

THE GROTTO

Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets
of the Enchanted Realm

WHAT IT IS



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M. O. V. P. E. R.

MYSTIC—Expressing a sense comprehensible only to those of high intelligence.

ORDER—A rank, grade, or class of community or society.

VEILED—Enveloped, envested, enshrouded, hidden.

PROPHETS—Foretelling future events, predictors, foretellers.

ENCHANTED—Under a magical quality, delighted in a high degree.

REALM—Royal jurisdiction, or extent of government.

These are the definitions given the words of our Order.

THE GROTTTO

BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION

The Mystic Order Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm, whose subordinate bodies are called Grottoes, is an organization originated by and for Master Masons. While in no way connected with Masonry proper, its membership is restricted absolutely and exclusively to Master Masons in good standing. While it is primarily an organization for good, wholesome fun and frolic it also has its serious side. Its slogan is **GOOD FELLOWSHIP**, and in our contact with our fellow man this principle is exemplified to a marked degree.

A number of Grottoes own their own temples and many have one or more auxiliaries, such as uniformed bands, drill corps, drum and bugle corps, glee clubs and marching units, and when on parade present a colorful appearance. Through the medium of these auxiliary units the Grottoes provide entertainment not only for their own members, but for the Masonic and allied bodies.

HISTORIC

The Order was organized in the early part of the year 1899 at Hamilton, N. Y., as a local organization, by members of, and as an adjunct to, Hamilton Lodge No. 120, F. & A. M. But the founders builded better than they knew. It was so good and filled such a unique position that it spread rapidly and soon became a national, and later an international organization. The Grottoes are governed by a Supreme Council which meets in annual convention, the convention city being selected each year by the delegates and members composing the Supreme Council.

THE RITUAL

The ritual is original and unique. Its proper rendition requires a large stage, elaborate costumes and stage settings. It is mysterious, startling and spectacular. While pervaded throughout with a spirit of wholesome fun, it teaches a serious lesson which lingers with the initiate, instills a spirit of optimism, a kindly feeling for his brother man, and impresses him that GOOD FELLOWSHIP is something devoutly to be desired.

WHAT IT IS—ITS PURPOSE

The Grotto is a playground for the Master Mason and all such are welcome to our enchanted realm. While it is not, and no claim is made that it is a Masonic degree, or part of symbolic Masonry, we ever bear in mind that our membership is composed entirely of Master Masons and we conduct ourselves accordingly. We do claim, however, and with no small amount of pride, that the Grotto has a mission, serves a useful purpose and that it is decidedly worth while.

There are more than 150 Grottoes in existence, with a combined membership of approximately 100,000.

The Order has a definite program of humanitarian work but prohibits assessment of its members for such purposes, the work done and amounts contributed being voluntary on the part of the individual Prophets.

Man in all walks of life craves companionship. He strives to broaden his knowledge of things and enlarge his acquaintance among men. We, as Masons, endeavor to broaden our knowledge, extend our acquaintance and association with our brethren. It needs no argument to prove that companionship tends to promote man's welfare and happiness, and the more companionship among members of any organization, just so much stronger is the institution to which they belong. The Grotto furnishes just such opportunity. It provides a common meeting place where Masons of all degrees can meet, mingle, fraternize and indulge in pure, clean, wholesome fun and frolic,

without trespassing upon or detracting from the solemn dignity of the Lodge. Brother meets brother upon the basis of true Good Fellowship. Before the candidate knocks at our portals his standing in the community and sincerity of purpose is pre-avouched, for he is a Master Mason in good standing. Once admitted, and our mysteries unfolded, the teachings of the Grotto can only tend to make him a better man and a better Mason. Thus the Grotto keeps alive the fraternal spirit so much desired and which is so essentially necessary to the welfare of any organization. Some of the warmest and strongest friendships have had their inception in the Grotto; men have met and become life-long companions who perhaps never would have met otherwise. If the Grotto did nothing more than to cement the ties of friendship, broaden our acquaintance among the Craft and enlarge our Masonic association, it would have performed a mission, won its place in the sun and should convince the most skeptical that it is really worth while. The Grotto has done all of this. The Grotto is real; it is earnest; it is worth while.

The Grotto atmosphere is surcharged with friendship, which is man's most valued asset. The man without friends is a derelict and floats lonesomely down the stream of life like a rudderless ship, but the man who has real friends is to be envied more than the man who is rich in gold, because he possesses that which gold cannot buy.

As one writer has aptly said: "The Grotto is the Temple to which we repair, taking with us our troubles, our worries and our cares; we lay them before the Venerable Prophet upon the altar of

fire, where they are consumed, and in their stead we receive 'divine, heart-easing mirth.'" Could a prettier sentiment be imagined? With such principles and objects, is it any wonder that the Order has spread to nearly every State in the Union and into Canada? Is it strange that the Prophets wear a happy smile and are at peace with all the world?

That the Grotto occupies a legitimate place and is doing a wonderful work cannot be denied. It extends the hand of Good Fellowship to all Master Masons, has a smile for all and a frown for none. We have something worth while for every Master Mason and we bid you welcome to our realm.

It is just as natural for a man to crave recreation, companionship and good, wholesome fun as it is for sparks to fly upward. The Grotto offers all this, in full measure, heaping and running over.

God made two kinds of animals. One lives in a shell, the other does not. Man belongs to the latter species. The animal of the shell variety is content with his limited vision and such fun and pleasure as can be obtained by crawling on the ocean's bottom. But man, whom God has made upright, is not content to grope in the darkness. He wants light, and all the light that he can obtain. He is a reasoning being. He craves greater, better and nobler things. He lives in the open, not in a shell. He has high ideals, he is inquisitive, he investigates, he prospects, and holds on to that which is good.

Man's days on earth are few and beset with many troubles. But, withal, there is happiness for those who seek it. Life is largely what we make

it. How will you spend your days? Will you endeavor to enjoy them? Will you be useful and helpful to your fellow man—your brother—and help him over the rough places? Will you cheer and comfort him in his adversity, teach him to smile as God intended he should, or will you travel in darkness, oblivious to the happiness that surrounds you, beckoning, and bids you partake?

Classify yourself, brother Mason! If you are living in darkness, come out into the light which the Grotto sheds. Join the Grotto. Smile, laugh, mingle, fraternize, mix, radiate and absorb the gospel of GOOD FELLOWSHIP. You will live longer, feel younger and be happier. The Grotto is a lodge of lodges, where brother clasps the hand of brother in true fellowship, bids him Godspeed and means it. Drink with us at the fountain of GOOD FELLOWSHIP, take a peep behind the veil of our mystic Order and learn the secret of happiness, brotherly love and GOOD FELLOWSHIP.

If you are a Master Mason in good standing you are eligible to membership in this wonderful organization and we cannot too strongly urge that you join the ever increasing throng of happy, smiling Prophets and help us spread the Gospel of GOOD FELLOWSHIP.

GROTTOES UNDER JURISDICTION OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL

City	Grotto
Akron, Ohio	Yusef-Khan
Albany, N. Y.	Kaa-Rheu-Vahn
Alton, Ill.	Beder
Ann Arbor, Mich.	Zal-Gaz
Arkansas City, Kan.	Babar
Ashtabula, Ohio	El Kadir
Atlantic City, N. J.	Al-Time
Attleboro, Mass.	Nava
Auburn, N. Y.	Anar
Baltimore, Md.	Yedz
Bartlesville, Okla.	Kara
Beaumont, Texas	Cashan
Birmingham, Ala.	Dinar
Boston, Mass.	Omar
Bridgeport, Conn.	Obeh
Brockton, Mass.	Shedad
Brooklyn, N. Y.	Longl
Buffalo, N. Y.	Zuleika
Burlington, Iowa	Murad
Canton, Ohio	Nazir
Cedar Rapids, Iowa	Ambar
Chicago, Ill.	Kermanshah
Cicero, Ill.	Aliabad
Cincinnati, Ohio	Oola-Khan
Cleveland, Ohio	Al-Sirat
Columbus, Ohio	Achbar
Council Bluffs, Iowa	Lazor
Covington, Ky.	Kishmee
Danville, Ill.	Gao
Daytona Beach, Fla.	Zangi
Davenport, Iowa	Mohassan

City	Grotto
Dayton, Ohio	Ormus
Decatur, Ill.	Zohak
Des Moines, Iowa	Hapac
Detroit, Mich.	Aries
Dubuque, Iowa	Oxus
Edmonton, Alberta, Can.	Dekan
Elkhart, Ind.	Ma-Ha-Di
Elmira, N. Y.	Cashmere
Enid, Okla.	Enid
Erie, Pa.	Erepa
Evansville, Ind.	No-Ruz
Fall River, Mass.	Azab
Flint, Mich.	Kishma
Fort Smith, Ark.	Amrita
Fort Wayne, Ind.	Cadessia
Fredericksburg, Va.	Abaca
Galesburg, Ill.	Murga
Geneva, N. Y.	Umarkan
Grand Rapids, Mich.	Lalakoum
Hamilton, N. Y.	Mokanna
Hamilton, Ontario, Can.	Hindoo Koosh
Hartford, Conn.	Syria
Houston, Texas	Chinar
Huntington Park, Calif.	Hamadan
Hutchinson, Kan.	Cyrus
Ilion, N. Y.	Khorassan
Independence, Kan.	Rajah
Indianapolis, Ind.	Sahara
Ithaca, N. Y.	Balbec
Jacksonville, Fla.	Lori
Jacksonville, Ill.	Zingabad
Jefferson City, Mo.	Karim Khan
Jersey City, N. J.	Zemzem

City	Grotto
Kansas City, Kan.	Oman
Kansas City, Mo.	Elysian
Knoxville, Tenn.	Zelmar
Lafayette, Ind.	Merou
Leavenworth, Kan.	Azor
Lima, Ohio	El-Karan
Little Rock, Ark.	Bendemeer
London, Ontario, Can.	Mirza
Los Angeles, Calif.	Jinnistan
Mansfield, Ohio	Baku
Marion, Ohio	Kadgar
Miami, Fla.	Gazna
Minneapolis, Minn.	Selim
Moline, Ill.	Zal
Monroe, La.	Teflis
Montgomery, Ala.	Hinda
Morgantown, W. Va.	Dubor
Mount Vernon, N. Y.	Gira
Newark, N. J.	New-Ark
Newark, Ohio	Teheran
New Britain, Conn.	Aziz
New Haven, Conn.	Hejaz
Newport, R. I.	Kolah
New York City	Azim
Norwalk, Conn.	Monker
Norwich, Conn.	Nemrod
Orlando, Fla.	Ormazd
Oswego, N. Y.	Whango
Ottumwa, Iowa	Hafed
Paris, Texas	Khalid
Pawtucket, R. I.	Subrab
Pekin, Ill.	Irin
Pensacola, Fla.	Zelica

City	Grotto
Peoria, Ill.	Abbas
Philadelphia, Pa.	Koran
Pittsburgh, Pa.	Islam
Pittsfield, Mass.	Shiraz
Pontiac, Mich.	Nilica
Port Arthur, Texas	Casbin
Port Huron, Mich.	Noruh
Portland, Ore.	Gul-Reazee
Portsmouth, Ohio	Yezdigerd
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.	Tri-Po-Bed
Princeton, Mo.	Ashnar Kuh
Quincy, Ill.	Ghazzezh
Quincy, Mass.	Taleb
Richmond, Ind.	Samoor
Richmond, Va.	Samis
Rochester, N. Y.	Lalla Rookh
Rock Island, Ill.	Amoo
Rome, N. Y.	Zeba
Rutland, Vt.	Orian
Sandusky, Ohio	Singara
Saginaw, Mich.	Merlin
Schenectady, N. Y.	Gehomecobe
Seattle, Wash.	Angora
Sedalia, Mo.	Addalla
Shreveport, La.	Mithra
South Bend, Ind.	Avalon
Spartanburg, S. C.	Zara
Spokane, Wash.	Sadir-Khan
Springfield, Mass.	Bela
Springfield, Mo.	Khora Khan
Springfield, Ohio	Khana Shahar
St. Joseph, Mo.	Zoroaster
St. Louis, Mo.	Alhambra

City	Grotto
St. Petersburg, Fla.	Selama
Steubenville, Ohio	Tibris
Syracuse, N. Y.	Keder Khan
Tacoma, Wash.	Tacobat
Tampa, Fla.	Zendah
Terre Haute, Ind.	Kerman
Toledo, Ohio	O-Ton-Ta-La
Topeka, Kan.	Media
Toronto, Ontario, Can.	Rani Ghar
Troy, N. Y.	Iran
Tucson, Ariz.	Altan-Kol
Tulsa, Okla.	Saba
Uhrichsville, Ohio	Emir
Union City, N. J.	Dulaf
Warren, Ohio	Ali-Baba
Washington, D. C.	Kallipolis
Waterbury, Conn.	Zindah
Waterloo, Iowa	Kajar
Watertown, S. D.	A-To-Kad
Windsor, Ontario, Can.	Othmar
Winona, Minn.	Azarbaijan
Worcester, Mass.	Aletheia
Yakima, Wash.	Chelminar
Youngstown, Ohio	Aut-Mori
Zanesville, Ohio	Amrou

**Information regarding the Mystic Order of
Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm
and the formation of new Grottoes
may be obtained at the office
of the Grand Secretary**

Otto F. Hildebrandt

**1806 Loop Center Bldg. 105 W. Madison St.
Chicago, Illinois**

