

FIRST DEGREE;

OR

FAMILY OF THE PATRIARCHS.

Before convening a Family of the Patriarchs, it will be the duty of the Instructor to appoint—

1. An *Assistant Instructor*—to attend to the Meal of Peace Table.
2. A *Conductor*—to introduce the proposing Sires (or Matrons) and their Families.
3. An *Assistant Conductor*—to first see that the proposing Sires (or Matrons) have the approbation of their Siles (or Matrons) to the selection made, and introduce the Families into the ante-chamber.
4. A *Special Messenger*—to transmit Acceptance papers between the Assistant Conductor and the Recording Secretary. He will pass and repass the door while on duty without detention by the Guardians.
5. An *Adopting Officer*—to attend to the duties of the ante-chamber.
6. One or two members—to superintend the preparation of Acceptance papers.

CONVENING THE FAMILY

No person will be allowed to enter or retire, during the convening or adjourning exercises, nor during the ceremonies of Adoption at the first Table, except officers on duty.

The Most Worthy Judge will take the Chair, call the meeting to order, and say:

If there be any persons present not members of the Patriarchal Order, they will please retire.

Brother Instructor, we are about to convene a Family of the Patriarchs. You will satisfy yourself that all present are of such, and worthy to remain;

The Instructor (and Assistant Instructor) will examine and receive from all present the password. After which the Instructor will report:

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

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

The M. W. J. gives three raps, all rise, and an ode is sung by the Choir. After which the M. W. J. will say:

Brothers and Sisters, I now declare this Family duly convened; strictly enjoining, that harmony and peace prevail, while the same shall remain so convened.

The M. W. J. gives one rap, and all are seated.

A D J O U R N M E N T .

The M. W. J. gives three raps—all rise.

Brothers and Sisters: We are now about to separate, and return to our respective homes. As you go hence, forget not your solemn vows. You have promised that you will be ready to forgive all those who may injure or offend you, especially your Brothers and Sisters of this Order. In your intercourse with the world, suffer not your zeal for the Order to lead you into argument with such as love not progress and light; ever remembering that "a soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger." Your harmonious action will chasten, purify and elevate you, while laboring together in noble works. Thus will harmony and peace prevail, and every moral and social virtue cement us.

An ode is sung by the Choir.

Brothers and Sisters, this Family is now adjourned.

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.

ADOPTION OF FAMILIES.

M. W. J.—Brother Conductor, you will ascertain if there are any Families in waiting for adoption.

The Conductor retires, makes inquiry of the Assistant Conductor—returns, and reports. If any Families be in waiting, the *M. W. J.* will say :

Brother Instructor, have you made the necessary appointments and arrangements for the introduction and adoption of Families? *Ans.*—I have.

Brothers and Sisters, we are about to add new members to our Family. You will see that due order be observed; that there be no loud talking, whispering, or other unnecessary confusion, during the ceremonies of adoption.

Brother Instructor, you will now proceed with the adoption of such Families as are in waiting.

The Instructor then says :

Brother Conductor, you will introduce the proposing Sires for examination.

The Conductor retires and introduces, and arranges them near the first Table. They are then addressed by the Instructor:

Worthy Brothers (— Sisters) are you satisfied that the little children you bring unto us are worthy of being born into the world's great band of good and progressive minds?

Ans.—Worthy Brother (*or* Sister) I am.

Is it with the approbation of your Sires (*or* Matrons) you introduce them as your children? * *Ans.*—It is.

Worthy Brothers (— Sisters) you will now introduce your Children. The Conductor will attend you.

The proposing Sires (— Matrons) are conducted into the ante-chamber, and placed (standing) on each side of the Adopting Officer, who directs the proposed Children to rise, and says:

Brother (— Sister) sojourners on this little earth—descended from the Patriarchs of old—can you now lay aside all worldly

* Where plausible reasons are given, in case of failure to procure such approbation, the proposed Children may be vouched for by some member, or the rule may be waived.

cares, while you behold a little of that light which God made for the good, and which has illuminated the path of Prophecy and of History, and has been reserved to be again used in these latter days?

Brothers (— Sisters) answer, as on your honor, that you now forgive all mankind for all injuries they have ever done unto you—that you have no hatred, malice, or any other uncharitableness toward any person. Brothers (— Sisters) lay down at this door all the envy, hatred or malice, you may now entertain : while the sun, or the light, or the stars be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain.

Brothers (— Sisters) do you answer in the affirmative these questions?

Each, separately and distinctly, should assent. If any dissent, they should be requested (mildly) to withdraw.

Cond.—I will now introduce you into the Family of the Patriarchs.

The Conductor then conducts the proposing Sires (— Matrons) and their Families in ; and, after arranging them around the first Table, introduces them :

Most Worthy Judge, in behalf of these Sires (— Matrons) I introduce their Families for adoption.

The M. W. J. will reply :

Brothers (— Sisters) we welcome you to the Family of the Patriarchs. The Brother Instructor will now proceed with your adoption.

The Instructor advances and says :

Brothers (— Sisters) on being adopted into the Family of the Patriarchs, you will be required to take three obligations, which primitive custom established should be taken on the honor of our ancestors, and over their remains. [*Uncover the skull.*]

You will, therefore, place your hand on the skull, and give your assent to the following:

First. That you will be ready to forgive all those who may injure or offend you, and especially your Brothers and Sisters of the Family of the Patriarchs, to whom you are ever expected

to return good for any injury you may imagine they have done you.

Secondly. That in the event of the death of any Brother or Sister, you will do that for his or her family, which you would have him or her, under the same circumstances, do for your own. And—

Thirdly. That you will (unless sickness or an inconvenient distance from the place prevents you,) always attend, annually, so long as you live, at the place designated by your Sire (or Matron) the little gathering of your little band. That you will, in all things relating to the Patriarchs, obey the commands of your Sire (or Matron) or other higher member of this body, provided they do not interfere with your religious or political views—your conscience—your own interests, or your convictions of duty; and that you will reveal nothing of the ceremonies, or the obligations, or the transactions of the Patriarchs, except that, when ordered, you may reveal the general principles to others; and that you will perform no official act in this degree without the written and sealed commands of some higher member of the Order.

Brothers (— Sisters) do you assent to all these obligations, and promise to fulfill the same, so far in you lays?

Ans.—I do.

Brothers (— Sisters) should you prove recreant to your trust, or fail to perform faithfully your vows, God may add tenfold to the agony of your dying hour, by bringing to your mind the recollection of your faithless word.

Brothers (— Sisters) your Worthy Sire (or Matron) will now adopt you as his (or her) spiritual children, by investing you with the Regalia of this degree.

The proposing Sires (— Matrons) clothe their children with regalia, and the skull is removed from off the stone.

Brothers (— Sisters) we have a language which you see here engraved—(pointing to the stone)—a language which all man-

kind can understand—a language which will spread to the uttermost ends of the earth.

Brothers! (— Sisters) you each now occupy the position of a little child in our Family. You will, if found worthy, be here after taught a knowledge of this language.

Brothers (— Sisters) God created mankind with animal and intellectual wants. The animal wants He provided for, by the abundant fruitfulness of the earth. For their intellectual wants, He spread out the Firmament of Heaven. The primitive expression of thoughts by mankind was by points like these—to them luminous like the stars. The stars, in their simple and silent language, told them, in the stillness of the night, the will of their creator, and the secrets of destiny. And how infinite the language! No instrument made by cunning man has yet reached the limits of that creation; but God is higher than they. Is not God in the height of Heaven? And behold the height of the stars—how high are they!

Such, Brothers (— Sisters) is the language of the stars—such *was* the language of the Patriarchs—such *is* our language. For God telleth the number of the stars—He calleth them all by their names. “And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the Firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars forever and ever.” Thus saith the Lord, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night. Seek Him that maketh the seven stars and Orion, and turneth the shadows of death into the morning, and maketh the day dark with the night.

Brothers (— Sisters) your Sire (or Matron) will call you by the names of *First-born*, *Second-born*, *Third-born*, and (or) *Fourth-born*; which name you will always retain in these Families.

Your Sire (or Matron) will instruct you as to the manner of progressing in this Order, and will give you the password,—

the Patriarchs have no signs between themselves. Your Sire (*or* Matron) will select and notify you of the place of your annual gathering, which is intended to be eminently social; and the eldest-born succeeds him (*or* her) as Sire (*or* Matron) at his (*or* her) death.

Brothers (— Sisters) you each are one of a little Family, related by one of the closest of all ties—a union of mind—which will make you one in spirit. Your harmonious action will chasten, purify and elevate you, while laboring together in noble works; for the time is nigh when the morning stars will sing together, and all the children of God will shout for joy.

Most Worthy Sires (— Matrons) will you please to name your children?

Each proposing Sire (*or* Matron) points out, and names his (*or* her) children, “first-born,” “second-born,” &c.

The Brothers (— Sisters) will sign their acceptance; and their Most Worthy Sires (— Matrons) will give them certificates of their birth-right.


They advance to the Recording Secretary, and sign; after which they are conducted (by the Conductor) to the Meal of Peace Table. When seated, the Assistant Instructor will say:

Brothers (— Sisters) the Patriarchs of old ate together the Meal of Peace. Let us do the same.

After all have partaken, the Assistant Instructor concludes:

Brothers (— Sisters) you are now all Patriarchs (— Matriarchs) and belong to the world’s great band of good and progressive minds.

All rise from the Table, and are seated with the members.

 The ceremony is arranged for the adoption of more than one Family at the same time—say two or three. Where the number varies, the *plural* should be *singularized*—as, Brothers; *or* Sisters; Brother and Sisters; Brothers and Sister, &c.; Sires; *or* Matrons; Sire and Matrons; Sires and Matron, &c.; Patriarchs; *or* Matriarchs; Patriarch and Matriarchs; Patriarchs and Matriarch, &c.

The — within the parenthesis being substituted with *and*, or only one of the terms used, as the case may require.