

CHAPTER VI

INSTALLATION OF LODGE OFFICERS

No brother, elected or appointed to office, in a chartered Lodge can enter upon the discharge of his duties until installed. The officers of the Lodge under dispensation cannot be installed, and therefore acquire no rank by such service. The officers of a newly constituted Lodge are installed by the Grand Master or his proxy, and he may at pleasure, install the officers of any Lodge. With this exception, it is the right and duty of every Master to install, or have installed, his successor, either on the evening of election, or on or before the next stated meeting. Any Past Master, in good standing, of a chartered Lodge, is authorized to install a Master-elect. Then, assisted by a brother, usually a Past Master, acting as Marshal, the installation service proceeds.

When the Master is installed, he has the right to install the other officers, except at the constitution of a new Lodge, or when the Grand Master or his proxy may officiate. He usually waives this right, and requests the brother who installed him to proceed. No officer can be installed by proxy, hence an absentee must be installed by the Master at a subsequent meeting. If an objection is made to the installation of the Master, and the Installing Officer deems the same sufficient, he postpones the services until the Grand Master decides what to do. If objection is made to any other elected brother, the installation proceeds, except as to his office. An installed officer hold his office until his successor is installed but if re-elected, he must be re-installed. Public installations are permitted.

If such public installation is held in the hall, the Lodge is formally opened on the third degree, after which the families and friends of the brethren are admitted, or the Lodge may be opened in an adjoining apartment. The exercises may be made more interesting by the use of vocal and instrumental music.

The following service is intended for the annual installation of Lodge officers, where the same brother officiates throughout, but may be used at any installation. It is also intended for use at the installation of the officers of a new Lodge, with such variation of language, as may be necessary to fit the occasion. If the Grand Master or other officer of high rank officiates, he will be addressed by his proper Grand or other title.

The knocks of the gavel are never to be used in public.

ANNUAL INSTALLATION.

(The **Marshal** will see that the officers' jewels, the Deacons' and Stewards' rods, the Tyler's sword, the Book of Constitutions, the Charter, and the Lodge By-Laws are within reach, and so arranged that he can promptly hand them to the **Installing Officer** when required.

The **INSTALLING OFFICER** takes the East, and says:

Brethren of _____ Lodge, No _____, we are about to install your officers for the ensuing year.

Brother Secretary, announce the names of the officers-elect. (The Secretary does so.)

Installing Officer.- Brethren, you have heard the names of the officers-elect. If any of you know aught, why any of them should not be installed, let him speak now, or forever after be silent.

(After waiting a few moments and hearing no objections, he proceeds:)

Hearing no objection, I will proceed.

Brother Marshal, present the Master-elect to the East.

Marshal. - Worshipful Master, I present Brother _____ to be installed Master of this Lodge. He is of good morals and of great skill, true and trusty; and as he is a lover of our Fraternity, I doubt not that he will discharge the duties devolving upon him with fidelity.

Installing Officer.- (Calls up Lodge and says:) Let us pray.

PRAYER.

Most Holy and Gracious Lord God! We approach thee with reverence, and implore thy blessing on this brother, elected to preside over this Lodge. Fill his heart with thy love, that his tongue and actions may pronounce thy glory. Make him steadfast in thy service; grant him firmness of mind; animate his heart and strengthen his endeavors. May he teach thy judgments and thy laws, and be a true and faithful servant. Bless him, O Lord, and bless the work of his hands. Hear thou our prayer. Forgive our transgressions, and, finally, receive us into the Celestial Lodge above, where thou forever reigneth. Amen.

Response. So mote it be.

Installing Officer.- My Brother, place your right hand over your heart and repeat after me your official obligation:

I solemnly promise, upon the honor of a Mason, that in the office of Master of this Lodge, I will, to the best of my ability, strictly comply with the Constitution, Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota, the By-Laws of this Lodge, and all other ancient Masonic usages, so far as the same shall come to my knowledge.

(The brethren are seated. The following address, preceding the fifteen charges may be used or omitted at discretion.)

Installing Officer.- My Brother, you are now to be installed Master of this Lodge, with powers and prerogatives which are well nigh absolute. The interests of your Lodge, for weal or woe, will be in your keeping, during your term of office. The good resolutions, which doubtless you have formed, not to abuse or pervert these powers, I would gladly strengthen by a word of admonition. The very consciousness of the possession of a great power will ever make a generous mind cautious and gentle in

its exercise. To rule has been the lot of many, and requires neither strength of intellect nor soundness of judgment; to rule well has been the fortune of but few, and may well be the object of an honorable ambition. It is not by the strong arm, or the iron will that obedience and order, the chief requisites, are secured, but by holding the key to the hearts of men. To be Master of his Lodge is an honor to which any well-informed Master Mason may laudably aspire. The office is one of great antiquity, dignity and respect, but its incumbent, to rule well, should possess and practice several important requisites.

As a Man. he should be of approved integrity and irreproachable morals, free from the dominion of hasty temper and ill-governed passions; of good repute in the world, and, an example to his brethren, in practicing the cardinal virtues of Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice.

As a Citizen. he should be loyal to his government, obedient to its laws, prompt in the duties he owes to society, and a pattern of fidelity in all social and domestic relations.

As a Mason. he should cling to the old Landmarks, have a knowledge of the laws, language and literature of Freemasonry; be desirous to learn and apt to teach, accomplished in the work and lectures, prompt to aid and relieve, and ever mindful, that though elevated for a time above his fellows, he is elevated by them, and should cultivate everywhere and at all times, the Golden Tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

As an officer. he should remember, first of all, that he is an individual Mason, sharing in that respect a common lot with his brethren, and therefore be interested in the welfare of each and all. He should be neither unduly ostentatious nor overbearing. He should be accessible to all, and should cultivate the friendship and confidence of his associate officers. He should be willing to take counsel with his brethren, and ready to give it. He should be patient in investigation, deliberate in judgment, prompt in execution, forbearing with evil doers, and ready to reward good. He should be opposed to the restless spirit of innovation, watchful over the treasury, and devoid of favoritism and partiality. Such are some of the most important qualifications which a Master should possess, and the errors he should avoid. It may be that most, if not all, of us, have failed to reach this standard, but it should be your purpose to reach it, and thus be a bright and shining example to brethren who shall come after you.

[The **INSTALLING OFFICER** then addresses him:]

My Brother, previous to your investiture it is necessary that you should signify your assent to those Ancient Charges and Regulations which point out the duty of a Master of a Lodge.

1. You agree to be a good man and true, and strictly to obey the moral law.

2. You agree to be a peaceable citizen, and cheerfully to conform to the laws of the country in which you reside.

3. You promise not to be concerned in plots and conspiracies against government, but patiently to submit to the decisions of the constituted authorities

4. You agree to pay a proper respect to the civil magistrate, to work diligently, live creditably, and act honorably by all men.

5. You agree to hold in veneration the original rulers and patrons of Freemasonry, and their regular successors, supreme and subordinate, according to their stations; and to submit to the awards and resolutions of your brethren when in Lodge convened, in every case consistent with the Constitutions of the Fraternity.

6. You agree to avoid private piques and quarrels, and to guard against intemperance and excess.

7. You agree to be cautious in carriage and behavior, courteous to your brethren, and faithful to your Lodge.

8. You promise to respect genuine brethren, and to discountenance impostors and all dissenters from the original plan of Masonry.

9. You agree to promote the general good of society, to cultivate the social virtues, and to propagate the knowledge of the mystic art.

10. You promise to pay homage to the Grand Master for the time being, and to his officers when duly installed; and strictly conform to every edict of the Grand Lodge, or General Assembly of Masons, that is not subversive of the principles and groundwork of Masonry.

11. You admit that it is not in the power of any man, or body or men, to make innovations in the body of Masonry.

12. You promise a regular attendance on the committees and communications of the Grand Lodge, on receiving proper notice; and to pay attention to all the duties of Masonry, on convenient occasions.

13 You admit that no new Lodge shall be formed without permission of the Grand Lodge; and that no countenance be given to any irregular Lodge or to any person clandestinely initiated therein, being contrary to the Ancient Charges of Freemasonry.

14. You admit that no person can be regularly made a Mason in, or admitted a member of, any regular Lodge, without previous notice, and due inquiry into his character.

15. You agree that no visitors shall be received into your Lodge without due examination, and producing proper vouchers of their having been initiated in a regular Lodge.

These are the Regulations of Free and Accepted Masons. Do you submit to these Charges, and promise to support these Regulations, as all Masters have done in all ages before you?

(The Master answers:) I do.

My Brother, in consequence of your cheerful conformity to the Charges and Regulations of the Fraternity you are now to be installed Master of this Lodge, in full confidence of your care, skill, and capacity to govern the same. With pleasure I now invest you with this jewel of your office - the Square.

As the SQUARE is employed by Operative Masons to fit and adjust the stones of a building, that all its parts may properly agree, so you, as Master of this Lodge, are admonished by the symbolic meaning of the Square to preserve that moral deportment among the members of your Lodge which should always characterize good Masons, and to exert your authority to prevent ill-feeling or angry discussion arising, to impair the harmony of its meetings.

I now place in your care the furniture and implements of Masonry. The Holy Bible with the Square and Compass upon its open pages, is on the Altar, where it must always be when the Lodge is at Labor.

The HOLY WRITINGS, that Great Light in Masonry, will guide you to all truth; it will direct your paths to the temple of happiness, and point out to you the whole duty of man.

The SQUARE teaches us to regulate our actions by rule and line, and to harmonize our conduct by the principles of morality and virtue.

The COMPASS teaches us to limit our desires in every station, that, rising to eminence by merit, we may live respected, and die regretted.

The RULE directs, that we should punctually observe our duty; press forward in the path of virtue, and, neither inclining to the right nor to the left, in all our actions have eternity in view.

The LINE teaches the criterion of moral rectitude, to avoid dissimulation in conversation

and action, and to direct our steps to the path
which leads to immortality.

The BOOK OF CONSTITUTIONS you are to search at all times. Cause it to be read in your Lodge, that none may pretend ignorance of the excellent precepts it enjoins.

You now receive in charge this CHARTER, by the authority of which this Lodge is held. Without its presence you cannot open your Lodge. You are, therefore, to preserve it carefully, and transmit it safely to your successor.

You will also receive in charge the BY-LAWS of your Lodge, which you are to see carefully and punctually executed.

Lastly, I place in your hand this GAVEL, the emblem of your authority. [Explains its use except in public installations. There he will say "You have already been instructed in its use."] Use it firmly, but not arbitrarily, to the end that peace and harmony may prevail among your brethren.

I now conduct you [clasps his hand] to the oriental chair, and cover you with that distinction which, in this Lodge, it is alone your privilege to wear. [Places a hat upon his head and says:] Call up the brethren. [The Master does so.]

I now hail you as Master of this Lodge.

Master, behold your brethren.

Brethren, behold your Master, and unite with me in giving him the Grand Honors.

[The Grand Honors vary, according as the installation is public or private. If the installation is private-

The Marshal then forms a procession of the brethren, who march in single file, three times around the hall, signifying their respect and obedience by the usual distinctive signs in the several degrees; during or after which, the following Master's Installation Ode may be sung, or if preferred, the Installation Ode found in the Grand Lodge Installation service, which follows this.]

Air: Balerma.

Behold, O, Master in the East,
What glories greet thee there;
What floods of radiance earthward stream;
The sun is rising fair.
Behold, O, Master, glorious arts
Were cradled in the East;
Behold what sciences came forth
Man's waking mind to feast.
O Master, in thy symbolled East,
Seek wisdom from above.
And spread the light which heaven shall send,
Within thy Lodge in love.

[If the ceremonies are in public, the procession will be dispensed with, and it and the Ode may be omitted if time is limited.

The new **Master** will seat the brethren, after which he may address the Lodge. He will then announce his appointed officers, will uncover, vacate the East for the time being, and hand the gavel to the **Installing Officer** (if the latter has been requested to complete the service), who will proceed with the installation.]

Installing Officer. Brother Marshal, present the other officers-elect and appointed for obligation (Done.)

Installing Officer. You will each place your right hand over your heart, and repeat after me your official obligation:

I solemnly promise upon the honor of a Mason, that I will serve this Lodge in the office to which I have been elected, or appointed, and will perform all the duties pertaining thereto, to the best of my ability.

(They will then be seated, and will be presented severally by the **Marshal** in the order of their rank, as follows.)

Worshipful Master: I present to you Brother _____, to be installed as _____.

(As each officer is installed, he will be conducted to his station or place, during which there should be strains of instrumental march music, or the singing of an ode, or both.

(The Installing Officer will deliver the several charges as follows:]

TO SENIOR WARDEN.

My Brother, you have been elected Senior Warden of this lodge, and I now invest you with this jewel of your office, - the Level.

The LEVEL demonstrates that we are descended from the same stock, partake of the same nature, and share the same hope; and, though distinctions among men are necessary to preserve subordination, yet no eminence of station should make us forget that we are brethren; because a time will come, and the wisest knows not how soon, when all distinction but that of goodness shall cease, and death, the grand leveler of human greatness, reduce us to the same state.

Your regular attendance on the meetings of the Lodge is essentially necessary. In the absence of the Master you are to govern this Lodge; in his presence you are to assist him in the government of it. I firmly rely on your knowledge of Masonry and attachment to the Lodge for the faithful discharge of the duties of this important trust.-
Look well to the West.

(He is conducted to his station.)

Continue Ode. Air: **Balerna.**

O, Warden, with thy Level poised,
What lesson dost thou give?
Are all men equal? Shall the worm
On king and peasant live?
O, Warden, where King Hiram stood,
Like him, seek strength above;
Sustain the East, pay all their dues,
Protect the weak in love.

(The Junior Warden is presented.)

TO JUNIOR WARDEN.

My Brother, you have been elected Junior Warden of this Lodge, and I now invest you with the jewel of your office,- the Plumb.

The PLUMB admonishes us to walk uprightly in our several stations, to hold the scale of justice in equal poise, to observe the just medium between intemperance and pleasure, and to make our passions and prejudices coincide with the line of duty.

To you is committed the superintendence of the Craft during the hours of refreshment; it is, therefore, indispensably necessary that you should not only be temperate and discreet in the indulgence of your own inclinations, but carefully observe that none of the Craft be suffered to convert the purposes of refreshment into intemperance and excess

Your regular and punctual attendance is particularly requested; and I have no doubt that you will faithfully execute the duty which you owe to your present position.- Look well to the South.

[He is conducted to his station.]

Continue Ode. Air: **Balerna.**

O, Warden, with thy Plumb upraised,
What doth the emblem teach?
Do all the Craft uprightly walk,
And practice what they preach?
O, Warden, where the Faithful One
Observed the glorious sun
Like him adorn with Beauty still
The work by him begun.

[The Treasurer is presented.]

To TREASURER.

My Brother, you have been elected Treasurer of this Lodge, and I now invest you with the jewel of your office.

It is your duty to receive all moneys from the hands of the Secretary, keep just and regular accounts of the same, and pay them out at the Worshipful Master's will and pleasure, with the consent of the Lodge.

I trust your regard for the Fraternity will prompt you to the faithful discharge of the duties of your office.

[He is conducted to his place, and the Secretary is presented.]

TO SECRETARY.

My Brother, you have been elected Secretary of this Lodge and I now invest you with the jewel of your office.

It is your duty to observe the Worshipful Master's will and pleasure, to record the proceedings of the Lodge; to receive all moneys and to pay them into the hands of the Treasurer.

Your good inclination to Masonry and this Lodge I hope, will induce you to discharge the duties of your office with fidelity, and by so doing you will merit the esteem and applause of your brethren.

[He is conducted to his place, and the Deacons are presented.]

TO LODGE EDUCATION OFFICER

My Brother, you have been appointed as the Lodge Education Officer of this Lodge and I now invest you with the jewel of your office - The lamp of knowledge.

The Lamp of Knowledge reminds us that no Mason can possess the philosophy or inculcate the tenets of Masonry without sound education and life-long learning. Knowledge must enlighten the mind and heart for the application of our ideals. You must help to guide this Lodge toward the delightful light of knowledge and concern. By your assistance and encouragement, you will help the brothers of all degrees to study and enjoy Ancient Craft Masonry. Your coordination of monthly educational programs and activities will be cheerfully received and eagerly expected.

Your early and regular attendance upon the Communications of the this Lodge, is necessary and expected, and I rely upon you to carefully meet this requirement.

NOTE: Station of the Lodge Education Officer will be to the immediate left of the Worshipful Master in the East.

TO DEACONS.

Brethren, you are appointed Senior and Junior Deacons of this Lodge, and I now invest you with the jewels of your office, and place in your hands these BLACK RODS, which you will bear, in the performance of official duty, as symbols of your deputed authority.

It is your province to attend on the Master and Wardens, and to serve as their proxies in the active duties of the Lodge, such as the reception of candidates into the different degrees of Masonry, the introduction and accommodation of visitors, and in the immediate practice of our rites.

The SQUARE AND COMPASS as badges of your office are entrusted in your care, not doubting your vigilance and attention.

[They are conducted to their places, and the Chaplain is presented.]

TO CHAPLAIN.

My Brother, you are appointed Chaplain of this Lodge, and I invest you with this jewel. It is your special duty to conduct the devotions of the Lodge, and bear before the throne of Heavenly Grace the spiritual needs of your brethren. In all your intercourse with them, it is expected that you will "point to Heaven and lead the way."

[He is conducted to his place, and the Stewards are presented.]

TO STEWARDS.

Brethren, you are appointed Senior and Junior Stewards of this Lodge, and I now invest you with the jewels of your office, and place in your hands these WHITE RODS, which you will bear in the performance of your official duties.

It is your duty to assist the Deacons and other officers in the discharge of their duties, and to see that the tables are properly furnished at refreshment and that every brother is suitably provided for. It is also your duty to aid in the introduction of candidates, and as from you the first impression of our Institution is received by them, you should be particularly careful, by the seriousness of your deportment, to properly prepare them for the dignified and important ceremonies of initiation. Your regular and early attendance will afford the best proof of your zeal and attachment to the Lodge.

[They are conducted to their places, and the Marshal is presented.]

TO MARSHAL.

My Brother, you are appointed Marshal of this Lodge. I invest you with this BATON, as the appropriate badge of your office. It is your duty to form and conduct processions of the Lodge on all public occasions, and to attend to such other interests in the practice of our rites, as the Master shall direct

[He is conducted to his place, and the Tyler is presented.]

TO TYLER.

My Brother, you have been appointed Tyler of this Lodge, and I now invest you with the jewel and the instrument of your office.

As the SWORD is placed in the hands of the Tyler to enable him effectually to guard against the approach of cowans and eaves-droppers, and suffer none to pass or repass but such as are duly qualified so it should admonish us to set a guard over our thoughts, a watch at our lips, and post a sentinel over our actions; thereby preventing every unworthy thought, word, or deed, and preserving consciences void of offense toward God and toward man.

Your early and regular attendance upon the Communications of the Lodge, is necessary and expected, and I rely upon you to carefully meet this requirement.

[He is conducted to his place, and the Installing Officer addressing the Master, who rises, says:]

CHARGE.

Worshipful Master! (He rises.) The superintendence and government of the brethren who compose this Lodge having been committed to your care, you cannot be insensible of the obligations which devolve on you as their head; nor of your responsibility for the faithful discharge of the important duties of your position.

The honor, reputation and usefulness of your Lodge will materially depend on the skill and assiduity with which you manage its concerns, while the happiness of its members will be generally promoted, according to the zeal and ability with which you disseminate the genuine principles of our Institution.

For a pattern of imitation consider the great luminary of nature, which, rising in the east, regularly diffuses light and luster to all within its circle. In like manner it is your province to spread and communicate light and instruction to the brethren of your Lodge. Forcibly impress upon them the dignity and high importance of Masonry; and seriously admonish them never to disgrace it. Charge them to practice out of the Lodge those duties which they have been taught in it; and, by amiable, discreet, and virtuous conduct, to convince mankind of the goodness of the Institution; so that when a man is said to be a member of it, the world may know that he is one to whom the burdened heart may pour out its sorrows; to whom distress may prefer its suit; whose hand is guided by justice, and whose heart

is expanded by benevolence. In short, by a diligent observance of the By-Laws of your Lodge, the Constitutions of Masonry, and, above all, the Holy Scriptures, which are given as a rule and guide to your faith, you will be enabled to acquit yourself with honor and reputation, and lay up a crown of rejoicing, which shall continue when time shall be no more.

Brother Senior and Junior Wardens! [They rise.]

You are too well acquainted with the principles of Masonry to warrant any distrust that you will be found wanting in the discharge of your respective duties. Suffice it to say that what you have seen praiseworthy in others, you should carefully imitate; and what in them may have appeared defective, you should in yourselves amend. You should be examples of good order and regularity; for it is only by a due regard to the laws, in your own conduct, that you can expect obedience to them from others. You are assiduously to assist the Master in the discharge of his trust, - diffusing light and imparting knowledge to all whom he shall place under your care. In the absence of the Master, you will succeed to higher duties. Your acquirements must, therefore, be such that the Craft may never suffer for want of proper instructions. From the spirit which you have hitherto evinced, I entertain no doubt that your future conduct will be such as to merit the applause of your brethren and the testimony of a good conscience.

Brethren of _____ Lodge! [The Lodge is called up.] Such is the nature of our Constitution, that as some must of necessity rule and teach, so others must learn to submit and obey. Humility in both is an essential duty. The officers who are appointed to govern your Lodge are sufficiently conversant with the rules of propriety and the laws of the Institution to avoid exceeding the powers with which they are entrusted; and you are of too generous dispositions to envy their preferment. I, therefore, trust that you will have but one aim, to please each other, and unite in the grand design of being happy and communicating happiness.

Finally, my brethren, as this Association has been formed and perfected in so much unanimity and concord, in which we may greatly rejoice, so may it long continue. May you long enjoy every satisfaction and delight which disinterested friendship can afford. May kindness and brotherly affection distinguish your conduct as men and as Masons. And may the tenets of our profession be transmitted through your Lodge, pure and unimpaired, from generation to generation.

Brother Marshal, make the proclamation.

Marshal. I am directed to proclaim, and I do hereby proclaim, that the Master, Wardens, and other officers, elected and appointed, of. _____
_ Lodge, No. _____, have been regularly installed into their respective stations and places for the ensuing year All interested will take due notice, and govern themselves accordingly.

[The Installing Officer surrenders the East, and the Gavel, to the Master, who will seat the brethren, and assume full charge of any exercises or business that may follow; closing his Lodge in form if in private, if in public retiring to an adjoining room or waiting until those not Masons retire otherwise.]