



Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India

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DR. HARISH GUPTA, P.G.J.W.
GRAND SECRETARY

- 7 AUG 2003

No.98(RAM)

6th August 2003

The Regional Grand Secretary,
Regional Grand Mark Lodge of S.I.,
Freemasons' Hall,
14, Ethiraj Salai,
Chennai-600 008.

Dear Sir and W.Bro.,

With reference to your letter No.R.A.M./98/2003 dated 18.7.2003, I am returning two copies of by-laws of R.A.M.Lodge V.O.Abraham No.98 duly approved by M.W.the Grand Master.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

Harish Gupta
(DR.HARISH GUPTA)

BY-LAWS OF R.A.M.LODGE V.O.ABRAHAM No.98
KOTTAYAM

PREAMBLE

We, the Worshipful Commander Noah, Wardens and Brethren of R.A.M. Lodge V.O.Abraham No.98, being desirous of bringing into force the By-Laws of this Royal Ark Mariners Lodge, with a view to preserving peace, unity and harmony, have thought it proper to establish and subscribe to the following rules and regulations.

Date of Charter : 29.01.2003

Date of Consecration : 07.02.2003

MEMBERS

1. The Lodge shall consist of Subscribing Members and Honorary Members.
2. Honorary members are those elected as such for services rendered to Freemasonry in general or to the Royal Ark Mariners degree in particular. They shall pay no admission fees or contributions of any kind and shall not be eligible to hold office or vote at any meeting of the lodge.

MEETINGS

3. The Lodge shall meet on the second Friday in the months of February, May, August, and November at the V.O. Markos Masonic Hall, Vadavathoor, Kottayam-686010, or on such other day and/or at such other place as the Worshipful Commander may decide.

4. An emergency meeting may be held at any time when duly summoned by command of the Worshipful Commander or other officer in charge of the Lodge.

5. Every summons for a regular meeting or for an emergency meeting shall be sent by the Scribe to all the members of the Lodge at least seven clear days before the day of the regular meeting and three clear days before the day of the emergency meeting.

6. 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 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.

MANAGEMENT

7. The affairs of the Lodge shall be managed by a Permanent Committee consisting of the Worshipful Commander, the Wardens, all installed Noahs of any R.A.M.Lodge who are members of this Lodge, the Treasurer, the Scribe and two members elected by the Lodge at the annual installation meeting in August.

8. This committee shall consider such matters specifically referred to it by the Lodge, deal with applications for membership, and prepare an annual report on the state of the Lodge, which shall be submitted to the Lodge for approval at each installation meeting. The quorum of the committee shall be three.

TREASURER

9. The Treasurer shall collect all moneys payable to the Lodge and deposit them in the name of the Lodge. He shall make payments for correct routine expenses with the permission of the Worshipful Commander Noah. All cheques must be signed by the Treasurer

along with either the Worshipful Commander Noah or the Scribe. The Treasurer shall close the 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 the list of members in arrears with their dues. The Treasurer shall draw up the annual statement of accounts showing the receipts and expenditure and balance in cash, securities, etc. for the year ended 30th June which when audited and found correct by the Audit Committee shall be signed and placed before the Lodge at the installation meeting in August.

SCRIBE

10. The Scribe shall conduct all general business and correspondence of the Lodge. He shall keep records in a minute book of the business transacted at every regular and emergency meeting of the Lodge and read the same for confirmation at the next regular meeting. He shall maintain in a separate book a record of the meetings of the Permanent Committee. He shall keep a register of all the members of the Lodge. He shall carefully preserve all the registers and records of the Lodge. He shall be entrusted with a sum not exceeding Rupees One Thousand for contingent expenses for which he shall render periodical accounts to the Treasurer.

ELECTION AND INSTALLATION

11. The Worshipful Commander and the Treasurer shall be elected annually by ballot and the Warden chosen by a show of hands at the regular meeting in May. The Worshipful Commander-Elect shall be installed and he shall appoint and invest the following officers at the next regular meeting in August, namely, the Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Chaplain, Treasurer(elected), Scribe, Director of Ceremonies, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Organist, Guardian, Stewards and Warden(elected).

AUDIT COMMITTEE

12. An Audit Committee consisting of two members shall be elected by the Lodge at the election meeting who shall audit the accounts of the Lodge for the year and certify its correctness.

ADMISSION OF MEMBERS

13. A Mark Mason desirous of being elevated to this degree may either be proposed and seconded at a regular meeting of the Lodge or an application duly signed by his proposer and seconder may be sent to the Scribe at least fifteen days before the meeting and the proposal shall be included in the summons for the next meeting. The full name of the candidate, his age, profession, place of residence, the name and number of the Mark Lodge of which he is or was a member and the names of the proposer and seconder must appear in the summons for the meeting at which the ballot is to take place. He shall produce for inspection before the ballot is taken his Grand Mark Lodge Certificate as Mark Master Mason and a clearance certificate from each of the Mark Lodges of which he is or was a member stating that his dues have been paid in full. He shall also pay on being balloted the fees stipulated in By-law 16 as well as his subscription of the current year.

14. If a brother who is a Royal Ark Mariner of a foreign constitution is desirous of joining the Lodge, he must be proposed and seconded at a regular meeting of the Lodge. His full name, age, profession, place of residence, the name and number of the Mark lodge of

which he is or was a member must be set forth in the summons for the meeting at which the ballot is to take place. He shall produce for inspection before the ballot is taken his Royal Ark Mariners certificate issued by the Grand Lodge of the foreign constitution concerned and a clearance certificate from each of the Lodges of which he is or was a member stating that his dues have been paid in full. He shall also pay on being balloted the fees stipulated in By-law 20 as well as his subscription of the current year.

15. The Lodge shall not proceed with the ballot for elevation or joining unless the Scribe has reported that the documents mentioned in the foregoing by-laws have been produced.

16. No brother shall be elevated in or admitted a member of the Lodge, if on the ballot more than one third the brethren present and voting have cast blackballs. In the event of an unfavourable ballot, the candidate shall not be proposed again until after the lapse of six months from the date of his rejection.

VOTING RIGHTS

17. Any member of the Lodge who has defaulted payment of his subscription for six months after it has become due shall be debarred from exercising his rights of voting, proposing or seconding candidates and any proposition and being appointed or elected to any office.

18. In all cases where the votes of the brethren on any proposition are equal, the Worshipful Commander shall have a second or casting vote.

19. No visitor shall have the right to vote or speak without the consent of the Worshipful Commander unless upon any point connected with The Royal Ark Mariners degree and upon being invited to do so by the Worshipful Commander.

FEES AND SUBSCRIPTION

20. The following shall be payable to the Lodge:-

For Elevation	Rs. 1,000.00
For Joining or Re-Joining from the Indian Constitution	Rs. 200.00
For Joining or Re-Joining from a recognised Constitution	Rs. 300.00
Annual Subscription	Rs. 240.00

CESSATION AND RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS

21. If any brother allows his subscription to remain in arrears for a full year, the Scribe shall advise him of the amount due by registered post and if the full amount is not paid off within thirty days from the date thereof he shall be liable for exclusion under Article 109 of the Book of Constitutions.

22. Brethren desirous of resigning from the Lodge may notify the same either verbally in open Lodge or by letter to the Scribe. If a brother fails to observe this rule, he shall be liable for his subscription until such notice is given.

PROPOSITIONS

23. Every proposition for consideration by the Lodge shall be proposed by one member and seconded by another.

24. Amendments duly proposed and seconded may be moved by proposition. Amendments shall be put to vote first and if negatived the original proposal shall be put to vote and if the amendment is carried the original proposition shall be deemed to have been lost.

25. No proposition shall be considered at a meeting unless notice of it has been given at the previous regular meeting or forwarded in writing to the Scribe for inclusion in the summons at least fifteen days before the date of the meeting at which the proposition is to be considered, but the Worshipful Commander shall have the power to admit a proposition for consideration if he considers it of importance or urgency even though previous notice as aforesaid has not been given.

26. Every member must address the Worshipful Commander standing and in the manner usually observed amongst Royal Ark Mariners. No member shall speak more than once on the same subject. The proposer shall have a right of reply.

BY-LAWS

27. It shall not be competent for the Lodge to abrogate, alter, or amend these by-laws unless the abrogation, amendment or alteration shall have been moved in open Lodge at one meeting, considered and passed at the next regular meeting and confirmed at the subsequent regular meeting. Approval must then be obtained in accordance with Rule 87 of the Book of Constitutions.

28. Every Member on admission shall be presented with a copy of the By-laws and his acceptance thereof shall be deemed a submission thereto.

29. The By-laws of the lodge shall be read at least once in a year in open Lodge.

30. At every regular and emergency meeting of the Lodge, the charity bag shall be circulated.

MISCELLANEOUS

31. The Lodge building if any with its furniture, ornaments and jewels and in short all its property, shall be considered in the immediate charge and management of the Worshipful Commander and the Wardens.

CERTIFIED that these by-laws were considered and adopted on the date of the Consecration of the Lodge, namely, the seventh day of February 2003.

W.Bro. Abraham Markos
W.C.N.

Bro. T. T. Kuruvilla
S.W.

Bro. Dr. Zachariah Thomas
J.W.

Bro. Dr. K. P. George
Scribe

Approved by R.W.The Regional Grand Mark Master

Place: Chennai
Date : 17/7/2003

Dotwamur

Approved by M.W.The Grand Mark Master

Place: NEW DELHI
Date : 25.7.2003

Havish Gupta,
Grand Secretary