

## SECOND DEGREE;

OR

## ASSEMBLY OF SIRES AND MATRONS.

### OPENING.

The Most Worthy Judge takes the Chair, and calls the meeting to order—then says:

Brother Instructor, we are about to open an Assembly of Sires and Matrons. You will satisfy yourself that all present are of such, and worthy.

The Instructor examines all present—receiving from each the second degree password, and, if satisfied, reports:

Most Worthy Judge, I am satisfied that all present are duly qualified.

*M. W. J.*—The officers and members will please be clothed, and take their places.

Three raps—all rise.

Brother Sires and Sister Matrons, *hear the words of our immaterial Alpha.*

As ye progress in numbers, even so will I. And behold, we will go before you. As ye are prepared, so will you receive.

Your children, groping for light, in the darkness, shall receive it.

Your Sires and Matrons are the circle of true Brothers and Sisters.

Your Judges shall be honorable among mankind.

Your Chiefs will lead you against darkness.

Your High and Mighty Counsellors shall be the wise of the Earth. And my Myriads will touch them with a living Fire, that all may behold and rejoice.

Your Chief Patriarch—I will never leave him.

Behold I have appointed the way.

*Brothers and Sisters, our Assembly is now opened.*

One rap—all are seated.

Brother Recording Secretary, you will please read the minutes of our last meeting.

After reading, the M. W. J. will say :

Brothers and Sisters, you have heard the minutes of our last meeting. If no objection be offered, they will be considered correct, and so signed.

The minutes are signed by the M. W. J., and attested by the R. Secretary.

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## CLOSING.

The M. W. J. will first ask :

Has any Brother or Sister any thing to offer for the good of our Institution, before we proceed to close this Assembly?

If not, the M. W. J. gives three raps (all rise) and says :

Brother Sires and Sister Matrons, *hear ye the words of our immaterial Alpha—*

Remember my numbers, that ye may be prepared : **5** is the number of my progress. **7** is the number of my power. **10** is the number when ye shall fill the earth, with peace; and knowledge shall be with all mankind.

*Brothers and Sisters, our Assembly is now closed.*

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NOTE—Should occasion absolutely require, the first and second degrees may be conferred at any time between the regular meetings, by the Most Worthy Judge, or any one he may authorize, (third degree member, if possible,) presiding, and appointing such officers *pro tem.* as may be necessary. All such official acts must be reported to the proper Assembly, (if the Recording Secretary be not present,) and the names entered on the books, and certificates issued, as in cases of adoption, &c., at the regular meeting.

## RECEPTION OF SIRES AND MATRONS.

*M. W. J.*—Brother Instructor, you will please ascertain if there are any candidates in waiting for this degree.

The Instructor retires, and procures a list of the names of the applicants desiring the second degree, with the names of their Families; also, their first degree certificate of membership. Returns and hands them to the Recording Secretary, who compares them with his Register; and if the applicants have completed their Families, and their certificates be correct, the Secretary so reports to the *M. W. J.*

*M. W. J.*—Brother Sires and Sister Matrons, Brothers — (— Sisters) —, whose Families have been duly adopted, desire to be received as members of this Assembly. We will now proceed to their reception. Brother Instructor, you will make the necessary arrangements for the introduction of the applicants.

The Instructor appoints a Conductor, arranges the stone, &c. The Conductor (accompanied by the Treasurer, who collects the fee,) retires to the ante-chamber. And having desired the applying Sires (— Matrons) to rise, says:

Brothers (— Sisters) we hope the purest motives alone have prompted you to desire to progress in our Institution; and having had evidence of your sincerity, by your adoption of a Family, we will now proceed to induct you into the higher truths of our Association. But it will be by slow degrees; and as you progress, you will be expected to undertake much labor in good works. Brothers (— Sisters) you have but little light yet, and you will receive but little more in this degree; but you will be made more acquainted with our purposes, and our means of accomplishing them; also, the general principles on which our language is based.

I will now conduct you to the Assembly of Sires and Matrons.

The applicants being conducted in, and placed in a semi-circle around the stone, facing the *M. W. J.*, are thus introduced by the Conductor:

Most Worthy Judge, I introduce to you Brothers — (— Sisters) —, entitled to receive the second degree.

The *M. W. J.* advances and says:

Brothers (— Sisters) I welcome you to our Assembly in the

name of all the Sires and Matrons present. We receive you into our fellowship, and will constantly endeavor, by our works, to draw together still closer the ties that bind us.

In addition to the obligations of secrecy, and the performance of good works, and the performance of no official acts in this degree without the sealed instructions of some higher authority—which obligations you here assent to?

*Ans.*—I do.

We now require, that you will never reveal, even to a Brother or Sister, the particular works in which you may be engaged, in this degree, or communicate any of the mysteries you may be made acquainted with, unless ordered to do so by some higher authority. You are, furthermore, not to reveal even the principles of this degree, or give, in any manner, any information of any kind, which you may ever here receive.

Do you assent to all the above, on your honor?

*Ans.*—I do.

I now invest you with the Regalia of this degree.

After investing them, the M. W. J. proceeds:

Brothers (— Sisters) our Institution, as is expressed on the Regalia you wear, is for all mankind, of all nations. It is intended to unite all mankind in the closest links of universal Union; for the spread of good-will and union among all. To set in order all things, to usher in that blessed and bright day, long expected and hoped for by mankind. Its image will be stamped upon the earth. And, in the midst of moral corruptions and religious controversies with which the world abounds, you are to stand forth a Band of true Brothers (— Sisters) and your zeal in the welfare of mankind, is to be illustrated by your works. You are to assist, by your example and influence, to render passive your fellow-man, that all may receive that knowledge, which, for the present, is reserved for us and ours.

Brothers (— Sisters) as you advance, you will find *Truth Stupendous Truth*. For *He* hath written with His finger in the Firmament of Heaven, and we and all mankind will read Him there.

Brothers (— Sisters) an Assembly never contains more than one hundred Sires and Matrons. The principal officers are—the Most Worthy Judge, the Instructor, the Secretaries, the Treasurer, the Guardians of the outer and inner doors. Each Assembly to hold its meetings at stated times, and at least once in six months. The password of this degree, at present, is—  
 \*\*\*\*\* All the officers are chosen once in six months.

The object of this Institution, is to harmonize and regenerate mankind, and to bring all under influences conducive to progress and enlightenment, and to place all in a position, where they may exercise practically, and for the advancement of humanity, those wonderful Truths of immaterial and material natures, which are dawning upon the world. With this view, its immaterial Alpha has endowed it with the first written language of man—that of *ideas*—to advance its progress. Once introduced unto any people, no power, government or combination, can resist its conquests. Brothers (— Sisters) we have to perform the work which we are directed to do; that task is at present the bringing of all mankind into our fold—in that we labor.

The Instructor will now give you further information in this degree.

The Instructor advances and says:

Brothers (— Sisters) I will now disclose to you the elementary principles, on which this language is founded; the higher applications are reserved for the higher degrees, which you will attain in proportion to the zeal and works you manifest. This language is read by the position of the dots, and in this degree is illustrated by the alphabet of your nation.

The key is divided into a space for each letter. The space the dot falls upon indicates the letter.

The position of the top or key letter may be changed, as this is changed, to C.

Sires (— Matrons) govern your Children with Wisdom; for such is the care and responsibility which your relationship to them implies.

The languages spoken by mankind are various, but the *ideas* they represent are universal. A language, to be universal, must be one of *Ideas*. Such a one has been given us, and is founded on these principles. Instead of the key being divided into letters, it consists of the two divisions of the material and immaterial. The animate being represented by the union, in different proportions according to their positions, of these two divisions. This arrangement, combined with that of progressive distances, includes the circle of man's ideas and knowledge; it forms a complete and progressive arrangement; and in its outer limits will contain the fullness of knowledge.

The world may be likened to a great Sea: this Institution, the mountain that is dropped into it. The action of this Institution, is the concentric wave which arises therefrom—overwhelming all discordant influences—washing the shores of Eternity.

Brothers (— Sisters) our language, like our Institution, is secret at present, that it may be more readily introduced among people whose rulers love not progress and light. But the time *will* come, when the vail of secrecy will be removed; and in that day, all will be able to read alone the will of the Creator; and may you be found among the worthy, who have assisted to regenerate mankind, by begetting them again into the Family of true Brothers and Sisters.

The stars of Heaven—the murmuring brook—the sea—the

land, and all Nature, continually express to man, in their glorious language, all Truths. They are the material expression of the Divine Mind, created for all mankind to read.

Brothers (— Sisters) you are now full members of this Assembly.

You will please be seated.

The M. W. J. will say :

Brother Secretary, have we any further business for this Assembly?

A short time is then devoted to the transaction of business (if any,) and the Assembly is closed in due form.

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## INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

Either of the following are authorized to act as Installing Officer—claiming precedence as here arranged:—1st. The Worthy Chief, or his Deputy, duly appointed. 2d. The Controller of Ceremonial Rules. 3d. Any member of the High Degree of Judges. 4th. A Most or Past Worthy Judge of another Assembly; or, 5th. The Past Worthy Judge of the Assembly.

The Installing Officer (being satisfied that the officers for installation have been duly chosen,) will take the Chair, and say :

Brother officers chosen, as your names are called, you will advance to the center of the hall,\* preparatory to receiving your obligations of office. The Recording Secretary will please call the names, beginning with that of the Worthy Judge.

When all are seated, the Installing Officer advances, and directs the Worthy Judge chosen to rise.

(To W. J.)—Worthy Brother (or Sister) you have been chosen Worthy Judge of this Assembly. Before assuming the responsibility of your office, it is proper you should assent to some of the regulations which point out the duty of a Most Worthy Judge of an Assembly of Sires and Matrons. These you will receive—placing the right hand upon your breast.

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\* Where a sufficient number of seats are arranged previously to installing.



*First.* You agree to be a peaceable citizen; to promote harmony, and prevent, if possible, all discord and improper strife and contention between members of this Order.

*Secondly.* You promise to be cautious in your behavior; courteous to the fraternity, and faithful to your Assembly.

*Thirdly.* You promise to respect genuine members of the Order, and to discountenance imposters from the original and true plan of the Institution.

*Fourthly.* You promise to pay due respect to the Worthy Chief, and to his officers, when visiting your Assembly; and strictly to conform to every edict of the High Degree of Judges, that is not subversive of the principles and ground-work of the Institution.

The Ritual, and other rules and regulations for the government of your Assembly, you will see punctually and faithfully executed. They are not to go out of your possession, unless so ordered by legal authority, except during the meetings of your Assembly, to proper persons in the discharge of official duties. The books and papers of your Assembly, are also under your supervision, and, to be delivered up, when so ordered, by legal authority.

These are the regulations of all well-governed Assemblies of Sires and Matrons. Do you submit to these charges, and promise to support these regulations, as Most Worthy Judge of this Assembly?

*Ans.*—I do.

Turning to the other officers—says:

Brother (— Sister) officers chosen—[*they rise*—] do you and each of you assent to these regulations, and promise, on your part, to fulfill them, so far as the same may be applicable to your several duties, as officers of this Assembly?

*Each ans.*—I do.

You will now repair to your respective places, and enter upon the duties of your office.



Turning to the M. W. J., says :

Most Worthy Brother, in consequence of your cheerful assent to these charges and regulations, I will now conduct you to your official Chair.—Hoping that you will faithfully execute the several duties which you owe to your present appointment.

Takes him by the hand and seats him. After which, the Installing Officer continues :

Most Worthy Judge, the third, or High Degree of Judges, is at present the highest known tribunal in the Patriarchal Order. And to it alone, and its duly accredited officers, you stand accountable in your official capacity. Any of its officers or members are authorized to preside in a Family or Assembly of Sires and Matrons; and to such, and such only, you will, if possible, entrust the duties of your official Chair, when not so occupied by yourself. Any member of the High Degree of Judges, in the absence of a special order from the Worthy Chief, is authorized to demand and receive the Ritual, or other books, or papers, belonging to, and in the possession of an Assembly.\* In transacting the business of your Assembly, you may first consult the views of its members, and then decide. The decision of a Most Worthy Judge, in all matters pertaining to the business of his Assembly, is the law, and to be implicitly obeyed by all members, until duly reversed by the Worthy Chief, or High Degree of Judges.

Appeals may be taken from the decisions of a Most Worthy Judge of an Assembly, to the Worthy Chief, or High Degree of Judges.

\* He receipts to the Most Worthy Judge of such Assembly for said books and papers, and reports, forthwith, to his Worthy Chief, his action in the premises, and his reasons therefor. Should there be a refusal, on the part of any officer or member (after being duly required) to deliver up such Ritual, books or papers, due and timely notice, with the reasons for such demand or refusal, shall be given to the Worthy Chief, or higher authority.

## FUNERAL CEREMONY.

Upon the death of a Most Worthy Sire or Matron, the Most Worthy Judge of the Assembly to which the deceased belonged, shall be duly notified, by some member of the Family.

The Most Worthy Judge, so notified, shall immediately repair to the late residence of the deceased, and, after conferring with and receiving the approbation of relatives and friends, proceed to make due arrangements for the burial of the body, to-wit:

*First.* Appoint six male and six female pall-bearers—four of whom, if possible, being taken from the Family, of which the deceased was a member.

*Secondly.* Appoint a Chief Marshal, with power to select assistants, if necessary.

*Thirdly.* Direct the Recording Secretary to call a meeting of all worthy members of the Order, at a suitable hour, to attend the funeral.

The female pall-bearers, immediately after their appointment, will repair to the late residence of the deceased, and superintend all in-door arrangements, dressing the body, &c. And the male pall-bearers will direct the out-door arrangements; procure the services of undertaker, if desirable, &c.

The members of the Order, being assembled in the hall, or some other convenient place, the Most Worthy Judge will take the Chair, and open in the first degree. After which, he will say:

Brothers and Sisters, we have convened, at this time and place, with a view to pay our last tribute of respect to the earthly remains of our deceased and beloved Brother — (or Sister) —. In performing this duty, you will be careful to see that order and decorum throughout be duly observed.

Brother Marshal, you will now proceed with the duties of our appointment.

The Marshal will say:

The officers and members will take their places in the line, as their positions are called.

## ORDER OF PROCESSION.

Guardians of the Outer and Inner Doors.

Choir of Singers.

Members—Male and Female.

Instructor and Adopting Officer.

Recording and Corresponding Secretaries.

Treasurer and Steward.

Past Worthy Judges of Assemblies.

Most Worthy Judge.

Male Pall-bearers.

In which order, proceed to the late residence of the deceased. The procession halts, and all in front of the M. W. J. open to the right and left, and face inward; the M. W. J. and male pall-bearers forming in single file, on a line with the left column.

The Marshal, followed by the female pall-bearers, carrying bouquets, or evergreens, proceed down through the columns, to a short distance below the male pall-bearers, counter-march—(the female pall-bearers separating into single column)—the Marshal joining with the M. W. J., and in like manner, the male with the female pall-bearers, as each in order come together. In this form, they pass up through the line (all male members uncovering the head as they pass,) and into the house.

The coffin, with the body, is brought out, borne by the male pall-bearers—preceded by the M. W. J., and followed by the female pall-bearers, with white pall. And the coffin, being placed on chairs (feet next the procession,) the cover is let down, so as to expose the face; the pall is laid over the coffin, and the Regalia of the deceased placed on the pall, near, or over the breast.

The Choir of singers, having taken a position outside, or a short distance from the coffin, commence an appropriate hymn, or ode; during the singing of which, the procession move forward, passing one on each side of the coffin, joining hands over it.

When all have thus passed, the coffin is taken up and placed into the hearse—the male pall-bearers, taking position on each side.

The Most Worthy Judge and Marshal (and the female pall-bearers, if they join the procession),\* proceed up through the line—(male members uncovering their heads, as they pass)—and the members severally turning in, joining, and following.

In which order, the procession, followed by the hearse and carriages, proceed to the grave; halting a short distance from it, open column, and face inward. The Marshal passes down through the line, and returns, followed by the hearse and carriages (male members uncovering their heads).

The coffin being taken from the hearse, by the male pall-bearers, is conveyed to and placed over the grave—preceded by the Most Worthy Judge and female pall-bearers, followed by the relatives and friends. At the grave, the Most Worthy Judge stands at the head; the Choir of singers behind him; the female pall-bearers on the right, and the male pall-bearers on the left side of the grave; and relatives and friends, at the foot of the grave.

The Marshal will direct the members in procession to close column, and conduct them around the grave, until a complete circle is formed, all standing in single column—facing inward.

The Most Worthy Judge uncovers his head, and, immediately afterward, all the Brothers. The M. W. J. then says:

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us, day by day, our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, and enable us to forgive those who trespass against us. Abandon us not in temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

The Regalia and pall is removed from the coffin, and the Most Worthy Judge continues:

Unto the dark and silent tomb, we resign the earthly body of our departed Brother (or Sister.)

\* It is optional with the female pall-bearers to go in the procession, or in carriages.

The coffin is then let down into the grave, and the M. W. J. continues :

And while the spirit is fled to accomplish its destiny in a better world, here lies the now useless tabernacle in the silent slumbers of the grave, to be dissolved into its original elements: earth to earth, and dust to dust.

The butterfly escapes its gross and rudimental body, and wings its way to the sunny bower, and is sensible of its new existence. The beautiful flower and foliage, being fully unfolded, become the representatives of light and beauty; but having attained their full perfection, soon begin their change, in form, in color, and in beauty of external appearance. Their fragrance goes forth and pervades all congenial forms; but their former beauty is indelibly impressed upon the memory of their beholder and admirer. As it is with these, so it is with the spirit. The body dies and returns to earth, while the spirit ascends to a higher habitation, more suited to its nature and requirements. What though this earthly tabernacle be dissolved? we have a house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens.—[*Holding up the evergreen*].—This evergreen is an emblem of our faith in the immortality of the soul. By this we are reminded of our high and glorious destiny beyond the grave; and that there dwells within us a vital spark, an imperishable, immortal soul, over which the grave has no dominion, and death no power.

The M. W. J. then drops it into the grave, and is followed by the Choir of Singers and others around the grave. And the pall-bearers, having moved up and joined the Choir of Singers, the members in procession, headed by the Marshal, march around the grave, each depositing the evergreen. During this, an appropriate ode, or hymn, is sung by the Choir.

The grave is then filled up (during the singing of another ode or hymn) the officers and members resume their places in the procession; and all return to the place whence they set out, &c., &c.

In large cities and other places, where the place of burial is too distant for all the members to go, they may proceed in form, to a convenient distance, halt, open column, face inward; when the Marshal will pass down through the line, and return, followed by the hearse and carriages. (All the Brothers uncovering their heads as they pass.)

The M. W. J. (or Instructor, in his absence) pall-bearers, Choir of Singers, and as many members as can go, take carriages, and proceed to the grave. While the Chief Marshal and M. W. J. (or Instructor) proceed back through the open column, and the members turning in and following (all Brothers uncovering their heads as the Marshal and M. W. J. approach, and so remain, until all have passed through.)

Returning to the place whence they set out, they either informally disperse, or the M. W. J. (or Instructor) takes the Chair, directs the examination of all present, as in opening; and, after directing the sympathies of the members to the relatives of the deceased, closes in due form.

☞ The proper funeral badge, is a white strip of crape, about a yard long, tied around the arm—(*left*, if the deceased be a female; or *right*, if a male)—just above the elbow. Female pall-bearers, a broad white crape, as a part of the head-dress.

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#### HIGH DEGREE OF JUDGES.

Should this body join in funeral, or other processions, it will follow immediately after the M. W. J. of the Assembly, (the male pall-bearers falling back and following the Worthy Chief.) The Worthy Chief officiating instead of the M. W. J., and the Controller of Ceremonial Rules, in place of the Instructor.

# EDICTS

FROM THE

## HIGH DEGREE OF JUDGES.

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Edicts from the High Degree of Judges, shall be communicated through a Special Messenger. The following order shall be observed, on its delivery :

The Special Messenger will advance to the door of the Family, or Assembly, give three loud distinct raps, and announce himself and mission to the Inner Guardian, who will thus announce it to the Worthy Judge :

Most Worthy Judge, a Messenger from the High Degree of Judges is in waiting, and desires to be received in due form.

*M. W. J.*—Brothers and Sisters, we will receive a message from the High Degree of Judges—[*Three raps—all rise.*—]—Brother Guardian, you will introduce the Messenger.

The Special Messenger enters. The Guardian takes him by the right arm—conducts him to the center of the hall. The Special Messenger salutes the *M. W. J.*, by raising the right hand to the breast. The salutation being returned by the *M. W. J.*, the Guardian will return to his post. The Special Messenger will then say :

Most Worthy Judge, I have the special honor of bearing a message from the High Degree of Judges ; which I am directed to deliver in due form.

*M. W. J.*—What is that due form ?

*S. M.*—Over two joined hands—emblematical, not only of the intimate relation in the several degrees, but also of that fidelity and kindred attachment, which should ever obtain, between all true members of our beloved Institution.

The *M. W. J.* descends. The Special Messenger advances, bearing the edict in his left hand. They meet, and join right hands. Special Messenger elevates the edict over the joined hands. The *M. W. J.* receives it in his left hand. They separate, and, after bowing to each other, the *M. W. J.* returns to his chair, (standing,) and Special Messenger to center of the hall. The Special Messenger gives the salutation, which is returned, and the Special Messenger retires. After which, the *M. W. J.* gives one rap, and when all are seated, opens and reads the edict.