

Adding More Theatre to the Principal Sojourners Story

This script is used when the Sojourners arrive to communicate their discovery.

Additional essential equipment: 1 rope of sufficient length to loop round the Sojourners body and allow him to approach the pedestal.

2 smaller diameter cords (with looped ends to fit over the Sojourners wrists and of similar length to the above.

3 'straws' (one obviously shorter than the rest) for drawing lots.

A bright (500Kw min spotlight) is mounted directly above the pedestal.

The timing of the lighting effects is of absolute paramount importance for maximum effect (as highlighted below).

Jan.: Gives 4 knocks on the door.

S.N.: Moves to the front of the Arch and gives a court bow. M.E., there is a report.

M.E.Z.: Comp. S.N., see who seeks admission.

S.N.: Goes to the door, opens it and asks the Janitor – Whom have you there ?

Jan.: The three Sojourners who were sent to prepare the ground for the foundation of the Second Temple, having made a discovery they deem of importance, are anxious to communicate the same to your Excellencies.

S.N.: Wait while I report to the M.E.

S.N.: Closes door, moves to the front of the Arch and gives a court bow – M.E., The three Sojourners who were sent to prepare the ground for the foundation of the Second Temple, having made a discovery they deem of importance, are anxious to communicate the same to your Excellencies."

M.E.Z.: Admit them.

On being admitted The Sojourners and Candidate stand in front of the Arch which has been rebuilt (by the 2nd Assistant) prior to their return – PS in the centre, 1st Assistant on his right, Candidate on his left, facing East. A coil of rope is available in front of Arch along with two smaller diameter cords with looped ends. 1st Assistant has 3 'straws' (for drawing lots).

Z.: We understand that you have made a discovery which you deem of importance. You will communicate to us the discovery you have made, and the circumstances which led thereto.

P.S.: Most Excellent, early this morning, on resuming our labours, we discovered a pair of pillars of exquisite design and workmanship. Proceeding onwards, we found six other pairs of equal symmetry and beauty, which, from their position, appeared to have supported the roof of a subterranean passage or gallery, leading to that part of the Temple where the Most Holy Place formerly stood.

Our progress was here impeded by the fragments which had fallen during the conflagration of the former Temple. These we cleared away, when we arrived at what appeared to be a solid rock; but accidentally striking it with my crow ... strikes the keystone of the Arch with the crow ... I remarked a hollow sound. I therefore hailed my companions, when he with the pick loosened the earth, demonstrates which he with the shovel cleared away demonstrates; when that which had appeared a solid rock proved to be a compact piece of masonry wrought in the form of a dome. Aware of who had been the architect of the former building and that no part thereof was constructed in vain, we determined to examine it further, for which purpose we wrenched forth two of the arch-stones, removes arch-stones with the crow when a vault of considerable magnitude appeared to view. My companions and I were equally anxious to descend. We therefore cast lots. 1st Assistant offers 'straws' to the PS, the candidate and takes one himself – PS has smallest straw and holding it up continues: The lot was mine, Most Excellent, and my companions tied this cord or lifeline around my body wherewith to lower me into the vault; 1st Assistant attaches the looped end of the rope around the PS by placing the loop over one shoulder and under the opposite arm but being apprehensive of dying from damp, noxious vapours, or other unforeseen causes, I took a smaller line in each hand, 1st Assistant places the

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loops of the smaller diameter cords over PS's hands. PS continues: wherewith to give the preconcerted signals, should I require more liberty raises and lowers LH, or wish to be drawn up raises and lowers RH. I was thus duly lowered into the vaulted chamber. PS steps over the Arch into 'the chamber', the lights are dimmed and extinguished, illumination is from the 6 candles only. 1st Assistant holds all three ropes fairly taught but allowing the PS to move forward.

On arriving at the bottom, PS approaches the pedestal and feels the base with his hands I thought I felt something like the base or pedestal of a column with certain characters engraven thereon, PS feels the front of the pedestal with his hands but from the want of light I was unable to discover their meaning. I then signalled with my left hand does so for more liberty, and was enabled to encompass the vault, when PS picks up the scroll I found this scroll of vellum or parchment, PS unrolls it and tries to read it but from the same want I was unable to read its contents. rolls scroll up and keeps it in his right hand. I therefore signalled with my right hand, does so and was drawn up, bringing the scroll with me. 1st Assistant pulls ropes in as if raising the PS from the vault.

On arriving at the light of day, General lighting is restored. PS unrolls and examines the scroll I found from the first words on the scroll that it was part of the long-lost volume of the Sacred Law, promulgated by our Grand Master, Moses, at the foot of Mount Horeb in the wilderness of Sinai. Tucks the scroll inside his jacket. The discovery of this precious treasure stimulated us to further exertions. We, therefore, enlarged the opening by removing the keystone, removes keystone with crow and I was again lowered into the vault. PS again steps into the vault. General lighting is dimmed and extinguished. 1st Assistant keeps ropes fairly taught PS continues: The sun, by this time, had gained its greatest altitude, turns and points to the West and darting its rays with meridian splendour through the opening; Pedestal is immediately dramatically illuminated with a bright light placed directly above it. I was enabled to distinguish those objects which before I had so imperfectly discovered. Turns to face front of the pedestal

In the centre of the vault stood a pedestal, a block of white marble, wrought in the form of the altar of incense, points to it a double cube. On the front thereof were engraven the initials of the three Grand Masters who presided at the building of the former Temple, viz (say: "nameiy") points to them Solomon, King of Israel, Hiram, King of Tyre, and Hiram, the widow's son, with certain mystic characters beneath; and a veil covered the top of the pedestal. Approaching with reverential awe, does so with sign of reverence I raised the veil, carefully does so and there beheld engraven on a plate of gold that which I humbly conceived to be the sacred and mysterious name of the true and living God most high. I carefully re-veiled it replaces the veil with all respect and reverence, assumes the sign of reverence and backs away from the pedestal, gave the agreed-on signal, signals with right hand and was drawn up. 1st Assistant pulls ropes in as if raising the PS from the vault, takes off ropes. General lighting is restored and PS continues: With the assistance of my companions I closed the aperture, Sojourners and Candidate rebuild the Arch. PS holds the scroll in his right hand and continues: and have hastened hither moves forward to the SE corner of the carpet, to communicate to your Excellencies the discovery we have made, and the circumstances which led thereto.

M.E.Z.: Your narrative bears every appearance of truth, but to convince us you must state what you saw on that plate of gold.

P.S.: That, M.E., we must (bowing) humbly beg to decline, for we have heard with our ears, and our fathers have declared unto us, that in their days and the old time before them it was not lawful for anyone to pronounce the S. and M.N. of T.T.A.L.G.M.H., save the High Priest, nor him but once a year, when he entered the Ark of the Covenant to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

M.E.Z.: We admire your pious caution, and your conduct considerably increases our esteem. We will, however, depute two of our Companions, E. and N., to accompany you to the spot, and their report shall

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determine your reward. P.S. hands C.B. and Scroll to 1st A.S., who steps to the R.H. side of the Candidate, turns him to face the North. The Scribes E and N accompany the P.S. to the S.W. corner where the name is communicated on four triangles, as at the opening ceremony. Scribe E., whispers to P.S. "State what you saw on that plate of Gold." P.S., gives 1st syllable, S.E., gives 2nd syllable and S.N., the third. S.E., then begins with the first syllable, followed by S.N and the P.S., this sequence is repeated again starting with S.N., until the full name has been communicated in syllables by all three. P.S. returns to his place on the right of the Candidate and turns him to face East. 1st A.S., gives C.B. and Scroll back to the P.S., and takes up his position on the right of the P.S. Scribe E., goes to the N.W. corner of the vault (carpet) and Scribe N., to the S.W. corner. Both advance to the Pedestal (no sign) with S...n steps, halting and bowing towards the pedestal. They then remove the veil and place it on the floor at the East side of the pedestal. They examine the Plate of Gold, both step back and face East S.E.: Right M.E., in every particular. (gives court bow to M.E.Z.) S.N.: Right M.E., in every particular. (gives court bow to M.E.Z.) Both Scribes resume their seats.

Ceremony continues as per ritual book.

E.Comp. Peter Mason PGSwdB, Deputy Grand Superintendent.
Cumberland and Westmorland