



**MARK LODGE V. O. ABRAHAM
No. 98
KOTTAYAM**

Warranted : 23rd February 2001

Consecrated : 11th March 2001

BYE-LAWS
OF
MARK LODGE V. O. ABRAHAM No. 98
KOTTAYAM

Preamble

We, the Master, Wardens and Brethren of Mark Lodge V. O. Abraham No. 98 are bringing into force the Bye-Laws of this Mark Lodge, with a view to preserving peace, unity and harmony, and have therefore thought it proper to establish and subscribe to the following Rules and Regulations.

Date of Charter .. 23rd February 2001
Date of Consecration .. 11th March 2001
Regular Meetings .. Second Friday in the months of January, April, July and October.
Place for holding meetings .. V. O. Markos Masonic Hall, Vadavathoor, Kottayam-686 010.

I. Members

1. The Mark Lodge shall consist of Subscribing and Honorary Members.
2. Honorary Members are those elected as such for services rendered to Freemasonry in general or to the Mark Lodge in particular (Rule 103 of the Book of Constitutions). Honorary Members shall pay no admission fees or contributions of any kind and shall not be eligible to vote or hold office.

II. Fees

3. The following shall be the fees payable to the Mark Lodge:-

(i) For Advancement	Rs. 1,000
(ii) For Joining or Re-joining from the Indian Constitution	Rs. 200
(iii) For Joining from a recognised Constitution	Rs. 300
4. Every Subscribing Member shall pay Rs. 240/- per year as subscription.

III. Meetings

5. The Regular Meetings of the Mark Lodge shall be held at the V. O. Markos Masonic Hall, Vadavathoor, Kottayam - 686 010 on the second Friday in the month of January, April, July and October, at such hour as the Master decides.
6. Emergency Meetings may be convened at any time as per Rule 90 of the Book of Constitutions.
7. All summons will be circulated by the Secretary at least ten days previous to the day of regular meeting and as soon as possible in case of emergency.

IV. Election & Installation

8. The Master, Treasurer and Tyler shall be elected at the Regular Meeting in April. The Master-elect shall be installed at the regular meeting in July and he in turn will install his officers for the ensuing year.

V. Permanent Committee

9. A Permanent Committee shall be constituted annually at the Installation Meeting consisting of the W. Master, Wardens, IPM, Secretary, Director of Ceremonies, Treasurer, all Past Masters and two elected members who do not hold any office in the Lodge.
10. The duties of the Committee shall be:
 - (a) To scrutinise the quarterly financial statement prepared by the Treasurer.
 - (b) To enquire into eligibility of every candidate proposed for advancement.
 - (c) To take an inventory of the Mark Lodge property and report on its condition.
 - (d) To present the Annual Report at the Installation Meeting.
 - (e) To consider and suggest any matter tending to promote the welfare of the Mark Lodge.

VI. Audit Committee

1. An Audit Committee consisting of two members shall be elected by the Lodge at the meeting in April to audit the Treasurer's accounts, to inspect and take inventory of the property of the Mark Lodge, to examine the Secretary's books and draw up a report of the result of their examinations and of the working of the Mark Lodge during the past year, making suggestions, if any, to promote the welfare of the Lodge. The Report of the Audit Committee shall be submitted to the Mark Lodge at the Installation Meeting in July each year before the installation of the Master, which after being read shall be entered in the Minutes book and printed and circulated to all members. One copy each of the Annual Report and audited accounts shall be sent to the Regional Grand Secretary and the Grand Secretary.

VII. Treasurer

12. The Treasurer shall collect all money payable to the Mark Lodge and deposit them in a Bank approved by the Mark Lodge and in the name of the Mark Lodge. He shall make payments for current routine expenses with the permission of the W. Master.
13. The disbursement of any amount exceeding Rs. 1,000/- otherwise than for routine expenses, requires the previous sanction of the Mark Lodge under notice.
14. All cheques must be signed by any two of the following, namely, the W. Master, the Treasurer and the Secretary.
15. The Treasurer shall close the Mark Lodge accounts once every quarter, at the end of February, May, August and November and such accounts shall be laid before the Permanent Committee for examination with a list showing the members in arrears and their ducs.

16. The Treasurer shall draw up an annual statement of accounts showing the receipts and expenditure and balance in cash, securities etc. for the year ending 31st May, which when audited and found correct by the Audit Committee shall be signed and placed before the Mark Lodge at the Installation Meeting in July.

VIII. Secretary

17. The Secretary shall be in charge of the Mark Lodge seal and records and books other than the account books maintained by the Treasurer. He shall conduct all general business and correspondence of the Mark Lodge under the orders of the W. Master.
18. All letters from Members of the Mark Lodge shall be addressed to the Secretary. The Secretary shall issue summonses for all meetings, make proper minutes of all the proceedings of the Mark Lodge, receive all petitions etc. and place them before the W. Master.

IX. Admission of members

19. Every proposal of a candidate for advancement, joining or re-joining must be made by a member and seconded by another member, both of whom must be subscribing members of the Lodge, in open Lodge at a meeting of the Mark Lodge or in writing to the Secretary.
20. Candidates for advancement and candidates for joining from other Constitutions shall, before the ballot is taken, sign the declaration as provided in Rule 100 of the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India. No person shall be admitted as a Member unless if on ballot two thirds of the Members present and voting approve the proposal of the candidature of such person.
21. In the case of an unfavourable ballot, the fee paid shall be refunded. Candidates rejected on the ballot shall not be eligible to be proposed again

until after a lapse of atleast six months from the date of rejection.

22.

Any member of the Mark Lodge who is in default of payment of his subscription for one year after its becoming due, shall be debarred from exercising the rights of voting, proposing or seconding candidates and being appointed or elected to any office.

23.

Any member of the Mark Lodge who is in default of payment of his subscription for two years after its becoming due, is liable to be excluded after due notice in accordance with Rule 110 of the Book of Constitutions.

X. Visitors

24. No visitor shall be admitted into the Lodge, unless properly proved or vouched for as provided in Rule 113 of the Book of Constitutions.
- With the permission of the W. Master, a member of the Lodge may invite to Lodge meetings visitors who are Mark

Master Masons and satisfy the provisions contained in Rule 113 of the Book of Constitutions.

26. A visitor shall not be entitled to speak or vote on any motion under any circumstances, but he may address the Mark Lodge upon any point connected with the Mark Freemasonry in general, with the sanction first obtained of the W. Master or Officer in charge of the Mark Lodge.

XI. Propositions

27. No motion shall be put to the Mark Lodge when assembled, unless it is proposed by one member and seconded by another.

28. Any number of amendments duly proposed and seconded may be made to any proposition, but in such cases each amendment shall be voted upon before another is entertained, and if all be negative, then the original proposition shall be put to vote, but if an amendment be carried, the original

proposition shall be modified to that extent.

29. No member shall be allowed to speak twice on any motion except to correct a mistake of fact, or to explain his meaning if misunderstood. The original proposer shall always be entitled to the general reply.

30. No question once decided shall be raised a second time without the permission of the W. Master until six months shall have elapsed after its last discussion.

XII. Miscellaneous

31. The Mark Lodge building, if any, with its furniture, ornaments, jewels, clothing and in short all the property of the Mark Lodge, shall be considered in the immediate charge and management of the W. Master and Wardens who are to see that everything is taken care of.

XIII. Resignation

32. Any member wishing to resign must do so in open Mark Lodge or by letter addressed to the Secretary, when all his dues being fully paid up, he shall be furnished with a clearance certificate.

XIV. Bye-Laws

33. Every member, on admission, shall be presented with a copy of the Bye-Laws and his acceptance thereof shall be deemed his acceptance thereto.

34. The Bye-Laws of the Mark Lodge shall be read at least once in the year in open Mark Lodge.

35. No alteration or addition to these Bye-Laws may be made unless the same is duly proposed and seconded in open Mark Lodge at a regular meeting, included in the agenda for the next meeting and approved thereat, and thereafter duly approved by the Regional Grand Master and the Grand Master.

CERTIFIED that these Bye-Laws have been duly adopted at the CONSECRATION MEETING of Mark Lodge V. O. Abraham No. 98 held on 11th March 2001 at Kottayam.

(Sd.)

W. Bro. Abraham Markos,
W. Master

(Sd.)

W. Bro. Thommen T. Kuruvilla
Senior Warden

(Sd.)

Bro. M. Chacko Mathew
Junior Warden

(Sd.)

Bro. P. P. Thomas
Secretary

APPROVED BY R. W. THE REGIONAL
GRAND MARK MASTER

(Sd.)

R. W. Bro. Arun Chintopanth
R. W. R. G. M. M.

Place: Chennai

Date : 25-04-2001

APPROVED BY M. W. THE GRAND MASTER

(Sd.)

Harish Gupta
Grand Secretary
Grand Lodge of India

Place: New Delhi

Date : 18-3-2002