

BYE-LAWS

OF

**LODGE 'COORG'**

NO. 55 G. L. I.

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**PREAMBLE:**

WHEREAS it is expedient to frame Bye-laws for the Government of Lodge "Coorg" G. L. I. 55, established in Coorg, under the warrants of Constitutions quoted below, it is hereby enacted as follows:-

**Members**

1. This Lodge shall consist of subscribing, Honorary and Serving Members.

2. Honorary Members shall pay no admission fees or contributions of any kind, but are not entitled to any of the privileges of subscribing Members, and are ineligible to hold office or to vote.

3. The Regular Meeting shall be held in the Lodge Room, Pollibetta, on the 2nd Tuesday in September, October, November, December, January, February, March, April and May in each year, at such convenient hours as shall be entered in Summons.

4. There shall also be Instruction Meetings held during the South West Monsoon and at other periods at the discretion of the Master, on the nearest Monday to the 1st of each month.

**Election and Installation of the Master**

5. An annual election of Master and Tyler shall take place on the night of the regular meeting in September and at the regular meeting in October, when the Minutes are confirmed, the Master shall be duly installed in the eastern chair according to ancient usage, after which he shall appoint his Wardens and other Officers.

### Permanent Committee

6. The Permanent Committee shall consist of the Wor: Master, Wardens, and Past Masters of the Lodge; & any two members of which a senior officer as President, forming a quorum, the Secretary and Treasurer attending ex-officio.

7. They shall audit all accounts connected with the Lodge, as well as report on all such accounts, and upon all application for relief, and transact such other business as may be delegated to them by the Lodge.

They shall also adopt measures to recover all arrears due from members and report the names of all members who may be in arrears for more than three months.

8. They shall also consider the qualifications of all candidates proposed for Initiation and/or brethren for membership.

### The Treasurer

9. The Treasurer shall not pay any monies without direction from the W. M. or the brethren assembled in open Lodge, except the fixed monthly charges such as house rent, salaries and contingencies, which shall be paid through the Secretary.

10. His accounts shall be audited quarterly by the permanent Committee; and at the Regular Meetings in September, October, November, December, January, February, March, April and May; their Report shall be submitted to the W. M. in open Lodge, together with a list of members who may be in arrears,

### The Secretary

11. The Secretary shall keep a list of members according to the form laid down by the Regional Grand Lodge. He shall issue summonses for and record the Minutes of all meetings and committees of the

Lodge, read at meetings the minutes of the preceding meetings for confirmation, receive all petitions and memorials etc., and lay them before the Master. He is to take particular care of records of the Lodge, and see that the several documents issued by him are in due and proper form.

12. All summonses shall be circulated by the Secretary at least seven days previous to the meeting.

13. The Secretary shall in each summons notify to every member the amount of his indebtedness to the Lodge

#### Dues and Fees

14. The scale of dues and fees shall be as follows:

|                 |        |      |
|-----------------|--------|------|
| For Initiation. | Rs. 50 | 1    |
| For Passing     | „ 20   | 30-0 |
| For Raising     | „ 30   | 50-0 |
| For Joining     | „ 10   | 50-0 |

|  |   |   |              |
|--|---|---|--------------|
| For monthly subscription within a radius of 50 miles | „ | 5 | 15           |
| For monthly subscription beyond 50 miles             | „ | 1 | <del>5</del> |

If a brother joins from a Constitution other than that of India, an additional sum of Rs. 10/- must be paid to cover cost of certificate.

15. All Fees for initiation shall be paid on the night of Initiation, immediately after the ceremony and all other fees in advance or on the night of meeting.

16. The following fees of Honour will be paid to the General Fund by the Officers of the Lodge on appointment:

|                   |        |    |
|-------------------|--------|----|
| Worshipful Master | Rs. 15 | 50 |
| Senior Warden     | „ 10   | 30 |
| Junior Warden     | „ 10   | 30 |
| Senior Deacon     | „ 5    | 15 |
| Junior Deacon     | „ 5    | 15 |
| Inner Guard       | „ 3    | 10 |

17. A fee of Rs.15/- shall be paid by each brother on whose account a Lodge of Emergency is called, in addition to the fees enumerated in Art. 14.

18. No brother shall be permitted to receive a higher degree in Freemasonry until the fees for the former degree and all arrears due to the Lodge shall have been paid and certified to by the Treasurer and Secretary in open Lodge.

#### **Admission and Retirement of Members**

19. No candidate for Freemasonry shall be initiated, and no brother shall be admitted a member of the Lodge, if two <sup>THREE</sup> black balls appear on the ballot against him.

20. No unsuccessful candidate or brother shall be again proposed for initiation until the expiration of six months.

21. No brother shall be admitted a member of the Lodge without the production of Grand Lodge Certificate and the certificate required by Rule 149 of Book of Constitution from his former Lodge.

22. Any member more than one quarter in arrears dues to the Lodge shall be ineligible to be appointed to any office of the Lodge, or to propose a candidate for initiation or a brother for joining.

23. Any member whose fees shall remain in arrears for twelve months shall, after due notice given him, in accordance with Rule 155 be liable to be excluded from the Lodge, and his name reported to the District <sup>and</sup> Grand Secretary and Grand Secretary.

If he should wish to rejoin he must again be duly proposed, seconded and ballotted for, and pay the joining fees and all arrears.

Any member wishing to resign the Lodge shall intimate the same in open Lodge, or in writing to the Secretary, and pay up all arrears due by him to the Treasurer.

### **Balloting.**

24. In all cases of voting by ballot, the ballot shall commence with the junior member and end with the Worshipful Master. The ballot box shall be placed on a suitable table in the centre of the Lodge; and on the Secretary calling out the names of each brother according to the order mentioned in the preceding clause, he shall advance to the table and after saluting the Worshipful Master, deposit his ballot and return to his seat.

### **Votes**

25. All matters relating to the affairs of the Lodge shall be decided by a majority of votes unless otherwise provided by the Book of Constitution, each member having one.

Whenever it may happen that the number of votes is equal, on any question to be decided by a majority, the Master in the chair shall be entitled to give a second or casting vote, excepting upon a ballot for candidate for initiation or a brother to join. The votes are to be counted by the Senior Deacon and reported to the Master.

26. No member shall on any account disclose out of Lodge his own or the vote of any brother, nor shall a visiting brother do so under pain of being never admitted again.

27. No discussion shall be permitted on any motion unless the same be seconded, nor shall any other matter be entertained until the same has been impartially determined; all motions shall be made in writing and delivered to the Secretary for record.

28. A motion may be opposed

either by dissenting from it or proposing an amendment, which being seconded must be disposed of first, by being put to the vote. If it be lost, other amendments may follow; but should no other be made the original motion is to be submitted.

29. No member shall disclose the discussion of the Lodge to brethren who are not members thereof, under pain of censure or exclusion.

### **Masonic Discipline**

30. At the first stroke of the Master's gavel or whenever he shall call to order, there shall be a general silence. All members shall keep their seat during the communication, except the Deacons, who are allowed to move about from place to place in discharge of their duties.

31. Any brother requiring to speak, shall rise and remain standing,

addressing himself to the Master. No brother whatsoever is to interrupt the master whilst speaking, or a brother when addressing the Master on the Chair.

32. If any brother is found guilty of reporting out of Lodge any of its transactions, or that of any individual belonging to it, whereby injury is done or intended to be done, to the character of any of its members, his conduct shall be referred to the consideration of Committee appointed for the purpose.

33. The master shall invariably be addressed by the title of "Worshipful" and every member by the Masonic appellation of "Brother" with the addition of their respective designations ~~or~~ the officers of the Lodge.

34. No brother shall be permitted to quit the Lodge until it shall have been closed for the evening,

without leave asked and obtained from the Master.

35. If any brother behave in such a manner as to disturb the harmony of the Lodge, he shall thrice be formally admonished by the Master; and if he persists in his irregular conduct he shall be punished by censure or exclusion, as the Lodge may seem fit; or the case may be reported to higher Masonic authority.

#### Bye-Laws

36. Every proposition for a new bye-law or for the amendment of existing ones shall be in writing and signed by the proposer and seconder thereof. It shall then be read in open Lodge and the Secretary directed to give notice to the members in the summons for the next regular meeting that the motion will be brought forward for discussion at the meeting.

37. Every proceeding under the above article after adoption by the Lodge, shall be reported to the <sup>Regular</sup> District Grand Master, and shall not come into effect until after his approval and final confirmation by the M. W. Grand Master.

#### Visitors

38. No visitor shall be admitted into the Lodge unless he be personally known, recommended, or well vouched for after due examination by one of the present brethren: and during his continuance in the Lodge must be subject to the bye-laws of the same. The Master is bound to enforce this rule.

39. No visitor shall be allowed to remain in Lodge while any matter concerning any member or members of the Lodge is being disposed of and it shall be the duty of the Wor.

Master to ask the visitor to retire from the Lodge during the business.

### **General**

39. The Tyler in addition to his fixed salary shall receive one rupee (Re. 1/-) for each Emergent Meeting and one rupee (Re. 1/-) extra for each ceremony that may be performed at either Regular or Emergent Meeting.

40. St. John's box, devoted solely to charitable purpose, is supported by voluntary contributions, each member will, therefore, contribute according to his means.

