

Note

For those preparing to give the reading and wishing to identify where they fit in the ceremony, below is identified the page in the Worcestershire 2005 ritual book where they should be given:-

Section 1 Page 9

Section 2 Page 20

Section 3 Page 24

A copy of this leaflet can be downloaded from the Worcestershire Provincial Grand Chapter website at www.worcestershirepgchapter.org.uk

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The Ceremony of Exaltation

Setting the Scene

2016

Introduction

On 9 November 2016 the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent introduced this leaflet.

Although the first section, read immediately before the Candidate is Entrusted, was introduced in 2014, it is hoped that by adding the additional two sections and presenting this as a leaflet which can be given to the Candidate at the end of the meeting, it will help his understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the ceremony.

As explained below, the first section should be read to the Candidate immediately before he is Entrusted, the second section when he retires from the Chapter for the first time and the third when he retires for the second time. Please ensure that a designated Companion who is already familiar with the wording is available to read the sections as required and is supplied with the leaflet in advance.

The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent requests that all Chapters in the Province of Worcestershire adopts the use of this leaflet and supplies a copy to each Exalte at the end of the Ceremony.

He also requests that, at least on the first occasion of its use, the Scribe E reads the sections aloud in the Chapter room whilst the Principal Sojourner is outside the room so that all Companions present are aware what the Candidate is being told. Chapters may also consider giving copies of the leaflet to recently Exalted Companions.

Section 1

Communications to the Exalte prior to being entrusted and during the ceremony To be communicated in the ante room immediately before "P.Soj. "Brother A.B., advance to me....." :-

"The story about to unfold, on entering the Chapter, takes place some 500 years after the dedication of 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 into Babylon where they remained for 70 years.

We are now at that period in history where the Babylonian Empire itself has 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. 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

After the Exalte retires for the first time and before he re-enters :-

"Before you entered the Chapter Room you were told that a story was about to unfold. In the first part of the Exaltation ceremony through which you have just passed, you will not have been aware what the story was. The remainder of the ceremony tells you the story and you will recognise some of the things you did earlier as fitting into the story.

When you enter the Chapter Room you will be one of three sojourners or journeymen builders who have just arrived in Jerusalem from Babylon. Although the layout of the Chapter Room has not changed since you retired, it is now intended to represent the Grand Sanhedrin in Jerusalem where Zerubbabel presides with Haggai and Joshua over the Council of Elders which regulated the affairs of the Temple and the religious life of the Jews. Zerubbabel, Haggai and Joshua are represented by the three Companions sitting in the East of the Chapter Room. The rest of the Companions represent members of the Council of Elders. Your colleague, the Principal Sojourner, will explain the story in more detail"

Section 3

After the Exalte retires for the second time and before he re-enters:-

"You and your two colleagues have just been told to go and clear ground on a building site and given the tools to do so. When you return into the Chapter Room you are back in the Grand Sanhedrin again and one of your colleagues begins to explain what you have discovered on the building site. The area in the centre of the Chapter Room with the white pedestal now represents the interior of a secret vault and is the focal point of the story. Throughout the story, the actual layout of the room never changes."