

PUBLISHER'S INTRODUCTION

This book includes both the complete rituals and "arcana" (secret work) of the first three degrees of a little-known Masonic rite called the "Masonry of Adoption." Written by Albert Pike¹ and anonymously published by him in 1866, the rituals are a revision of the first three degrees of the French "Maconnerie d'Adoption." Although Pike lists but seven degrees in his introduction, another source² lists the following as comprising the rite:

Degrees worked in full--

- 1° Adoptive Apprentice.
- 2° Companion.
- 3° Mistress.

Degrees conferred by "communication"--

- 4° Perfect Mistress.
- 5° Sublime Elect.

[Honorary Degrees]

- 6° Dame Ecossais.
- 7° Grand Elect, or French Dame.
- 8° Lady of the Dove.
- 9° Lady of the Rosy Cross.
- 10° Adonaite Mistress.
- 11° Perfect Venerable Adonaite Mistress.
- 12° Crowned Princess, or Sovereign Mistress.

The French degrees undoubtedly had some affinity with High Grade Freemasonry, as we note, for example, that the Mistress was made to ascend a "mysterious ladder," the five rungs of which were denominated CANDOUR, SWEETNESS, TEMPERANCE, TRUTH and CHASTITY. That these at least partially find counterpart in the former obligations associated with the old rungs of SHOR-LABAN, MATHOK and EMUNAH on the Ladder of Kadosh³ cannot escape observation; nor can the fact that the two sides or supports represented "The love of God and our neighbors."

Even with the removal of the ladder, Pike's redaction is still "Masonic" in every sense of the term. No honest Mason can deny that the Adoptive degrees still bear more than slight resemblance to Pike's work with the Scottish Rite; while the veil ceremony is familiar to all York Rite Masons. Indeed, on page four of his Introduction Pike clearly states that "The Masonry of Adoption is regularly attached to the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite...." Surely then, there can be no mistake as to the regularity of the degrees.

Henry Wilson Coil was apparently unfamiliar with Pike's version of the "Masonry of Adoption" when he briefly wrote concerning it in his Masonic Encyclopedia.⁴ Although he failed to identify the author, Coil correctly identified portions of the ritual and Secret Work, but evidently copied his material from Ray V. Denslow,⁵ as both mistakingly give "hoth" rather than "ahoth" as a significant word (The latter was substituted by Pike for the words "Feix Feax" which occur in the old French Rite). Both Coil and Denslow also err in dating the ritual circa 1765 rather than a century later.

The Secret Work

Following this Publisher's Introduction will be found the "Arcana" or Secret Work of Pike's revision. For his own reasons, Pike slightly revised the Arcana of the rite, yet provided endnotes for the sake of retaining the essential modes of recognition used in other jurisdictions. Fortunately, seventeen years before Pike's work appeared, E.J. Marconis de Negre published his Le Sanctuaire de Memphis, ou Hermes (Paris: Bruyer, 1849) which included the Secret Work of the French "Masonry of Adoption" as then practiced. The Secret Work relating to the first three degrees is reproduced below from de Negre's work for comparison:⁶

INSTRUCTIONS OF THE LODGES OF ADOPTION FIRST DEGREE -- APPRENTICE

SIGNS. Rite of Memphis. Sign of Order -- the right hand on the heart. Sign of Character -- place on the mouth the two first fingers of the left hand, the thumb under the chin.

Scottish and French Rites. Sign of Order -- the two hands, one in the other, placed on the apron. Sign of Character -- the same as in the Rite of Memphis except that in reply hold the left ear between the thumb and the little finger of the right hand.

GRIP. All three Rites. The right hand open, the fingers together, each advances to the other, place the hands on each other by the palms, and knocks five times with the middle finger the knocks of the degree.

KNOCKS. All three Rites. Five equal knocks.

ACCLAMATION. Press lightly the extremities of the fingers together, saying "EVA."

INSIGNIA. Rite of Memphis. A white robe, blue scarf fringed with silver, blue sash worn cross-wise with the jewel which is a flaming heart.

French and Scottish Rites. White robe, a large blue ribbon worn from right to left; the jewel is a flaming heart in the midst of which is an apple. The officers wear the ribbon cross-wise, with the jewel, which is a trowel. The apron is of white skin, lined

and bordered with blue silk; the bracelet of the order is white satin with the motto "silence and virtue"; it is worn round the left arm; white gloves.

PASS-WORD. All three Rites. EVA.

SACRED WORD. All three Rites. FEIX FEAX (school of virtue).

SECOND DEGREE -- VEILED
(Scottish and French Rites. Companion)

SIGNS. Rite of Memphis. The two hands placed on the head, let them fall as if lowering a veil.

French and Scottish Rites. The right eye being shut, place upon it the little finger of the right hand, whilst taking the end of the nose between the thumb and index finger.

GRIP. All three Rites. Take reciprocally the right hand so that the two thumbs are crossed and the middle fingers extended on the wrist.

KNOCKS. All three Rites. Five equal knocks.

ACCLAMATION. "Hurrah."

INSIGNIA. All three Rites. The same as in the first degree except that in this degree a gauze veil is worn on the head; the officers wear black gloves.

PASS-WORD. All Rites. LAMA SABACTHANI (why hast thou forsaken me?)

SACRED WORD. All three Rites. BELBA (tower of confusion), anagram of the word BABEL.

THIRD DEGREE -- MISTRESS.

SIGNS. All three Rites. With the right hand trace in space Jacob's ladder, and for reply, place on the face the left hand so that the little finger is on the mouth, the thumb on the ear, the middle finger and the index finger on the eye, and the remaining finger on the nose.

GRIP. All Rites. Place the index and middle fingers of the right hand on the nose of the tyler, touching by the interior and press in turn the right thumb on the joints of the two fingers near the thumb-nails.

KNOCKS. All Rites. Five equal knocks. Acclamation EVA, repeated five times.

INSIGNIA. Rite of Memphis. As in the 1st degree. The jewel is a golden trowel; a myrtle crown on the head.

Scottish and French Rites. The same, with a white apron, bordered and lined with crimson.

PASS-WORD. All Rites. BABEL.

SACRED WORD. All Rites. HAVOTH JAIR (dazzling light.)

Pike also included the following Secret Alphabets in the arcana, which were presumably to be used in communicating the secrets of the order.

ALPHABET OF THE MISTRESS MASONS

a	e	i	o	u	w	y
b	c	d	f	g	h	and
j	k	l	m	n	p	or
q	r	s	t	v	x	z

CIPHERS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0

AN OLD CIPHER

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	ij	k
l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u
v	w	x	y	z					

ENDNOTES

1. Ray Baker Harris, Bibliography of the Writings of Albert Pike (Washington, D.C.: Supreme Council 33d Degree, 1957), p. 96.
2. "Rite of Adoption" in Collectanea [reprint] 1 (1978) Parts 2 and 3:145-242.
3. SHOR-LABAN: "You promise and swear to have CANDOR in all your actions...."
- MATHOK: "You promise and swear at all times to possess a SWEETNESS of mind...."
- EMUNAH: "You promise and swear to REGULATE your discourse by TRUTH...."
- David Bernard, Light on Masonry (Utica: William Williams, 1829), p. 284.
4. See his comments on the "American Rite of Adoption" under the heading "Adoptive Rites and Orders."
5. Ray V. Denslow, "Rite of Adoption" in Masonic Rites and Degrees (Published by the Author, 1955), pp. 136-138.
6. This English-language translation is taken from W. J. Coombes, trans., E.J. Marconis de Negre, The Sanctuary of Memphis or Hermes (North Carolina Lodge of Research, 1933), pp. 162-164.

The "ARCANA" or SECRET WORK
for Albert Pike's Masonry of Adoption

{Page 36 [Apprentice]}

OBLIGATION.

I, M..... S..... do solemnly vow and promise, to this Lodge and every of its members, and to our Father who is in Heaven, that I will always keep, conceal and faithfully hide in my heart all the Secrets of the Masons and Masonry of Adoption that are about to be intrusted to me, and will make none of them known unlawfully.

Also, that I will always acknowledge, recognize, and obey, as the supreme law of the Masonry of Adoption, the Constitutions and Statutes of the year 1865; that I will recognize the Arch Council of the Supreme Directress of the work within whose jurisdiction I may reside, as the supreme governing power of the Rite of Adoption within that jurisdiction, and will ever bear true allegiance to the same, and will pay due obedience to its Regulations, Statutes, Institutes, Edicts and Decisions.

Also, that I will always maintain unimpaired the Landmarks and great principles and the mode of organization of the Order, until the same are changed by the Supreme authority.

Also, that I will obey the Sign of Command of a Supreme Directress of the work, when given or sent me, if it be within my power and with the meaning of my vows.

Also, that I will submit to and obey the Statutes of this Lodge, or of any other to which I may belong.

Also, that I will aid and co-operate with my Masonic Brethren in their works of charity, and incite and encourage them to the doing of the same.

Also, that I will be a true and faithful daughter of the State, performing all duties and rendering all service that her needs may require, acknowledging myself to be the Handmaiden, Service and Apprentice of Duty, until death.

And if I should betray these secrets, or otherwise violate these my solemn vows, I consent to be held in universal contempt by all the virtuous and good; and may our Father who is in Heaven aid and strengthen me to keep this solemn vow and promise! Amen!

ALL: Amen! So mote it be!

{Page 39 [Apprentice]}

THE SECRETS

The SIGN is symbolical of the Ladder of Jacob. It is

given by closing the fingers of the right hand, and with the thumb describing a line perpendicularly down the right side of the chest from the neck, and a parallel one upward on the left side, and then drawing three lines across the body, the first near the neck, the others below, and all from left to right. these signify the three principal steps or rounds, -- Faith, Hope and Charity. {1}

The RESPONSE {2} to the Sign is to take the tip of the right ear between the little finger of the right hand.

The SACRED WORD is AHOTH {3} אחות , which means a Sister. It is given and received as will be hereafter shown, and not otherwise.

The PASSWORD is HEVAH {4} הוה , the name of the mother of the human race, called in our translation of the Bible, "Eve." This is called the Pass-word, because no one can enter the Lodge without giving it to the officer who may demand it.

The TOKEN {5} is, to take each other by the right hand, the middle finger of each extended along the wrist of the other. While the hands are thus clasped, the Sacred Word is given, as you shall hear, the Admirable Mistress answering in your place.

ø and O clasp hands by the Token, and this dialogue follows:

ø:: Have you this only?
O:: I have something more.
ø:: What more?
O:: A word.
ø:: Whose?
O:: A Sister's.
ø:: Will you share it with me?
O:: Yes, -- by letters.
ø:: Begin, then.
O:: How shall I begin?
ø:: With the {6} fourth.
O:: T.
ø:: O.
O:: H.
ø:: A.
O:: H.

{Page 32 [Companion]}

OBLIGATION.

I, H..... M....., in the presence of Him who hath made us all, and doth every moment by His energy continue us in being, do most solemnly vow and sincerely promise, unto each of these Brethren and Sisters, that I will faithfully keep and conceal all the secrets and mysteries of this Degree of Companion Masoness of the Rite of Adoption, that now are or hereafter may be committed to my keeping, and that I will reveal no part

or article thereof, not even the least, to any person not fit and entitled to receive them, and when I am authorized to give them only, and in such manner only as may be permitted by the laws of the Order.

Also, that I will at all times be ready to aid, assist, encourage, and comfort my Brethren and Sisters, to the utmost of my power and capacity, they proving themselves to be such, and however miserable and unfortunate.

Also, that I will ever be ready to forgive those who repent of wrongs done me, or sins and errors committed, to aid them to reform, and to encourage them to walk in the right way, forgiving their trespasses as I hope to be forgiven.

Also, that I will be and prove a true companion to my Brethren and Sisters in Masonry, in their labors of beneficence, and for the benefit and progress of society and humanity.

These things I vow and promise, as solemnly as if by an oath, consenting to be no more respected and esteemed or beloved by any one, if I should in any point wilfully violate the same; and may our Father who is in Heaven give me strength to keep my vow! Amen!

{Page 35 [Companion]}

THE SECRETS.

The SIGN is to take the tip or lower part of the left ear between the thumb and little finger of the right hand, and then to place the two hands, open, and parallel to each other, in front of the upper part of the bosom, and tap the tips of the fingers of the two together three times. {7}

The RESPONSE is to put the fore and second fingers of the left hand on the lips, and the thumb under the chin. {8}

The PASS-WORD is HABARAT. {9}

The SACRED WORD is ADEN, {10} given and received with the Token, as will be exemplified.

The TOKEN is to take each other by the right hand, interlacing the thumbs, as the Admirable Mistress and myself do now.

ø and O thus giving each other the Token, and so continuing ø says:

ø:: The Sacred Word will only be given with this Token, and by these questions and answers:

ø:: Have you this only?

O:: I have it, and something more.

ø:: What more?

O:: A word.

ø:: Whose?

O:: A Companion's.
 O:: Will you share it with me?
 O:: Yes, -- by letters.
 O:: Begin, then.
 O:: How shall I begin?
 O:: With the second.... (or any other.)
 O:: D.
 O:: A.
 O:: E.
 O:: N..... Ad.
 O:: En.
 O:: The Garden.
 O:: Of Delight.

The Summons is used when one needs assistance, succor, or protection. It is to send a ring, with a slip of paper attached, on which are the letters that we requested you to remember, -- S:: D:: M:: It is better to write the Hebrew letters, which you may easily learn to do, ס - ד - מ .

{Page 21 [Mistress]}

PASS-WORD of the veil of Saturn:
 The Hebrew word that means INDUSTRY: SO-CAI-DAH.

{Page 24 [Mistress]}

PASS-WORD of the veil of Jupiter:
 The Hebrew word that means HOSPITALITY: NA-DAI-BOTH.

{Page 27 [Mistress]}

PASS-WORD of the veil of Mars:
 The Hebrew word that means FORGIVENESS OF INJURIES:
 KAPARAH.

{Pages 32-33 [Mistress]}

PASS-WORD of the veil of Mercury:
 The Hebrew words that mean MAGNANIMITY, or NOBLENESS
 OF MIND: RAMANOTH RUACH.

{Page 41 [Mistress]}

OBLIGATION.

I, E..... N....., believing that our Father who is in Heaven sees and hears me, do, voluntarily and without reservation or evasion, solemnly promise and vow, that I will keep, guard, and conceal all the secrets and mysteries of the degree of Mistress Mason, already known to me, or hereafter to be made known, with the form and ceremonies of my initiation, promotion, and elevation; and will make them known only to a brother or sister, surely known to me to be such.

Also, that I will faithfully endeavor to keep all the promises this night made by me in writing, and symbolized by the Pass-words of the four Veils.

Also, that I will regard with kindness all my Brethren and Sisters of the Rite of Adoption; will assist them in their needs, according to my ability; will dissuade them from evil courses, when it may be in my power; and at all events, will endeavor to do so; will strive to reform the erring, to encourage the despondent, and cheer the hopeless; and will overlook the foibles, and judge charitably of the actions of all.

Also, that I will speak no ill of a Brother or a Sister, and will keep faithfully their secrets, when they are confided to me or come to my knowledge, and I may lawfully and properly do so.

These things I vow and promise, under the penalty of expulsion from the Order, and being denounced to all the Lodges in the world as faithless and disloyal, if I should wilfully violate the same: and may our Father who is in Heaven give me strength to keep this vow! Amen!

{Page 47 {Mistress}}

THE SECRETS.

There are, in this Degree, a sign of Order, a Sign of Recognition and a Response to the same, a Pass-word, a sign of Appeal, a Token, and a Sacred Word.

The Sign or ORDER is to cross the arms on the breast, the right over the left, the hands open, and each thumb forming a square with the hand.

The Sign of RECOGNITION is, to put the little finger of the right hand on the right eyebrow, the other fingers closed, and the thumbs shut upon them. {11}

The RESPONSE is, to place the right hand on the front of the left shoulder, bringing it down across the body, to the right hip, and let it fall on the thigh. {12}

The Pass-word is Baloth-aur, {13} in Hebrew באלות האור Mistress of the Light.

The Sign of APPEAL is, to interlace the fingers of the two hands, and place the, the fingers so interlaced, in front of the forehead, the palms outward.

The cry of APPEAL is AVAI! AVAI! AVAI! .. the Hebrew word אוי, Alas!, thrice repeated. If the danger is pressing, cry, in addition, "HELP, CHILDREN OF ISIS!"

The Sacred Word is Avoth Aur, in the Hebrew, אבות האור Sign, Token or Pledge of the Light. {14}

The Token is to place the index and middle fingers of the right hand of one, on those of the right hand of the other, at the same time putting the thumb between the joints or