



## THE BYE-LAWS OF THE MONTFORT LODGE, No. 249

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*Without due order and decorum, harmony cannot be preserved, nor the business of masonry properly conducted; therefore, at the stroke of Master's Gavel profound silence shall be observed.*

### I. Members

1. The members of the Lodge shall comprise of three classes, viz:
  - a) Honorary
  - b) Resident
  - c) Non Resident
2. a) Honorary Members shall be those who are elected as such for services rendered to Masonry in general or to this Lodge in accordance with the provisions of Rule 142 Book of Constitutions.  
b) Resident Members shall be those residing in the revenue districts of Salem and Dharmapuri.  
c) Non-Resident Members shall be those residing outside the above two revenue districts.

### II. Meeting

3. The regular meeting of Lodge shall be held at YERCAUD on the Second Saturday of FEBRUARY, APRIL, JUNE, AUGUST, OCTOBER, and DECEMBER at such convenient hour as shall be entered in the Summons and every Brother attending shall sign his name in the attendance book kept for that purpose.

4. The expenses of an emergency meeting shall be defrayed by the Brother or Brethren on whose account the Lodge is summoned in addition to the dispensation fees, if any. But when an emergency meeting is called for the Lodge purposes, all expenses shall be defrayed from Lodge Funds.

### III. Procedure at Meeting

5. Any number of amendments duly proposed and seconded may be made to any propositions, in which case, the amendments shall be put first and if they are negatived, the original proposition shall be put to the vote. If any amendments is carried, the propositions as amended shall be put to the vote.

### IV. Dues and Fees

6. The fees and subscription payable to the Lodge shall be as follows :

a)	i. Annual Subscription for Resident Members ...	Rs. 350 00
	ii. Annual Subscription for Non-Resident Members	Rs. 150 00
b)	Initiation Fee	Rs. 500 00
c)	Joining Fee from Indian Constitution	Rs. 400 00
d)	Joining Fee From Other Constitution inclusive Cost of Grand Lodge Certificate	Rs. 500 00
e)	Rejoining Fee	Rs. 100 00

NOTE : A member initiated or joining in any month of a year shall pay his subscription for the entire year. The official year of the Lodge shall be from 1st Jany. to 31st Decr. of following year for the purpose of the collection of the subscription for membership.

7. All subscription shall be payable in full in advance and all fees shall also be payable in advance.

8. All sums payable by members under Bye-law Nos. 31 and 32 and charged to their respective accounts shall be considered as "Dues" and are payable within the next month.

## V. Admission of Members and Membership

9. No candidate for initiation or Joining or Re-Joining shall be ballotted for unless the prescribed fees shall have been previously paid and the prescribed forms duly filled in by the candidate with all other consequential documents, if any, have all been previously deposited with the Secretary.
10. No candidate for initiation or Joining shall be admitted, if on the ballot, two black balls appear against him. No rejected candidate shall be again proposed until twelve months have elapsed.
11. If a candidate for initiation is not initiated within one year (as defined by R. 135 of B. of C.) after the date of the ballot at which he was elected, his election shall be void.
12. In the event of rejection of the candidate for initiation or Joining or deferred Initiation for over twelve English calendar months, the admission fees previously paid shall be returned.
13. A member desirous of terminating his membership of the Lodge shall tender his resignation in writing or orally in Open Lodge, and he shall be entitled to the certificate mentioned in Rule 150 (a) and (b) Book of Constitutions stating the circumstances in which he left the Lodge.
14. No Brother who has resigned or has been excluded for non-payment of dues, shall be permitted to rejoin unless he shall have paid up all dues and unless he is again regularly proposed and seconded and ballotted for in the usual course.
15. Except with the special permission of the Master or unless recommended by the Committee for General Purposes, no proposal shall be brought forward for consideration by the Lodge unless it is proposed and seconded in open Lodge at the regular meeting or is given in writing to the Secretary duly proposed and seconded fifteen days prior to the next regular meeting. With the exceptions noted above, no proposal shall be considered in the Lodge unless it has been notified in the Summons for the meeting concerned.

## VI. Arrears of Dues

16. When the subscription of a member is unpaid for a year, he will be ineligible to vote or propose or be appointed or elected to office, and shall be liable to exclusion on a vote of the Lodge in accordance with Rule 156 of the Book of Constitutions.

## VII. Notice and Summons

17. (a) Notices and Summons which are required to be sent to any member, shall be deemed sufficiently served, if sent through ordinary post to the last known address of a member. Every notice of exclusion or intended exclusion shall be sent through registered post for acknowledgement due.

(b) All changes of addresses shall be invariably notified to the Secretary in writing by members.

**NOTE:** The Secretary and Treasurer shall always be addressed as such, in virtue of their office and never by name, as it frequently happens that letter addressed to the Lodge Officers by name are forwarded as private letters, if such officers have left the station.

## VIII. Election of Master, Treasurer and Tyler

18. The Master and Treasurer shall be elected by ballot and the Tyler elected by show of hands at the Regular Meeting in DECEMBER of every year. The Master elect shall be installed at the next Regular Meeting in FEBRUARY.

## IX. Committee For General Purposes

19. A Committee for General Purposes, consisting of the Master, Wardens, Past Masters, Treasurer, and Secretary of the Lodge for the time being and two members elected at the Regular Meeting in FEBRUARY shall conduct all business of the Lodge, superintend the finances and the property of the Lodge and consider any subject relating to its

interest. It shall meet at least once a quarter when summoned by the Master (three to form a quorum) and the result of its proceedings shall be reported at the regular meeting of the Lodge.

#### **X. Annual Audit Committee**

20. At the regular meeting in DECEMBER every year, the Lodge shall appoint the Audit Committee, consisting of three members. The Secretary and the Treasurer shall attend the meetings of the Audit Committee.
21. The duties of the Audit Committee shall be :
  - i) To inspect and to take an inventory of the property of the Lodge mentioning its state and condition.
  - ii) To examine the Secretary's books and audit the Treasurer's accounts.
  - iii) To draw up a report of the result of their examinations and of the working of the Lodge during the past year. In this respect they may suggest any matter tending to promote the welfare of this Lodge.
22. The report of the Annual Audit Committee shall be submitted to the Lodge at the Regular Meeting in FEBRUARY of each year before the installation of the Master.
23. Any suggestion made in the Annual report must be put to the Lodge in the shape of a proposition duly seconded, approved by the Brethren and confirmed before being carried into effect.

#### **XI. Special Committee**

24. (a) There shall be constituted a Committee on Admission of New Candidates, consisting of the Master and two Brethren, elected in Open Lodge, at the Installation Meeting in FEBRUARY each year. It shall be the duty of this Committee to consider and report to the Lodge on all proposals for membership.

(b) The Lodge may, at its discretion, nominate other Committees for the conduct and consideration of special subjects consisting of not less than three members, a Past Master being included, if possible, three to form a quorum. The results of its proceedings shall be reported at a regular Meeting of the Lodge and any suggestion made must be put to the Lodge in the shape of a proposition as in Bye-law No. 24.

## XII. Warrant, Premises, Furniture Etc. of this Lodge.

25. (a) The warrant of this Lodge together with the jewels, Regalia, Archives and all properties of the Lodge (a list of which shall be kept by the Secretary) shall vest in and be under the absolute control of the Master and Wardens for the time being in trust for the members of the Lodge, but shall not be sold or otherwise disposed off, except by resolution of the Brethren in open Lodge, assembled, regularly proposed, carried and confirmed. No Property of the Lodge shall be lent or hired except for purely Masonic purposes.

## XIII. Duties of Officers

### Treasurer

26. (a) All moneys due to or held for the Lodge shall be paid or remitted to the Treasurer direct, who shall without undue delay, deposit the same in an account or accounts opened in the name of the Lodge at a Bank or Banks to be approved by resolution of the Lodge. The Lodge Funds so deposited with the Bank or Banks will be subject to withdrawals against the Joint-signatures of Master and the Treasurer.

(b) Except for routine expense, no sum of money shall be expended by the Treasurer without the sanction of the Lodge.

(c) He shall keep a cash account of all receipts and disbursements and a Ledger account for each member which later shall be open for inspection of the member to whom it relates on application to the Treasurer.

- (d) He (Treasurer) shall maintain separate accounts for the General Funds, Charity Funds, and each and every other Special Fund, that may be in existence or may be set up from time to time and also as far as possible deposit them in separate accounts with Bank or Banks, as may be approved by the Lodge.
- (e) The accounts shall be made up by him and audited by the Committee appointed under Bye-Law No. 20. He shall also prepare the annual balance sheet and present it to the Audit Committee (for this purpose 1st January to 31st December shall be taken to be the official year of the Lodge).
- (f) To enable Bye-law No. 16 to be enforced, the Treasurer shall report at each meeting the names of members who are in arrears for a year.
- (g) The Treasurer shall, at the beginning of the month of January each year, transfer from the General Fund of the Lodge :
  - i) Rs. 10/- per member per year to the Charity Fund of the Lodge.
  - ii) Rs. 40/- per member per year to the Stewards Fund of the Lodge.

### **Secretary**

- 7. (a) The Secretary shall issue summons to all the members of the Lodge atleast seven days prior to each regular Meeting setting forth all the business to be entered upon; the amount of dues, if any, for each Brother shall be entered on his summons.
- (b) He shall also keep proper Minutes of the proceedings of the Lodge.
- (c) He shall keep the Register which will give full particulars concerning the members of the Lodge as required by the Rule 121 of the Book of Constitutions. He shall prepare for the signature of the Master all the necessary and regular Returns required by the Grand Lodge of India and by the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India.

- (d) All letters from the members of the Lodge shall be addressed to him.
- (e) He shall keep a list of all Lodge properties.
- (f) He shall be Ex-Officio member and Secretary of all Committees and special Committees appointed by the Lodge sending out the notices.

### **Stewards**

28. (a) The Stewards, if appointed, shall have charge of all furniture and Regalia and shall see that the Tyler keeps them in good order and provides everything requisite in the Lodge. They shall see that the Lodge is always properly prepared for meetings and shall make the necessary arrangements about the refreshments banquets, etc.
- (b) The Chairman of the Stewards' Committee or in his absence the Senior Steward available or in his absence any member appointed by the Master for that purpose shall arrange for subscribed Lunches, dinners or light refreshments. He will draw necessary funds from the Treasurer out of the Stewards' Funds and meet the cost of food and light refreshments for the regular members.
- (c) The Chairman of the Stewards' Committee or the member in-charge shall forthwith submit an account expended by him from out of the Stewards Fund.

### **The Tyler**

29. The Tyler shall take care of, and keep in good order the Lodge furniture, Regalia, etc. He shall prepare the Lodge before meetings and shall see that every person whether member or visitor enter his name in the Attendance Book previous to his admission to the Lodge.
30. The Tyler, if he happens to be a serving brother, shall be paid a fee of Rs. 5/- for each meeting attended and his dinner charges also shall be paid from out of the general fund of the Lodge.

#### XIV. Banquets, Refreshments Etc.

31. (a) All expenses connected with subscribed dinners, banquets, lunches and light refreshments with respect to regular members after the regular meeting of the Lodge, shall be borne from out of the Stewards' Fund of the Lodge. Charges for visiting Masons shall be paid by them or by the members inviting them. For Lodge guests, payment shall be made under such arrangements as may be made from time to time by the Lodge.

(b) The above arrangement with respect to regular members shall not include Festive Boards in connection with emergency meetings, special meetings, Ladies' Nights and such other meetings and get-together or gatherings for which charges will be payable extra.

#### XV. Alms (Charity Fund)

32. Before closing, at each meeting, Regular or Emergency, the Master may direct the charity box to be circulated in order that all the Brethren present may deposit of free will, offerings.

33. The sum thus collected shall be kept separate from the Lodge funds and appropriated to such charitable purposes as the Brethren in the open the Lodge may direct.

#### XVI. Bye - Laws

34. Every member of the Lodge, Initiated in or Joining the Lodge, shall be presented with a printed copy of the Bye-Laws, free of charge. The Bye-Laws shall be read in the open Lodge once every year and such other time as the Master may think it proper.

35. No alteration, addition or amendment shall be made to these Bye-Laws unless moved and seconded in open Lodge, due notice of such motion having been sent in the Summons to each member, nor shall such alteration or amendment be considered carried unless two-thirds of the members present vote in its favour. The alteration addition or amendment shall come into force only after it is duly approved by R. W. The Regional Grand Master, Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India and the M. W. The Grand Master.

“ These Bye-Laws have been duly approved and adopted at the Consecration Meeting held on 30th July, 1983 ”.

“ These Bye-Laws have been duly reconfirmed at the second regular Meeting held on 8th October, 1983 ”.

**(Sd.) Shyam Nandlal Wadhwanî, (Sd.) Jemboonath Muralidhar.**

Wor. Master. Secretary.

**(Sd.) P. V. Parthasarathy, (Sd.) D. Rajasekharan Kamak.**

Senior Warden. Junior Warden.

Approved by R. W. The Regional Grand Master.

14th December, 1983 } **(Sd.) G. K. Devarajulu,**  
Coimbatore-37. } Regional Grand Master.

Approved by M. W. The Grand Master.

NEW DELHI, } **(Sd.) H. J. Rushi.**  
27-1-1984. } Grand Secretary.

The above amendments were regularly Proposed and Seconded in the open Lodge at a Regular Meeting held on 8th July 1989. Passed at a Regular Meeting held on 14 10 1989 and confirmed at an Emergency Meeting held on 04 11 1989.

**(Sd.) P. Shanker (Sd.) Jemboonath Muralidhar**

Wor. Master. Secretary.

**(Sd.) S. G. Bajaj (Sd.) K. Ramesh**

Senior Warden. Junior Warden.

Approved by R. W. The Regional Grand Master.

Madurai } **(Sd.) V. Rajendran**  
23rd November 1989 } Regional Grand Master

Approved by M. W. The Grand Master.

New Delhi } **(Sd.) N. L. Duggal**  
9th April 1990 } Grand Secretary

# GRAND LODGE OF INDIA

To All and Every Our Right Worshipful, beloved  
Worshipful and Loving Brethren  
We  
**SITARAM JAIPURIA**  
Recipient of the Order of Service to Masonry

## GRAND MASTER

Of the Most Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of  
Free and Accepted Masons of India

Send Greeting Know ye that We by the authority and under the  
sanction of the Grand Lodge of India vested in us for that purpose and  
at the humble petition of our Right Trusty and well beloved Brethren  
S. N. Wadhwani, P. V. Parthasarathy, D. R. Kamak, V. Rajendran,  
P. V. Chandrasekaran, P. V. Purushothaman, R. Kanagasabai,  
K. Ratnasabai, K. Vajravel, A. R. Kamak, V. V. D. Bremanandam,  
P. M. Amaresan, J. Muralidhar, W. P. A. R. Nagarajan, R. Rajasekar,  
S. G. Bajaj, M. Chandrasekaran, G. N. Wadhwani, Dr. V. Sivaprakasam,  
P. Shankar, S. S. Babulal, K. R. Chabria, K. M. Chabria, K. G. Chabria  
K. F. Chabria, A. Nagarajan and others do hereby constitute the said  
Brethren into a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons under the title or  
denomination of

## THE MONTFORT LODGE NO. 249

The said Lodge to meet at Freemasons' Hall, Yercaud, Shevaroy  
Hills, Tamilnadu on the Second Saturday of July, October, January &  
April every year empowering them in the said Lodge when duly  
congregated to make, pass and raise Freemasons according to the  
Ancient Custom of the Craft in all Ages and Nations throughtout the  
known world and further at their said Petition and of the great trust and  
confidence reposed in every of the above named Brethren. We do  
APPOINT the said S. N. Wadhwani to be the first Master, the said  
P. V. Parthasarathy to be the first SENIOR WARDEN and the said  
D. R. Kamak to be the first JUNIOR WARDEN for opening and holding  
the said Lodge and until such time as another Master shall be regulary

elect and installed, strictly charging that every member who shall be elected to preside over the said Lodge and who must previously have duly served as Warden in a Warranted Lodge shall be installed in Ancient Form, and according to the Laws of the Grand Lodge that he may thereby be fully invested with the dignities and powers of his Office. And we do require you the said S. N. Wadhwani to take special care that all and every the said Brethren are or have been regularly made Masons and that you and they and all other the Members of said Lodge do observe, perform and keep the Laws, Rules and Orders contained in the Book of Constitutions and all others which may from time to time be made by our Grand Lodge or transmitted by us or our Successors Grand Masters or by our Deputy Grand Master for the time being and we do enjoin you to make such By Laws for the governance of your Lodge as shall be the majority of the Members appear proper and necessary, the same not being contrary to or inconsistent with the General Laws and Regulations of the Craft, a Copy whereof you are to transmit to us. And we do require you to cause all such By Laws and Regulations and also an Account of the proceedings in your Lodge to be entered in a book to be kept for that purpose. And you are in no wise to omit to send us or our Successors Grand Masters or to our Deputy Grand Master for the time at least once in every year a list of the members of your Lodge and the names and descriptions of all Masons initiated therein and Brethren who shall have joined the same with the fees and monies payable thereon. It being our will and intention that this Our WARRANT OF CONSTITUTION shall continue in force so long only as you shall conform to the Laws and Regulation of our Grand Lodge. And you the said S. N. Wadhwani are further required as soon as conveniently may be to send us an account in writing of what shall be done by virtue of these Presents.

Given under our hands and the Seal of the Grand Lodge at  
New Delhi this Eighth day of March, 1983, corresponding to Seventeenth  
Phalguna, 1904, Saka Era.

(Sd.) H. J. Rushi  
Grand Secretary.

BROTHER

A BROTHER IS ONE  
WHO IS ALWAYS FUN  
TO HELP YOU  
THROUGH DIFFICULTY  
HE'S ALWAYS FIRM  
HE'LL NEVER TURN  
FROM HIS DUTY  
TO THE FAMILY  
HE'S A GUIDING LIGHT  
AT DAY OR NIGHT  
CHEERFULLY  
AND IF YOU ASK  
OF ANY TASK  
HE'LL HELP YOU  
SINCERELY.