

## THE MILLENNIUM MARK LODGE

NO.106

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**BYE LAWS**

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No.106

CHENNAI

*Warranted on the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2003 corresponding to 24<sup>th</sup> day of  
Asadha 1925 of Saka Era*

*Consecrated on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of August 2003 corresponding to  
12<sup>th</sup> day of Sravana 1925 of Saka Era*

## BYE LAWS

Under the authority granted by the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India, a Lodge of Mark Master Masons under the name and style of THE MILLENNIUM MARK 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.3.

**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 Mark Lodge, provided they have been subscribing Members for 20 years continuously in this Mark Lodge and have also attained the age of 55 years. Also, if such a Member has multiple memberships in many Mark Lodges, he could become a Life Member in only one of the Mark Lodge 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 Mark 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 Secretary 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.

## **MEETINGS:**

- a) The Regular Meetings of the Mark Lodge shall be held at the Freemasons' Hall, 14 (Old No.87), Ethiraj Salai,

Egmore, Chennai - 600 008 on the Second Mondays in the months of January, April, July and October every year at such hour as may be directed by the Worshipful Master for each Meeting.

- b) Emergency Meetings of the Mark Lodge may at any time be called by the authority of the Worshipful Master 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 Secretary to all the members of the Mark Lodge at least seven days before the date of such Meeting.

## 6. ELECTION AND INSTALLATION MEETINGS:

- a) The Worshipful Master shall be elected annually at the Regular Meeting of the Mark Lodge in July and shall be installed at the next Regular Meeting in October.

- b) The Treasurer and the Janitor shall be elected and chosen respectively each year at the Regular Meeting of the Mark Lodge in July and invested as such at the Installation Meeting in October.

## ADMISSION OF MEMBERS:

- a) A Master Mason desirous of being Advanced in the Mark Lodge may be proposed and seconded by subscribing members of the Mark Lodge. Such propositions may take place at Regular Meetings of the Mark Lodge or by notice in writing transmitted by the proposer to the Secretary 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 Advancement, 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 Advancement / Joining / Re-Joining is proceeded with, the Secretary 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 advanced or admitted as Joining or Re-Joining members of the Mark 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 Master presiding over the Meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

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

### A) FEE STRUCTURE:

#### a) Advancement:

- 1. Advancement Fees payable to the Mark Lodge Rs.600:00  
PLUS
- 2. Annual Subscription payable to the Mark Lodge  
PLUS (as in Bye Law 11 (a))
- 3. Advancement 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 Mark Lodge  
PLUS Rs.500:00

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

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 Mark Lodge  
PLUS Rs.600:00

2. Annual Subscription payable to the

Mark Lodge (as in Bye Law  
PLUS 11 (a)) \*\*\*

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 Mark Lodge  
PLUS Rs.500:00

2. Annual Subscription payable to (as in Bye  
the Mark Lodge 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  
ADVANCEMENT, JOINING OR RE-JOINING.

#### 11. MEMBERS SUBSCRIPTION:

a) The Membership Subscription shall be as follows:

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

Annual Subscription payable to  
the Mark 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  
Mark Lodge Charity Rs.40.00  
Account not less than  
PLUS

4. Annual Regalia Fees payable to the  
Mark Lodge Rs.50.00  
(payable only by Officers invested annually)  
\*\*\* Item 2 as applicable from time to time.

b) A candidate for Advancement, Joining or Re-Joining  
at any part of the year shall pay the full annual  
subscription together with the admission fees for  
Advancement, 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 Mark 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 Mark Lodge thereafter, as long as he remains a Life Member of this Mark Lodge.

f) If a Serving Brother is elected as a Tyler he may either be exempted from paying his regular Mark 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 Mark Lodge under Rule 110 of the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Mark

Master Masons of India. He may be re-admitted 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 Mark Lodge may notify the same verbally in open Mark Lodge, or by letter to the Secretary. Such Notice shall take effect from the date on which it is given, subject to 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) SECRETARY:**

The Secretary shall conduct the entire general business and correspondence of the Mark Lodge. He shall keep record of the proceedings of the Regular and Emergency Meetings of the Mark Lodge in the Minutes Book and read

the same at the next Regular Meetings of the Mark 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 Mark 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 Mark 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 Mark Lodge with a Scheduled Bank duly operated by the resolution of the Mark Lodge. All cheques

must be signed by any two of the following: the Worshipful Master, the Treasurer and the Secretary.

All payments above the sum of Rs. 1000.00 (Rupees One Thousand only) shall generally be made by the authority of the Mark Lodge. He shall have authority to pay all routine expenses of the Mark 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 Mark Lodge.

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

c) TYLER:

The Tyler shall prepare the Mark Lodge for the Meetings and see that every Companion, whether a member or a visitor, is properly clothed before entering the Mark Lodge. He shall be in charge of the Warrant, Regalia, etc. of the Mark Lodge.

## 15) STANDING COMMITTEE:

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

The duties of the Standing Committee shall be to consider the applications for Advancement of Candidates and of Mark Master Masons for Joining or Re-Joining, check the accounts of the Mark Lodge, make arrangements for the Meetings and the ceremonies thereof, consider all matters relating to the working of the Mark Lodge and report on matters leading to the improvement of the Mark Lodge. Five 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 Mark Lodge and shall certify the correctness thereof before being circulated to all the members prior to the Installation Meeting.

## 17. SPECIAL COMMITTEE:

The Worshipful Master 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 Master and the Secretary of the Mark Lodge. Three members shall form a quorum for the meeting of any such Committee.

## 18. PROPOSITIONS:

Every proposition for the consideration of the Mark 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 Secretary 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 Mark Lodge shall be vested in the care of the Worshipful Master 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 Master and the two Wardens. If they so desire, they may entrust the properties mentioned above to the Secretary for the proper care and custody on their behalf.

## 20. BYE LAWS:

The Bye Laws of the Mark Lodge shall be read atleast once in a year in an open Mark Lodge. Every Brother, on becoming a member of the Mark 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 Mark 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 Mark Lodge No.106 held on 3<sup>rd</sup> day of August 2003 at Chennai.

Sd/-

**T. R. MOHANAKRISHNAN**  
Worshipful Master

Sd/-

**BHARAT V. EPUR**  
Senior Warden

Sd/-

**C. V. SREERAMKUMAR**  
Junior Warden

Sd/-

**S. ARUNAGIRI**  
Secretary

Approved by R.W. The Regional Grand Mark Master

Place : Chennai  
Date : 28<sup>th</sup> October 2003

Sd/-  
**Dr. B. Biswakumar**  
Regional Grand Mark Master

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

Place: New Delhi  
Date: 7<sup>th</sup> November 2003

Sd/-  
**Dr. Harish Gupta**  
Grand Secretary