

THE ORDER OF THE AMARANTH

This narration, without a formation, may be given at a regular Bethel meeting under “Good of the Bethel” or following the close of the Bethel meeting.

If desired, this narration may be given as a program for other Masonic family events.

An appropriate formation may be included if presentation is given after the close of the Bethel meeting or at other Masonic family events. The formation may be of your own design, depending on the number of participants. Any of the Closing Formations from the Ritual may be used.

Lights may be dimmed as desired.

Prior to the meeting, ask the presiding officer of the local Order of the Amaranth, or another Amaranth member with a good speaking voice to serve as Narrator.

If Required:

HONORED QUEEN: Recorder (rises), you will read the Special Dispensation.

Recorder reads Special Dispensation, then is seated.
HQ sounds **ONE RAP of gavel** [*].

HONORED QUEEN: This afternoon/evening, we wish to show our appreciation to The Order of the Amaranth.

HONORED QUEEN: The Narrator will please rise. Guide (rises) and Marshal (rises), you will escort the Narrator to the East.

March music.

Guide and Marshal escort Narrator to the East and remain standing in front of Pedestals until Narrator has been introduced.

HONORED QUEEN: It is with pleasure that I introduce _____ (give titles) who will serve as Narrator for the Order of the Amaranth presentation.

HQ hands gavel to Narrator.

Guide and Marshal return to stations without instruction and are seated.

March music.

Formation – Optional

Officers may make an appropriate formation. After Officers are in position, Narrator begins.

NARRATOR: The Order of the Amaranth has a royal ancestry, being founded upon and descended from an Order created by Queen Christina of Sweden in 1653. This brilliant young woman who became Queen of her warlike nation at the age of six devoted her life to promoting, learning and the fine arts.

Christina created an Order of the Amaranth to honor Lady Amaranth, a woman of rare beauty, charm and of virtuous and noble character. For many years the Order was immensely popular throughout Europe, and the most distinguished ladies and gentlemen considered themselves honored by being made members of the Order. During Christina's reign, the Order was supported with royal pomp, dignity and magnificence by the ladies and knights of the royal court.

The Order and the Amaranth appeared again in France when the Lodges of Adoption were organized about 1730, each of which was under the control of a Masonic Lodge.

The Supreme Council of the Order of the Amaranth was formally organized in New York City in 1873 by Robert McCoy, a Thirty-Third Degree Mason, assisted by Robert Morris, the founder of the Order of the Eastern Star, and several other prominent Masons. Their original intention was to have the Amaranth as the third degree in an organization for ladies with Masonic affiliation, but in 1921 this idea was changed and the Order of the Amaranth became a distinct, independent organization. The Supreme Council of the Order of the Amaranth of the world draws its membership direct from Masonic families receiving wives, mothers, widows, sisters, half-sisters, daughters, granddaughters, step-daughters, adopted daughters, of Master Masons in good standing.

The teachings of the Order of the Amaranth are eternal and its stately ceremonies impress upon us our duty to our God, to our Country, and to one another. The ideals of Home, Friendship and Hospitality, the impressive lessons of Truth, Faith, Wisdom, and Charity, and devotion to the Flag of our Country encourage highest standards of conduct and honorable actions.

The leaves of the Amaranth plant are indicative of distinction and honor. When formed into the "Amaranthine" wreath with its never ending circle, they symbolize the bond of fraternal friendship which encircles our beloved Order. Centered on the Standard of the Order is the Amaranthine Wreath encircling the Crown and the Sword, emblems of royalty and power which united symbolize unity and strength.

If formation has been used, officers return to stations at this time.

Optional
*Appropriate **MUSICAL SELECTION***

Narrator returns gavel to HQ.
HQ thanks Narrator. Applause.

HONORED QUEEN: Guide (rises) and Marshal (rises), you will escort the Narrator to the sidelines after which you will return to your stations.

March Music.

HONORED QUEEN: This completes the Order of the Amaranth presentation.

HQ sounds **ONE RAP** of gavel [*].