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BY-LAWS  
OF

LODGE HARMONY  
No. 217  
MADRAS

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No. 217

MADRAS

By-Laws of Lodge Harmony No. 217  
framed under Rule 111 of the Constitutions  
of the Grand Lodge of India

## Members

1. The Members of the Lodge shall comprise of three classes, namely, Resident, Non-Resident and Honorary.

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

Explanation : (2) Non-Resident Members are those who ordinarily reside beyond the Corporation limits of the City of Madras and placed on the list of the non-resident members as provided for in By-Law No. 2.

**Explanation : (3)** Honorary Members are those elected as such by the Lodge in accordance with Rule 142 of the Book of Constitutions.

2. Any Resident Member, who ceases to reside within the Corporation limits of the City of Madras may be placed by the Lodge on the list of Non-Resident Members on his application to the Secretary with effect from the English Calender month following the month in which such an application is received.

3. Non-Resident Members, who reside, with the Corporation limits of the City of Madras for not less than three consecutive months shall be transferred to the list of Resident Members with effect from the month next after the month in which three months period is completed.

4. In case of transfer of Members from the Resident to Non-Resident list or vice versa, a

### **Meetings**

The Regular Meetings of the Lodge shall be held at Freemasons' Hall, Madras-105, on the FIRST THURSDAY in the month of February, March, August, September, November and December, on the LAST FRIDAY of the month of April and on the FIRST SATURDAY of the month of July at such hour as may be directed by the Master from time to time.

### **Emergency Meeting**

6. Emergency Meetings of the Lodge may be held for the purposes mentioned in the Book of Constitutions and in accordance with the provisions thereof.

### **Election and Installation Meetings**

7. The Master shall annually be elected at the Regular Meeting of the Lodge in December and shall be installed at the next Regular Meeting in February.

Provided however that the first Installation and Election Meetings after the Consecration of the Lodge shall take place in February and March 1973 respectively.

The Treasurer shall be annually elected at the regular meeting of the Lodge in December.

8. The Tyler shall also be elected at the Regular Meeting in December.

#### **9. Subscription and Fees:**

**Fees for joining from a Lodge  
under the Grand Lodge of India Rs. 200/-**

**Fees for joining from a Lodge  
under any other constitution      Rs. 225/-**

**Fees for Re-joining** **Rs. 125/-**

The above fees are payable in advance before initiation or joining or re-joining as the case may be.

10. The Subscription payable shall be as follows :

**Resident Member**      **Rs. 60/- per quarter  
of three months.**

**Non-Resident Member: Rs. 25/- per quarter  
of three months.**

Honorary members shall not be liable for any fees payable to the Lodge. The Subscription shall be payable advance at the beginning of each Quarter.

11. In case an Emergency Meeting is held for the sole purpose of conferring a degree at the request of and for the convenience of a candidate, the Lodge may require from such candidate a sum not exceeding Rs 50/- (Rupees Fifty only) towards expenses of the Meeting.

### Admission of Meetings

12. No person shall be considered for being admitted as a Member of the Lodge unless and until the Membership Committee of the Lodge considers and reports to the Lodge upon the character, qualification and general desirability of the candidates proposed for Membership.

13. Applications for Initiation or Joining or Re-Joining shall be deposited with the Secretary at least seven days before the Meeting at which the candidate is to be proposed and seconded.

14. No candidate for Initiation, or Joining  
from a recognised Constitution other than

the Grand Lodge of India shall be intitizied or balloted for until he has signed a declaration as set forth under Rules 136 and 137 of the Book of Constitutions and has been duly proposed and seconded and all fees payable therefor have been paid.

The Master, Immediate Past Master Present Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Ceremonies and Two Members elected at the Installation Meeting shall constitute the PERMANENT COMMITTEE.

It shall be the duty of the PERMANENT COMMITTEE to check the accounts, make arrangements for the Meeting, and consider all the matters connected with the working of the Lodge, to inspect and check all the properties of the Lodge and report upon general questions affecting the Lodge. The Master, if present, shall preside and in his absence the Immediate Past Master or in his absence the Senior Most Brother present shall preside. The PERMANENT COMMITTEE shall meet as far as possible at least ten days

before the date of every Regular Meeting. The Permanent Committee may if necessary, meet more often for transacting any urgent work.

15. A candidate for initiation or a Brother desirous of Joining or Re-Joining the Lodge shall not be accepted if on the ballot more than two black balls appear. In cases of doubt, the Master may immediately cause a second ballot to be taken and if it proves unfavourable, it shall be final. In every case, the Secretary shall communicate the result of the ballot to the candidate. In all cases of unfavourable ballot, the fees shall be returned at the time information is furnished.

16. A candidate or a Brother rejected on ballot shall not be eligible to be proposed again until after the expiry of six months from the date of such rejection.

#### Exclusion

17. Any member, whose subscription remains unpaid for two quarters after it becomes due, shall be deprived, while so in

default, of all or any of the rights of voting, proposing or seconding a candidate and being appointed or elected to offices and he shall further be liable for exclusion in accordance with the provision contained in Rule 156 of the Book of Constitution.

18. Any Member, who has been excluded under By-Law No. 17 may be permitted to rejoin, provided he is regularly proposed and ballotted for in accordance with Rule 138 of the Book of Constitutions and also pays all arrears due by him and the prescribed fees for Re-Joining.

#### **Resignation**

19. Any member of the Lodge may resign his membership by notifying such resignation by a written notice to the Secretary or by declaration in open Lodge. The resignation takes effect in accordance with Rule 158 of the Book of Constitutions. Any member who has resigned his membership, will be permitted to Re-Join on payment of rejoining fee,

and any arrears due but shall be subjected to a fresh ballot.

#### **Duties of the Secretary**

20. (i) The Secretary of the Lodge shall conduct the general correspondence, issue summonses for all meetings, record Minutes of the proceedings, keep the Membership Register and the Declaration Book.

(ii) The Secretary along with the outgoing incumbent in the said office, shall every year soon after taking charge of his office but not later than the next Regular Meeting of the Lodge, prepare an inventory of all articles, books and records of the Lodge and sign the same, counter-signed by the Master and Immediate Past Master and place the same before the Permanent Committee for its inspection and information.

(iii) He shall also keep in safe custody all records and take charge of the Lodge seal.

(iv) He shall make payments for petty contingent expenses, for which purpose he shall receive an advance of not more than Rs. 25/- from the Treasurer from time to time.

#### **Duties of the Treasurer**

21. (i) All monies due to or held for the Lodge shall be paid or remitted to the Treasurer directly, who shall without undue delay deposit the same in an account in the name of the Lodge at a scheduled Bank approved by a resolution of the Lodge.

(ii) All cheques must bear the signature of the Treasurer and the Master of the Lodge.

(iii) The Treasurer shall regularly enter a complete record of all monies passing through his hands in the proper books of accounts.

(iv) The Treasurer shall prepare a statement of accounts annually made up as

on 31st December of each year showing the exact financial position of the Lodge and submit the same to the Audit Committee as early as possible in the month of January every year.

(v) The Treasurer shall at every Regular Meeting submit and read in open Lodge a monthly statement of accounts.

#### **Duties of Tyler**

22. The Tyler shall prepare the Lodge for the Meeting and see that every Brother, whether a member or visitor, is properly clothed, previous to admission into the Lodge.

The Tyler shall also be incharge of the Collars, Aprons etc. belonging to the Lodge. He shall receive for the proper discharge of his duties a sum of Rs. 15/- or such other remuneration as the Lodge may vote from time to time.

### Propositions

23. (i) No motion unless it is purely formal or technical, shall be raised in the Lodge at any meeting for which notice has not been given in the previous Regular Meeting or by a communication addressed to the Secretary not less than 14 days before the Meeting at which such proposition is to be considered. The said motion shall be included in the Summons.

Provided the Master shall have the power to enable any urgent proposition of importance to be raised and put to the vote of the Lodge.

(ii) In the case of a tie, the Master shall have the right of a casting vote, which shall decide the ballot.

(iii) No question once decided shall be raised again without the permission of the Master or until 6 months have elapsed.

### Permanent Committee

24. The Master, Immediate Past Master, Present Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Ceremonies and 2 Members elected at the Installation Meeting shall constitute the Permanent Committee.

It shall be the duty of this Committee to check the accounts, make arrangements for the meeting and consider all the matters connected with the working of the Lodge, to inspect and check all the properties of the Lodge and report upon general questions affecting the Lodge. The Master, if present shall preside and in his absence the Immediate Past Master or in his absence the senior most Brother present shall preside. The Permanent Committee shall meet at least once in a month, except in the months of January, April, July and October, before the Regular Meeting.

### Membership Committee

25. The Lodge shall elect at the Installation Meeting a Membership Committee

consisting of three members for the purpose of considering and reporting to the Lodge upon the character, qualifications and the general desirability of the candidates proposed for membership of the Lodge.

#### **Audit Committee**

26. At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge in December every year, the Lodge shall elect an Audit Committee to verify and audit the Annual Statement of Accounts prepared by the Treasurer under Rule 129 of the Book of Constitutions. It shall be the duty of the Committee to submit at the Installation Meeting an Annual report on the financial position of the Lodge.

#### **Relief**

27. A sum of Rs. 50/- from the general funds of the Lodge shall be held at the disposal of the Master to meet emergent cases of distress. In case the Master shall think fit to take advantage of this By-law, he shall report the circumstances at the next Regular Meeting of the Lodge.

#### **Summons and Notice**

28. Summons or notice which is to be sent to any member shall be deemed sufficiently served, if sent through post to the address stated in the Membership Register, unless the Secretary is duly notified of the change of address by the member concerned.

#### **Constitutions**

29. In respect of matters not specifically and expressly provided for in the By-Laws, the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge of India as embodied in the Book of Constitutions shall apply.

#### **By-Laws**

30. (i) It shall not be competent for the Brethren to abrogate amend add to or alter these By-Laws, unless the abrogation, amendment, addition or alteration shall have been approved of, at one Regular Meeting and confirmed at the next Regular Meeting of the Lodge and approved by the R.W. Regional Grand Master of Southern India and the M.W. Grand Master.

(ii) In the event of any abrogation, amendment or revision of any By-Law or By-Laws, the Secretary shall provide each member with a copy thereof after approval by the R.W. The Regional Grand Master of Southern India and by the M.W. The Grand Master.

(iii) Every member of the Lodge on his initiation or Joining shall be presented with a copy of these By-Laws and his acceptance thereof shall be deemed a pledge of his strict adherence and submission to the rules contained therein.

Adopted unanimously at the Consecration and Constitution of the Lodge on 30th December, 1972.

(Sd.) P. R. Ramanujam  
*W. Master.*

(Sd.) K. Srinivasan (Sd.) S. V. Kumaraswamy  
*Senior Warden.* *Junior Warden.*

(Sd.) V. Ratnam  
*Secretary.*

Approved by the R.W. Regional Grand Master.

Madras (Sd.) K. Veeraswami  
2nd February 1973 *Regional Grand Master.*

Approved by the M.W. The Grand Master.

New Delhi (Sd.) P. M. Sundaram  
7-3-1973 *Grand Secretary:*