

PROTECTION OF THE ORDER

Sentinel: Companion Adjuvant, N. N., a candidate for the protection of the Order, stands outside its door.

Adjuvant: Companion Dirigent, N. N., a candidate for the protection of the Order, stands outside its door.

Dirigent: By what right does (he/she) seek this protection?

Secretary: Companion Dirigent, (he/she) has been duly sponsored by a member of this lodge, and (his/her) petition for the protection of the Order has been approved by vote of the lodge.

Dirigent: Then let (him/her) be welcomed among us. Companion Sentinel, retire from the lodge and prepare the candidate for the ceremony. Companion Summoner, take charge of the door.

(Sentinel leaves in form, hoodwinks candidate, and gives the alarm at the door when ready. Summoner meanwhile goes to the inner door and takes Sentinel's place.)

Summoner: (upon hearing Sentinel's alarm) Companion Adjuvant, the Sentinel returns with the candidate.

Adjuvant: Permit them to enter. (Summoner does so, and accompanies Sentinel and candidate as these go to the midline of the hall, near the Adjuvant's station, and face Adjuvant.) Who is this that you bring with you?

Sentinel: A candidate for the protection of our Order.

Adjuvant: Has (he/she) been sponsored by a member of this lodge?

Summoner: (He/She) has.

Adjuvant: It is well. Let the candidate be placed in the midst of the lodge. (Candidate, Summoner and Sentinel go to the center of the hall and face Adjuvant.) By the permission of the members of this lodge, you have been offered the protection of the Companions of the Stone. Is it your free choice to accept this offer?

(Candidate answers.)

Adjuvant: Before you may receive this privilege, you must bind yourself with a solemn obligation -- an obligation which will not conflict with the duties you owe to your

faith, your community, your family, or yourself. With this assurance, are you willing to take the obligation?

(Candidate answers.)

Adjuvant: !!! (knocks) Then place your right hand upon your left breast and repeat after me:

I, N. N., hereby promise and bind myself, now and in time to come, never to reveal to any person the signs, grips, and passwords I receive from the Companions of the Stone, except when properly authorized to do so. I will use utmost discretion in speaking of the Order, its teachings, and its activities to any person outside it; and should I leave the protection of the Companions of the Stone at any time, either voluntarily or otherwise, I will consider this pledge of secrecy and discretion to remain fully binding.

I furthermore promise to consider the members of this Order as my friends and companions, and to help, if it is in my power to do so, any member of this Order, or any person under its protection, who is in danger or distress. I will not wrong in any way the Order, a lodge or a member, nor will I circulate or listen to gossip, slander or personal confidences concerning any member of the Order.

To the faithful performance of all which, I pledge myself, 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 the Stone, upon whom I call as surety for my pledge.

Adjuvant: In that name and that presence, I call you from the darkness of the world to the light of the Stone.

(Sentinel removes blindfold.)

Adjuvant: ! (knocks) Companion Summoner, escort our friend to the desk of the Secretary, where (he/she) will sign the special register of this lodge, and then introduce (him/her) to the Adept Dirigent for instruction in the secrets of a Friend of the Order. (Summoner does so; Sentinel returns to his place.)

Summoner: (standing at center of hall, with candidate) Companion Dirigent, I introduce to you our Friend N. N. (He/She) has been obligated, has signed the special register of this lodge, and now seeks instruction in the secrets of a Friend of the Order.

Dirigent: N. N., as Adept Dirigent of Emerald Lodge #3 of the Companions of the Stone, I welcome you to our protection. The Companions of the Stone are companions on a quest; we join together in the search for that Mystery

symbolized in the language of alchemy by the Philosopher's Stone.

As companions on this quest, we make use of certain words and signs of recognition, and as a friend of this Order and this lodge you are permitted to know certain among them. These words and signs I will now communicate to you.

(Dirigent proceeds to instruct the new Friend in the outer knocks, signs and password of the Order according to the Unwritten Work. Summoner then brings the candidate to the Dirigent's chair, and the Dirigent here gives instruction in the outer grip of the Order. While giving it, the Dirigent shall say the following)

Dirigent: This grip is a symbol of the bond of friendship linking you to our Order. We hope that you will always give and receive it in that spirit.

(Summoner and new Companion return to center of hall.)

You will now demonstrate the signs to me.

(New Companion does so.)

Dirigent: (replies with signs) You have been granted the Protection of our Order. In your adversities, we will offer you our help. In your sorrows, we will offer you our comfort. In your joys, we will offer you our rejoicing. With this protection, however, comes a responsibility on your part. We have reposed our trust in you, and we ask that you remain true to that trust, and to your obligation.

Dirigent: !!! (knocks) Companions, I present to you N. N., and commend (him/her) to your friendship and protection. (General applause.) ! (knocks) Companion Summoner, you will escort our friend from the lodge.

(Candidate is taken out of the lodge, preferably to the dining room or other suitable place.)

