

R.A.M. LODGE, CHENNAI

No.92

(Warranted on the 11th day of August 1999

Corresponding to the 20th day of Sravana 1921 Saka Era)

B Y - L A W S

Under the authority granted by the Grand Mark Lodge of India, a Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners under the name and style of "R.A.M. LODGE CHENNAI No.92" shall be held at the Freemasons' Hall, No.87, Ethiraj Road, Egmore, Chennai 600 008.

1) MEMBERSHIP

The members shall comprise only two classes viz, Members and Honorary Members. Honorary Member would be a brother who has done good service to a daughter R.A.M.Lodge or to the Order.

2. MEETINGS :

a) The Lodge shall meet on the Fourth Monday in the months of March, June, September and December, at the Freemasons' Hall, 87, Ethiraj Road, Egmore, Chennai 600 008 at 6.30 p.m. or at such hour as the Worshipful Commander Noah may fix.

b) An Emergency Meeting may be held at any time when duly summoned by command of Worshipful Commander Noah or the Officer-in-charge.

c) Summons for a Regular Meeting or for an Emergency Meeting shall be sent by the Scribe to all the members of the Lodge seven clear days before the day of Regular/Emergency Meeting.

d) 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.

3. ELECTION AND INSTALLATION MEETINGS :

The Worshipful Commander Noah and Treasurer shall be elected annually by ballot and the Warden chosen by show of hands at the Regular Meeting in December. The Worshipful Commander-elect shall be installed and he shall appoint and invest the following officers at the next Regular Meeting in March : Senior Warden; Junior Warden; Chaplain; Treasurer (elected); Scribe; Director of Ceremonies; Senior Deacon; Junior Deacon; Organist; Assistant Scribe; Guardian; Stewards and Warden (Chosen).

4. MANAGEMENT :

a) The affairs of the Lodge shall be managed by a General Committee consisting of the Worshipful Commander Noah who shall be the President of the Committee, the Wardens, all installed Noahs, the Treasurer, the Scribe and two members elected by the Lodge. The election of two members shall take place at the Installation Meeting in March.

b) This Committee shall consider such matters specifically referred to 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 Committee shall meet at least once in every quarter and its proceedings shall be read in open Lodge at the next Regular Meeting. Three members shall form a quorum.

c) The Scribe shall conduct all the general business and correspondence of the Lodge. He shall keep record in a Minutes Book of the business transacted at every Regular/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 General Committee. He shall keep a register of all 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 Five Hundred for contingent expenses for which he shall render periodical accounts to the Treasurer.

d) The Treasurer shall have charge of and be responsible for the moneys and account books of the Lodge. He shall enter the details for moneys received and paid out, in appropriate books of accounts. He shall collect the subscription and other dues, if any, from members and deposit them in the name of the Lodge in a Bank approved by resolution of the Lodge. He shall have authority to pay as and when they fall due all routine expenses of the Lodge such as Grand Mark Lodge and Regional Grand Mark Lodge dues, contributory share, electricity charges, Summons printing charges, Warden's Fees and sundry expenses. All other payments shall be made only on the authority of the Lodge, or the Worshipful Commander or the Officer-in-charge of the Lodge. At the Installation Meeting he shall place before the Lodge the accounts written upto 31st January previous, audited and certified as correct by the Audit Committee, elected as per Bye-Law 5 below. All cheques must be signed by any two of the following viz. the Master, the Treasurer and the Secretary.

5. AUDIT COMMITTEE :

An Audit Committee of two members shall be elected by the

Lodge at the Installation Meeting in March who shall audit the accounts of the Lodge for the year and certify its correctness.

6. ADMISSION OF MEMBERS :

a) A Mark Master 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 Regular Meeting. The full name of the candidate, his date of birth, Profession or Occupation, place of abode, the name and number of the Mark Lodge of which he is or was a member, his date of advancement 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 Lodge Certificate as Mark Master Mason and a No Dues/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 before the ballot the fees stipulated in By-Law No.8 as well as his annual subscription.

b) If a Brother who is a Royal Ark Mariner is desirous of joining the Lodge, he must be proposed and seconded at a Regular Meeting of the Lodge. His full name, profession or occupation, place of abode, the name and number of the R.A.M. Lodge of which he is a member must be set forth in the Summons for the Meeting at which the ballot is to take place. He must produce his Royal Ark Mariner's Certificate and a No Dues Clearance Certificate from the Lodge of which he is or was a member stating that his dues have been paid in full. He must also pay before ballot the

fees stipulated in By-Law No.8 as well as his annual subscription.

c) 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.

7. BALLOT AND VOTING :

a) No Brother shall be elevated in or admitted a member of the Lodge, if on the ballot more than two blackballs shall appear against him. 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,

b) In all cases where the votes of the Brethren on any proposition are equal the Worshipful Commander Noah shall have a second or casting vote.

8. FEES AND SUBSCRIPTION :

The following fees shall be payable to the Lodge :

a) Fee for Elevation	: Rs.250/- plus the Elevation fees payable to the Grand Mark Lodge of India and Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India.
b) Fee for Joining or Re-joining	: Rs.250/- plus the Joining Fees payable to Grand Mark Lodge of India and Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India.
c) Fee for joining from a Lodge of recognised Constitution	: Rs.250/- plus the Joining Fees payable to Grand Mark Lodge of India and Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India.
d) Fee for Emergency Meeting	: Rs.100/- payable by the Brother for whose convenience the Meeting is held.
e) Annual Subscription Payable in advance.	: Rs.200/- plus the Annual Dues payable to Grand Mark Lodge of India and Regional Grand Mark Lodge of S.I. at the prevailing rates.

9. EXCLUSION :

If any brother allows his subscription to remain in arrears for one 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 to Exclusion Under Rule 109 of the Books of constitutions (Mark).

10. RESIGNATION :

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. Any member 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.

11. PROPOSITIONS :

- a) Every Proposition for consideration by the Lodge shall be proposed by one member and seconded by another.
- b) Amendments duly proposed and seconded, may be moved to any proposition. Amendments shall be put to the vote first and if negatived, the original proposition shall be put to vote, but if the amendment is carried the original proposition shall be deemed to have been lost, except in the case of amendments which are merely of a clarificatory or formal nature and except amendments which may be acceptable to the mover of the original proposition"
- c) No proposition shall be considered at a meeting unless notice of it had 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

Noah shall have power to admit a proposition for consideration if he considers it of importance or urgency or merely formal and routine, even though previous notice as aforesaid had not been given.

d) Every member must address the Worshipful Commander standing and in the manner usual amongst Royal Ark Mariners. No member shall speak more than once on the same subject. The proposer shall have the right to reply.

12) PROPERTY :

Furniture, Regalia, the Charter and other properties of the Lodge shall be vested in the care of the Worshipful Commander and Wardens. An inventory of such property shall be recorded by them in a Book kept for that purpose and such inventory shall be presented at the Installation Meeting signed by the Worshipful Commander and Wardens. The Worshipful Commander and Wardens, if they so desire, may entrust the properties mentioned above to the Scribe on their behalf for proper care and custody.

13) BY-LAWS :

a) It shall not be competent to 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 Regular 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 Book of Constitutions (Mark).

b) Every member, on admission shall be presented with a copy of the By-Laws and his acceptance thereof shall be deemed a submission thereto.

14) CHARITY BOX

At every Regular and Emergency Meeting of the Lodge, the charity box shall be circulated.

These By-Laws were considered and adopted on the date of Consecration, 15th day of September, 1999.

*G. S. Selvaraj*  
*M. S. Rajasekhar*  
*J. W. Dr. John Reginald*  
*S. Thirugnanam*  
*Murthy*

W.C.N. W.Bro. G.K. SELVARAJAN  
S.W. (ACTING) Bro. M.S. RAJASEKHAR  
J.W. BRO. DR. JOHN REGINALD  
Scribe (ACTING) Bro. S. THIRUGNANAM  
MURTHY

Approved by R.W. the Regional Grand Mark Master.

Place : Chennai

Dated : 21/11/99.

*Am. Clubfoot*  
Regional Grand Mark Master,  
Southern India.

Approved by M.W. The Grand Master on 10.1.2000 1999.

Place : New Delhi

Dated : 10.1.2000

*Suresh*  
Grand Secretary.