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Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the
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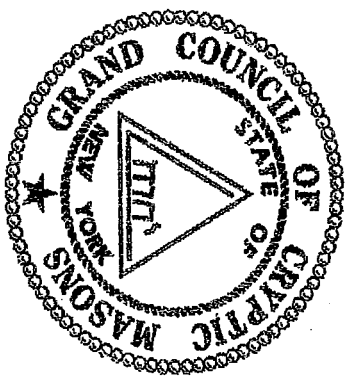
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**GRAND COUNCIL
CRYPTIC MASONS
OF THE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



**CEREMONY OF
DEDICATION
OR REDEDICATION
OF A
CONSTITUENT
COUNCIL**

*Property of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons
Of The State Of New York*
Written 1979
Revised 1998
Updated 2003

**Ceremony for the Dedication/Rededication
Of the Secret Vault of a Council of Cryptic Masons**

**NECESSARY FURNISHINGS
AND PARAPHERNALIA**

- A. To be provided by the HOST COUNCIL:**
- 1.) **ALTAR** upon which is situated:
 - a. **Holy Bible**
 - b. **Square and Compass**
 - 2.) **ARK OF THE COVENANT**
(Placed on Pedestal near Altar)
 - 3.) **POT OF INCENSE**
(Placed on Pedestal near Altar)
 - 4.) **The OFFICERS** chairs to be situated as they would be for a Regular Assembly of the Council.
 - 5.) **The FLAG** of our Country stationed in the East.
- B. To be furnished by the GRAND COUNCIL:**
- 1.) **Illustration of the Nine Arches.**
 - 2.) **Illustration of the Circle of Perfection.**
 - 3.) **Illustration of the Broken Triangle.**
 - 4.) **Illustration of the Triple Triangle (Pentalpha).**

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Grand Steward

Grand Sentinel

Grand Chaplain

Grand Lecturer

Grand Historian

Grand Musician

**Visiting Past Grand Masters, District Deputy Grand
Masters, Assistant Grand Lecturers
And Others Sign Below**

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**PREPARATION AND RECEPTION OF THE
MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER**

*NOTE: (The Grand Standard shall be already positioned
in the East prior to the entrance of the Most Illustrious
Grand Master and the Grand Council Officers.)*

- A.) The Council is NOT OPEN. The Officer's Stations and Places are NOT occupied.
- B.) The Most Illustrious Grand Master and Grand Council Officers assemble in a room especially set aside for their use.
- C.) ALL Companions clothed in Aprons, and guests are seated in the Secret Vault.
- D.) The Illustrious Master and Officers of the Council are Seated on the Northeast side of the Secret Vault. Beginning with the Illustrious Master in the Northeast Corner, the Officers are seated in order of their office.
- E.) If Past Grand Masters of the Grand Council and/or appointed Grand Council officers (e.g.: Grand Lecturer, DDGMs, etc.) will be entering with the Most Illustrious Grand Master's Procession, seats should be reserved for them on the Southeast side of the Secret Vault.
- F.) At the appointed hour, the ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER of the Council in the East, Welcomes all who are present and receives the GRAND MARSHAL and extends him the gavel of authority for the ceremony and the Illustrious Master takes his seat in the Northeast Corner. The GRAND MARSHAL then announces the entrance of the Most Illustrious Grand Master. The GRAND MARSHAL then retires to West of the Altar and sends forth the order for Grand Council Officers to enter into the Secret Vault.

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- G.) The Procession of Grand Council Officers enters in columns of two. The GRAND MARSHAL divides the procession West of the Altar. The Grand Council Officers will form two ranks extending from West of the Altar facing inward.
- H.) The GRAND MARSHAL retires through the lines to escort the Most Illustrious Grand Master to his Station in the East, passing through the lines of the Grand Council Officers, who are at the sign of fidelity and who will face the East after the Grand Master slightly bows at the Altar and then proceeds to the East.
- I.) The GRAND MARSHAL then introduces the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

*"Companions, Ladies and Guests, The Most Illustrious
Name _____ Grand Master of the Grand Council of
Cryptic Masons of the State of New York. Please receive
Him with your warm applause."*

- J.) The Most Illustrious Grand Master then directs the Grand Council Officers to assume their respective Stations and Places. When all are at their assigned Stations and Places the Most Illustrious Grand Master extends an invitation to all Companions, Ladies and Guests to join him in giving the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our Country, followed by one verse of the "Star Spangled Banner." At the conclusion of the National Anthem, the Most Illustrious Grand Master seats all present. (* Rap of the Gavel)

**NOTES: (The National Anthem may be omitted if no
Musician present The Grand Musician DOES NOT
enter with the Grand Council Officers but is at the
Organ Console or Piano to play for Ceremonial
Reception and throughout the Ceremony of the
Grand Council.)**

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*Each Grand Council Officer should sign on the
appropriate line below when this booklet is given to the
Council as a memento of the occasion.*

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Most Illustrious Grand Master

Deputy Grand Master

Grand Treasurer

Grand Recorder

Grand Captain Of The Guard

Grand Conductor Of The Council

Grand Marshal

Grand Standard Bearer

**Ceremony for the Dedication/Rededication
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[The Illustrious Master of the Council assumes his Station and presides over the remainder of the program. This should include a presentation on the history activities of the Council being dedicated or rededicated. In addition, the Illustrious Master should introduce his Council Officers and any other dignitaries who may be present. He should also give any instructions on a collation that may follow the conclusion of the ceremony.]

GRAND MASTER RETIRES

*Immediately prior to declaring the conclusion of the ceremony,
the Illustrious Master announces:*

IM:

The Most Illustrious Grand Master and his staff of Grand Council Officers will retire at this time.
(* Rap of the gavel, raises all present.)

NOTE: *The Grand Marshal approaches the East, gives command for Grand Council Officers to form two files West of the Altar. Grand Council Officers do so with each Officer following in rank after the Deputy Grand Master or the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work. The Grand Marshal escorts the Grand Master to West of the Altar where he bows and retires, followed by the Grand Council Officers. Applause is permissible.*

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MIGM:

Illustrious Companion Master's Name Master of Council's Name Council No. _____, the Officers of the Grand Council are greatly pleased to express to you and your Companions their heartiest approval of this Secret Vault and all its appointments. You and your Companions are deserving of the highest commendation for the evidence of your deep attachment to the interest of the Craft. We pray that all who may come after you and who shall be privileged to assemble within these walls, may emulate your example and display an equal, if not greater, zeal in the furtherance of the objectives of our Fraternity.

MIGM:

Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, make the announcement to the Companions and to all persons present whose name it is we as Freemasons do honor most.

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**TO WHOM THIS SECRET VAULT
IS DEDICATED**

Given By The Grand Principal Conductor of the Work

Most Illustrious Grand Master, Companions, Ladies and Friends, the first duty of Masons is to GOD because He is the Creator and Ruler of all things and the giver of all good. His name should never be absent from our minds, and all our doings should be with an eye to His glory, His praise and His approbation. All of our ceremonies are intended to promote a reverence for Him and the duties owed to Him by mankind. They are begun, conducted and ended to the glory of His name. Therefore, in accordance with an immemorial custom, this Secret Vault is to be dedicated (*rededicated*) in the name of the Great JEHOVAH.

MIGM: (**** Raps of the Gavel*)
Would you all please rise and give your attention to our Grand Chaplain while he invokes the aid of Deity in the work in which we are about to undertake.

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MIGM:

My Companions, Ladies and Friends, this concludes the Dedication (*Rededication*) of this Council to the further use of Cryptic Masonry. May the teachings of the Council be exemplified to all Masons.

NOTE: (*Prior to turning over the Gavel to the Illustrious Master of the Council, the Most Illustrious Grand Master may at this time choose to individually introduce the Grand Council Officers and their Ladies who participated in the ceremony or have his Grand Marshal do it for him. The Most Illustrious Grand Master may wish to extend a deep appreciation to all for attending and for participating. He may wish to share further closing remarks if he so chooses.*)

MIGM:

Illustrious Master will you approach the East. I now return the Gavel to your keeping. We look forward with pleasure to learn more of the history of Council's Name Council No. ____.

HOST COUNCIL PROGRAM
*Given By The Illustrious Master of the Host Council
Or by another Companion of the Host Council.*

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THE PROCLAMATION

*Given By The Most Illustrious Grand Master
(In The East, With His Right Hand Raised)*

AT A DEDICATION CEREMONY

To the Glory of God Almighty, in the name of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York, and by the virtue of the authority in me vested as Grand Master, I declare the Dedication of Council's Name Council No. ___ completed and that the Council is consecrated to the further use of Cryptic Masonry.

AT A REDEDICATION CEREMONY

To the Glory of God Almighty, in the name of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York, and by the virtue of the authority in me vested as the Grand Master, I declare the Rededication COUNCIL'S NAME Council No. ___ on the occasion of its ___th Anniversary and _____ consecrated to the further use of Cryptic Masonry.

MIGM: (** MIGM then seats all present with one rap of the gavel.*)

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CONSECRATION PRAYER

Given By The Grand Chaplain

Most Holy and Glorious Lord God, the Great Architect of the Universe, Thou who governs the world in the secrecy and silence of Thy all knowing wisdom and who showest mercy unto all who trust in Thy Holy and Ineffable Name, we pray that all who may come within these consecrated walls have but one heart and one mind, to love, to honor, to fear and to obey Thee as Thy majesty and unbounded goodness claim. And to love one another as Thou has loved us. May every discordant passion here be banished from our bosoms. Here may we meet Thy presence as Companions created by the same Almighty Parent, duly sustained by the same beneficent hand and traveling the same road through the gates of death. May we have Thy Holy word always present herein mind; and may religious virtue, love, harmony and peaceful joy here reign triumphant in our hearts. Amen.

RESPONSE: So Mote It Be.

(MIGM seats everyone present after the Prayer.)*

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**SYMBOLISM OF THIS DEDICATION
(REDEDICATION)**

Given By The Most Illustrious Grand Master

DEDICATION
My Companions, the Grand Lodge has already dedicated this building and its furnishings as a Masonic Temple for the use of Ancient Craft Masonry, we have convened here today to dedicate this room as a Secret Vault for the use of Cryptic Masonry.

REDEDICATION

My Companions we have convened here today to celebrate the ___ Anniversary of Council's Name Council No. ___ and to Rededicate this Council to the continued use of Cryptic Masonry.

The Degrees of the Council are referred to as the Cryptic Rite or Cryptic Degrees. As such, they carry their own distinctive symbolisms, allegories and moral teachings. The word "Cryptic", is derived from the Latin word for "Secret". Therefore, one is justified in presuming that the degrees designated as "Cryptic", contain something of extreme value of importance which is hidden; and worthy of becoming the object of active search.

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BENEDICTION

Given By The Grand Chaplain

We now invoke the Benediction of the Almighty upon the purpose of our present assembly. May The Lord and Giver of every good and perfect gift bless this Council and its Companions here assembled in all their lawful undertakings.

We solemnly dedicate (*rededicate*) this Council of Cryptic Masons to You the SUPREME ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE. May its Officers be endowed with Wisdom to discern and Fidelity to pursue its true interests. May its members remember that they have been chosen as a select band to preserve the CRAFT and that DIVINE TRUTH which is the FOUNDATION STONE of all Masonry. May all be ever mindful of the duty they owe to THEE, the Eternal Builder; the obedience they owe to their superiors in the Craft; the love they owe to their equals; and the good they owe to all mankind. In THY Holy and Precious Name we ask, O God. Amen.

RESPONSE: So Mote It Be.

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NOTE: *(Upon the Conclusion of the Deputy Grand Master's presentation, the Grand Chaplain immediately goes to the Pot of Incense without introduction, removes it from the pedestal and proceeds to circuit the Altar Nine times, as if blessing all the furnishings and workmen in the Secret Vault. Upon the end of the Ninth circuit he replaces The Pot of Incense on the pedestal and goes West of the Altar for the Benediction.) If the Grand Chaplain is unable to walk nine times around the Altar he should at least attempt one circuit to symbolically represent the circuits being completed.*

MIGM: *(*** Raps of the Gavel to raise all who are present.)*

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The Cryptic Degrees are intimately associated with the legendary and traditional history connected with the building of King Solomon's Temple, and with the wise provisions made by our ancient Grand Masters to preserve for future generations certain great and fundamental truths which constitute the very heart of all Masonic degrees and rites.

The Temple erected by King Solomon was the wonder of its time. It was far more than the seat of government of a nation and the Temple of a people's faith. It was a symbolic Temple, which concealed in the majesty of its structure the loftiest wisdom to which mankind had then attained. It embodied in its sublime symbolism the utmost fundamentals of faith, philosophy, science and art attained through the ages.

In the construction of the Temple, it is said that it "...was built of stone ready before it was brought thither, so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house while it was being built." The discerning mind will find a fitting symbol in this extraordinary achievement. One which embodies the profound Laws of Nature and the processes by which the forms and bodies of all living things that come into being on this earth

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are built, and grow to maturity and perfection; especially that matchless Temple which man constructs for the in-dwelling of his soul. No sound of the processes of growth or building are heard in the construction of living forms, things and living temples. Rather, like the building of King Solomon's Temple, the Laws of Nature silently build the wondrous multitudes of living things in all their various forms, of material prepared in advance.

Considered simply as a question of history, there can be no doubt as to the existence of immense vaults beneath the superstructure of the original Temple of Solomon. The legend adds that Josiah, foreseeing the Temple's destruction, commanded the Levites to deposit the Ark of the Covenant in such a vault where it could be found generations later by some workmen of Zerubbabel at the time of the building of the Second Temple. Therefore in ancient mysteries, the vault was symbolic of the grave; for initiation was symbolic of death where Divine Truth is alone to be found. Masons have adopted this same idea. They teach that death is but the beginning of life, and that the vanishing of the first temple of our transitory life is on the surface, we must prepare a Secret Vault within ourselves for that sacred deposit of Divine Truth which is to adorn our second temple of eternal life.

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THE BROKEN TRIANGLE
Given By The Deputy Grand Master

The BROKEN TRIANGLE is the emblem of the Cryptic Rite. It alludes to Solomon and the two Hiram, the three Kings who formed the first Masonic Triangle. The death of any one of these Kings would leave the triangle broken. The BROKEN TRIANGLE therefore represents something uncompleted. Could that be an allegory of Life? We think it is.

It is also believed that the Triangle represents WISDOM, STRENGTH and BEAUTY. Destroy the triangle by taking away Wisdom and you have only Strength and Beauty left. A life that is only strong and beautiful lacks the character that only Wisdom can provide.

Remove Strength and you have Wisdom and Beauty. What value is there to life without Strength to carry on? Equally, what would life be without Beauty, especially the Beauty of character?

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THE TRIPLE TRIANGLE (PENTALPHA)

Given By The Grand Principal Conductor Of The Work

The TRIPLE TRIANGLE is one of the oldest symbols of mystical science. It is perhaps better known as the PENTALPHA. The name comes from the Greek word "pente", meaning "five" and "Alpha", the first letter of the Greek alphabet whose form is precisely that of the English letter "A". The Pentalpha is so-called because its peculiar configuration presents the appearance of that letter in the five different positions.

Pentalpha peculiarly claims our attention as a Masonic symbol from the fact that it forms the outline of a five-pointed star, which is representative of the bond of Brotherly Love that unites our whole Fraternity, and in turn, alludes to the FIVE POINTS OF FELLOWSHIP. It is in this view that the Pentalpha is referred to in the Royal Master Degree representing the intimate union that existed between our three ancient Grand Masters and commemorated at the closing of every Royal Arch Chapter by the living Pentalpha.

MGM:

The DEPUTY GRAND MASTER will now present the BROKEN TRIANGLE.

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Among the furnishings of the Secret Vault used in Cryptic Masonry is THE STONE OF FOUNDATION, which will be presented to you by the GRAND STEWARD.

NOTE: (When each Officer is addressed by the Most Illustrious Grand Master they salute him with the sign of fidelity, no verbal response is given. He should to be on the level (one or two paces before his station or place and gives his presentation, he then salutes the Most Illustrious Grand Master again with the sign of fidelity, returns to his station or place and is seated.)

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THE STONE OF FOUNDATION (The Altar)

Given By The Grand Steward

The STONE OF FOUNDATION in the Degrees of the Council is represented by the ALTAR, upon which is placed the Substitute Ark. It constitutes one of the most important symbols of Freemasonry.

Other stones play an important part of the Masonic Ritual. There is the Cornerstone, which is always placed in the Northeast corner of the building about to be erected and to which such a beautiful reference is made in the ceremonies of the Entered Apprentice Degree. There is the Keystone, which constitutes an interesting part of the Mark Master Mason Degree. Lastly, there is the Capstone upon which all the ritual of the Most Excellent Master Degree is founded.

The Stone of Foundation, however, is entirely distinct and both its legendary history and symbolism distinguishes it from all others. Conspicuous in the Degree of Select Master, the Stone of Foundation is a symbol of Divine Truth upon which ALL speculative Masonry is built. The legends and traditions, which refer to it, are intended to describe in an allegorical way the progress of Truth in the soul; the search for which is a Mason's labor and the discovery of which is to be his reward.

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arrive at the Royal Arch Degree, where, here in the second arc, that key which had been lost in the first arc is FOUND. But the circle is not yet completed.

It is true that the Neophyte now knows that the LOST has been FOUND. He knows WHAT he has obtained but not WHY or HOW he obtained it. The process by which this restoration was accomplished is still unknown to him. All the events of Masonic mythical history which form the links between the loss, the recovery, along with all the sublime symbolism connected with these events are withheld from him. To acquire this knowledge, he passes through the remaining arc.

By arriving at the Cryptic Degrees, he CONSUMMATES and PERFECTS his knowledge of the representative symbol of Divine Truth. Thus, as a Cryptic Mason, does he pass the Circle of Perfection in Masonic Science.

MIGM:

The TRIPLE TRIANGLE will be presented by the GRAND PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK

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THE CIRCLE OF PERFECTION

Given By The Grand Marshal

Initiates into the Select Master's Degree are said to have "PASSED THE CIRCLE OF PERFECTION." The circle gives us a ready illustration of a man's progress in the Masonic Science. Let us then picture that circle, upon which is represented the Science of Freemasonry, or more precisely, the Science of Masonic symbolism. We can divide this circle into three portions or arcs. One will be occupied by the degrees of the Lodge or Symbolic Masonry, another will contain the degrees of the Royal Arch Chapter or Capitular Masonry. The third will hold the degrees of the Council or Cryptic Masonry.

Now if the Neophyte begins at a point of the circle and passes over one-third of its circumference, he will arrive at the Master Mason Degree. There he will discover that the consummation of his Masonic labor so far is to know that which he has been striving for has been LOST, and that instead of the key to all Masonic knowledge he has received only a SUBSTITUTE for the Truth.

Dissatisfied with only this, let him proceed in his further search, through another arc or third of the circumference of the Masonic circle. Thus he will

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MGM:

The ARK OF THE COVENANT will now be presented by the GRAND STANDARD BEARER.

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

Given By The Grand Standard Bearer

The ARK OF THE COVENANT constitutes a part of the paraphernalia of a Council of Cryptic Masons, as it also forms a part of the furniture of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

The original Ark of the Covenant was constructed in the wilderness by Moses, Aholiab and Bezaleel and placed in the first tabernacle. At the dedication of the Temple of Solomon, it was removed to the Holy of Holies. The later history of this original Ark is buried in obscurity. It is supposed that when the Chaldeans destroyed that great edifice that it was carried to Babylon among the other sacred utensils they took as a part of the spoils of the conqueror.

A replacement Ark was built at the time of the Second Temple. However, Masonic legend teaches that an exact copy of the original Ark of Moses had been made with the intention of replacing it in case of loss. It is this ARK which is presented in the Cryptic Degrees and is best known to Freemasons as the SUBSTITUTE ARK.

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MIGM:

**The GRAND CONDUCTOR OF THE COUNCIL
will now present THE BOOK OF THE LAW.**

THE BOOK OF THE LAW

Given By The Conductor Of The Council

THE BOOK OF THE LAW is the Great Light in every degree of Masonry. The doctrines contained in this Sacred Volume create in us a belief in the dispensation of Divine Providence which in turn strengthens our Faith and enables us to ascend the first step of the great Masonic ladder. This Faith naturally produces in us hope; the hope of becoming partakers of the promises expressed in this inestimable gift from God to mankind. It is that Hope which helps us comprehend our Faith and enables us to ascend the second step; the third and last step is that of Charity. When Faith shall be lost to sight and Hope ends in complete enjoyment, it is Charity that will continue to exert its influence.

MIGM:

**The NINE ARCHES will be presented by the
GRAND CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD.**

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THE NINE ARCHES

Given By The Grand Captain Of The Guard

The number NINE is the sacred number of the Select Master Degree. It also refers to the number Twenty-Seven, that being the product of nine times three and a number also having significance in the Degree of Select Master. The number nine was also called "the number of completion" thereby making it appropriate to this Degree, which professes to complete the circle of Masonic Science.

The lecture of the Select Master Degree teaches us yet another allusion to the number nine: the number of attributes of the Deity. They are said to be:

- (1) Beauty, (2) Wisdom, (3) Power, (4) Eternity,
- (5) Infinity, (6) All Knowledge, (7) Justice,
- (8) Mercy and (9) Perfection.

MIGM:

**THE CIRCLE OF PERFECTION will now be
presented by the GRAND MARSHAL.**