

ΛΧΑ

11/9/1909



The  $\beta$   $\Theta$  should carry with him the Aspirant's black collar bearing the  $\Gamma$  monogram pendant so that he will be ready to place this about the neck of the Aspirant, over the white robe, just before the invocation. The  $\beta$   $\parallel$  carries with him the purple collar with  $\Xi$  pendant, so that it may be placed about the neck of the  $\Gamma$  at the time of the investiture.

### OFFICERS' REGALIA

The Officers wear brown robes with capes and hoods similar to those worn by mediaeval monks. The hoods are lined with purple, and a gray  $\Xi$  ornaments the front of the robe, the lower edges of the cape marking the  $\Xi$  arms and the center of the robe marking the vertical center of the  $\Xi$ . Officers wear collars as follows:

- $\beta$   $\gamma$ , gold with a Gavel on the pendant.
- $\beta$   $\beta$ , green with a Fasces on the pendant.
- $\beta$   $\parallel$ , green with a Scroll on the pendant.
- $\beta$   $L$ , green with a Quill on the pendant.
- $\beta$   $\perp$ , purple with a Key on the pendant.
- $\beta$   $\Theta$ , purple with a Torch on the pendant.
- $\beta$   $\zeta$ , purple with a Sword on the pendant.

Members should wear suits during the initiation ceremonies.

## INITIATION B—FIRST DEGREE

### ALTAR ARRANGEMENT

Altar cloth  
 Bible opened to Matthew 13:3  
 Bowl of sand  
 Grain of corn  
 Cushion before altar

The Rist should make certain that the prompter is ready. h D has a list of Is.

Officers take positions in back of altar in a semi-circle, left to right as follows: G, L, P, T, I, J, D. Officers remain standing throughout the ceremony.

Members are seated facing the altar. Doors should be guarded to insure privacy.

Is are led by members, single file, to the door of the initiation room where they can indistinctly hear the opening portions of the ceremony.

### ROLL CALL

h L—Brothers assigned to administer the first degree of V \* T will now answer to the roll call. (*Brothers answer by the Latin "ADSUM."*)

Brother Archon  
 Brother Basileus  
 Brother Grammatist  
 Brother Tamias  
 Brother Epistate  
 Brother Phylast  
 Brother Presbyter

h q—You will wait outside the portal until I ascertain our Brother Archon's pleasure concerning the admission of these Aspirants.

*h q closes door and advances to a position before altar.*

h q—Brother Archon, I find without our gate Aspirants properly qualified and suitably prepared to enter upon their journey in pursuit of wisdom in our mysteries.

h q—From official records under my seal I warrant the right of these candidates to admission.

### CHARGE TO BROTHERS

h q—Good Brothers, if there be any among you who have reason to believe that these Aspirants should not rightfully become our brothers, let him speak, for after they shall be within our Bond, naught may be said against them. *(Pause.)* Look well that our ceremonies are conducted with proper decorum. Brother Phylast, allow the Aspirants to be brought before our assembly.

*h q returns to door, which he opens.*

h q—By command of our Brother Archon, I bid you enter.

*h q enters with Aspirants.*

*h q closes door and returns to his regular position.*

## CIRCUMAMBULATION

If there is more than one I, all but the one chosen to participate for the others are positioned where they may have a good view of the proceedings. Blindfolds are removed from all but the participating I.

h D after passing once around the \* with the Aspirant, halts at Strength vertex of \*, then passes along Faith side of \* and halts at Purity vertex; and then, after passing around Passion vertex, halts before altar.

h I—(During course of circumambulation, the following should be spoken slowly enough so as to be finished precisely as h D and Aspirant halt before altar):

"Ask, and it shall be given you;  
Seek, and ye shall find;  
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

"For everyone that asketh, receiveth;  
And he that seeketh, findeth;  
And to him that knocketh, it shall be opened."

h D unbinds wrists of Aspirants and places the right hand of the leading candidate on the open Bible with the palm down. Right hands of remaining Is are raised.

## FIRST STATEMENT OF INTENTION

h †—Do you come before your Creator and before the brothers of V \* † with an earnest desire that we receive you into our comradeship and grant you the benefits of our Fraternity? If so, you will all answer, "I do."

*Aspirants—*I do.

h †—You will then kneel and place your right hand upon the Holy Bible, in a manner which will be shown you (*h † causes Aspirant to kneel at the altar, and places Aspirant's right hand upon the Holy Bible, with the knuckles bent, and the thumb extended*), and all repeat after me the obligation of this degree. (*Remaining Is are instructed to kneel, extend their right hands, and make the obligation sign of the first degree while taking the oath.*)

## FIRST DEGREE OATH

Of my own free will, / I (state your full name), / do promise and swear, / before God / and before the brothers of V \* †, / that I will for the rest of my life / abide by these solemn pledges: /

I will always give the principles / of V \* † / my earnest and sincere consideration, / and will, / throughout my whole life, / faithfully adhere / to the ideals / for which the Fraternity stands,

/ which its B teaches, / and which its  
emblems keep / constantly before my  
eyes. /

I will never reveal, / nor will I permit  
to become known / to any person / not  
a duly accepted candidate / of V \* D /  
any of the secrets of this Fraternity,  
/ nor will I ever reveal any of these /  
to a candidate of V \* D / except upon  
due authorization, / and in the manner  
prescribed / by the B of the Fraternity. /

To which I pledge my oath and faith, /  
in accordance with / the Christian teach-  
ings of this B / and as a gentleman. /  
For the least violation / I invoke upon  
myself / expulsion, / suspension, / or  
other lawful penalty. /

So help me God!

*h D raises Aspirants.*

*h D*—Brothers, this seeker after wisdom comes  
before us naked, entering our council  
chamber as when he first entered the world;  
symbolizing his utter ignorance, and needy  
state of soul. Thus he recognizes the need  
for further evolution, development and  
enlightenment which he is privileged to  
receive within our company. Brother Epi-  
state, let him be clothed in suitable raiment  
for his journey in search of wisdom which  
he is about to undertake.

h D places a white robe about Aspirant, tying it around the waist with a cord. Remaining 1s should be similarly clothed.

h P—This seeker is now to be garbed with the vesture of wisdom for the trammels of ignorance. May he be endowed with devotion to truth and passion for learning. Brothers, we accept this man as an Aspirant in the teachings of our order. Let him be vested with the regalia and badge of an Aspirant.

h D places black collar with V monogram pendant about neck of Aspirant over robe.

h P—Brother Basileus, you will proceed with the invocation.

h P signals to brothers to rise.

## INVOCATION

h P—Almighty Father, creator of heaven and earth, we beseech Thee to be with us. Bless our circle and the Aspirants who stand in our midst to be tried. We ask Thee to give them courage, to endow them with prudence and wisdom, that they may be true and faithful Brothers of V \* P all the rest of their lives. Amen.

*Brothers resume seats.*

h P—Brother Epistate, you will conduct the Aspirant to the station of Brother Presbyter for instructions.

blinded and hooded

h ③ leads Aspirant counterclockwise once completely around the ②, completing an imaginary circumscribed ○, and halts before the h ①.

### CHARGE TO ASPIRANTS

h ①—I must caution you, good Aspirants, that you are about to take a very grave step. You have seen us only from without; you do not know the strict rules which are within. You see only the advantages to be derived from membership; the enjoyment of one another's close friendship within the Bond; the right to wear the insignia of our order, and all the privileges of the Fraternity which are known to the outer world. But you do not know the deep devotion expected of those within the Bond; wherefore, bethink you, good Aspirants, whether you are able to bear all the hardships which you may encounter, for you should not seek the companionship of the Brotherhood that you may enjoy renown of place, power of wealth, or ease of body. Rather you should seek to develop yourself in the teachings of V \* ④, to be loyal to the ideals of the Fraternity in thought, word and deed, and at all times to render unto it such service as you may be able. Good Aspirants, I caution you to deliberate upon this important act.

h ① waits for 30 seconds.



## SECOND STATEMENT OF INTENTION

h ||—Have you well thought, and do each of you still desire to become a member of our Brotherhood? If so, you will each answer, "I do."

*Aspirants*—I do.

## SYMBOLIC LESSON

h >—Brother Epistate, you will make preparations for the first symbolic lesson of V \* >.

h @ *conducts Aspirant counterclockwise to a position before altar and removes blindfold.*

h || *steps to altar and picks up grain of corn, holding it between upraised fingers.*

h ||—This seed is withered and ugly, yet it contains that undefinable something which we call life. Men have examined every atom of such a seed and have been unable to tell us what life is. This bit of substance contains the potential ability to nourish itself, to regenerate lost or injured members, and to propagate its species. But this essence of life cannot be liberated unless favorable conditions surround it. Given good ground, light and water, the seed grows to beauty and usefulness. Take this seed, which Brother Epistate will assist you to plant.

h I hands seed to Aspirant. h D thrusts Aspirant's fingers into the sand, leaving the seed deposited. He then directs Aspirant to pat down and smooth the surface of sand.

h P—Brother Grammarist, pray interpret the meaning of this lesson.

h L—Behold, a sower went forth to sow, and as he sowed, some seeds fell by the wayside, and the fowls of the air came and devoured them.

Some fell upon stony places where they had not much earth, and forthwith they sprung up because they had no deepness of earth.

And when the sun was up, they were scorched, and because they had no root, they withered away.

And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprung up and choked them.

But others fell into good ground and brought forth fruit, some an hundred fold, some sixty fold, some thirty fold.

Good Aspirants, in choosing you as candidates we have done so believing you to be good ground in which to sow our precepts. May you so cultivate them that they will multiply and produce a rich harvest of good deeds.

## INVESTITURE

h P—Brother Presbyter, you will now invest the Aspirant with the emblem of this degree.

h I holds purple collar with H pendant up for inspection of Aspirants, then places it over black collar which is unsnapped and removed from neck of Aspirant.

### EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS AND MOTTO

h I—As this black collar is removed from your neck, so does the teaching of this degree dispel the darkness of your ignorance concerning our lesser mysteries. In its stead, I place about your neck a purple collar with a H pendant attached as a symbol of *Faith*. With this virtue go the attendant virtues of *Courage*, *Self-control*, *Dignity* and *Obedience*, which are achieved by diligent striving.

This is the great truth expressed in the Greek motto on our Coat of Arms, the ancient proverb *Chalepa Ta Kala* (Kah-lay-pah Tah Kah-lah'), meaning "Naught without labor." May you always cherish the virtue of *Faith*, persevering in the ideal of our open motto, which will spur you on to ever increasing usefulness.

### SUMMARY

h I—You have now completed the first part of your symbolic quest for wisdom in the mysteries of V \* D. You have traversed one side of the Eternal \*. This side (*points to it*) represents the spiritual virtue of *Faith*; and its opposite vertex (*points*) represents the physical virtue of *Passion*. You are

now advanced to a second stage, which is that of a Neophyte.

### RECEPTION

h †—This is the obligation sign of the first degree (h † holds out right hand with knuckles bent and thumb extended). Make it with me, and remember it. (h † and Neophytes give obligation sign.) This is the grip. (h † gives Neophytes degree grip, pressure with the thumb.) The obligation sign and grip are to remind you of the first part of your journey in quest of wisdom, and of the first part of your obligation.

The pass sentence of this degree is a summary of the symbolic lesson. It is, "I have planted the seed." Repeat it after me, and fix it in your mind. (h † and Neophytes repeat together: "I have planted the seed.") This is the lesson sign of this degree. (With thumb, forefinger and middle finger joined, h † makes motion of planting a seed; then, with flat of hand the motion of patting the earth three times, followed by three circular motions smoothing the earth.) Make it with me and remember it. (h † and Neophytes make lesson sign together.) The pass sentence and lesson sign are to remind you of the symbolic lesson.

You are now fully instructed initiates of this degree.

h ∅ blindfolds Neophytes and leads them out.

## SECOND DEGREE

### PREPARATION OF THE R ROOM FOR THE SECOND DEGREE

#### ALTAR ARRANGEMENT

Altar cloth

Bible opened to Luke 15:11

Two swords crossed upon open Bible,  
handles toward I

Cushion before altar

Greek lamp should be placed conveniently  
within reach and out of sight.

#### NEOPHYTE'S GARB

The Neophyte remains clothed in a white robe, and wears about his neck the purple collar with the  $\Xi$  pendant attached. He is blindfolded.

$\text{h} \text{D}$  should carry with him the green collar with the anchor pendant, to be placed about the neck of the initiate after the lamp scene.

#### CEREMONY

*The Rist should make certain that the prompter is ready and that all Neophytes are ready and waiting, blindfolded.*

*A guard should be placed at the door to insure privacy.*

$\text{h} \text{D}$ —Brothers, let us continue the initiation of the candidates who await further teaching in the mysteries of  $\text{V} * \text{D}$ .

h̄ Ɔ leaves initiation room to secure Neophytes.

**INDUCTION**

Neophytes are led by h̄ Ɔ to door of the initiation room. h̄ Ɔ \* \* \* \*—\* \*.

h̄ Ɔ answers summons at door, which he opens slightly.

h̄ Ɔ—If you are qualified to enter, give the meaning of the entrance symbols.

h̄ Ɔ whispers meaning of  $\mathbb{V} \times \mathbb{P}$ .

h̄ Ɔ—Brother Phylast, I bring with me Neophytes from without the Bond in search of further wisdom in the mysteries of  $\mathbb{V} \times \mathbb{P}$ .

h̄ Ɔ—By order of our Brother Archon, I bid you enter.

h̄ Ɔ enters with Neophytes.

h̄ Ɔ closes door and returns to his regular position.

**CIRCUMAMBULATION**

h̄ Ɔ, after removing blindfolds of non-participating  $\mathbb{I}$ s, leads participating Neophyte counterclockwise twice around  $\mathbb{A}$ , passing along an imaginary circumscribed circle, finally halting at strength vertex. He then passes along faith side and halts at purity vertex; passes along hope side and halts at passion vertex; and then circles to a position before altar, facing h̄  $\mathbb{P}$ .

Meanwhile  $\text{h } \perp$  says his part twice, concluding at precisely the same time as the circumambulation.

- $\text{h } \perp$ —Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.
- $\text{h } \text{A}$ —Brother Basileus, it is your privilege to supervise the instruction of this degree.

### EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS

- $\text{h } \text{B}$ —Brother Epistate, you will see that the necessary preparations are made; for we are about to present this Neophyte with the next symbols of our Brotherhood.

$\text{h } \text{D}$  causes Neophyte to extend his hands waist high toward altar.  $\text{h } \text{D}$  takes swords from altar and gives them to Neophyte, helping him to cross the blades on his palms, which he holds several inches above open Bible. If two or more candidates are initiated simultaneously, only the leading candidate should be required to hold the swords. The others remain standing.

- $\text{h } \text{B}$ —Good Neophyte, you are now holding the two swords of  $\text{V} * \text{A}$ . One of them represents the attribute of *physical strength*. The other represents the virtue of *moral courage*. We look to you to maintain with these swords and the emblems of *chivalry*, which you have seen represented on our blazoned arms, your fidelity to those things which we hold sacred, following in the true spirit

of V \* T, that your battle of life may be fought with honor to yourself and to the Brotherhood into which we welcome you.

*h D takes swords from Neophyte's hands and crosses them upon the open Bible.*

**h P**—Brother Epistate, you will now cause the Neophyte to kneel before the altar and to place his right hand upon the Bible and crossed swords in preparation for taking the oath of V \* T.

*h D places Neophyte's right hand on Bible and crossed swords, palm down, directing him in a whisper to kneel on the cushion before the altar. If there are several candidates, all should be required to answer the h P's questions.*

**h P**—Good Neophytes, do you still earnestly desire that we receive you into close comradeship, granting you the benefits and privileges of our order? If so, you will each answer, "I do."

*Neophytes—I do.*

**h P**—So be it. With your right hand resting on the Holy Scriptures and crossed swords, do you, in the presence of God above, and in the sight of all the brothers, reaffirm your acceptance of the Pledge Obligations of V \* T, without reservation or evasion? If so, you will each answer, "I do."

*Neophytes—I do.*



30  
h p—You will then place your right hand upon the Holy Bible in the manner which will be shown you, (h 3 places Neophyte's hand upon the Holy Bible, with the thumb and first finger extended, the other knuckles bent), and all repeat after me the obligation of this degree. (Remaining Is are instructed to kneel, extend their right hands, and make the obligation sign of the second degree, while taking the oath.)

### SECOND DEGREE OATH

Of my own free will, / I, (state your full name) / do promise and swear, / before God / and before the brothers of v \* p, / that I will for the rest of my life / abide by these solemn pledges: /

I will never join any local general fraternity / at this institution, / or any other national general fraternity / at any institution. /

I will abide by the laws and traditions / of v \* p, / and the rulings / of its officers. /

I will strive with the utmost diligence / for the upbuilding of the Fraternity, / within this 3 / and at other institutions. / I agree to be ever active and alert / to discover and bring into touch with the Fraternity / any students at

this and other institutions, / whose personalities, / ideals and attainments / are such as would make them / desirable members of our bond. /

To which I pledge my oath and faith, / in accordance with / the Christian teachings of this B / and as a gentleman. / For the least violation / I invoke upon myself / expulsion, / suspension, / or other lawful penalty. /

So help me God!

h̄ ∅ raises Neophytes.

### EXPLANATION OF MOTTO

h̄ ∅—Now that you have declared your fidelity to V \* ∅, you are worthy to learn the meaning of our first secret motto. You have heard Brother Epistate allude to the symbols inscribed upon the doorway of our chamber. These are the Greek letters ∅ and ∅ and are the initials of the words "Dedokamen Pistin" (Day-do-kah'-men pis-teen'). Translated, they mean, "....." This motto is secret. Its significance will be explained to you as you progress further in our teachings.

h̄ ∅—Brother Epistate, you will now prepare the Neophytes to receive the second symbolic lesson in V \* ∅.

h D blindsfolds Neophytes and conducts them out. Swords are removed, and lighted Greek lamp is placed on altar.

### SYMBOLIC LESSON

This portion of the R must be performed individually for each I. The others must be taken to a distant room to await their turns individually.

All lights in the room except the Greek lamp are extinguished.

A Neophyte is brought into the chamber.

Blindfold is removed by h D.

h B waits 15 seconds, then slowly advances to the altar. He picks up Greek lamp with both hands and extends it toward I.

h B—Take this light, good Neophyte, (h B pulls lamp back as I reaches for it) but let me caution you to consider well how you make use of it, that you fall not into error. (h B hands lamp to I and withdraws to his station.)

h D (Pauses 15 seconds, advances to Neophyte's side, and whispers.) Henceforth, I am not permitted to be your guide. You, yourself, must choose your path. (h D returns to his station.)

h L—(Pauses 15 seconds.) Bring your light to me, Neophyte, (h L pauses until Neophyte starts toward him. If Neophyte does not move, h L repeats command until he does.) ... that you may attain the reward of labor. (Neophyte moves toward h L.)