

## THE MASONIC FRATERNITY

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 Worshipful Master of the local Masonic Lodge, the ABG, or another Master Mason 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 Masonic Fraternity.**

**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 Masonic Fraternity presentation.**

HQ hands gavel to Narrator.

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

*March music.*

Formation – Optional

Officers may form the Square and Compass or other formation.

After Officers are in position, Narrator begins.

**NARRATOR: The history of Masonry dates back to the time before the Christian Era. In the middle of the seventeenth century, a group of skilled architects banded together for the protection of their craft and the prosperity of their skills. They were the first “Master Masons,” creators of the magnificent cathedrals of the Medieval Period. They worked under their own government, traveling from place to place as work required.**

Some years later, In 1702, in London, England, a lodge decided to open its doors to men unskilled in architecture. As the demand for skilled operative masons decreased, the lofty moral principles, noble ideals and manly virtues of those who were already members attracted to this society men of prominence in church and state, whose high character and fine attainments had made them distinguished. This is the origin of Freemasonry as we know it today.

**Persecuted by church and state because of its successful effort to promote free thinking and lofty ideals, its history pages are smeared with the blood of martyrs who gave their lives that this Order survive. Its history also has many gilded pages covered with the records of deeds well done, of bonded men set free, and of mercy and good will to all mankind.**

**A writer of authority on the subject of Masonry tells us that the great secret of this Order is that it makes men aware of the divinity within them. A Mason's whole life takes its beauty and meaning from this divine spark, and inspires him to follow and obey it. This same writer says, "A man is a Mason when he can look out over the rivers, the hills, and the far-horizon with a profound sense of his own littleness in the vast scheme of things, and yet have faith, hope and courage which is the root of every virtue."**

**"The doctrines of Masonry are the most beautiful that it is possible to imagine. They breathe the simplicity of the earliest ages, animated by the love of a martyred God. That word which Puritans translated as charity – but which is really love – is the keystone which supports the entire edifice of this mystic science. Love one another, teach one another, help one another. This is all our doctrine, all our science, all our law. We have no narrow-minded prejudices; we do not debar from our society this sect or that sect; it is sufficient for us that man worships God no matter under what name or in what manner. It is impossible to be a good Mason without being a good man."**

Optional

Use only if the Square and Compass is formed.

**Here we have formed before us, the Square and Compass, symbolic emblems of this exalted Order, to which the youth**

**assembled this evening owe their heritage. We exalt it, honor it. We are proud of its victories over the snares of time.**

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 Masonic Fraternity presentation.**

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

\*Quotation from “The Veil of Isis” by Winwood Reade.