

## ILLUMINATING THE PEDESTAL

And

## RETURNING OUR SECRETS TO THE SAFETY OF DARKNESS

**M.E.Z.** Comp. D.C., illuminate the Pedestal.

**D.C.** *moves to the Sojourners and provides each Asst. with a taper, which is then ignited.*

**A.Soj.s** *move off towards the Pedestal, keeping in step. When parallel with the Pedestal, stop, pause – turn inwards to face each other – pause – bring the tapers in front of their faces and then before proceeding:*

**M.E.Z.** *reads.* The origin of this ceremony is found in the Chaldean Rite of Light and paraphrasing the lengthy rite it says “and the priests commanded the people to gather and turn to the East”. The two small candles in the North and South are lit representing the gathering of the people. *(The 2 Soj.s do so).*

**M.E.Z.** *reads.* “Then did light come over the Eastern horizon and stretched its rays afar even unto the Western horizon”. The large candle in the East and the small candle in the West are now lit to represent the spread of the rays. *(The 2 Soj.s do so).*

**M.E.Z.** *reads.* “And the light shone all around.” *(The 2 Soj.s light the 2 remaining candles).*

*The two Sojourners now take one pace back - blow the tapers out together – turn to the West – pause – then in unison return to the West of the Columns – stop – turn to the East and make a court bow to the Principals, then turn and retake their seats.*

## Returning our Secrets to the Safety of Darkness

*This ceremony complements the Illuminating of the Pedestal that is conducted immediately after the Chapter is opened.*

*The Ceremony of Returning our Secrets to the Safety of Darkness should be conducted at the closing of the Chapter, immediately before the I.P.Z. (or other designated Companion) makes the Closing Address - “Companions, this Convocation being closed, nothing now remains but, according to ancient custom, to lock up our Secrets in a safe and sacred repository, uniting in the act of – Fidelity, Fidelity, Fidelity, Fidelity – and may God be with us all.” *In complementing the Illuminating of the Pedestal, this Ceremony of Returning our Secrets to the Safety of Darkness should remind the departing Companions that what they have learned in the Chapter should guide their lives beyond. The movements and wording of the Ceremony are as follows:**

M.E.Z. Companion Sojourners, you will return our Secrets to the safety of darkness. *The three Sojourners step forward. Then, having received the snuffers from the P.Soj. if needed, the 1st and 2nd Asst. Sojs walk respectively along the South and North sides of the Ensigns, at an equal pace, halting when they are level with the Pedestal. They then turn inwards, facing each other across the Pedestal, close enough to the candles to conduct the following ceremony, whilst obviously ensuring their surplices are not in danger from the candles!*

P.Soj: And the lives of the People were enlightened by the Secrets they had learned. The two Large Candles in the West are then extinguished to represent the Light now shining within the People. *The Asst. Soj’s extinguish those candles.*

P.Soj And the People pledged to maintain these Secrets in their hearts by day and by night.” The Large Candle in the East and the Small Candle in the West are extinguished to represent the Light of the Secrets seen throughout the lives of the People. *The Asst. Sojs do so.* Then the Priests commanded the People to disperse and return to their homes.” The two Small Candles in the North and South are extinguished representing the Light now reposing in the Peoples’ hearts beyond the veils of the Temple. *The Asst. Sojs do so. The Asst. Sojs. take one pace back, pause, turn together to the West, pause, then in unison return to the West of the Ensigns to line up with the Prin. Soj. All three Sojourners court bow to the Principals and then return to their places. In our Chapters, most M.E.Z.s read the Illuminating of the Pedestal. This is perfectly acceptable, but of course they may recite it if they have the confidence to do so accurately. Similarly, the Principal Sojourner may recite or read the above words. The importance is in retaining the dignity of the ceremony.*