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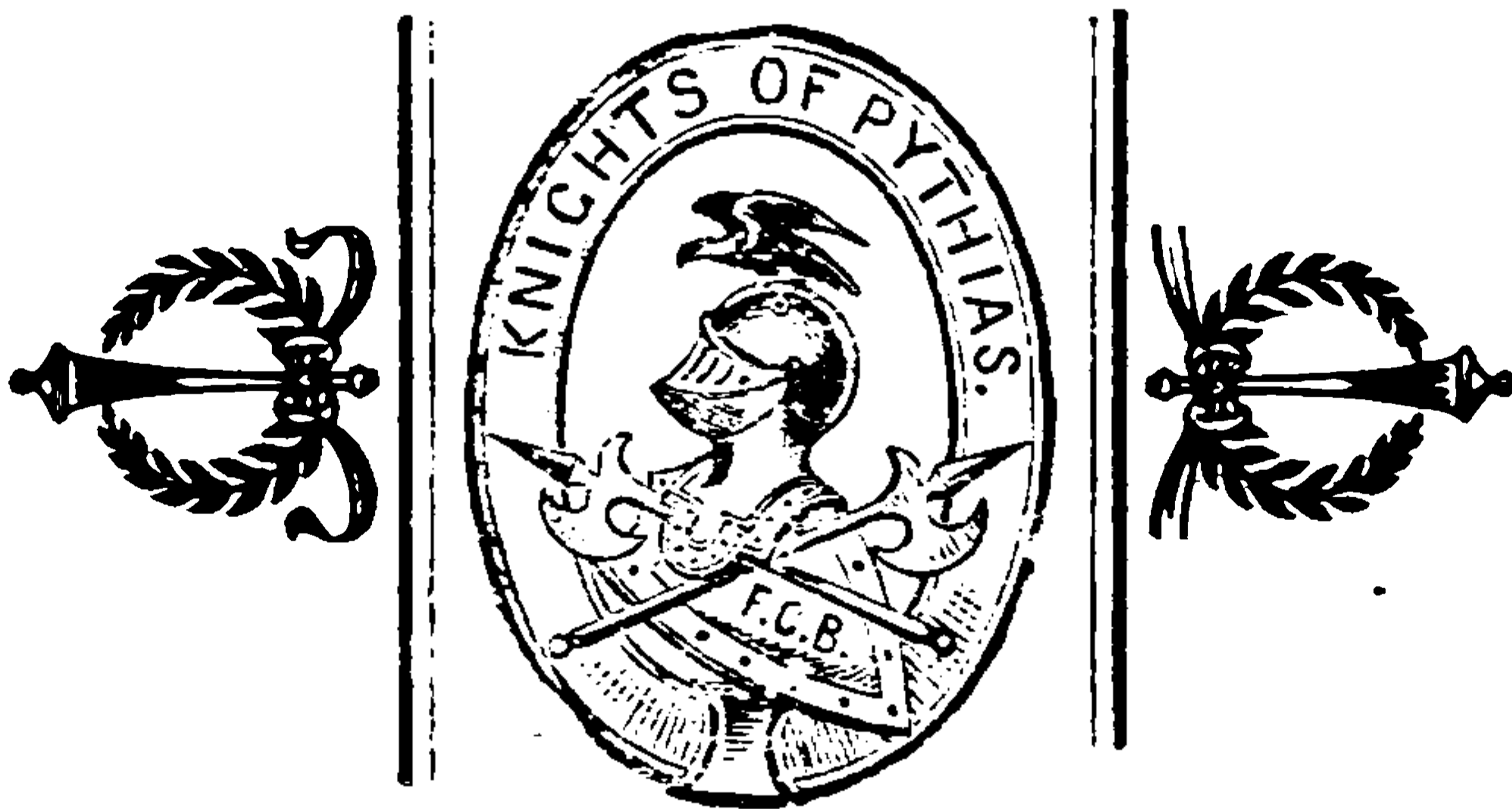
KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS CEREMONIES

..... OF

Laying Corner-Stones

-----AND-----

Dedicating Castle Halls



SUPREME LODGE

JURISDICTION

N. A., S. A., E., A., A., & A.

C. K. ROBINSON PRINTING CO., ST. LOUIS, MO.

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GENERAL DIRECTIONS



The officer for laying a cornerstone or dedicating a Castle Hall shall be a Supreme or Grand Chancellor or a Deputy appointed by him. If the Supreme or Grand Chancellor officiates, the ceremonies shall be declared to be in "Knightly and Chivalric Form."

If a Deputy officiates it shall be declared to be in "Knightly Form."

The Supreme or Grand Chancellor's expenses and 3 Dollars per day shall be paid by the lodge for which the ceremonies are performed. A Deputy's expenses shall be paid and 2 Dollars per day, and he shall be entitled to the honors of a Grand Chancellor while officiating in the ceremonies.

All officers and Knights when addressing the Supreme or Grand Chancellor, or addressed by him, shall make a military salute with the hand, and if in uniform, with the sword.

At public dedications the use of the Signs and Pass words shall be dispensed with and the doors of the Castle Hall may be opened.

COMPANIES OF UNIFORM RANK

If a Company of the Uniform Rank attends the ceremonies, they shall be an escort to the Lodge and Grand Officers.

At all consecrations the Lodge and Sir Knights shall meet at the Castle Hall at the appointed time, and open in the Knight Rank and receive the Supreme or Grand Chancellor with the proper honors due him.

The Supreme or Grand Chancellor shall be accompanied by a Grand Master-at-Arms.

GRAND ENTERING

The Dedicating Officers enter the ante-room in the regular way and clothe themselves in the proper regalia, uniform or insignia of their Rank. The Grand Master-at-Arms works his way into the Lodge room in the ordinary manner, and advancing to the altar will salute the Chancellor Commander in the usual manner; or, if in public with a military salute. In case the Officer is specially appointed the Grand Master-at-Arms will read the commission. He will say:

G. M. at A.—“Chancellor Commander, as Grand Master-at-Arms, I am here to inform you that the Grand Chancellor is in readiness here in the ante room, for the purpose of performing the ceremonies of Consecration in behalf of this lodge; you will therefore hold yourself and the Lodge in order so as to receive him in proper form and with due honors.

C. C. (Rising and returning the salute)—“Grand Master-at-Arms, I thank you for your courteous notifications, and will see that the appropriate honors are given.”

(The G. M. at A. salutes and retires. The C. C. gives one rap and says:)

C. C.—“Brother Master-at-Arms.”

M. A. (rising and salutes.—“Chancellor Commander.”

C. C.—“You will retire to the ante room and inform the Grand Chancellor that the Lodge awaits his pleasure.”

(The Master-at-Arms retires, delivers messages and returns. The Grand Chancellor being ready to enter, the G. M. A. will give the usual alarm with the hilt of his sword.)

I. G.—“Who comes here?”

G. M. at A. (with drawn sword.)—“The Grand Chancellor and his escort.”

I. G.—“Vice Chancellor, the Grand Chancellor demands admission to this Castle Hall.”

V. C. (rising)—“Chancellor Commander, the Grand Chancellor demands admission.”

C. C.—“Let him be admitted without further challenge.”

As the Grand Chancellor enters the C. C. calls up the Lodge the Grand honors are given, while the G. C. is being escorted to the Chancellor's station. The C. C. presents the Gavel to him, who then assumes control of the Lodge, orders them to recover and then seats the Lodge.

Grand Chancellor.—“By authority of the power of the Grand Lodge of the Jurisdiction of——— I now assume control of this Lodge for the purpose stated. Therefore you will please govern yourselves accordingly.”

I will now appoint Bro.——— as Grand Master of Ceremonies. Bro.——— you will now arrange, and form the procession as follows, to proceed to the place of the dedication.

ORDER OF PROCESSION

1. Company of Uniform Rank.
2. Outer Guard (with drawn sword)
3. Pages two and two.
4. Esquires two and two.
5. Knights two and two.
6. Inner Guard with a Battle Axe.
7. K. of R. and S. and Master-at-Arms.
8. Master of Finance and Master of Exchequer.
9. V. C. with small Blue Banner, and Prelate with the Holy Bible.
10. C. C. with a small Red Banner—P. C. with a small Yellow Banner.
11. P. C.'s two and two.
12. P. G. C's two and two.
13. Grand Chancellor supported by two Knights with drawn sword.

On arriving at the place for laying the Corner Stone, the procession halts and opens order. The company and all Knights in Uniform will cross swords and uncover while the Grand Chancellor and Officers pass through to the place of laying the stone. All the members of the Order will then form a half circle.

A hymn will be sung, or Sacred music after which the Stone will be presented on an elevated stand.

G. C. (will sprinkle with pure water on the stone)—
“Let the beginning be pure as this water.”

The Prelate will ask Divine Blessing.

PRAYER-PRELATE

O Almighty God who has built Thy Temple upon the foundation of thy almighty power and word, the Messiah himself being the chief head of the Corner Stone, the rock and Keystone of our faith, Grant that we may be so joined together in the unity of spirit by the teachings, that this may be made an Holy Temple acceptable unto Thee, and as pure as the water which has been here applied to the Cornerstone, through our Lord and Savior, Amen.

(All respond. . Amen.)

Grand Chancellor.—“The occasion for which we here assemble, is to consecrate the foundation stone of this Castle, dedicated to the Order of Knights of Pythias. The three principal steps of the Order upon which we advanced are inculcated in the colors of the Order emblematical of Friendship, Charity and Benevolence. In Friendship as a Page, advancing upon the first step of Knighthood; and with charity, we stand as esquire upon the second step, ready to advance upon the Third, a valiant Knight, extending the hand of Benevolence. Upon these principles the foundation stone of this edifice is laid. Brother Vice Chancellor, what is the color of your Banner?”

V. C.—“Blue.”

G. C.—“Present it, and give its historical principles.”

V. C. (Holds Banner over stone and waves it while he reads)—“The color of my banner is one of the most durable and beautiful in nature. It is the appropriate color adopted, by our ancient brethren, and is the peculiar characteristic of an institution which has stood the test of ages, and which is as much distinguished by the durability of its materials of principles and by the beauty of its superstructure. It is an emblem of universal “Friendship,” and instructs that in the mind of a Knight those virtues should be as expansive as the blue arch of Heaven itself.” (Lays the Banner on the stone.)

Grand Chancellor.—“What implement do you possess?”

V. C. (Drawing his sword strikes the stone once with the blade.)—“The sword for the defense of a friend and the protection of myself and family.” (Lays his sword on the stone.)

Grand Chancellor.—“Brother Past Chancellor what is the color of your Banner?”

P. C.—“Yellow.”

Grand Chancellor.—“Present it and give its historical principles.”

P. C. (Holds the Banner over the stone and waves it while he reads.)—“The color of my Banner is that which warns a Brother of approaching danger, and to prepare for the soothing of distressed widows and helpless orphans.”

Happy is the brother who hath sown in his heart the seed of Friendship, which will spring forth that Charity and Love, which will produce the fruit of Benevolence.

It teaches us to envy not our neighbor. Believe not a tale when reported by a slander. To forgive the injuries of our fellow men. Whoever would emulate the character of a good Knight ought ever to be ready to assist the needy as far as lies in his power, and if in the most pressing time of necessity, he does not withhold a liberal hand, the most heartfelt pleasure will reward his labors, and the products of Love and Charity will most assuredly follow.” ~~(Lays Banner on stone.)~~ (Lays Banner on stone.)

Grand Chancellor.—“Brother Past Chancellor, what implement do you possess?”

Vice Chancellor. (Drawing his sword strikes the stone twice.)—“The sword to protect the widows and orphans.” (Lays sword on stone.)

Grand Chancellor.—“Brother Chancellor Commander what is the color of your Banner?”

Chancellor Commander.—“Red.”

Grand Chancellor.—“Present it and give its historical principles.”

Chancellor Commander. (Waves Banner over stone and the trumpet will sound three times.)

Grand Chancellor.—“Sir Knights, present swords.” (All Knights in Uniform will come to present; those not in Uniform will uncover at this command.)

Prelate.—“Glory to God in the highest. Peace on earth good will to all men.”

Grand Chancellor.—“Carry swords; rest.—“Brother

Chancellor Commander what are the Chivalric and Knightly Principles of Chancellor Commander.

“The rich and beautiful color of my banner is emblematical of fervency and zeal. It teaches us to be fervent in the exercise of our devotions to God, and zealous in our endeavors to promote the happiness of man. The oldest version now extant is that of Cicero, who lived about three hundred years after Damon and Pythias, during the first century before Christ. His version is that Damon and Pythias, two of the flowers of Pythagoras, were so closely attached to each other that when Dionysius, the tyrant king, ordered one of them to be put to death on a certain day, the condemned, which was Damon, begged for a respite of a day so that he might go home to attend to his own affairs, and see his wife and child before he should die. To this the King refused. But Pythias voluntarily offered himself as a pledge, and became his substitute to die in his place if his friend Damon did not return. But at the time appointed for the execution, Damon returned to meet his fate. Thereupon the tyrant King was so much amazed at their extraordinary fidelity, coupled with that knightly confidence, that he sought to be admitted as a third.”

Grand Chancellor.—“What implement do you possess Chancellor Commander?”

Chancellor Commander, (Draws his sword and holds a shield over the stone.)—“The sword and shield to protect and defend the laws of our Order.” (Lays the shield on the stone.)

Grand Chancellor. (Strikes the stone three times with

the gavel.)—“And now, with this gavel I dedicate this foundation stone as the Castle of—————Lodge, Knights of Pythias, in the Jurisdiction of the State of —————, to the true principles of Friendship.” (One rap; sound trumpet,) “Charity” (one rap; sound trumpet) “and Benevolence.” (one rap; sound trumpet.)

The following Ode will be sung, during which a collection will be taken up:

(Air.—America)

God bless our Knightly band,
Firm may it ever stand
Through storm and night;
When the wild tempests roar,
Ruler of wind and wave,
Do thou our order save
By Thy great might.

For this our prayers ascend,
God bless, protect, defend;
God, guard our rights.
Thou who art ever nigh,
Viewing with watchful eye,
To Thee aloud we cry
God save the Knights.

(After taking up the collection, the Grand Chancellor will deliver the following charge:)

Grand Chancellor.—“My dear Brethren, when this Temple is finished, and you shall gather within its sacred walls and from time to time encircle around its holy Altar, you should never forget its teachings, but

keep forever bright the ever beautiful principles of our Order. Those of you who are here guarding the works of the Order, should require of those asking admittance, true, immortal honor. Let the Order become more unanimously established and regulated than it has been. Your delicacy in admitting new members into the Order should bring about a higher degree of respect, as the merit of each candidate will be an important thing paid attention to. With the true principles of a Pythian Knight instilled into their minds, many of them will be made grand workers in this grand and noble Order.

Notwithstanding these precautions and the beautiful ceremonies here impressed, the Order is still on the increase all over this land. We should, with veneration to God, thank him for the dedication of this Temple to His holy name. Therefore, Brethren, let us offer up our prayers to the Throne of Mercy, that we may never be divided. Amen.

(All respond—Amen and Amen.)

Grand Chancellor.—“The Prelate will offer up the following prayer.”

PRAYER

Prelate.—“Almighty God, Father of light and life and love, who from Thy throne above bestowest Thy innumerable blessings upon the human race, we implore Thy bounteous mercy upon this assemblage, impart to us the knowledge of Thy word. Protect this order and its works, and cement us together in this foundation stone. Grant us strength to continue our journey through life in the propagation of truth and justice, that we may be enabled to benefit those oppressed by the workers of iniquity; enlighten the ignorant, strengthen the weak, and comfort the suffering; and to Thee, the most powerful, the most holy, the everlasting God, be the honor and glory, forever and ever. Amen.

(All respond. Amen and Amen.

All join in singing “Praise God from whom all blessings flow.”

The Lodge and Knights will proceed back to their Castle Hall in the same order they came. After arriving at the hall they will proceed to close in due form.

CEREMONIES FOR DEDICATING CASTLE HALLS.

General Directions.

The ceremonies used in laying a Corner Stone shall also be used in dedicating a Castle Hall, with the exception that, wherever the words “cornerstone” or “foundation stone” appears, use the word “Altar” or “Castle.”

After the ceremonies the Lodge will proceed to close in due form.

When used to dedicate buildings and lay Corner Stones for other than Pythian structures substitute the proper words.

