

A Play

"The Masons Meet" (An Eastern Star's Idea of What They Do)

PREPARATION:

Set up the "lodge" as follows

	Worshipful Master	
Treasurer	Chaplain	Marshal Secretary
Sr. Deacon		Jr. Deacon
Altar		
Junior Steward		Junior Warden
Senior Steward		Door Keeper
Senior Warden		
Cow Bell		
Plumb line jewel		
dish pattern		

CHARACTERS:

Worshipful Master	Senior Steward	Marshal
Senior Warden	Junior Steward	Chaplain
Junior Warden	Secretary	Worthy Patron
Senior Deacon	Treasurer	
Junior Deacon	Door Keeper	

PARAPHERNAILIA:

CARPET BAG containing a LEVEL, a SQUARE, a COMPASS, a BIBLE, 2 books supposedly the CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS, the CHARTER, and PLUM-LINE. Jewels (?) for each officer. 3 gavels, Treasurer's book and Secretary's minute book. A second Plum-line with a Prune on it. Frilly, fussy aprons should be available for each officer.

DRESS:

Those taking part should wear men's clothes and look as much like "Masons" as possible.

Worshipful Master will need a top hat, cane, and white gloves.

PINK LODGE PLAY

WORTHY MATRON:

"Welcome"

"Brother Masons, we are more than happy to welcome you (your wives and friends) tonight. There is no one any place who we would rather entertain. We think you are almost perfect - - except for one small fault - you don't tell us anything. For years untold, Mason's wives have been trying to find out just a wee bit of what you do in your

meetings. Of course, we want you to understand that this is not because we are curious, but because we feel we might benefit ourselves and our organization by knowing. Well, we realize that we haven't been too successful in gaining the knowledge we seek, but we have gathered here a little and there a little. With a trifling of imagination added, we have constructed this program tonight. If we have made a few errors, please forgive us. There are parts we are a bit hazy about. After the meeting, any of you will be at liberty to set us right on our mistakes. So, welcome again.

Without further ado, we will consider this Masonic Lodge meeting open and all present Masons good and true."

(Worthy Matron raps the gavel and retires.)

PROGRAM:

Enter the Worshipful Master in a decidedly important manner, looking neither to the left or right. He is followed by the Junior Steward who carries the lodge paraphernalia in a bag. Worshipful Master goes to the East and is seated. The Junior Steward places the bag before him and retires. Worshipful Master opens the bag and speaks as he pulls out the emblems and places them on the stand.

W.M. Here is the Charter, the Bible, the Law, and the Level
 I do declare it's full of flaws.
 We must get a new one before many years. Well why
 should I worry, the end of my term nears.
 And here is the compass and there is the square,
 Oh! here is another; we've one to spare.
 And the plum-line is ready to plum every brother
 To see if we truly love one another.
 Here is my gavel, we'd better begin.
 Those guys are always late as sin.
 But surely the last cigarette has been smoked,
 And it is time now for my words to be spoke.

(Master raps gavel HARD)

Enter officers good and true. This gavel is a call
 to all of you.

(gavel again)

(Officers enter, no music. Master seats officers with a rap of the gavel.)

W.M. "we enter now on the evening work, Pay attention
 do not shirk."

(2 raps of the gavel raises the officers. As he addresses each one in turn they reply to him giving their parts. The Senior and Junior Wardens may rap their gavels whenever the Master does.)

W.M.: "Brother Senior Warden, What duties are assigned to you,
 Brother Mason good and true?"

S.W.: "Worshipful Sir, When you are gone and that is that,
I step into your shoes and wear your hat."

W.M.: "Brother Junior Warden, What duties are assigned to you,
Brother Mason good and true?"

J.W.: "Worshipful Sir, I order food for oyster stews, And
other things the stewards use.

W.M.: "Brother Senior Deacon, What duties are assigned to you,
Brother Mason good and true?"

S.D.: "Worshipful Sir, I hold my office and sit and wait,
For the next election, to learn my fate."

W.M.: "Brother Junior Deacon, What duties are assigned to you,
Brother Mason good and true?"

J.D.: "Worshipful Sir, I carry my staff and tend the goats,
and all the candidates actions I note."

W.M.: "Brother Senior Steward, What duties are assigned to you,
Brother Mason good and true?"

S.S.: "Worshipful Sir, I prepare the food at time propitious,
and afterwards, I wash the dishes."

W.M.: "Brother Junior Steward, What duties are assigned to you,
Brother Mason good and true?"

J.S.: "Worshipful Sir, I do what the Senior Steward tells me to
do, my tasks are many, where his are few."

W.M.: "Brother Marshal, What duties are assigned to you,
Brother Mason good and true?"

B.M.: "Worshipful Sir, I keep the law, (holds out gun) and
anyone who doesn't is going to have to meet me at sundown."

W.M.: "Brother Chaplain, What duties are assigned to you,
Brother Mason good and true?"

B.C.: "Worshipful Sir, May I bless you and all the bretheren,
Bless you my Children."

W.M.: "Brother Door Keeper, What duties are assigned to you,
Brother Mason good and true?"

D.K.: "Worshipful Sir, I guard the door with utmost care,
and many a wily Star ensnare."

W.M.: "I now declare the Lodge is open, attend to business,
let's have no smokin." (gavel)

Bretheren, we are now ready for the plumin'. Senior
Warden, you will advance to the East with your plum-line
and conduct the ceremony." (gavel)

(Senior Warden goes to the East dancing and Stands on the platform.)

S.W.: "Bretheren, let us hope you have walked and lived by the plum-line since last we met. First, we will have a report on last week's preparations and rectifications. Junior Steward, your report."

J.S.: "Bretheren, I took back the extra cookies I knew the baker had given me by mistake. He thanked me and before I left the shop, those two cookies had been sold to a waiting customer. I have walked by the plum-line since last we met."

CHAPLAIN - "Bless you my child."

S.W.: "Junior Warden, your report."

J.W.: "Bretheren, I returned to the store and explained about the mistake in change that had been made. The store keeper said, "You are an honest man, just keep the change." So I put the nickel back into my pocket. It is my desire to donate it to the treasury this evening." (Goes up to Treasurer and deposits the money in a container)

CHAPLAIN - "Bless you my child."

S.W.: "Door Keeper, your report."

D.K.: "Bretheren, I went to the husband of the woman I mentioned in our last plumin' ceremony. I explained in detail all about the situation. The husband, Brother who is my good Masonic brother said there were no hard feelings. I could buy his wife coffee anytime I wanted to, before 8:00 p.m. that is. We parted the best of friends, Ya'll."

Marshal stands and draws his gun and says, "and you better not meet at 8:01 p.m. or I'll meet you at the o.k. corral."

CHAPLAIN - "Bless you my child."

S.W.: "This ends the preparations rectifications. (gavel) Are there any confessions to make tonight? Remember - have you walked on the level and parted on the square? Have you plumed the depths of your natures? Be honest Bretheren, be just. (gavel)

Bretheren, I must make a confession myself tonight. When leaving home I discovered that my small son had eaten the plum off my plum-line. It was late, the stores were closed, so I was forced to substitute a prune for a plum. I deeply regret this incident, but it was really my wife's fault. She should have watched the child more closely. But no matter whose fault, I confess it and await your decision on preparation and rectification."

S.S.: "Worshipful Master, (wave hand to be recognized) I recommend that the Brother be instructed to buy another plum immediately. It is unworthy that we pruned instead of plumed."

S.D.: "Worshipful Master, (wave hand to be recognized) my wife has some canned plums, perhaps I can take some when she isn't looking."

B.M.: "Anyone caught stealing will have to deal with me. I'll put you in jail and fine you \$5,000.00. So beware - I'm going to keep law and order if it kills me."

CHAPLAIN - "Bless you my child."

S.D.: "Worshipful Master, (wave hand to be recognized) it would not be stolen, I paid for the plums, my wife merely canned them."

D.K.: "Worshipful Master, (wave hand to be recognized) why not purchase a can of plums at the grocery store?"

J.S.: "Worshipful Master, (wave hand to be recognized) I think the brother's idea is a good one. The plums may be dried in a secret place and would last the Lodge for many years."

S.S.: "Worshipful Master, (wave hand to be recognized) if the suggestion be carried out, let it not be the Senior Warden who dries the plums, his son would probably find them and eat them all."

S.D.: "Worshipful Master (wave hand to be recognized) the question of who should pay for the plums enters my mind. Should not the Senior Warden pay for it as he lost the one belonging to the Lodge? After all, he is responsible."

S.W.: "Worshipful Master, (wave hand to be recognized) it was really my wife's fault for not watching our son. Is a man responsible for the failure of his wife?"

EVERYBODY SAYS - - "NO."

W.M.: "Brother Treasurer, how much money do we have in the treasury?"

TREA.: "Worshipful Master, we have \$15,389.57 in the treasury."

W.M.: "Thank you, Brother Treasurer. Bretheren, I do not believe we can spare the money or the treasury at this time for a new plum."

D.K.: "Worshipful Master, (wave hand to be recognized) I will donate a plum so that the discussion may end."

CHAPLAIN - "Bless you my child"

(all officers applaud)

W.M.: "Thank you brother, you are a good and true Mason. Now, to continue the preparations an rectifications. Brother Senior Warden, you will speak to your wife in no uncertain terms about the negligence of bringing up your son and report at the next meeting."

S.W.: "I shall be glad to do as you command. (Pause) Bretheren, are there other confessions? (gavel) Worshipful Master, the Lodge has been properly pruned - - I mean plumed."

W.M.: "I do declare the pluming closed for tonight." (gavel)
(Senior Warden returns to West - he skips)

W.M.: "We will listen to the reading of the minutes."

SEC.: "The regular meeting of the PINK LODGE F&AM was held on ##### with most of the officers. The Worshipful Master opened the Lodge in due form and the Senior Warden conducted the plumin' ceremony. There were no reports and three confessions. The minutes were read and corrected. A communication from the Eastern Star was read. The ladies complained about the poor janitor service. They said that their white evening gowns became soiled by dust and cob-web about the room. They also wished a reduction in rent and asked the Masons to donate \$1,000.00 toward a new rug. The communications were placed on file, no action taken. Brother ##### was reported ill with a severe case of atheletes food and the collection of \$.79 was taken to purchase flowers for him should he become worse. If he improved in a few days, the money was to be put in the treasury. The Senior Steward was instructed to prepare for the annual oyster supper to be held soon. After the Master gave an inspiring and instructive lecture on who should be entitled to sit among us as Bretheren. We balloted on three petitions and they were all black-balled. Cash in the treasury: \$15,389.57"

Brother Sylvester Wolfe, Secretary

W.M.: "Any corrections? If not, the minutes stand approved as read. (gavel) Reports of committees."

J.W.: "Bretheren, I am glad to report that Brother #####'s feet got better so I am placing the \$.79 we collected for flowers in the treasury." (goes to the treasurer and drops coins in container, one at a time.)

CHAPLAIN - "Bless you my child"

S.W.: "Brother ##### has a new son, born last meeting night. He has been named Mason Mason Fellowcraft in honor of the meeting date.

S.D.: "Brother ##### is having his teeth remade, so he's staying home for a few days. You will all recall how loose they have been

for years."

W.M.: "Are there any other reports?"

M.: "I am speaking for the posting committee. We've been having a little trouble with Brother #### I do declare it is nearly impossible to get anything through that man's bald head. Any suggestions from the Bretheren will be appreciated. Personally I'd like to suggest that he be transferred out of the Pink Lodge and into the Blue. I than you."

W.M.: "Communication and bills."

SEC.: "This is a letter from the Eastern Star. I shall read it.
'Dear Masons: we are establishing a fund for new dishes, draperies, chairs, and other furnishing and are inviting you to have a part in this. A few thousand dollars from your Lodge will be greatly appreciated toward this new cause. Also, we are eagerly awaiting a reply on our last communication to you. Since we wrote, three more sisters have had to send their white dresses to the cleaners. Thank you kindly for an early and favorable reply. O.E.S.

P.S. We are entertaining all Masons at our next meeting and hope some of you will be present.'

W.M.: "What is your pleasure in regard to this request from the Star of money and janitor service?"

S.W.: "I move we lay the matter on the table, but as many as can go to the party, let's go to the party. The ladies usually put on a good feed, even if their programs are rather tiresome."

J.W.: "Second"

CHAPLAIN - "Bless you my child"

W.M.: "All in favor of attending the O.E.S. feed bag signify by the usual sign of the Lodge." (everyone stands and says "Yea")

W.M.: "Passed" (gavel)

W.M.: "Is there any other business? If not, we are ready for the closing ceremony." (gavel)

"Door keeper, you will look out to see if there are any strangers running about."

D.K.: (goes to the door and raps 6 times. Looks about, turns around and says) "Worshipful Master, there is no one in the lobby, but there a lot of young girls in the dinning room who want to sell us some tickets." "Oh yes, should I start the coffee?"

W.M.: "Senior Steward, you will approach the East."

W.M.: "Bretheren, gaze upon our emblem rare.
Let all be just and all be square. (hands Bible)
Keep your eyes upon the square,
all that's good do and dare. (square)

Let your deed on the level be,
from all evil try to flee. (level)
Obey all laws you feel you can,
Be a Mason, be a man. (gun)
Never forget, the true plum-line.
Let it be your daily sign. (plum-line)
Bretheren, we have met upon the level,
now we part on the square.
Of any 2 shady actions,
I caution you - beware. (gavel)
Now I declare the Lodge closed.

The Master stalks out, cane in hand, followed by the Senior Steward.
The other officers march out behind them.

THE END