the lodge is properly guarded.

Herald: (goes to door) Chief of the Rite, the lodge is properly guarded.

Chief: Companion Warden, confirm that all who are present have sought and seen the Light of the Stone. !!! (knocks; all rise)

Warden: Companions, give the Signs of the First Degree. (All do so. Warden gives them toward Chief.) Chief of the Rite, all have sought and seen it.

Chief: ! (Knocks) Let the lodge be purified with water and consecrated with fire.

Warden: (purifies) I purify with water.

Guide: (consecrates) I consecrate with fire.

Chief: Let the reverse circumambulation take place in the Path of Light.

(Circumambulation is performed against the Sun. When passing the East, each officer makes the Sign of Silence.)

Chief: The reverse circumambulation, symbolizing the fading of Light, is accomplished. Let us invoke the Lord of the Universe.

All: Holy art Thou, Lord of the Universe.
Holy art Thou, whom Nature hath not formed.
Holy art Thou, the Vast and the Mighty One,
Lord of the Light and of the Darkness.

(At this point staves are returned to their places.)

Chief: Nothing now remains to us but to partake together in silence of the Communion of the Four Elements, and to remember the mysteries we have witnessed and the obligations we keep.
(Goes to W of altar.)

I invite all beings present, therefore, to breathe with me the perfume of this Rose as a symbol of Air; to feel with me the warmth of this sacred Fire; to eat with me this Bread and Salt as types of Earth; and finally to drink with me from this cup of Wine, emblematic of Water.

(Communion of the Elements is performed:

(Warden advances to W of altar as Chief moves to E. In silence, Chief presents each of the elements of the Communion to Warden in silence. When Warden has partaken, Chief returns to his throne, Warden moves to E of altar, and Guide and all members present follow, each in turn receiving and then offering Communion. Herald is last of all.)

Herald: (Finishing the wine): It is finished! (Returns to place.)

Chief: Companion Herald, proclaim this lodge closed.

Herald: In the Name of the Lord of the Universe Who works in silence and Whom naught but silence can express, and in the presence of the Guardian Companions of our Order, I proclaim that the Sun now sets but its Light remains.

Chief: ! (Knocks)

Warden: ! (Knocks)

Guide: ! (Knocks)

Guide: ! (Knocks) Yehi Aur.

Warden: ! (Knocks) Fiat Lux.

Chief: ! (Knocks) Let there be Light. (All three together) And there is Light.

Chief: May that which we have received maintain and strengthen us in our quest for the Stone. Companion Warden, you will permit the Companions to depart. ! (One knock)

(The officers file out in procession, against sun; those officers who have staves carry them out.)