**SECTION 3**

***To be read to the Candidate outside the Temple prior to re-entry.***

“As masons we have carried out our instructions to clear the site of the former Temple, to prepare for the foundations of the Second Temple. Whilst doing so, we made a discovery which is of great importance. We are now reporting this discovery to the Sanhedrim under Zerubbabel.

Just as the Second Temple was built on the site of the First, you are about to discover that the teachings of the Royal Arch are built on those of the Craft, to complete your journey in pure Antient Freemasonry.”

***Only to be read inside the Temple and not to the Candidate.***

*After Haggai orders them to “Go then and may the God of your forefathers be with you and prosper in your handiwork and the 1st Assistant Sojourner, PS and Candidate have retired - Nominated Reader:*

“Companions, the Sojourners including the Candidate, having been issued with the implements of labour have left the room figuratively to prepare the ground for the foundation of the second temple. On their return the Chapter room still represents the Grand Sanhedrin but the secret vault, represented by the carpet and other equipment where the important discovery was made, now becomes the focal point of the story. The Sojourners, as members of the princely tribe of Judah (the elite) who were given the heavy and menial task of clearing the ground for the foundations of the Second Temple, make an important discovery, as we shall see. A lesson that truly humble workmen, though engaged on unskilled and uninteresting work, may nevertheless find in it great reward entitling them to a place among the wisest of men in the Council of Rulers.”

Provincial Grand Chapter

of

Derbyshire



***THE EXALTATION CEREMONY***

***SETTING THE SCENE***

**SECTION 1**

 ***To be read to the Candidate prior to him entering the Chapter with the Sojourners for the first time, and simultaneously to the Companions inside the Temple.***

*After the Sojourner has retired to entrust the Candidate - Nominated Reader will commence with:*

“The following text is being read to the Candidate outside the Temple”

“You are about to be Exalted into the Supreme Degree of the Holy Royal Arch. The Third Degree was conducted in darkness and concerned death and the knowledge of ourselves. This Degree is all about light and the Glory of the Most High.

The story about to unfold takes place some 500 years after the dedication of King Solomon’s Temple. King Solomon has long since died. Jerusalem has been attacked by the Babylonians; the city and its once magnificent temple have been destroyed and its inhabitants taken into captivity in Babylon where they remained for the next 70 years.

We are now at that period in history where the Babylonian Empire has itself been attacked and defeated by Cyrus, King of Persia. Cyrus has recently issued a decree allowing the descendants of the Hebrew exiles to return to Jerusalem in order to help rebuild their Holy City and Temple.

As the Candidate for Exaltation, you represent one of those exiles returning to Jerusalem as a Sojourner or Journeyman builder. You discover that the Temple and Holy City are in ruins and, with your colleagues, offer your assistance in building a new temple when, as you will eventually see, a discovery of very great importance is made.”

**SECTION 2**

***To be read to the Candidate outside the Temple prior to re-entry.***

“You will remember that the First Temple at Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar. After the Decree of King Cyrus many exiles returned almost immediately from Babylon to Jerusalem, led by a Prince called Zerubbabel, and prepared to rebuild the Temple on the site of the former one. Other exiles arrived a little later, and we three represent some of these later arrivals, whom we call "Sojourners".

This next part of the ceremony represents our entrance into Zerubbabel’s Council (or Grand Sanhedrim) to apply to work on some part of the rebuilding of the Temple.

Although we are working masons, we are proud to be direct descendants of the royal line of David and princely tribe of Judah.”

***Only to be read inside the Temple and not to the Candidate.***

*After the candidate has been informed: ‘You may now retire and on your return, you will be permitted to participate in the further mysteries of the Order’ and after the Sojourners and candidate have retired - Nominated Reader:*

“Companions when the Sojourners return to the Chapter, we go right back to the start of the story but, this time, as the Candidate is not hoodwinked he is able to see what happened in the previous part of the ceremony. Whilst the scenery in the Chapter has not changed, the room now represents the Grand Sanhedrim, the Council of 72 Elders which sat together to regulate the affairs of the Temple and the religious life of the Jews, where Zerubbabel presides, with Haggai and Joshua. You now represent the Council Members. You have to imagine that the secret vault, represented by the carpet and its equipment, is still undiscovered under the foundations of the former temple building.

Cyrus has issued his decree allowing the exiles to return to Jerusalem. The three Sojourners (or journeymen builders) including the Candidate are about to arrive from their captivity in Babylon, having heard that the Temple is about to be rebuilt and offer their services in that great and glorious undertaking.”