

MAY 6, 2003

## ORDER OF THE TEMPLE

OFFICERS, TAKE YOUR STATIONS. *WHEN IN PLACE, DRAW, SWORDS. SIR KNIGHTS, BE SEATED. OFFICERS ARE SEATED.*

SIR KNIGHT WARDER, *RETURN SALUTE, ASCERTAIN IF ANY CANDIDATE IS IN WAITING FOR THE ORDER OF THE TEMPLE.*

*WHEN W RETURNS AND REPORTS, SIR KNIGHTS, JOE DOE, (AND SEVERAL OTHER KNIGHTS OF MALTA ARE) A KNIGHT OF MALTA IS IN WAITING. IF THERE BE NO OBJECTIONS WE WILL PROCEED TO (OFFER THE ORDER OF THE TEMPLE UPON HIM (THEM)).*

*IF THERE ARE NOT OBJECTIONS: SIR KNIGHT JW, RETURN SALUTE, RETIRE AND CONDUCT THE KNIGHTS TO THE CHAMBER OF REFLECTION, WHERE, AFTER AN ADMONITION, YOU WILL PLACE BEFORE THEM THESE QUESTIONS, TO WHICH YOU WILL REQUIRE THEIR ANSWERS IN WRITING, AFTER THEY HAVE REFLECTED UPON THEM IN SILENCE AND SOLITUDE; AND WHEN THEY HAVE TESTIFIED TO THE PURITY OF THEIR INTENTIONS, BY PERFORMING THE REQUIRED ABLUTION, RETURN WITH THEIR ANSWERS.*

*WHEN W GIVES REPORT, SIR KNIGHT W, ATTEND THE ALARM*

*WHEN W RETURNS AND REPORTS: ADMIT HIM.*

*WHEN JW FINISHES REPORT, HAS HE (THEY) ANSWERED THE NECESSARY QUESTIONS? JW ANSWERS. PRESENT THE ANSWERS. JW IS SEATED:*

DO YOU SOLEMNLY DECLARE UPON YOUR HONOR, THAT IN SEEKING ADMISSION TO THIS VALIANT AND MAGNANIMOUS ORDER OF CHRISTIAN KNIGHTHOOD YOU ARE ACTUATED BY NO MERCENARY OR OTHER UNWORTHY MOTIVES?

ANSWERED YES, SIGNED JOE JOHN DOE.

IF CALLED UPON TO DRAW YOUR SWORD IN A RELIGIOUS CAUSE, WILL YOU GIVE PREFERENCE TO THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION?

ANSWERED YES, SIGNED JOE JOHN DOE.

DOES YOUR CONSCIENCE ACCUSE YOU OF ANY CRIME, UNREPENTED OF, WHICH WOULD RENDER YOU UNWORTHY OF BECOMING A MEMBER OF AN INSTITUTION FOUNDED UPON THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION, AND THE PRACTICE OF THE CHRISTIAN VIRTUES?

ANSWERED NO, SIGNED JOE JOHN DOE.

*(THESE QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED IN A LIKE MANNER BY: LIST (CANDIDATES))*

SIR KNIGHTS, ARE THERE ANY OBJECTIONS? *THERE BEING NONE:* SIR KNIGHT JW *RETURN SALUTE, THUS FAR THE KNIGHT HAS PROCEEDED TO OUR ENTIRE SATISFACTION; BUT AS A TRIAL OF HIS PATIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE, I NOW ENJOIN UPON HIM SEVEN YEARS OF PILGRIMAGE, CLAD IN PILGRIM'S GARB, WITH SANDALS, STAFF AND SCRIP, AND UNDER YOUR DIRECTION.*

*WAIT FOR JW TO LEAVE AND W TO RETURN TO HIS STATION. SIR KNIGHT CAPTAIN GENERAL, RETURN SALUTE, SEE THAT THE GUARDS ARE POSTED.*

*POSTING OF THE GUARDS AND PILGRIMAGE*

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*AFTER PILGRIMAGE IS COMPLETED AND JW RETIRES WITH H, REMOVE TENTS. ALTAR IS POSITIONED, IF NOT IN PLACE. EC, G, CG, EP AND SW RETURN TO THEIR STATIONS. RATTLE, ALARM.*

*W REPORTS, RETURNS WARDER'S SALUTE. WHEN WARDER IS FINISHED: SIR KNIGHT WARDER, ATTEND TO THE ALARM.*

*W RETURNS AND REPORTS WHAT SURETY DOES HE OFFER THAT HE IS NOT AN IMPOSTOR?*

#### *PRELATE'S ESCORT*

*THIS BEING TRUE, EXCELLENT PRELATE EP BOWS, RETURN SALUTE*

*YOU WILL CONDUCT THIS WEARY PILGRIM TO THE HOLY ALTAR, WHERE HAVING BOUND HIM BY THE SOLEMN VOWS OF THIS ORDER YOU WILL FORTHWITH INVEST HIM WITH SWORD AND BUCKLER, THAT AS A PILGRIM WARRIOR HE MAY, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THAT VALIANT KNIGHT, OUR SENIOR WARDEN, PERFORM FOUR YEARS OF WARFARE, WHICH I NOW ENJOIN ON HIM AS A TRIAL OF HIS COURAGE AND CONSTANCY.*

*SIR KNIGHT CAPTAIN GENERAL, RETURN SALUTE, FORM AN ESCORT FOR THE PRELATE.*

#### *YEARS OF WARFARE THEN RELIEVE THE GUARDS*

*AFTER WARFARE, EXCHANGE THE ALTAR FOR THE TRIANGLE. ALL OFFICERS RESUME THEIR STATIONS. SIR KNIGHT CAPTAIN GENERAL, RETURN SALUTE SEE THAT THE GUARDS ARE RELIEVED.*

#### *LIBATIONS*

*W REPORTS, SIR KNIGHT W, ATTEND TO THE ALARM.*

*W RETURNS AND SALUTES: WHAT SURETY DOES HE OFFER THAT HE IS NOT AN IMPOSTOR?*

*W ANSWERS: HOW DOES HE EXPECT TO GAIN ADMISSION? W ANSWERS: ADMIT HIM.*

*SW INTO POSITION: PILGRIM, HAVING GAINED ADMISSION INTO OUR ASYLUM, WHAT DECLARATION HAVE YOU TO MAKE IN TESTIMONY OF YOUR FITNESS TO BECOME A KNIGHT AMONG US?*

*SW PROMPTS H TO ANSWER: THE SENTIMENTS YOU UTTER ARE COMMENDABLE, AND WORTHY OF THE CAUSE IN WHICH YOU ARE ENGAGED: BUT WE REQUIRE PROOF OF YOUR FIDELITY TO US. THE RULES OF THIS ORDER DEMAND THAT YOU PARTICIPATE IN FIVE LIBATIONS, SUCH BEING ACCOMPLISHED YOU SHALL BE ADMITTED A KNIGHT AMONG US.*

*THE ELEMENTS OF THE FIRST FOUR ARE WINE AND WATER; THE FIFTH IS PURE WINE. ARE YOU WILLING TO PARTICIPATE?*

*H ANSWERS. IF NECESSARY PROMPT CLASS TO ANSWER.*

*ADVANCE TO THE TRIANGLE.*

*WE WILL NOW PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST LIBATION. THE CLASS WILL PLEASE RISE. TAKE THAT CUP IN YOUR RIGHT HAND.*

*THE CLASS AND THE ACTIVE CANDIDATE WILL REPEAT AFTER ME: "TO THE MEMORY OF OUR MOST EXCELLENT GRAND MASTER SOLOMON, KING OF ISRAEL." PARTICIPATE. REPLACES CUP ON TRIANGLE.*

*WHILE WE COMMEMORATE THE VIRTUES OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS FOUNDER OF ANCIENT CRAFT MASONRY, LET US ALSO REMEMBER THE LESSONS OF WISDOM HE HAS LEFT UPON THE SACRED*

PAGE FOR OUR INSTRUCTION, THE SUM OF WHICH IS – FEAR GOD AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS. WE WILL NOW PARTICIPATE IN THE SECOND LIBATION. TAKE THAT SAME CUP.

THE CLASS AND THE ACTIVE CANDIDATE WILL REPEAT AFTER ME: "TO THE MEMORY OF OUR MUNIFICENT GRAND MASTER, HIRAM, KING OF TYRE." PARTICIPATE. *REPLACES CUP.*

TO BE GREAT IS TO BE GOOD, AND HE WHO WOULD PERPETUATE HIS NAME TO POSTERITY MUST ENNOBLE IT BY ACTS OF CHARITY AND DEEDS OF PURE BENEFICENCE. WE WILL NOW PARTICIPATE IN THE THIRD LIBATION. *REPLACES CUP.*

THE CLASS AND THE ACTIVE CANDIDATE WILL REPEAT AFTER ME: "TO THE MEMORY OF OUR ANCIENT AND OPERATIVE GRAND MASTER HIRAM ABIFF, THE WIDOW'S SON, WHO LOST HIS LIFE IN DEFENSE OF HIS INTEGRITY." PARTICIPATE. *REPLACES CUP ON TRIANGLE.*

WHILE WE PERPETUATE THE MEMORY OF THIS ILLUSTRIOUS MARTYR, LET US EMULATE HIS EXAMPLE, AND YIELD UP OUR LIVES RATHER THAN FORFEIT OUR INTEGRITY.

THE CLASS MAY BE SEATED.

PILGRIM, THESE LIBATIONS IN HONOR OF THESE ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTERS OF ANCIENT CRAFT MASONRY ARE TAKEN IN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF OUR CONNECTION WITH, VENERATION FOR, AND FIDELITY TO THAT HONORABLE INSTITUTION.

THE ORDER WITH WHICH YOU NOW SEEK TO UNITE IS FOUNDED UPON THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION AND THE PRACTICE OF THE CHRISTIAN VIRTUES. LET US, THEREFORE, ATTEND TO A LESSON FROM THE HOLY EVANGELISTS. *TURNS TO PRELATE, EXCELLENT PRELATE, EP BOWS, RETURNED.* YOU WILL READ THE FIRST LESSON. *WHEN FINISHED:*

PILGRIM, THE TWELVE BURNING TAPERS ON THE TRIANGLE BEFORE YOU CORRESPOND IN NUMBER WITH THE APOSTLES OF OUR SAVIOR WHILE ON EARTH, ONE OF WHOM BY TRANSGRESSION FELL, AND BETRAYED HIS LORD AND MASTER. AS A CONSTANT ADMONITION TO YOU EVER TO PERSEVERE IN THE PATHS OF HONOR, INTEGRITY, AND TRUTH, AND AS A MEMORIAL OF THE APOSTASY OF JUDAS ISCARIOT, YOU ARE REQUIRED BY THE RULES OF THIS ORDER TO EXTINGUISH ONE OF THOSE BURNING TAPERS.

*WHEN LIGHTS GO OUT:* LET THIS TEACH YOU THAT HE WHO BASELY VIOLATES HIS VOW, OR BETRAYS HIS TRUST, IS WORTHY OF NO BETTER FATE THAN THAT WHICH JUDAS SUFFERED.

LET US ATTEND TO ANOTHER LESSON FROM THE HOLY EVANGELISTS. *TURNS TO PRELATE EP EP BOWS, RETURNED BY SALUTE FROM THE EC.* YOU WILL READ THE SECOND LESSON.

*WHEN FINISHED, RECOVER, BACK UP FOUR PACES, KNEEL ON LEFT KNEE AND UNCOVER. WHEN RELIC IS REVEALED, RISE, MOVE DOWN THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE TRIANGLE AND TAKE SKULL;*

PILGRIM, IN THIS SAD RELIC SEE; WHAT ONCE WAS MAN, E'EN SUCH AS WE. IN CHILDISH INNOCENCE HE PLAQUED; ALONG THE PATHS OF YOUTH HE STRAYED. HAVING LIKE US, HIS HOPES AND FEARS; HIS HOURS OF JOY, PERCHANCE OF TEARS. AND WHEN TO MAN'S ESTATE HE GREW; THE FEELINGS WE KNOW, HE KNEW.

WE KNOW NOT WHERE OR WHEN HE WROUGHT; WHAT VISIONS DREAMED, WHAT AIMS HE SOUGHT. AMBITIONS CALL HE MAY HAVE HEARD; MAYHAP, HIS HEART BY LOVE WAS STIRRED. OR A GREED OF GOLD HE MAY HAVE FELT; OR AT THE SHRINE OF PASSION KNELT.

THIS MUCH WE KNOW, AND NOUGHT BESIDE; THAT HE WAS BORN AND LIVED AND DIED.

IT MAY HAVE BEEN HIS LOT TO TOIL; TO DELVE IN MINES OR TILL THE SOIL.  
HE MAY HAVE SAILED THE TRACKLESS SEAS; OR FELT THE HEAT OF DESSERT BREEZE.  
OR A PRIESTLY GRAB HE MAY HAVE WORN; OR WEIGHT OF PUBLIC OFFICE BORN.  
BUT POOR OR PRIESTLY, RICH OR GREAT; HE CAME AT LAST TO THIS SAD ESTATE.

WITH REVERENCE THEN, BEHOLD WITH ME; THAT WHICH WE ALL MUST SOMETIME BE;  
AND AS WE NEAR THE DREAD ABYSS OF DEATH; WHEN WE SHALL BE LIKE THIS;  
BUT UNTO THOSE WHOSE FAITH REMAINS; DEATH DOES NOT SEVER EARTHLY CHAINS;  
OUR SPIRIT FREED FROM THIS POOR CLOD; IS BUT TO SLEEP, TO WAKE WITH GOD.

*MOVE BACK TO APEX:* PILGRIM, YOU HERE BEHOLD AN EMBLEM OF MORTALITY SUPPORTED BY  
DIVINITY, A HUMAN SKULL RESTING ON THE HOLY BIBLE; WHICH IS TO TEACH YOU THAT AMID ALL  
THE TRIALS AND VICISSITUDES INCIDENT TO HUMAN LIFE, A FIRM RELIANCE UPON THE DIVINE TRUTH  
CONTAINED IN THIS SACRED VOLUME CAN ALONE AFFORD THAT CONSOLATION AND PEACE OF  
MIND, WHICH THE WORLD CAN NEITHER GIVE NOR TAKE AWAY.

LET US ATTEND TO ANOTHER LESSON FROM THE HOLY EVANGELISTS. EP YOU WILL READ THE  
THIRD LESSON. *WHEN FINISHED:*

WE WILL NOW PARTICIPATE IN THE FOURTH LIBATION. THE CLASS WILL PLEASE RISE. *TAKE CUP FROM  
THE TRIANGLE AND DIRECT K TO DO THE SAME.*

THE CLASS AND THE ACTIVE CANDIDATE WILL REPEAT AFTER ME: "TO THE MEMORY OF SIMON OF  
CYRENE WHO WAS COMPELLED TO BEAR OUR SAVIOR'S CROSS." PARTICIPATE.

PILGRIM, WE ALL HAVE A CROSS TO BEAR; LET EACH OF US SO BEAR THAT CROSS THAT WE MAY BE  
DEEMED WORTHY TO WEAR THE CROWN. *WAIT FOR WARDENS TO CARRY.*

*MOVE TO THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE TRIANGLE, REACH OVER AND PICK UP SKULL.*

BEHOLD THIS RUIN! 'TIS A SKULL, ONCE OF ETHEREAL SPIRIT FULL.  
THIS NARROW CELL WAS LIFE'S RETREAT, THIS SPACE WAS THOUGHT'S MYSTERIOUS SEAT.  
WHAT BEAUTIFUL VISIONS FILLED THIS SPOT, WHAT DREAM OF PLEASURE LONG FORGOT.  
NOR JOY, NOR GRIEF, OR HOPE, OR FEAR, HAS LEFT ONE TRACE ON RECORD HERE.

BENEATH THIS MOLDERING CANOPY; ONCE SHONE THE BRIGHT AND BUSY EYE;  
YET START NOT AT THE DISMAL VOID! IF HOLY LOVE THAT EYE EMPLOYED,  
IF WITH NO LAWLESS FIRE IT GLEAMED; BUT THROUGH THE DEWS OF KINDNESS BEAMED, THAT EYE  
SHALL BE FOREVER BRIGHT; WHEN STARS AND SUN ARE SUNK IN NIGHT.

WITHIN THIS HOLLOW CAVERN HUNG; THE READY, SWIFT AND TUNEFUL TONGUE;  
IF FALSEHOOD'S HONEY IT DISTAINED; AND WHEN IT COULD NOT PRAISE, WAS CHAINED;  
IF BOLD IN VIRTUE'S CAUSE IT SPOKE; YET GENTLE CONCORD NEVER BROKE,  
THAT SILENT TONGUE MAY PLEAD FOR THEE; WHEN TIME UNVEILS ETERNITY.

HOW STRIKING THIS EMBLEM OF MORTALITY! ONCE ANIMATED LIKE OURSELVES, BUT NOW,  
BEHOLD, IT HAS CEASED TO ACT OR THINK; ITS VITAL ENERGIES ARE EXTINCT, AND ALL THE POWERS  
OF LIFE HAVE CEASED THEIR OPERATION!

TO SUCH A STATE, PILGRIM *TURNS TO SIDE LINES* AND SIR KNIGHTS, ARE WE ALL HASTENING. *TURNS  
BACK TO K.* LET US THEN SO IMPROVE THE REMAINING SPAN OF LIFE, THAT WHEN OUR FRAIL

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BODIES SHALL BECOME, LIKE THIS MEMENTO, COLD AND INANIMATE, OUR DISEMBODED SPIRITS MAY SOAR ALOFT, AND DWELL FOREVER IN REALMS OF LIFE AND LIGHT ETERNAL. *€ REPLACES SKULL AND RETURNS TO THE POINT OF THE TRIANGLE.*

*PENANCE*

PILGRIM, THE WARFARE OF THE REMAINING YEAR IS NOW REMITTED; BUT, BEFORE YOU CAN BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FIFTH LIBATION, I MUST, AS A TRIAL OF YOUR FAITH AND HUMILITY, ENJOIN UPON YOU ONE YEAR OF PENANCE, WHICH YOU WILL PERFORM UNDER THE DIRECTION OF OUR SENIOR AND JUNIOR WARDENS.

*WAIT FOR SW TO GET INTO POSITION.*

YOU WILL GO FORTH UPON YOUR YEAR OF PENANCE CLOTHED IN THAT WHITE ROBE, POINTS TO ROBE, PALM OPEN AND UP, AS AN EMBLEM OF INNOCENCE, SW PUTS ROBE ON K AND STEPS BACK TO HIS POSITION. *€ MOVES DOWN SOUTH SIDE OF TRIANGLE AND PICKS UP SKULL, WITH THIS HUMAN SKULL IN ONE HAND. € PLACES SKULL IN K'S LEFT HAND, FACING K. AS A SYMBOL OF YOUR HUMILITY, € TURNS SLIGHTLY TO JW WHO HAS MOVED OVER FROM HIS STATION TO PASSING BEHIND THE SW, AND HANDS € THE TAPER. JW RETURNS TO PLACE BEHIND SW & K. AND THIS BURNING TAPER IN THE OTHER. € PLACES TAPER IN K'S RIGHT HAND. AS AN EMBLEM OF YOUR FAITH; WHICH IS TO TEACH YOU THAT, WITH FAITH AND HUMILITY, YOU SHOULD LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE MEN THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOODS WORK AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN. RETURN TO APEX OF TRIANGLE, SLOWLY, NOT TURNING BACK ON K. TAKE FOUR STEPS BACKWARD FROM APEX, KNEEL AND UNCOVER.*

*FIFTH LIBATION*

*SET ALTAR, LACE CURTAINS AND ETC. WHEN ALL IS READY, GO TO STATION: SIR KNIGHTS, FALL IN. WHEN ALL ARE IN POSITION: DRAW, SWORDS; ORDER, SWORDS. SIR KNIGHTS AT THE TRIANGLE, (KNEEL); REST ON, SWORDS.*

*WHEN WARDENS HAVE K IN POSITION, LOOK UP AND SAY: SIR KNIGHTS, WHOM HAVE YOU THERE IN CHARGE?*

*SW WAITS FOR CG TO FINISH COMMANDS, THEN ANSWERS. € RETURNS HIS SWORD.*

PILGRIM, YOUR YEAR OF PENANCE HAS INDEED ENDED, BUT YOUR NEED OF PENITENCE HAS NOT, NOR CAN IT END UNTIL THIS MORTAL SHALL HAVE PUT ON IMMORTALITY, FOR ALL MEN ERR, AND ERRING NEED REPENTANCE.

*WAIT FOR WARDENS TO GET INTO POSITION.*

PILGRIM, IN GRANTING YOUR REQUEST, AND ADMITTING YOU A KNIGHT AMONG US, I CAN OFFER YOU ONLY A ROUGH HABIT, COARSE DIET AND SEVERE DUTY. IF ON THESE CONDITIONS YOU STILL DESIRE TO ENLIST UNDER OUR BANNER, ADVANCE AND KNEEL AT THE BASE OF THE TRIANGLE.

*WARDENS POSITION K, CG, GIVES COMMANDS. €P MOVES INTO POSITION AND GIVES BLESSING. CG GIVES CARRY AND RECOVER.*

*WHEN €P IS AT HIS STATION. PILGRIM, WE CANNOT BE TOO OFTEN REMINDED THAT WE ARE BORN TO DIE. THE FIFTH LIBATION IS THEREFORE TAKEN IN THE MOST SOLEMN AND IMPRESSIVE MANNER, REMOVE RIGHT GLOVE AND TUCK UNDER BELT, OF PURE WINE, MOVE UP TRIANGLE, TAKING CUP FROM BETWEEN 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> TAPER AND FROM THIS CUP. € REMOVES CUP AND*

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**HOLDS IT UP. EMBLEMATIC OF THE BITTER CUP OF DEATH, OF WHICH WE MUST ALL SOONER OR LATER PARTAKE, AND FROM WHICH EVEN THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD WAS NOT EXEMPT. FROM THIS, OR A SIMILAR CUP, HAS EACH KNIGHT TEMPLAR PARTAKEN.**

**MOVE BACK TO APEX OF TRIANGLE, POUR, DRINK AND POUR REMAINDER INTO CHALICE. POUR AGAIN, MOVE BACK TO K**

**THE CLASS WILL PLEASE RISE. TAKE THIS CUP IN YOUR RIGHT HAND. GIVES CUP TO K. AND REPEAT AFTER ME.**

**WAIT FOR G TO GIVE COMMANDS.**

**THIS PURE WINE I NOW TAKE FROM THIS CUP TO REMIND ME OF THE MORTALITY OF THE BODY, AND IN TESTIMONY OF MY BELIEF IN THE IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL; AND MAY THIS LIBATION APPEAR AGAINST ME IN JUDGMENT TO CONDEMN ME SHOULD I EVER KNOWINGLY OR WILLFULLY VIOLATE MY VOW OF KNIGHTHOOD. PARTAKE.**

**K DOES AND HANDS CUP TO EC, WHO TAKES IT. MOVE BACK TO EAST WITH CUP, TIP REMAINING DROPS INTO CHALICE, STEP BACKWARD TO STATION AND PUT ON GLOVES.**

**PILGRIM, YOU HAVE SEALED YOUR FAITH, AND BOUND YOURSELF BY A MOST SOLEMN PLEDGE TO BE TRUE TO ALL THE VOWS OF THIS ORDER. YOU HAVE INVOKED A PENALTY UPON YOURSELF AT THE JUDGMENT, SHOULD YOU BASELY BETRAY THEM. LET THE MEMORY OF THIS SCENE REMAIN WITH YOU AS VIVID AS IT IS THIS MOMENT. AND SHOULD TEMPTATION ASSAIL YOU, SHOULD MISFORTUNE BEFALL YOU, SHOULD ALL THE WORLD SEEM TO FORSAKE YOU, STILL REMAIN FAITHFUL TO YOUR VOWS OF KNIGHTHOOD. BRING NO DISGRACE UPON YOURSELF OR UPON THIS ORDER, NOR REPROACH UPON THE NAME OF HIM UNDER WHOSE BANNER YOU ARE NOW ENLISTED.**

**REMEMBER, MAKE NO PROMISE OR PLEDGE UNDER THE FAITH OF THIS, THE SEALED LIBATION, THAT YOU DO NOT PUNCTUALLY AND SCRUPULOUSLY PERFORM; FOR ANY PROMISE MADE, SECRET REPOSED, OR ENGAGEMENT ENTERED INTO, HAVING REFERENCE TO THIS LIBATION, IS CONSIDERED BY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR MORE SACRED AND BINDING, IF POSSIBLE, THEN ANY OTHER. CHARGE. PAUSE**

**BEHOLD, THE SWORDS OF THESE KNIGHTS POINTED AT YOUR UNPROTECTED BREAST, AS IF READY TO AVENGE ANY WILLFUL VIOLATION OF THE VOWS YOU HAVE VOLUNTARILY ASSUMED. BUT WHILE YOU REMAIN FAITHFUL TO THOSE VOWS WE GIVE YOU THE MYSTIC ASSURANCE OF THIS GLITTERING ARCH OF STEEL, WAVE HAND UPWARD**

**THAT THESE SWORDS WITH THOUSANDS OF OTHERS, WILL LEAP FROM THEIR SCABBARDS TO DEFEND AND PROTECT YOU. CARRY SWORDS.**

**LET US ATTEND TO ANOTHER LESSON FROM THE HOLY EVANGELISTS. SIR KNIGHTS, ORDER, SWORDS; UN-COVER. TURNS TOWARD EP. EXCELLENT PRELATE EP RAISES AND BOWS, ANSWERED WITH BOW FROM EC. YOU WILL READ THE FOURTH LESSON. EC UNCOVERS.**

**WHEN EP IS FINISHED SIR KNIGHTS, RE-COVER; CARRY SWORDS.**

**G GIVES RECOMMENDATION**

**FACING THE K SIR KNIGHTS, YOU HAVE HEARD THE RECOMMENDATION; ALL WHO FAVOR IT WILL PRESENT SWORDS.**

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PILGRIM, YOU HAVE BEEN UNANIMOUSLY CHOSEN TO THIS HIGH HONOR. YOU WILL SIGNIFY YOUR ACCEPTANCE BY RE-LIGHTING THAT TAPER. *WHEN DONE:*

SO MAY THE LORD LIFT UP THE LIGHT OF HIS COUNTENANCE UPON THEE, GIVE THEE PEACE, AND EVER KEEP THEE FROM FALLING. *ABOUT FACE AND GO TO STATION, ABOUT FACE: SIR KNIGHTS, CARRY, SWORDS; PILGRIM, ARISE*

**KNIGHTING**

*WHEN GC HAS FORMED LINES: SIR KNIGHTS SENIOR AND JUNIOR WARDENS RETURN SALUTES, REMOVE THE PILGRIM'S ROBE AND CONDUCT HIM TO THE FOOT OF THE LINES.*

PILGRIM, I AM NOW ABOUT TO CONFER UPON YOU THE HIGHEST HONOR IN MY POWER TO BESTOW. SIR KNIGHTS, FORM ARCH OF STEEL, CROSS, SWORDS. *KNIGHTS IN LINE ONLY CROSS SWORDS. SW & JW DO NOT CROSS AT THIS POINT.* PILGRIM, KNEEL ON YOUR LEFT KNEE. *JW & SW CROSS SWORDS OVER THE K WHEN HE KNEELS. EC DRAWS SWORD AND ADVANCES TO K THROUGH THE LINES, HALTING ONE PACE FROM K. BY VIRTUE OF THE POWER AND AUTHORITY IN ME VESTED AS COMMANDER (OR ACTING COMMANDER OR APPROPRIATE TITLE) OF THIS COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR I DUB THEE KNIGHT GIVES ONE BLOW OF SWORD ON K'S LEFT SHOULDER AND CREATE THEE A MEMBER OF THE VALIANT AND MAGNANIMOUS ORDER OF THE TEMPLE. EC CARRIES SWORD AND RETURNS, REMOVES GLOVE FROM HIS RIGHT HAND AND TUCKS IT UNDER HIS BELT, THEN EXTENDS HIS HAND TO THE K. ARISE SIR KNIGHT FIRST NAME ONLY.*

AND WITH THIS HAND RECEIVE A HEARTY WELCOME INTO THE BOSOM OF AN ORDER WHOSE GRAND CHARACTERISTICS ARE UNSULLIED HONOR, UNWEARIED ZEAL IN A BROTHER'S CAUSE, AND UNIVERSAL BENEVOLENCE.

*WHEN ALL ARE SEATED. I NOW PRESENT YOU THIS SWORD. IN THE HANDS OF A VALIANT AND MAGNANIMOUS KNIGHT OF THE TEMPLE, IT IS ENDOWED WITH THREE EXCELLENT QUALITIES: IT'S HILT WITH JUSTICE IMPARTIAL, IT'S BLADE WITH FORTITUDE UNDAUNTED, AND IT'S POINT WITH MERCY UNRESTRAINED. LEARN FROM THESE THIS IMPORTANT LESSON; THAT WHEN YOU DRAW YOUR SWORD, YOU SHOULD BE WELL ASSURED OF THE JUSTICE OF THE CAUSE IN WHICH YOU ARE ENGAGED; BEING THUS ASSURED, PRESS FORWARD WITH FORTITUDE UNDAUNTED TO VICTORY; AND HAVING SUBDUED YOUR ENEMY, REGARD HIM NO LONGER AS YOUR FOE, BUT EXTEND TO HIM THAT GLORIOUS ATTRIBUTE OF DEITY, - MERCY.*

AS A KNIGHT TEMPLAR, LET YOUR HONOR EVER REMAIN AS UNSULLIED AS THIS GLITTERING BLADE, AND HOLD YOUR SWORD READY TO BE DRAWN IN THE CAUSE TO WHICH YOU HAVE SO SOLEMNLY CONSECRATED IT; HOPING EVER, AND PRAYING ALWAYS FOR THE ADVENT OF THAT GLORIOUS DAY WHEN "THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD'S HOUSE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED IN THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAINS"; WHEN "SWORDS SHALL BE BEATEN INTO PLOUGHSHARES AND SPEARS INTO PRUNING HOOKS"; WHEN "NATIONS SHALL NOT LIFT UP SWORD AGAINST NATION, NEITHER SHALL THEY LEARN WAR ANY MORE"; WHEN THE REIGN OF THE BLESSED EMMANUEL, THE PRINCE OF PEACE, THE GREAT CAPTAIN OF OUR SALVATION, SHALL BECOME UNIVERSAL AND ETERNAL.

*HAND K SWORD OVER LEFT ARM. CARRY, SWORD.*

*KNIGHT REMAINDER OF CLASS. WHEN FINISHED RETURN TO FRONT OF ACTIVE K.*

YOU WILL NOW BE INVESTED WITH THE REMAINING ATTRIBUTES OF THIS ORDER.

THE PILGRIM PENITENCE WORD IS GIVEN WITH FOUR CUTS OF THE SWORD, GUARD - GIVE CUTS

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*DONE* AND UNDER AN ARCH OF STEEL, WHICH OUR SWORDS NOW FORM. ADVANCE YOUR LEFT FOOT AND PLACE IT BESIDE MINE; *DONE* PLACE YOUR LEFT HAND ON MY RIGHT SHOULDER, AS I PLACE MINE ON YOURS. *DONE* THE WORD IT G... THE RESPONSE IS A-P-O-A-S. THE KNIGHT CHALLENGED WILL GIVE THE WORD, *REPEAT* AND, IF CORRECT, THE KNIGHT CHALLENGING WILL GIVE THE RESPONSE. *REPEAT* GIVE ME THE WORD. *GIVEN* I GIVE YOU THE RESPONSE. *GIVEN* CARRY, SWORDS; RETURN, SWORDS.

THE PENAL SIGN IS GIVE BY EXTENDING THE RIGHT HAND, PALM UPWARD, *DOES* THEN BRINGING THE HAND OVER THE RIGHT SHOULDER, PALM DOWN *DOES* AND WITH THE EDGE, CUT ACROSS THE NECK *DOES* NOW RAISE THE HAND, EDGE OUT, FINGERS UP, THE THUMB UNDER THE CHIN. *DOES* NOW ELEVATE THE HAND TO THE LEVEL OF THE HEAD *DOES* DROP HAND TO THE SIDE *DOES*. THIS REFERS TO THE PENALTY OF YOUR VOW, AND IS THE PROPER SALUTATION TO BE GIVEN ON ENTERING OR LEAVING AN ASYLUM OF A COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

THE GRAND SIGN IS GIVEN BY CROSSING THE RIGHT FOOT OVER THE LEFT, *DONE* THE RIGHT ARM EXTENDED TO THE RIGHT AND SLIGHTLY ELEVATED, *DONE* THE LEFT ARM EXTENDED TO THE LEFT AND SLIGHTLY DEPRESSED, *DONE* HEAD SLIGHTLY INCLINED TO THE RIGHT. *DONE* IN THIS POSITION SAY, "IN HOC SIGNO VINCES" - IN THIS SIGN YOU WILL CONQUER. THIS SIGN REFERS TO THE POSITION OF OUR SAVIOR ON THE CROSS.

THE GRIP AND IMMACULATE WORD ARE GIVEN WHILE KNEELING, AND UNCOVERED, FINGERS INTERLACED AND ARMS CROSSED.

*EC & K KNEEL, UNCOVER AND DEPOSIT CHAPEAUX UNDER DIRECTION OF EC. FINGERS ARE INTERLACED, RIGHT HAND OVER LEFT.*

**KNEEL ON YOUR LEFT KNEE. UNCOVER. DEPOSIT CHAPEAUX.**

*EC* CROSSES ARMS AS FINGERS ARE INTERLACED. AS OUR FINGERS ARE THUS STRONGLY INTERLACED SO SHOULD THE HEARTS OF ALL KNIGHTS TEMPLAR BE FIRMLY UNITED IN THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP AND BROTHERLY LOVE. WHEN MY ARMS ARE CROSSED I WILL BE IN POSITION TO GIVE YOU THE IMMACULATE WORD. WHEN YOURS ARE CROSSED *CROSSES K'S ARMS* YOU WILL BE IN POSITION TO GIVE IT TO ME, AND ON YOUR DOING SO, I WILL GIVE YOU THE RESPONSE.

OVER THIS SIGN OF OUR FAITH, *EC* CROSSES HIS OWN ARMS I COMMUNICATE THE WORD, WHICH IS *EC*. *EC* CROSSES K'S ARMS. *REPEAT* IT. *DONE*. *EC* CROSSES HIS OWN ARMS AGAIN. THE RESPONSE IS "GOD WITH US."

*DROPS ARMS. SECURE CHAPEAUX. RE-COVER! ARISE.*

### STANDARDS

SIR KNIGHT STANDARD BEARER. *STB* RISES AND HAND SALUTES, ANSWERED BY *EC*.

DISPLAY THE STANDARD. *DONE*.

SIR KNIGHT, FACE ABOUT AND BEHOLD THE STANDARD OF THIS ORDER. *DONE* THE GRAND STANDARD IS WHITE. IN THE CENTER OF THE FIELD IS A BLOOD RED PASSION CROSS, OVER WHICH IS THE MOTTO OF THIS ORDER, IN HOC SIGNO VINCES. UNDER IT IS NON NOBIS DOMINAE, NON NOBIS: SED NOMINI TUO DA GLORIAM.

MAY WE SO FAITHFULLY SERVE THE MASTER, THAT HAVING PASSED THROUGH THE PORTALS OF THE GRAVE WE MAY RECEIVE FROM HIS HAND THE CROWN OF VICTORY, WHILE WE EXCLAIM: "NOT



**UNTO US, O LORD, NOT UNTO US, BUT UNTO THY NAME GIVE GLORY."**

*STB RETURNS STANDARD TO POSITION VIA SAME ROUTE, STEPS BEHIND THE W'S CHAIR AND PICKS UP THE BEAUCANT, COMES TO CARRY AND RETURNS OVER THE SAME ROUTE TO HIS STATION, STEPS OUT ONE STEP, LEFT FACES AND PRESENTS BEAUCANT.*

**THE BEAUCANT WAS THE BATTLE FLAG OF THE ANCIENT TEMPLARS. IT IS HALF WHITE AND HALF BLACK; SIGNIFYING THAT THOSE CHRISTIAN WARRIORS WERE FAIR AND FAVORABLE TO THE FRIENDS OF CHRIST, BUT DARK AND TERRIBLE TO HIS ENEMIES. WE BEAR THIS BANNER IN MEMORY OF OUR ANCIENT COMPANIONS, AND AS AN INCENTIVE TO EMULATE THEIR SELF-SACRIFICE AND DEVOTION.**

*STB RETURNS BEAUCANT TO ITS STATION WITHOUT COMMAND, OVER THE SAME ROUTE, RETURNS TO HIS STATION AND REMAINS STANDING.*

**SIR KNIGHTS, ATTENTION! DRAW, SWORDS. ONLY THOSE KNIGHTS IN THE FRONT ROW OBEY THIS COMMAND. STANDARD GUARD! SWB & W RISE AND COME TO CARRY. DISPLAY THE UNITED STATES FLAG.**

*WHEN FLAG IS REMOVED FROM THE STAND. SIR KNIGHTS, PRESENT, SWORDS.*

*CC DOES HAND SALUTE. ALL KNIGHTS WITH DRAWN SWORDS COME TO PRESENT, EXCEPT OFFICERS, WHO COME OFFICER'S PRESENT. ALL OTHER KNIGHTS DO A HAND SALUTE.*

*THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER MAY BE PLAYED OR SUNG. IF SO, STAY AT PRESENT. WHEN FINISHED:*

**SIR KNIGHTS, CARRY, SWORDS!**

**SIR KNIGHT, IN CONCLUDING THE CEREMONY OF YOUR KNIGHTING, WE DIRECT YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FLAG OF OUR BELOVED COUNTRY. IT IS ALWAYS DISPLAYED IN THE EAST OF EVERY TEMPLAR ASYLUM WHERE IT IS ACCORDED THE POSITION OF HIGHEST HONOR. IT IS A CONSTANT INSPIRATION TO EVERY LOVER OF HIS COUNTRY, TO EVERY TRUE KNIGHT OF THE CROSS. IT DEMANDS UNSWERVING LOYALTY AND WHOLEHEARTED DEVOTION TO THE PRINCIPLES OF WHICH IT IS THE GLORIOUS REPRESENTATIVE. IT IS THE MAJESTIC SYMBOL OF FREEDOM UNDER CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT. BENEATH ITS PROTECTING FOLDS LIBERTY, EQUALITY AND FRATERNITY HAVE BECOME THE HERITAGE OF EVERY CITIZEN, WHILE THE OPPRESSED OF MANY NATIONS HAVE FOUND PEACE AND HAPPINESS IN THE LAND OVER WHICH IT FLOATS. THE FLAGS OF MIGHTY EMPIRES HAVE COME AND GONE, BUT THE STARS AND STRIPES REMAIN. ALONE OF ALL FLAGS IT EXPRESSES THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PEOPLE WHICH ENDURES WHEN ALL ELSE PASSES AWAY. SPEAKING WITH THEIR VOICE IT HAS THE SANCTITY OF REVELATION. HE WHO LIVES UNDER IT AND IS LOYAL TO IT, IS LOYAL TO TRUTH AND JUSTICE EVERYWHERE. SO LONG AS IT FLIES, GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE SHALL NOT PERISH FROM THE EARTH.**

**STANDARD GUARD, RETURN THE FLAG TO ITS STATION IN THE EAST.**

**SIR KNIGHT, PRESENT, SWORDS!**

*WHEN COLOR GUARD REPLACES FLAG: SIR KNIGHTS, CARRY, SWORDS!*

*WHEN COLOR GUARD BACK IN POSITION: SIR KNIGHTS, RETURN SWORDS. COMMAND OBEYED BY KNIGHTS ON THE SIDELINES, H, CG & G. BE SEATED.*

*CC CONDUCTS H TO THE SIDELINES AND SEATS HIM, THEN RETURNS TO HIS STATION AND IS SEATED.*