

Rt. Worshipful Provincial Grand Master and Brethren ...

The medieval wars, the Crusades, the bothers of the Reformation had made men tired of squabbling. Again, men of note and learning had attended mason's lodges since the time of Prince Edwin in the 10th Century, attracted by the deep symbolism and the harmony they found in those lodges. So war-weariness on the one hand, and the vision of fraternity on the other, led to the formation of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717, walking the middle path of wisdom and charity, in peace and goodwill.

Still maintaining, pure and unsullied, the Masonic ideal - The Brotherhood of Man, under the Fatherhood of God - this Lodge of Peace and Goodwill was consecrated on 16th. March 1945, and the first Banner was consecrated on 15th. May 1945. To-night we join together in the Consecration of this replacement Banner, hand-made by the Nuns at a Convent in Calcutta. So, gathering up the past - and what memories it contains for us! - we face the future with the vision bright before us, let circumstances bring what they may.

In the heart of the Lodge, and in the centre of the Banner, Peace and Goodwill are symbolised by the Dove bearing an Olive Branch, and by the Clasped Hands. The dove represents harmlessness and innocence, and is the exact opposite of hard aggressiveness. Again, olive trees take so long to mature that, in themselves, they represent patience and a peaceful environment. Then, for many centuries the un-gloved hand was taken as a kind of insult, except among those who were on terms of great friendship. It is difficult for us in our day to realise what an act of faith and trust was involved in reaching out to grasp the hand of another in goodwill.

These central symbols are surrounded by four symbols so well known among Masons that they need not detain us now. * Rather, let us turn our attention to the gourds, the bottle gourds, on each side of the sprig of acacia. These remind us of the Book of Jonah in the Volume of the Sacred Law. Jonah had been sent by God to preach against Nineveh, and to announce its coming destruction. We find him sitting in a booth sheltered from the heat of the sun by a bottle gourd growing over a framework, and he was anticipating with some pleasure the catastrophe about to overtake the city. The narrative continues:

At dawn, the next day, at God's command, a worm attacked the gourd and it died. After the sun had risen, God sent a hot east wind, and Jonah was about to faint from the heat of the sun beating down on his head. So he wished he were dead.

But God said to him, "What right have you to be angry about the plant?"

Jonah replied, "I have every right to be angry."

The Lord said to him, "This plant grew up in one night and disappeared the next; you didn't do anything for it, and you didn't make it grow - yet you feel sorry for it! How much more, then, should I have pity on Nineveh, that great city. After all, it has more than 120,000 innocent children in it, as well as many animals! "

So the gourds remind us that our Peace and Goodwill must extend beyond our Brethren in Freemasonry, and even include the biosphere.

Thanking the Great Architect of the Universe for that peace and goodwill which alone enable us to survive, and acting in conformity with the principles of the Craft, we press on into the years ahead, ever remembering to discharge our duty to Him with fervency and zeal.

LODGE OF PEACE & GOODWILL

No. 6010



W. BRO. FRANK WILSON - WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Ceremony of Consecration of the Lodge Banner

AT THE

Masonic Hall, Alcester Road South, Kings Heath

ON

TUESDAY, 15th MAY, 1945

BY

W. Bro. W. Harvey Gibbs, P.G.D.

Assistant Provincial Grand Master

ASSISTED BY

W. Bro. BEN. MARSH	... Prov. S.G.W.	as S.W.
W. Bro. GEO. WOOLLEY	... P.P.J.G.W.	as J.W.
Bro. Rev. P. SCOTT-WARREN	P.P.G. Chap.	as Chaplain
W. Bro. R. W. A. PAINTER	... Prov. G.D.C.	as D.C.
Bro. C. A. WILSON	... Prov. G. Organist	as Organist
W. Bro. G. M. WASHBOURNE	... Prov. S.G.D.	as I.G.

*The Banner and this Brochure have been
presented by Bro. E. Wilkes (Secretary).*

Order of Procedure

1. The Brethren assemble in the Lodge Room
2. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Grand Lodge and the Consecrating Officers are announced, escorted into the Lodge Room, and saluted according to their Rank.
3. The W. Master invites the Assistant Provincial Grand Master to occupy the Chair, and appoint his Officers.
4. The W. Master, Officers and Brethren of the Lodge are assembled in the centre of the Lodge Room facing East by the Prov. G.O.C.
5. Bro. ERNEST WILKES unveils the Banner and offers it to the Consecrating Officer for Consecration and presentation to the Lodge.
6. The Consecrating Officer will reply and ask the W. Master's acceptance of it on behalf of the Lodge.
7. The W. Master accepts the Banner on behalf of the Lodge.
8. Anthem:—

O taste and see, how gracious the Lord is.
Blessed is the man that trusteth in Him.
O fear the Lord, ye that are His saints,
For they that fear Him lack nothing.
The lions do lack and suffer hunger,
But they who seek the Lord shall want
No manner of thing that is good.
9. Dedication Prayer by the Chaplain.
10. Response:—"So mote it be."
11. The Consecrating Officer will give an Address on the Banner and its intention, and afterwards call upon the Chaplain to give an Oration on its meaning and the lessons to be derived from it.

12. The Prov. G.D.C. takes the Banner and proceeds three times round the Lodge, followed by the Master, Wardens and Brethren of the Lodge of Peace and Goodwill, during which the following Anthem is sung :—

Behold how good and joyful a thing it is Brethren, to dwell together in unity.

It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down unto the beard, even unto Aaron's beard, and went down to the skirts of his clothing.

It is like the dew of Hermon, which fell upon the Hill of Zion; for there the Lord promised His blessing and life for evermore.

“ So mote it be.”

13. The W. Master takes the Banner from the Director of Ceremonies, and places it in the Stand.

14. The Consecrating Officer says :—“ Brethren, for all the Blessings and Mercies vouchsafed to us by The Great Architect of the Universe, let us praise and glorify His Holy Name.”

- 15.—Musical Response :—“ Glory be to God on High.”

16. The Consecrating Officer invites the W. Master to resume the Chair.

17. The Officers and Brethren of the Lodge resume their places.

18. Hymn—

Great Architect, to Thee we raise,
With joy our grateful songs of praise;
“ Our Brothers ” 'neath this Banner bless,
And crown their labours with success.

May peace be with us evermore,
And love extend from shore to shore;
May we in harmony combine,
And let, O Lord, the praise be Thine.

So mote it be.

Founders and First Officers

W. Bro. FRED S. RAWSON, P.M. 1874, 4144, 5094, P.A.G.D.C., P.F.C.W. D.C.			
W. Bro. W. G. HIGHAM, P.M. 5650	...	...	S.W.
W. Bro. T. H. DAWSON, P.M. AND D.C. 43	...	...	Treasurer
W. Bro. F. WILSON, P.M. 5650, 4560	...	...	W.M.
W. Bro. W. A. JEFFREY, P.M. 1946, P.P.G. SUPT. WKS. WESTERN DIV. S.A.			I.P.M.
Bro. E. WILKES, 5407, 5846	...	...	Secretary
Bro. W. J. ASTON, 5650	...	...	A. Secretary
Bro. J. S. WARREN, 3659, 5846	...	...	Steward
Bro. J. J. PENNY, 5407	...	...	S.D.
Bro. T. A. WOOD, 5650	...	...	J.W.
Bro. L. G. HIGHAM, 5650	...	...	A.D.C.
Bro. C. D. WARD, 3713	...	...	Steward
Bro. E. R. FARR, 5407, 5846	...	...	I.G.
Bro. F. J. WASH, 3659	...	...	J.D.