

RITUAL

CHAPTER COPY

of the

ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY

Incorporated



RITUAL

Of The

ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, Inc.

1. The name of this organization is the ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC., and its monogram is composed of the Greek letters "AoA".

2. The first symbol "A" of the monogram stands for the word "Alpha" and for us means "first" in the sense of time and "leader" in the sense of service and importance; the second symbol "O" stands for "Phi" and for us means "Phrater" or "Brother" and "Phratries" or "Brotherhoods"; the last symbol "A" stands for the first letter, Alpha, in the Greek spelling of the word "Ethiopians", i.e., "Aiottes" or "Aethiopes".

3. The name, Alpha Phi Alpha, and the monogram, AoA, as originally established meant "the first and leading brotherhood of the Ethiopians" but, in addition, now means, "the first and leading brotherhood of the Ethiopians to open its portals to the fellowship of all mankind".

4. We have chosen this name for the following reason: The word Ethiopians refers to a people who are among the oldest inhabitants of the earth, the fathers of Egyptian civilization and religious culture.

5. The SPHINX of Gaza in Egypt, particularly its head, is our emblem. We have chosen it for the following reasons:

- a. The SPHINX of Gaza is the oldest, the largest, and the most magnificent statue of its kind in the world and thereby typifies the history, the size and the position of our Fraternity.
 - b. The SPHINX is carved of one sole and unmoved piece of stone and thereby typifies the spirit of solidarity and unity which are outstanding ideals of our Fraternity.
 - c. The SPHINX has the body of a lion which symbolizes strength and the head of a man which symbolizes wisdom, another of the cherished ideals of our Fraternity.
 - d. "The head of the SPHINX is of Ethiopian cast, thereby symbolizing the ancient and honored peoples of mankind. The Ethiopians were the leaders in their day."
6. We have adopted the motto "FIRST OF ALL,

SERVANTS OF ALL, WE SHALL TRANSCEND ALL" for the following reasons:

- a. Because we feel that it epitomizes well the spirit and ideals set forth in the previous statements concerning our origin and our goal.
- b. In the dawn of civilization the Ethiopians were widely held to be the special favorites of the gods.
- c. Because we are heirs to the laudable traditions that cluster about the name Ethiopians.
- d. As the Ethiopians were the first and the leaders in the brotherhood of nations in the world, so are we among the first college men in the modern world to bind ourselves together for the purpose of promoting culture, fellowship, and justice to all mankind.
- e. The Sphinx has stood silently and expectantly facing the East and the sunrise for thousands of years; it is thus a sentinel of the ages and a keeper of their cherished secrets, thereby symbolizing the mysteries of the ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY.

CHALLENGE

7. The CHALLENGE of the ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY consists of four significant words, COLLEGE, FRATERNAL, UPLIFT, and SPIRIT, occurring in conversation in the order named. The conversation in which the challenge takes place should be approached subtly. The Brother challenging another Brother or suspected Brother should use the word "COLLEGE", then, in the course of conversation, the answering Brother should employ the words "FRATERNAL" and "UPLIFT." The other Brother should then use the last significant word, "SPIRIT."

SHIELD

8. The SHIELD of the ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY shall be the SPHINX HEAD, ALPHA PHI ALPHA, FASCES, TORCH IN HAND, AND A DOVE.

The SPHINX HEAD is our emblem; ALPHA PHI ALPHA means "The first and leading brotherhood of the Ethiopians to open its portals to the fellow-

ship of mankind." The FASCES signify strength due to union. THE TORCH IN HAND symbolizes intelligence and enlightenment to the world. THE DOVE is a symbol of purity and peace.

GRIP

9. The GRIP is as communicated to the Chapters by their respective representatives to the General Convention.

Care should be taken lest the grip become conspicuous.

HAILING SIGNAL

10. The Brother wishing to hail another, places his right hand upon his necktie and moves it up and down in such a way as will attract the attention of none but a Brother. As an answering signal to the hailing signal, the right hand will be placed inside the coat around the region over the heart as if reaching for a pencil.

RAP OF ADMISSION

11. This is communicated to the Chapters by their representatives to the General Convention.

PASS WORD

12. This is to be communicated to the Chapters by their representatives to the General Convention. We must be ever mindful of the fact that the PASS WORD is never spoken above a whisper.

PASS CARD

13. The PASS CARD is the official material means of identifying Brothers and is issued in accordance with the provisions of the General Constitution.

RITUAL COMMITTEE

14. Each Chapter shall appoint a RITUAL COMMITTEE whose duty it shall be to instruct all BROTHERS in the RITUAL and examine the brothers from time to time in their knowledge of the Ritual.

SEAL

15. Each individual Chapter shall have a SEAL bearing the name of the Fraternity, the year of birth of the Chapter, and its own Chapter name. This SEAL shall be kept with the Ritual and Charter of the Chapter by a responsible officer or individual designated by the Chapter. The SEAL shall be affixed to all official documents and correspondence.

SECURITY

16. The RITUAL, CHAPTER SEAL, CHAPTER CHARTER and all important Chapter documents shall be kept together in a heavy metal box which shall not be smaller in size than the Charter (in vertical and

horizontal positions). This box should be placed in the custody of a responsible officer or individual designated by the Chapter.

SELECTION AND PLEDGING OF NEW MEMBERS

Section 1.

- A. No official or semi-official approach shall be made to any prospective candidate for the Fraternity until after such person shall have matriculated in a College or University.
- B. It shall be the duty of the Rushing Committee, appointed by the Chapter President, to interview the candidates to be admitted to the SPHINX CLUB.

Section 2.

- A. Upon majority vote of the Chapter, after a period of observation, a Chapter test on Alpha fundamentals shall be given by the Rushing Committee one week before the designated date set by the Chapter to vote upon the candidates to be pledged.
- B. The Rushing Committee shall report the results of the Ritual Tests to the Chapter at the time of the voting upon the candidates for pledgship.
- C. The Rushing Committee may recommend for pledgship those candidates who have satisfactorily passed the Ritual Test.

Section 3.

The exact form of the Ritual Test shall be such as to require the candidate to answer the Following questions:

- A. Is the candidate's attitude towards fraternities favorable?
- B. Taking the preamble as a standard, is the Candidate's character such as would make him desirable as an ALPHA PHI ALPHA man?
- C. Are the candidate's financial resources sufficient to meet the obligations that will be imposed upon him, should he acquire membership in this body? If so, is he willing to meet these obligations?
The foregoing questions must be answered favorably, or the candidate cannot be admitted. Minor questions, which are intended to give an idea of the desirability of the candidate, but which may or may not be answered favorably, shall be determined by the individual Chapter.

Section 4.

The President of the Chapter shall proceed with the provisions of By-Law 5 Codified Constitution, 1967, in

regards to notification in writing of the action to be taken on candidates who have been subjected to the Ritual Test, and the certification by the Executive Secretary.

Section 5.

A candidate who has been passed upon successfully, that is, according to the General Constitution, shall be deemed pledged. Upon being pledged, the SPHINX PIN, which the candidate has been wearing as a member of the SPHINX CLUB, SHALL BE LIFTED by the Chairman of the Rushing Committee and replaced by a suitable insignia as provided for by the General Convention, or none.

Section 6.

Pledged candidates shall obey only written orders signed by the President of the Chapter and the Chairman of the Rushing Committee.

Section 7.

- A. Each candidate Pledged shall go through a period of pledgship, which shall be known as "Pledge Week", consisting of not less than 3 days and not more than 7 days, at the end of which time he shall be initiated into ALPHA PHI ALPHA provided he has successfully passed his period of pledgship.
- B. The Chapter Secretary will observe the following procedure prior to the beginning of "Pledge Week":
 1. Before balloting on candidates, all Chapters shall be required to prepare and forward to the Vice President of the Region a list of candidates for certification. In addition to the names and addresses of the candidates, there must be a certified transcript of the current academic record of each candidate obtained from the Registrar of the College. The Vice President shall review the record to determine eligibility on basis of scholarship and when decided upon he shall inform the Chapter of his action. This shall not apply to candidates seeking graduate status membership.
 2. Immediately after the balloting on candidates ALL CHAPTERS shall be required to forward the "Notice of Initiation" forms in quadruplicate, listing the names and addresses of the successful candidates together with the proposed date of initiation, along with the health certificates, other initiation material and all fees for initiates to the office of the EXECUTIVE SECRETARY. The Executive Secretary shall certify receipt of proper fees, then forward the forms to the

Regional Vice President for approval and official notification to the Chapter to proceed with the initiation.

- C. Each chapter shall be responsible for the supervision of a physical examination for each candidate, the expense to be borne by the chapter, and each doctor's certificate shall be included in the report of the initiation sent to the Regional Vice President. The extent of the candidate's activities during "Pledge Week" shall be determined by the doctor's certificate.
- D. Any chapter or brother guilty of brutality shall be liable to a fine of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) and subject to suspension by the General Organization. The question of brutality is to be determined by the Regional Vice President or his duly appointed agent.

ORDER OF INITIATION

All paddling, whipping, or other physical brutality is PROHIBITED. The only exception of physical contact will be the three impressions at the end of the initiation ceremony. **This shall not be done in a brutal fashion.**

The numbered steps (1, 2, etc.) in the order of initiation are obligatory and must be taken by each and every chapter in initiating a candidate or candidates.

The lettered steps (A, B, etc.) are elective, and may be omitted. Whenever and wherever a step is omitted, this step shall be carefully explained by the "Lecturer", so that all ALPHA brothers will come through finally with the same lessons.

It shall be illegal to take or use in initiation any step not hereinafter defined.

Section 1.

The candidate shall be directed to report at a very definitely specified place. He shall be instructed to enter whether lighted or not. When he arrives, the place may apparently be deserted and darkened. As the candidate advances, he shall suddenly be accosted and mystically addressed. **The Oath of Secrecy** shall then be administered by a Brother designated by the President.

Section 2.

The candidate shall be blindfolded. (Teaching that out of ALPHA PHI ALPHA, men walk or stumble through business or through life, blindly missing much which should be seen, used and enjoyed.)

Section 3.

The candidate's features shall be bandaged beyond recognition, both because it will not in any way help

to have him personally recognized, but more particularly to symbolize the complete loss of self in the actual work, the uplift of all men of all races, but in particular, the loss of self in the uplift of our people and our Brothers in ALPHA PHI ALPHA.

Section 4.

The candidate shall be conveyed to a place unknown to him. He shall be left in absolute solitude for a reasonable length of time.

Section 5.

The candidate shall then be led to the door of the initiating room where the Brother conducting him gives the significant knocks. A voice within asks, after the knocks have been given:

"WHO DISTURBS THE PEACE AND QUIETUDE OF THOSE ASSEMBLED WITHIN?"

The Brother conducting the candidate shall say:

"A BROTHER OF THOSE WITHIN AND A MOST HUMBLE SERVANT OF THE LAWS THEY MAKE."

The Brother is then admitted with the candidate. Every member present remains in absolute silence. The candidate is brought to a stop and all remain silent for one minute. Then the Presiding Officer says:

"Silence, the background of all thought. Our first step in ALPHA PHI ALPHA is taken in thoughtful silence."

"To you, who are about to be initiated into ALPHA PHI ALPHA, we would say, we had enough respect and admiration for you to invite you to become a candidate for membership here. Know that that same respect, both for ourselves and for you, will make it impossible for us to do anything by way of initiating you that will, in anyway, humiliate you or place our dignity in question."

Section 6.

The Presiding Officer then gives the sign, and from the anteroom the candidate is taken immediately out into the world. The hand of ALPHA PHI ALPHA shall defend and guide him from all sides as he goes. (Teaching that ALPHA PHI ALPHA Brothers must face things unitedly.) All vicissitudes (whippings) during the "Pledge Week", and during the initiation, except the THREE IMPRESSIONS, are PROHIBITED.

Section 7.

As the candidate goes, he shall be made to carry some suitable object, not burdensome, which shall be called "THE NAME." He shall be urged and ordered to "hold up the NAME." (Lesson obvious).

Section 8.

The candidate on this trip shall be made to speak to someone "out in the world." (Teaching again that ALPHA's greatest interest lies outside of itself.)

Section 9.

On returning to the hall and after being admitted, Conductor to use Pass Word for this admission, the candidate shall advance seven (7) steps across the room as the Presiding Officer shall count audibly from one to seven. At each step the Brothers in the room shall stomp in unison. At the count of SEVEN, the candidate shall be halted, and immediately all Brothers shall shout 'ALPHA PHI ALPHA'. (Each candidate shall be initiated individually, and then taken from the room immediately upon completion of his initiation.)

Section 10.

The Presiding Officer then says: "COMPASS HIM ABOUT." Several members shall gather about the candidate. The Presiding Officer shall call the candidate first, to move two steps across — to the right. He does it, but realizes he comes into immediate contact with ALPHA PHI ALPHA men who are on all sides. He is ordered to move two steps to the left, with the same results. He is then ordered to move two steps backward. ALPHA PHI ALPHA men positively refuse to allow him to move backwards at all. Finally, he is ordered to move two steps forward and in this he is assisted in every conceivable way by ALPHA PHI ALPHA men.

At this point, the Presiding Officer says: "ALPHA PHI ALPHA delights in any forward step, but will not stand for any backward steps on the part of any Brother." (This step in the initiation is to teach that hereafter whatever the candidate does will be watched and felt by ALPHA PHI ALPHA. He does not any longer affect himself only.)

Section 11.

The candidate shall kneel and eat the food prepared by the gods for ALPHA PHI ALPHA men. (Oysters, or cold raw macaroni.)

Section 12.

The candidate shall drink to the health of ALPHA PHI ALPHA. (Any drink not injurious, first agreeable and then disgusting to the taste. — Two drinks.)

Section 13.

The candidate kneels. The Presiding Officer says: "EGKAIETE." Then all shall say: "BRAND HIM." A Brother designated by the Presiding Officer shall proceed to brand him with a piece of ice applied to the skin, during which time a piece of raw meat is burned with a hot iron near the candidate's nose.

Section 14.

(Bending over a table or some other object)

The candidate receives the THREE IMPRESSIONS. The Presiding Officer orders him to repeat: "ALPHA PHI ALPHA". As he repeats, he is impressed after each word.

For purposes of administering the impressions each chapter shall use a flexible fabric from four (4) to six (6) inches and from three (3) to four (4) feet long and fashioned on a wooden handle sufficient to allow free use of the flexible portion. The wooden handle should never come in contact with the candidate. ALL CHAPTERS are reminded that brutality and carelessness were never intended, and are not condoned and do not comply either with the SPIRIT or INTELIGENCE of ALPHA PHI ALPHA.

Section 15.

BROUGHT TO LIGHT. All members shall say: "BEHOLD! BEHOLD!" as the candidate's blindfold is withdrawn, and he sees "ALPHA PHI ALPHA, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD," in large letters just over the altar.

The Presiding Officer then reads the following from the fourth chapter of the Ephesians:

I therefore beseech you, Brother, that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. But unto every one is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, through the ignorance that is in them, because the blindness of their heart. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying that it may minister grace unto the hearers. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger and clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

The candidate shall then be made comfortable.

Section 16.

A lecturer, (either the President or someone designated by him) shall say:

"We have no desire in any way to attempt to mys-

tify. We have reached that stage in both age and development where we readily realize the bigness of simplicity. Nothing that you have been carried through has been done for our amusement. Everything has been meant to teach some lesson.

(Here cite incidents and give lessons. Explain omitted steps, if any.)

"ALPHA PHI ALPHA must ever be prepared to meet conditions as they confront us in a changing world. Scholastic excellence must be upheld as an outstanding objective. To this end every child must be encouraged to remain in school, and the more promising and prepared boys and girls must be urged and assisted to attend college. While there may be special interests for many of us, we dedicate ourselves to the betterment of all youth of all races and nationalities.

"Finally, a word about clannishness. The trend of fraternities has been towards clannishness. As one of the oldest fraternities, ALPHA PHI ALPHA feels it its duty to face this menace. In facing this actual menace to the good fellowship which should prevail, particularly among all educated men, ALPHA PHI ALPHA has only to emphasize the unselfishness for which it already stands. Not only is it not the idea of ALPHA PHI ALPHA to have Brothers think less of other fraternities; but we urge all to honor and take more pride in them. If association here does not make us think more of fraternities in general, then there is something fundamentally wrong here. Cooperation must be our keynote. Anything that tends to separate the already too thin and too widely separated ranks of college men must be killed. Let us work together with whatever power we have, plus what ever cooperation we can enlist, for the uplift and advancement of men everywhere and our people in particular."

Section 17

- a. Reading of the Constitution and By Laws
- b. Reading of the Chapter Constitution
- c. Oath of Allegiance
- d. The new Brother shall be given the RAP OF ADMISSION, and the PASS WORD

Section 18

At the next regular meeting, the new Brother shall be given the GRIP and the HAILING SIGNAL, and the entire ritual shall be read to him.

Section 19

A list of the full names of all newly initiated members, with their mailing addresses, shall be sent immediately to the office of the Executive Secretary.

NOTE:

Brothers conducting all parts of this Ritual should commit their parts to memory in order to make the ceremony more impressive.

The price of the Fraternity Pin and the Fraternity History shall be included in the initiation fee of all candidates for membership. In reporting initiation fees to the Executive Secretary, the regular forms must be used and the order for initiates' pins must be sent on the official order blanks. In addition, each newly elected Brother must sign the blank showing that he understands that the title to the pin is vested in the General Organization.

If initiation fees and cost of pins and histories, together with the official order blanks are sent in so as to reach the office of the Executive Secretary not later than **TWO WEEKS PRIOR** to the initiation ceremony, it will be possible to present **SHINGLES, PASS CARDS, PINS and HISTORIES** on the evening of the initiation.

OATH OF SECRECY

I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR (or aver) TO KEEP ABSOLUTELY SECRET THE NAME AND WORKINGS OF THE ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, Incorporated.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR (or aver), OF MY OWN WILL AND ACCORD, TO OBEY AND SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS OF THE ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, Inc.; TO AID IN PROMOTING A MORE PERFECT UNION AMONG COLLEGE MEN; TO AID IN AND INSIST UPON THE PERSONAL PROGRESS OF ITS MEMBERS; TO FURTHER BROTHERLY LOVE AND A FRATERNAL SPIRIT WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION; TO DISCOURTEGE EVIL; TO DESTROY ALL PREJUDICES; AND TO PRESERVE THE SANCTITY OF THE HOME, THE PERSONIFICATION OF VIRTUE AND THE CHASTITY OF WOMAN, TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY.

ALPHA PHI ALPHA FUNERAL RITES (short form)

1. THE ALPHA HYMN - (FIRST VERSE AND CHORUS)
(Brothers surround casket and sing softly)
2. A BRIEF EULOGY - or RESOLUTIONS (not to exceed three minutes)
3. THE OMEGA CHAPTER HYMN
(Tune - Alpha Hymn)
(Brothers in circle with hands entwined)
Alpha Brothers, gather round,
And make our praise resound
Of a brother, whose labor now is crowned.
His good deeds - Heaven blest,
Commend him, through each test
To OMEGA our chapter of sweet rest.

(chorus)
Farewell, dear Brother,
Transcendent art thou
Thy spirit shall dwell with us now,
We cherish thy Mem'ry
Thy good name we'll revere
To thy glory, thy honor, Brother dear.
4. VIEW THE REMAINS - and return to seats.

NOTE:

This short ritual is designed to follow as a closing addition to any other type service. Time should not exceed eight or ten minutes

ALPHA PHI ALPHA FUNERAL RITES

(Full and complete form)

THE LITURGIST:

I am the resurrection and the life - saith the Lord
He that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet
shall be live.

INVOCATION:

O Master Eternal, give to each of us
The deep consciouness of Thy presence
That the spirit of Fraternity may so
Direct our thoughts, guide and control
Our hearts and lives, that we may become
Through Thee, servants of all mankind.

AMEN

THE FIRST VERSE OF THE ALPHA HYMN WITH CHORUS.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

And God said, let there be light, and there was light
And God saw the light - that it was good.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was
with God
And the Word was God. In Him was the life and
light of men.

Then spoke Jesus again unto them saying: I am the
Light of the world.

He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness
But shall have the light of life.

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of
darkness

Hath shone in our hearts to give the light of the
knowledge

Of the glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ.

Ye are the light of the world. Let your light so shine
Before men, that they may see your good works
And glorify your Father who is in heaven.

I am ALPHA and OMEGA, the beginning and the
end saith the Lord,

Which is, and which was, and which is to come, the
Almighty. AMEN

LITANY FOR THE DEAD

L. O Father of life, and giver of light
Look with favor upon Thy creatures here
assembled:

R. AND GRANT US THY BLESSING.

L. O, Thou, who hast led man through the ages of
His existence upon the earth of Thy Spirit

R. GRANT US THY CONTINUED GUIDANCE.

L. Thou who dost generate love and goodness in
hearts

And the desire for fellowship one with the other
in life's living:

R. INCREASE THY SPIRIT IN US

L. Thou who hast called our brother from his tasks
To the reward of noble thoughts and deeds:

R. DEEPEN OUR MEMORY OF HIM

L. Thou who art the light of the new Heaven,
The new Earth, - the new Jerusalem,
The Alpha and Omega,
The beginning and the end of all creation.

R. GRANT A FINAL RESTING PLACE WITH
THEE TO ALL WHOM THOU HAST
CALLED, AND FINALLY OURSELVES.

AMEN.

WORDS OF TRIBUTE

THE OMEGA CHAPTER HYMN

(Tune) AoA National Hymn

Alpha Brothers, gather 'round
And make our praise resound
Of this Brother, whose labors now are crowned.
His good deeds, heaven blest
Commend them through each test
To OMEGA our chapter of sweet rest.

(chorus)

Farewell, dear Brother, transcendent art thou,
Thy Spirit shall dwell with us now.
We cherish thy mem'ry, thy good name we'll revere,
To thy glory, thy honor, BROTHER, dear.

BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

The grace of our Lord - Jesus Christ
Be with your spirit, Brother.
And now, may the Peace of God,
Which passeth all understanding,
Keep your hearts and minds in the
Knowledge and love of God, —
And of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord:
And may the blessing of God Almighty,
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,
Be amongst you, and remain with you always.

AMEN

THE FIRST VERSE AND CHORUS OF THE Alpha Phi Alpha National Hymn

NOTE:

THIS RITUAL IS THE PROPERTY OF
THE GENERAL ORGANIZATION AND THE
CHAPTER RECEIVING IT MUST AT ALL
TIMES BE ABLE TO ACCOUNT FOR IT TO
ANY GENERAL OFFICER.

WILLIAM H. WALKER
Executive Secretary

1,200 copies printed January, 1976