

# CEREMONY OF MEMORIAL SERVICE

## **PART - I**

### FUNERAL PROCESSION, ENTRY (OPTIONAL)

*(All brethren including G.M., R.G.M. and other grand and R.G.L. officers assemble in the Lodge Room except the brethren who will form the procession. The procession will be formed as under and will enter the Lodge Room. Members of the procession will proceed to their places one by one without being escorted.)*

**A.D.O.C**

**D.O.C**

**TYL**

**IG**

**JD**

**SD**

**SECY**

**TRS**

**CHAP**

**P.M.**

**P.M.**

**P.M.**

**P.M.**

**J.W.**

**S.W.**

**I.P.M.**

**SWD. BR.**

**W.M.**

**W.M.:** Brethren we meet, this evening, to express our grief and sorrow on the sad demise of our beloved Bro.——— and to pay a last sad tribute of respect to the departed mortal for which purpose I declare the Lodge open.

W.M.\* S.W.\* J.W.\*

D.o.C.: To order Brethren (*D. of C opens V's.S.L.*)

## PART II- INTRODUCTION

W.M.: Brethren, let us sing Hymn No. 165 (A. & M.)

### Hymn No. 165(A. & M.)

O God, our hope in ages past  
Our hope for years to come;  
Our shelter from the stormy blast  
And our eternal home

Beneath the shadow of Thy throne,  
Thy saints have dwelt secure,  
Sufficient is thine arm alone,  
And our defense is sure,

Time, like an ever-rolling stream  
Bears all its sons away;  
They fly forgotten, as a dream,  
Dies at the opening day

O God, our help in ages past  
Our hope for years to come;  
Be Thou our guard while trouble last  
And our eternal home

### *Calling the Roll (see. Note)*

W.M.: Bro. Secretary you will call the Roll of Master Masons.  
*(The Roll of living MM's present is called by the secretary. Those present will answer to their names upstanding with the sign of Rev. **The name of the deceased brother will be called last. This will be done three times.**)*

D. of C.: *(Upstanding from his seat)* W.M. our beloved brother was summoned to the

Grand Lodge above on the Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2011

*(Raising and extending the arms to the front at an angle 45 degrees, palms of hand's inward, fingers extended, eyes cast upward.)*

His spirit hath ascended on high.

*(Lowering the arms, hands extended, palms downward to a horizontal position)*

His body, has been solemnly consigned.

*(Crossing, the arms upon the breast, right hand resting over the heart, left arm overmost.)*

But his memory we cherish here forever. *(Bowing the head, retaining the arm)*

**So mote it be.**

**W.M.:**

Brethren, the Roll of the workmen has been called, but our **BRO**———, has not answered to his name. He has laid down the working tools of the Craft and with them he has left that mortal part for which he no longer has use. His labours here below, has taught him divest his heart and conscience of the vices and the superfluities of life, thereby fitting his mind as a "Living stone" for that Spiritual Building- that house not built with hands-eternal in Heaven. Strengthened in his labours here, by faith in God and confident expectation of immortality, he has sought admission to the Celestial Lodge above.

(All Upstanding)

**W.M.:**

May his soul rest in peace.

*(D. of C. retires and conducts into the Lodge the five Cn. Bros. and the Bros. Of V.S.L. with lit candles.)*

Cn. Br.

Cn. Br.

Cn. Br.

Cn. Br.

Br. of V.S.L

Cn. Br.

*The candles and the V.S.L. are placed on the center table (where Regalia & Jewels are already placed properly covered in their appropriate position as shown in diagram A). Can. Bros. go to their seats and remain standing.)*

***The Last Post***

*(I.G. to give one knock, on. the door.)*

**Bugler** : *The Last Post*

**Organist** : *Dead March in Saul*. (Recording may be used)

**W.M.:** Brethren, the solemn notes, that betoken the dissolution of this earthly tabernacle, have again alarmed our outer door, and another spirit has gone before us. Again we are assembled here as masons, to offer tribute of our affection, to our beloved brother, and to confirm our faith, in the almighty Father and his beneficent goodness to us, His children.

And may almighty God of His infinite goodness, at the Grand Tribunal of unbiased justice, extend His mercy towards him and all of us, and crown our hopes with everlasting bliss in the realms of boundless-eternity. This we beg for the honour of His name, to whom be glory, now and evermore.

**Omnis:** So Mote It Be. (*All sit*).

## **ORDERING THE LODGE OF SORROW**

**W.M.:** Brethren, the Great Creator, having been pleased out of His unbounded mercy, to remove our beloved Bro. ----- from the cares and troubles of this transitory existence to a state of everlasting bliss and glory, the chain by which we are united, man to man, has weakened. May we, who survive him, anticipate our approaching fate, and may firmly cemented in the ties of union and brotherhood, so that, during the short space allotted to our present existence, we may wisely and usefully employ our time, and in the reciprocal intercourse of kind brotherly acts, mutually promote the welfare and happiness of one, another. Sorrow is each man's lot and pain the heritage of all without exception. Where therefore, shall we find the beauty that shall comfort the universal sorrow, and the understanding, that shall put an end to pain? For if we could know that beauty and the meaning of nature's darkest mystery, if not sorrow, at least its sting would disappear.

Brethren, in the midst of life, we are in death and the wisest knoweth not what a day may bring forth. We live, but to see those we love passing away into the silent land. Our brother was overtaken by that fate which, must sooner or later overtake us all; which neither power nor station, neither virtue nor bravery, neither wealth nor honour;

neither efforts nor tears of relatives can avert teaching us the impressive lesson continually repeated, yet soon forgotten that each one of us must ere long pass through the valley of the shadow of death, and dwell in the house of darkness. Brethren, we are called upon by the imperious mandate of the dreaded messenger, Death, against whose free entrance within the circle of our fraternity, the barred doors and the Tyler's weapon offer no impediment to mourn the loss of our brother and do honour to his fond memory.

*(All upstanding)*

## PRAYER

**Chap:** Most Glorious God; author of all good, and Giver of all mercy, Pour down upon us, Thy sorrowing servants, the consolation of Thy blessing, and strengthen our solemn engagements with the ties of sincere affection. May the present instance of mortality remind us of our approaching fate, and draw our attention towards Thee, the only refuge in times of need, that when the awful moment shall arrive, when we are about to leave this transitory scene, the enlivening prospect of Thy mercy may dispel the gloom of death, and after our departure hence, in peace and in Thy favour, may we be received into the Everlasting Kingdom to enjoy in union with the soul of our departed brother, the just reward of a pious and virtuous life. Amen;

**Omnis :** So Mote It Be.

**W.M.:** Brethren let us sing Hymn No. 262.  
*(Recorded Hymn may be played)*

### Hymn No. 262

**My God my father, while I stray,  
Far from my home. On life's rough way,  
O teach me from my heart to say,  
Thy will be done.**

**Though dark my path and sad my lot,  
Let me be still and murmur not,  
Or breathe the prayer divinely taught,**

Thy will be done.

What though in lonely grief I sigh,  
For friends beloved no longer nigh,  
Submissive would I still reply,  
Thy will be done.

If thou should'st call me to resign,  
What most I prize, it ne'er was mine,  
I only yield Thee what is Thine,  
Thy will be done.

Let but nay fainting heart be blest,  
With Thy sweet spirit for its guest,  
My God, to Thee. I leave the rest,  
Thy will be done.

Renew my will from day to day,  
Blend it with Thine, and take away,  
All that now makes it hard to say,  
Thy will be done.

Amen.

## RESPONSES

**W.M.:** What man is he that he liveth and shall not see death? Shall he deliver his soul from the hands of death?

**Omnis:** Surely, every man walketh in a vain shadow, he heapeth up riches and knoweth not who shall gather them.

**W.M.:** When he dieth, he shall carry nothing away. His glory shall remain.

**Omnis:** Naked came he into the world, and naked shall he return.

**W.M.:** The Lord gave and The Lord hath taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Let us die the death of the righteous and let our last end be like this.

**Omnis:** God is our God forever and ever; he will be our guide, even onto death and after.

(So mote it be.)

## Grand Honours

*(D. of C. and A. D. of C. uncover the jewels and regalia of the deceased brother.)*

*(All crossing arms over the breast, right hand resting over heart left arm overmost.)*

**J.W.:** His memory we cherish here.

*(All extending arms full length outward and upward, hands open, palms inward, eye looking up as in the G. of R. Sn.)*

**S.W.:** His soul we command to God, who gave it

*(All dropping hands, palms against thighs.) (No, Noise)*

**W.M.:** The will of God is accomplished.

**Omnis:** So mote it be.

*(All sit)*

**W.M:** Brother Orator, it devolves upon you to rehearse before us the story of our departed brother. Tell us of his good deeds, enlarge upon his virtue kindle within us the spirit of gratitude, and respect so that we may justly mourn for that which we have lost and strive to imitate those virtues. Freemasonry does not sit in judgment upon the departed so let us dwell upon the divine attributes of Freemasonry as befitting the present proceedings.

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH AND EULOGY BY ( SENIOR BRO)**

(Standing in the S.E.)

Brethren, under the sanctity of our Masonic Temple, we have assembled here this evening with our hearts grief stricken, to pay our homage and honour to the memory of our beloved Bro. ----- who left this transitory abode, to rest with the Most High, in the Grand Lodge above.

He passed away on Date-----

Brethren, it has been a custom among the fraternity of Freemasons to arrange a funeral ceremony known as Memorial Service for the deceased brother. In conformity with this usage, we are now assembled here as Freemasons to conduct such a ceremony and to mourn the loss of this dear brother, whose death we deeply mourn. The death of a senior Mason like him naturally makes a powerful appeal to our heart. It brings into short focus the uncertainty of human life and vanity of all earthly hopes and designs. It also warns us that, amidst the cares and pleasures of our life, we should not forget that all of us have to face this vital truth one day. Rather, we should be ready for "our own inevitable destiny" to bid farewell to all earthly things when the call from the Great Architect comes.

Brethren, let us remember that a Freemason never dies, when his spirit leaves his physical body. From the Masonic point of view, death is only a change and is considered only as an incident in a continuing life. Since Freemasonry extends from the terrestrial to the celestial globe, a Freemason continues as a freemason ever after his physical body dies.

**BRO.-----** like the rest of the Brethren who went before him, has joined the celebrated celestial Grand Lodge above.

#### **BRIEF BIO-DATA DECEASED BROTHER TO BE READ**

Brethren, the death of our Brother is definitely irreparable. Let us, therefore, sympathise with members of his family in this great loss. Their loss is also our loss.

May his soul rest in peace.



## **(All Upstanding)**

**W.M.:** Brethren, our recollection of our departed brother has been refreshed and we may now ask ourselves; was he a just and perfect Mason, worthy man unwearied toiler in the vineyard and possessed of so many virtues as to overcome his faults and short comings? Answer these questions as masons should answer.

**Omnis:** Man judgeth not man. He whose infinite and tender mercy passeth all comprehension, whose goodness endureth forever, has called our brother hence Let Him judge.

**W.M.:** May we be true and faithful, and may we live and die in love.

**Omnis:** So mote it be.

**W.M.:** May the Lord bless and prosper us, and may all our good intentions be crowned with success.

**Omnis:** So mote it be.

**W.M.:** Glory be to God in the highest, on earth peace, goodwill towards men.

**Omnis:** So mote it be. Now and forever more. Amen.

**W.M.:** Brethren, let us profit by the admonitions of this solemn occasion. Lay to heart, the truths to which we have listened, and resolve to so walk, that when He lay us down to the last sleep, it may be the privilege of the brethren to strew white flowers, upon our last resting place, and keep our memory as a pleasant remembrance.

**W.M.:** Brethren, let us sing Hymn No.27. (A. & M.)

*(Recorded Hymn may be played)*

## **Hymn No. 27 (A. & M.)**

Abide with me, last falls the eventide,  
The darkness deepens, Lord with me abide,  
When other helpers' fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me,  
Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day,  
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away,  
Change and decay in all around I see,  
O Thou, who changeth not, abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour,  
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?

Through cloud and sunshine Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless,  
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness,  
Where is death's sting, where, grave thy victory?

I triumph still, if Thou abide with me,  
Extended Thy grace unto my closing eyes,  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies,  
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee.  
In life, in death, O Lord abide with me,

**Amen.**

**W.M.:** Let us unite with Bro. Chap, in an invocation to the Throne of Grace.

## **PRAYER**

**Chap.:** As the sun sets in the West to close the day, and heralds the approach of night, so one day by one we shall lie down in the darkness of the tomb, to wait in its calm repose for the time when the heavens shall pass away on a scroll, and the man standing in the presence of the Infinite, shall realize the true end of his pilgrimage here below. Let this solemn ceremony be to us the symbol of remembrance of all virtues of our departed brother and those who have preceded us to the silent land, the token of fraternal alliance which bind us while on earth, and which we hope will finally unite us in Heaven.

Amen.

## Grand Honours

*(D. of C. and A. D. of C. cover the jewels and regalia of the deceased brother.)*

**J.W.:** His memory we cherish here.

*(All extending arms full length outward and upward, hands open, palms inward, eye looking up as in the G. of R. Sn.)*

**S.W.:** His soul we command to God, who gave it

*(All dropping hands, palms against thighs.) (No, Noise)*

**W.M.:** The will of God is accomplished.

**Omnis:** So mote it be.

## REVEILLE

*(I.G. to give one knock on door.)*

**Bugler:** *Reveille*

*(D. of C. and A. D. of C, extinguish the four candles on the sides. **The fifth candle, at the head, continues to burn.**) (All sit)*

## **PART - III**

### **ADDRESSES**

**W.M:** Brother Secretary, you will now read out any messages of condolence, which have been received by the Lodge.

*(Messages of condolence received by the Lodge, are read.)*

**W.M.** Any brother of and visitor wishing to address the Lodge may do so now. Kindly keep your comments brief, so as to give everyone a chance to speak.

*(A family member and a friend may be requested to address the Lodge after the brethren have addressed the Lodge. The W.M. will address the Lodge thereafter duly. Acknowledging the presence of the family members and friends of the departed brother whilst paying this last ad tribute to departed merit after when R.G.M and the G.M will address the Lodge.)*

### **RESOLUTION OF SORROW**

*(The Lodge Secretary should have, an appropriately worded resolution prepared and ready for passing and for handing over to the family member/friend after the toast is taken)*

### **CLOSING THE LODGE**

**W.M.:** Ladies, Gentlemen and Brethren, I close the Memorial Service by Lodge East & West and Lodge Takhat\_I-Suliman

*(Gives one knock followed by S.W. & J.W.)*

**D of C:** To order with sign of reverence. *(Closes Vs. S.L.)*

***(The National Anthem is not to be sung /played.)***