

## CLOSING OF THE 1ST DEGREE

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. ! (One knock)

Warden: ! (Knocks and rises) 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.

K of W (Warden): (purifies) I purify with water.

K of F (Guide): (consecrates) I consecrate with fire.

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

(Circumambulation is performed:

(Chief rises, staff in one hand, Banner of East in the other. Herald goes to SW and faces W. Guide, Warden, K of W and K of F go against sun to line up behind him, in that order. The procession then circles counterclockwise around the hall. The Warden falls out as soon as he reaches his throne; the Guide passes the Chief twice, and then falls out; the others pass the Chief thrice, and then fall out as they reach their stations. 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.

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 moves with sun to W of altar. K of W, K of F, and all members present follow, each in turn receiving and then offering Communion. Herald is last of all.)

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

Chief: Companion Herald, proclaim this lodge closed.

Herald: (Goes to NE and faces W) 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 and stands)

Warden: ! (Knocks and stands)

Guide: ! (Knocks and stands)

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)