

CEREMONY OF INSTALLATION OF A CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS

<i>Installing Officers:</i>	<i>I.O.:</i>	<i>Installing High Priest</i>
<i>Mar:</i>		<i>Installing Marshall</i>
<i>Chap:</i>		<i>Chaplain</i>

Only a Past High Priest is qualified to conduct the installation of officers in a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. The Chapter having been, regularly opened, and at labor, the Installing Officer is asked to take charge, the officers vacating their several stations. The Installing Officer will designate some companion to act as Marshal, and another to serve as chaplain.

It is suggested that the officers-elect retire to the anteroom and march in, under direction of the Marshal, assuming place in front of the altar. If the officers have not been informed of their appointment, their names should be read before they retire.

(After officers-elect enter, and stand at altar)

Mar: Excellent Companion: I here present for installation the companions who have been selected to serve this chapter for the ensuing year, and who present themselves for installation.

I.O.: *(Calls up the chapter)* *** We are taught in symbolic Freemasonry never to engage in any great or important undertaking without first invoking the aid and blessing of Deity. Companion Chaplain, you will lead us in prayer.

Chap: Most Holy and Glorious Lord God, Grand High Priest of Heaven and Earth, we approach Thee with reverence and humility, and implore Thy blessings on these companions who have been selected to preside over this, our ancient fraternity. Fill him who is to preside over us, with Thy fear, that his tongue and actions may pronounce Thy will. Make him steadfast in Thy service; grant him firmness of mind, and kindness of disposition; teach him to rule his brethren with justice and equity; animate his heart, and strengthen his endeavors to do good. May he inculcate Thy judgments and laws, and do all that his high office requires, with an eye single to Thy glory and the good of the Royal Craft.

Bless him, and bless those whom Thou hast put under him, and grant that when we shall have finished the work of this earthly temple of the body, we may be admitted to the glories of that second temple, which is of the spirit, eternal in the heavens. Amen.

(So mote it be.)

I.O.: * My companions, before installing you into your respective stations, it becomes necessary for you to take an obligation of office. You will therefore speak your names, and repeat after me:

I _____ do solemnly promise that I will faithfully perform all of the duties of the office to which I have been selected to the best of my ability, and that I will support and maintain the Constitution, Laws and Edicts of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri, together with those of the General Grand Chapter, to the best of my ability. So help me God.

(The obligation having been administered, the Marshal will present the high-priest-elect in front of the altar)

Mar: Excellent Companion, I present Companion _____ who has been selected to serve as **High Priest** of this Chapter.

I.O.: The office into which you are to be installed is one highly honorable to all those who diligently perform the important duties annexed to it. Your reputed Masonic knowledge precludes the necessity of a particular enumeration of those duties, but I shall propose certain questions to

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you, relative to the duties of your office, to which I must require your unequivocal answer: You will hear all the questions and then give your response.

1. Do you solemnly promise that you will redouble your endeavors to correct the vices, purify the morals, and promote the happiness of those of your companions who have attained to this sublime degree?
2. That you will never suffer your chapter to be opened unless there be present nine regular Royal Arch Masons?
3. That you will never suffer, neither more nor less than three brethren, to be exalted in your chapter at one and the same time?
4. That you will not exalt anyone to this degree who has not shown a charitable and humane disposition, or who has not made a suitable proficiency in the foregoing degrees?
5. That you will promote the general good of the fraternity, and, on all proper occasions, be ready to give and receive instruction, and particularly from General or State Grand Officers?
6. That to the utmost of your power, you will preserve the solemnities of our ceremonies, and behave, in open chapter, with the most profound respect and reverence as an example to your companions?
7. That you will not acknowledge or have intercourse with any chapter that does not work under a constitutional warrant or dispensation?
8. That you will not admit any visitor into your chapter who has not been exalted in a chapter legally constituted, without his having been formally healed?
9. That you will observe and support such bylaws, as may be adopted by your chapter, in conformity to the General Grand Chapter, and those of the Grand Chapter of Missouri?
10. That you will pay respect and due obedience to the instructions of the several Grand Officers, particularly those relating to the several lectures and charges, and will resign your station to them, severally, when they may visit your chapter?
11. That you will support and observe the General Grand Chapter Constitutions, and the General Regulations of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Missouri.

Do you submit to all these things, and do you promise to observe and practice them faithfully?

(I do.)

I.O.: In consequence of your reply to these charges, you are qualified for installation as **High Priest**, and it is now incumbent on me to point out some of the particular duties appertaining to your office and dignity.

Companion Marshal you will invest the Companion with the Insignia of his office.

The **High Priest** of every Chapter has it in special charge to see that the bylaws of his Chapter, as well as the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, and the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of Missouri, are duly observed; that all the officers of his Chapter perform the duties of their respective offices; that true and accurate records of the proceedings of the Chapter are kept by the secretary; that the treasurer keep and render a just account of all monies and property of the Chapter; that the proper returns be made annually to the Grand Chapter; that the annual dues to the Grand Chapter be punctually paid. He has the right and authority of calling his Chapter

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together at pleasure, upon any emergency or occurrence, which in his judgment, may require convocation. It is your privilege and duty, together with the King and Scribe to attend the meetings of the Grand Chapter, either in person, or proxy; and the well being of the institution requires that this duty should on no occasion be omitted. ***

Installing Marshal, you will conduct the Excellent High Priest to his station in the East. Excellent High Priest, behold your Companions, Companions, behold your Excellent High Priest.

Mar: Companions, the Grand Honors. *** *** ***

I.O.: Companion _____ You have been elected as **King** of this Chapter, and will now assume the duties of your station. It will be your duty to aid and support your chief in all the requirements of his office, and in his absence, you are to preside.

Companion Marshal, You will invest the Companion with the Insignia of his Office and conduct him to his station.

Companion _____ You have been elected **Scribe** of this Chapter, and will now assume your station. In the absence of both the High Priest, and the King it will be your duty to preside.

Companion Marshal, You will invest the Companion with the Insignia of his Office and conduct him to his station.

Companion _____ You have been elected **Treasurer** of this Chapter, you will now enter upon the discharge of your duties. These you will perform with fidelity and care, thus proving your devotion to our Fraternity.

Companion Marshal, You will invest the Companion with the Insignia of his Office and conduct him to his station.

Companion _____ You have been elected **Secretary** of this Chapter, and will now assume your office. Your duties are most important, requiring promptness, accuracy, and fidelity. Let your record and your conduct command the approval and merit the confidence of your Companions.

Companion Marshal, You will invest the Companion with the Insignia of his Office and conduct him to his station.

Companion _____ You have been appointed **Captain of the Host**, and will now assume your duties. Be ever attentive to the commands of your chief, and prompt to see them executed.

Companion Marshal, You will invest the Companion with the Insignia of his Office and conduct him to his station.

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Companion _____ Having been appointed you will now assume your duties as **Principal Sojourner** of this Chapter. Be fervent and zealous in the discharge of your duties. He who brings the blind by a way that they knew not, and leads them into paths they have not known should ever be qualified to make darkness light before them and crooked things straight. Companion Marshal, You will invest the Companion with the Insignia of his Office and conduct him to his station.

Companion _____, having been appointed **Royal Arch Captain** of the Chapter, you are now invested with the Badge of your office. It is your province to assist the Captain of the Host in all the requirements of his office, attend to the examination of visitors, and see that none are permitted to enter the Chapter, but such as have traveled the rugged path of trials and evinced their titles to our favor and friendship. And should they be permitted to pass your post, they may, by him, be introduced into the presence of the Grand Council in the East. Be diligent in the discharge of your duties.

Companion Marshal, you will conduct the Royal Arch Captain to his station.

Companions _____, _____ and _____, as **Veils** have been placed for the purpose of protecting the approaches of our sacred tabernacle, so it is necessary to have guards stationed to see that none who are unworthy are admitted. Be diligent in the discharge of your duties.

Companion Marshal, You will invest the Companions with the Insignia of their Office, and conduct them to their stations.

Companion _____ You have been appointed **Sentinel** of this Chapter, and will now assume the duties of your Office. Be attentive, vigilant, and faithful.

Companion Marshal, You will invest the Companion with the Insignia of his Office and conduct him to his station.

Companion _____ You have been appointed **Chaplain** of this Chapter. It will be your duty to offer our thanks to deity, and implore His blessing upon our works.

Companion Marshal, You will invest the Companion with the Insignia of his Office and conduct him to his station.

*** *(calls up officers and members)*

The Officers of this Chapter have now been regularly charged and inducted into their respective stations.

Companion Marshal, You will declare the Officers duly installed.

Mar: In the name of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri, I proclaim the Officers of _____ Chapter No. _____ duly installed. All interested Companions will take due notice and govern themselves accordingly.

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Companion Marshal you will lead the craft in the Grand Honors.

Mar: Companions, the Grand Honors. *** *** ***