



The Millennium R.A.M. Lodge  
No. 106  
CHENNAI



BYE LAWS

# THE MILLENNIUM R.A.M. LODGE

No. 106

CHENNAI

(Warranted on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2004 corresponding to 8<sup>th</sup> day of Asadha 1926 of Saka Era

Consecrated on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2004 corresponding to 3<sup>rd</sup> day of Sravana 1926 of Saka Era)

## BYE LAWS

Under the authority granted by the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India, a Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners under the name and style of THE MILLENNIUM RAM LODGE No. 106 shall be held at the Freemasons' Hall, 14 (Old No.87), Ethiraj Salai, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.

### 1. MEMBERSHIP:

The Members shall comprise only of four classes, namely, Resident, Non-Resident, Life and Honorary.

Explanation 1: Resident Members are those who ordinarily reside within the Corporation limits of the City of Chennai.

**Explanation 2:** Non-Resident Members are those who ordinarily reside beyond the Corporation limits of the City of Chennai and placed on the list of Non-Resident Members as provided for in Bye Law No.2.

**Explanation 3:** Life Members are those who choose to become as such by paying a lumpsum amount equal to ten years' Annual Subscription as on date payable to the RAM Lodge, provided they have been subscribing Members for 20 years continuously in this RAM Lodge and have also attained the age of 55 years. Also, if such a Member has multiple memberships in many RAM Lodges, he could become a Life Member in only one of the RAM Lodges of his choice. In all cases, membership in this category will be in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the General Board from time to time.

**Explanation 4:** Honorary Members are those elected as such by the RAM Lodge in accordance with Rule 103 of the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India.

**2. CONVERSION OF MEMBERSHIP FROM RESIDENT TO NON-RESIDENT STATUS:**

Any Resident Member, who ceases to reside within the Corporation limits of the City of Chennai, may be placed on the list of Non-Resident Members on his application to the Scribe with effect from the English Calendar month following the month in which the application is received.

**3. CONVERSION OF MEMBERSHIP FROM NON-RESIDENT TO RESIDENT STATUS:**

Non-Resident Members residing within the Corporation limits of the City of Chennai for not less than three consecutive months shall be transferred to the list of Resident Members with effect from the first month after the month on which the three months' period is completed.

**4. CONVERSION OF MEMBERSHIP FROM EITHER RESIDENT OR NON-RESIDENT TO LIFE STATUS:**

Both Resident and Non-Resident Members can opt to convert their membership status to that of Life Member by paying the prescribed Life Membership Fee, as under Bye Law No.11 (e) and subject to the guidelines laid down

by the General Board from time to time.

## 5. MEETINGS:

- a) The Regular Meetings of the RAM Lodge shall be held at the Freemasons' Hall, 14 (Old No.87), Ethiraj Salai, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008 on the Second Tuesday in the months of March, June, September and December every year at such hour as may be directed by the Worshipful Commander Noah for each Meeting.
- b) Emergency Meetings of the RAM Lodge may at any time be called by the authority of the Worshipful Commander Noah strictly in accordance with Rule 90 of the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India. Any fee charged shall be to the account of the person / persons on whose behalf the Emergency Meeting is held. However the Standing Committee may, at its discretion, waive such recovery fee.
- c) Summons convening the Regular / Emergency Meetings shall be dispatched by the Scribe to all the members of the RAM Lodge at least seven days before the date of such Meeting. The Summons shall contain a notice of all business to be transacted at such Meeting. At an Emergency Meeting only the business set forth

in the Summons shall be transacted. At a Regular Meeting, the Worshipful Commander Noah, may at his discretion, permit any business not given notice of in the Summons to be transacted if it appears to him to be of urgency or importance.

## 6. ELECTION AND INSTALLATION MEETINGS:

- a) The Worshipful Commander Noah shall be elected annually at the Regular Meeting of the RAM Lodge in September and shall be installed at the next Regular Meeting in December. He shall then appoint and invest the following Officers at this Installation Meeting: Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Chaplain, Treasurer (elected), Scribe, Director of Ceremonies, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Organist, Assistant Scribe, Assistant Director of Ceremonies, Guardian, Stewards and Warder (chosen).
- b) The Treasurer and the Warder shall be elected and chosen respectively each year at the Regular Meeting of the RAM Lodge in September and invested as such at the Installation Meeting in December.

## 7. ADMISSION OF MEMBERS:

- a) A Mark Master Mason desirous of being Elevated in the RAM Lodge may be proposed and seconded by subscribing members of the RAM Lodge. Such propositions may take place at Regular Meetings of the RAM Lodge or by notice in writing transmitted by the proposer to the Scribe at least fourteen days before the Meeting. Such a proposal or proposals shall be included in the Summons for the Meeting at which the ballot is to take place giving full particulars of the candidate / candidates, in accordance with the provisions of Rules 98, 99, 100, 101 & 102 of the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India.
- b) Candidates for Elevation, Joining or Re-Joining not already registered in the books of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India shall make the Declaration as provided in Rule 100 of the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India.
- c) In the case of Joining or Re-Joining he shall be proposed and seconded at a Regular Meeting and balloted at the next Meeting, the Summons in respect of which shall clearly spell out the full particulars as

required by the provisions of Rule 98 of the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India.

- d) Before the ballot is taken for Elevation / Joining / Re-Joining is proceeded with, the Scribe of the Lodge shall satisfy himself that he has taken care of the provisions of Rule 99 of the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India.

## 8. BALLOT:

Candidates shall be Elevated or admitted as Joining or Re-Joining members of the RAM Lodge in accordance with and as per Rules 98, 99, 100, 101 & 102 of the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India. In the event of an unfavourable ballot, the candidate shall not be re-proposed until after the lapse of six months from the date of first ballot.

## 9. VOTING:

In all cases where the votes of Brethren for and against any proposition are equal, the Worshipful Commander Noah presiding over the Meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

- a) A Mark Master Mason desirous of being Elevated in the RAM Lodge may be proposed and seconded by subscribing members of the RAM Lodge. Such propositions may take place at Regular Meetings of the RAM Lodge or by notice in writing transmitted by the proposer to the Scribe at least fourteen days before the Meeting. Such a proposal or proposals shall be included in the Summons for the Meeting at which the ballot is to take place giving full particulars of the candidate / candidates, in accordance with the provisions of Rules 98, 99, 100, 101 & 102 of the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India.
- b) Candidates for Elevation, Joining or Re-Joining not already registered in the books of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India shall make the Declaration as provided in Rule 100 of the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India.
- c) In the case of Joining or Re-Joining he shall be proposed and seconded at a Regular Meeting and balloted at the next Meeting, the Summons in respect of which shall clearly spell out the full particulars as

required by the provisions of Rule 98 of the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India.

- d) Before the ballot is taken for Elevation / Joining / Re-Joining is proceeded with, the Scribe of the Lodge shall satisfy himself that he has taken care of the provisions of Rule 99 of the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India.

## **8. BALLOT:**

Candidates shall be Elevated or admitted as Joining or Re-Joining members of the RAM Lodge in accordance with and as per Rules 98, 99, 100, 101 & 102 of the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India. In the event of an unfavourable ballot, the candidate shall not be re-proposed until after the lapse of six months from the date of first ballot.

## **9. VOTING:**

In all cases where the votes of Brethren for and against any proposition are equal, the Worshipful Commander Noah presiding over the Meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

## 10. ELEVATION, JOINING AND RE-JOINING FEES:

### A) FEE STRUCTURE:

#### a) Elevation:

1. Elevation Fees payable to the RAM Lodge Rs. 600:00  
PLUS

2. Annual Subscription payable to the RAM Lodge  
(as in Bye Law 11 (a))  
PLUS

3. Elevation Fees payable to the Grand Lodge of  
Mark Master Masons of India and to the  
Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India \*\*\*  
PLUS

4. Annual Dues payable to the Grand Lodge of Mark  
Master Masons of India and to the Regional \*\*\*  
Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India

\*\*\* Items 3 and 4 above as applicable from time to  
time.

#### b) Joining From Indian Constitution:

1. Joining Fee payable to the RAM Lodge Rs.500:00  
PLUS

2. Annual Subscription payable to the RAM Lodge  
(as in Bye Law 11 (a))  
PLUS

3. Joining Fees payable to the Grand Lodge of Mark  
Master Masons of India and to the \*\*\*  
Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India  
PLUS

4. Annual Dues payable to the Grand Lodge of Mark  
Master Masons of India and to the \*\*\*  
Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India

\*\*\* Items 3 and 4 as applicable from time to time.

#### c) Joining From Other Constitutions:

1. Joining Fee payable to the RAM Lodge Rs.600:00  
PLUS

2. Annual Subscription payable to the RAM Lodge  
(as in Bye Law 11 (a))

PLUS

3. Joining Fees payable to the Grand Lodge of Mark  
Master Masons of India and to the  
Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India

PLUS

4. Annual Dues payable to the Grand Lodge of Mark  
Master Masons of India and to the \*\*\*  
Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India

\*\*\* Items 3 and 4 as applicable from time to time.

d) Re-Joining:

1. Joining Fee payable to the RAM Lodge Rs.500.00  
PLUS

2. Annual Subscription payable to the RAM Lodge  
(as in Bye Law 11 (a))

PLUS

3. Joining Fees payable to the Grand Lodge of Mark

Master Masons of India and to the  
Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India  
PLUS

4. Annual Dues payable to the Grand Lodge of Mark  
Master Masons of India and to the \*\*\*  
Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India

\*\*\* Items 3 and 4 as applicable from time to time.

B) THE ABOVE FEES ARE PAYABLE BEFORE  
ELEVATION, JOINING OR RE-JOINING.

11. MEMBERS SUBSCRIPTION:

a) The Membership Subscription shall be as follows:

1. Annual Subscription payable to the RAM Lodge  
(Resident) Rs.600.00  
OR,

Annual Subscription payable to  
the RAM Lodge (Non-Resident) Rs.500.00  
PLUS

2. Annual dues payable to the Grand Lodge of Mark

Master Masons of India and to the Regional Grand  
Mark Lodge of Southern India \*\*\*  
PLUS

3. Annual Charity Fees payable to the RAM Lodge Char  
Account not less than Rs.40.00  
PLUS

4. Annual Regalia Fees payable to the RAM Lodge  
(payable only by Officers invested annually) Rs.50.00

\*\*\* Item 2 as applicable from time to time.

- b) A candidate for Elevation, Joining or Re-Joining at any part of the year shall pay the full annual subscription together with the admission fees for Elevation, Joining or Re-Joining as the case may be.
- c) The above subscriptions shall be payable in advance each year.
- d) Honorary Members are not liable to pay any subscription fees.
- e) Upon becoming a Life Member, under the guidelines

laid down by the General Board from time to time, the Life Member shall pay a one-time Life Membership Fee equal to ten years' Annual Subscription payable to the RAM Lodge as on date. In addition to this, he shall continue to pay the Annual Dues to the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India and to the Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India, as imposed by them from time to time. He shall not have to pay only the Annual Dues to the RAM Lodge thereafter, as long as he remains a Life Member of this RAM Lodge.

- f) If a Serving Brother is elected as a Warden he may either be exempted from paying his regular RAM Lodge Subscription and / or he may be paid such remuneration for every Meeting he attends, as the Standing Committee may determine from time to time.

## **12. NON-PAYMENT OF DUES / CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP:**

If any Brother allows his subscription to be in arrears for a year, the Secretary shall advise him of the amount due, by Registered Post, and if the full amount is not paid within thirty days from the date of receipt of such notice, he shall cease to be a member of the RAM Lodge under

Rule 110 of the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India. He may be readmitted as a member again only on full payment of all arrears due from him, followed by regular proposition and ballot as prescribed in Rules 98, 99, 100, 101 & 102 of the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India.

#### 13. **RESIGNATION:**

Any Brother wishing to resign from the RAM Lodge may notify the same verbally in open RAM Lodge, or by letter to the Scribe. Such Notice shall take effect from the date on which it is given, subject to the realization of all arrears due from the resigning Brother upto the date of resignation. Any Brother who has resigned will be permitted to rejoin on payment of Re-joining Fees and any arrears due, but shall be subject to fresh ballot.

#### 14. **DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS:**

##### a) SCRIBE:

The Scribe shall conduct the entire general business and correspondence of the RAM Lodge. He shall keep record of the proceedings of the Regular and Emergency Meetings

of the RAM Lodge in the Minutes Book and read the same at the next Regular Meetings of the RAM Lodge for confirmation. He shall maintain a separate book to record the Minutes of the Standing, Audit and Special Committees. He shall maintain a Membership Register and preserve all records, files, documents, etc. of the RAM Lodge. He shall also file all the Returns as prescribed in the Book of Constitutions to the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India and the Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India within the time stipulated for such Returns.

He shall be entrusted with a sum of Rs. 1,000.00 (Rupees One Thousand only) for contingent expenses for which he shall render accounts to the Treasurer periodically.

##### b) TREASURER:

He shall have charge of and be responsible for the money and accounts books of the RAM Lodge. He shall enter details of the money received, viz., subscriptions and other dues and of all payments made in the appropriate books of account. He shall deposit, without any delay, such sums of money as have been received, in an account standing in the name of the RAM Lodge with a Scheduled

Bank duly operated by the resolution of the RAM Lodge. All cheques must be signed by any two of the following: the Worshipful Commander Noah, the Treasurer and the Scribe.

All payments above the sum of Rs. 1000.00 (Rupees One Thousand only) shall generally be made by the authority of the RAM Lodge. He shall have authority to pay all routine expenses of the RAM Lodge, including such as dues to the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India, the Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India, premises rent, etc., as and when they fall due. But all other payments shall be made by the authority of the RAM Lodge.

At the Installation Meeting, the accounts of the RAM Lodge drawn upto the last date of October shall be presented, duly audited and certified by the Audit Committee. The Treasurer shall at every Regular Meeting submit and read in open RAM Lodge the Statement of Accounts.

c) WARDER:

The Warder shall prepare the RAM Lodge for the Meetings and see that every Brother, whether a member or a visitor, is properly clothed before entering the RAM Lodge.

He shall be in charge of the Warrant, Regalia, etc. of the RAM Lodge.

**15) STANDING COMMITTEE:**

There shall be a Standing Committee composed of the Worshipful Commander Noah, the Immediate Past Commander Noah, the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden, the Treasurer, the Immediate Past Treasurer, the Scribe, the Director of Ceremonies, the Chaplain and two Brethren elected at the Installation Meeting.

The duties of the Standing Committee shall be to consider the applications for Elevation of Candidates and of Royal Ark Mariners for Joining or Re-Joining, check the accounts of the RAM Lodge, make arrangements for the Meetings and the ceremonies thereof, consider all matters relating to the working of the RAM Lodge and report on matters leading to the improvement of the RAM Lodge. Three Members shall form a quorum.

**16. AUDIT COMMITTEE:**

There shall also be an Audit Committee of two Brethren, who are not members of the Standing Committee, elected at the Installation Meeting. The Audit Committee shall

verify and audit the Annual Statement of Accounts of the RAM Lodge and shall certify the correctness thereof before being circulated to all the members prior to the Installation Meeting.

#### 17. SPECIAL COMMITTEE:

The Worshipful Commander Noah may, at his discretion, appoint a Special Committee for the consideration of any special subject or matter. Such a Committee shall consist of at least three members besides the Worshipful Commander Noah and the Scribe of the RAM Lodge. Three members shall form a quorum for the meeting of any such Committee.

#### 18. PROPOSITIONS:

Every proposition for the consideration of the RAM Lodge shall be proposed by one member and seconded by another. No proposition shall be considered for balloting at a Meeting unless a notice of it has been given at the previous Meeting or forwarded in writing to the Scribe at least fourteen days ahead for inclusion in the Summons before the Meeting at which the proposition is to be considered.

#### 19. PROPERTY:

Furniture, Regalia, the Charter and other properties of the RAM Lodge shall be vested in the care of the Worshipful Commander Noah and the two Wardens. They shall record an inventory of such property in a Book of Inventory kept for that purpose and such inventory shall be presented at the Installation Meeting signed by the Worshipful Commander Noah and the two Wardens. If they so desire, they may entrust the properties mentioned above to the Scribe for the proper care and custody on their behalf.

#### 20. BYE LAWS:

The Bye Laws of the RAM Lodge shall be read atleast once a year in the open RAM Lodge. Every Brother, on becoming a member of the RAM Lodge shall be presented with a copy of these Bye Laws. No alteration or addition to these Bye Laws may be made unless the same is duly proposed and seconded in an open RAM Lodge at a Regular Meeting, included in the agenda for the next Meeting at which the amendment or alteration shall be confirmed, and, then applied for due approval of R.W. the Regional Grand Mark Master of the Regional Grand

Mark Lodge of Southern India and M.W. The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India.

## 21. MISCELLANEOUS:

All matters not especially provided for by the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India or by these Bye Laws shall be decided according to the General Constitutional Laws of Craft Masonry.

CERTIFIED that these Bye Laws have been duly adopted at the CONSECRATION AND CONSTITUTION Meeting of The Millennium RAM Lodge No.106 held on 25<sup>th</sup> day of July 2004 at Chennai.

Sd/-

**ABBAS LAILA**

Worshipful Commander Noah

Sd/-

**K. V. KRISHNA PRASAD**

Junior Warden

Sd/-

**R. DWARAKANATH**

Senior Warden

Sd/-

**GOPAL N.WADHWANI**

Scribe

Approved by R.W. The Regional Grand Mark Master

Sd/-

**Dr. B. Biswakumar**

Regional Grand Mark Master

Place : Chennai

Date : 31.08.2004

Approved by M.W. The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India

Sd/-

**Dr. Harish Gupta**

Grand Secretary

Place : New Delhi

Date : 19.09.2004