

# GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF INDIA



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**RW Bro. VISHAL BAKSHI**  
Grand Secretary

No.306(1)RAM

25<sup>th</sup> October 2019

To

**Scribes of all R A M Lodges**

Dear Sir and R/V/W/Brother,

I am pleased to inform you that the RAM Council at it's meeting in Kolkata on the 30th August 2019 has finalized the attached image and narration for the RAM Tracing Board. It is the desire of MW Grand Master that this version of the Tracing Board be rendered in every RAM Lodge henceforth after the ceremony of elevation.

The Lodge may get the image suitably printed and framed for convenience and better elucidation.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

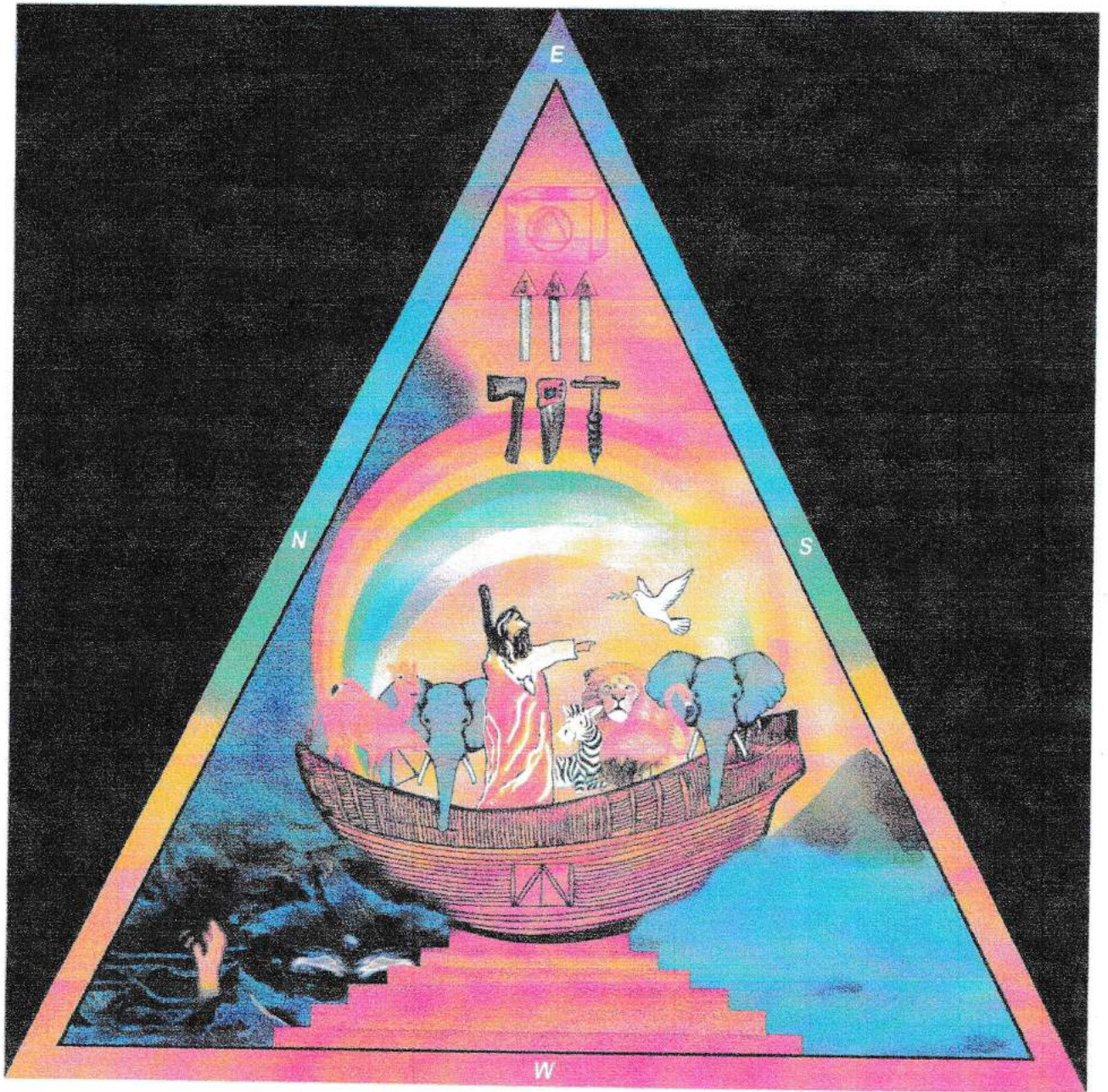
VISHAL BAKSHI  
Grand Secretary

CC

MWGM

Members of RAM Council

Regional Grand Secretaries of all Regional Grand Mark Lodges



The ceremony of your elevation seeks to commemorate the preservation of wisdom and righteousness by the Supreme Commander of Universe whilst destroying all that is evil and unworthy. It reiterates the valuable instruction you had received in your Third Degree that, "Peace and Salvation await the faithful and obedient" of the human race by the Supreme Commander of the Universe. The Tracing Board illustrates this supreme lesson through the legend of Noah and his Ark.

In building the Ark, the means of not only salvation of the entire human race but also preservation of all life on Earth, Noah displayed immense faith and explicit obedience. Even at the face of disbelief, ridicule and scorn, he persevered in the task allotted to him by the Supreme Commander of the Universe with the working tools available to him which are depicted here. His steadfast perseverance and workmanship led to the creation of that beautiful structure, the Ark.

It teaches you that likewise, your salvation lies in building your own Ark, haven of safety with those working tools with which the Supreme Commander of the Universe has chosen to bless you with.

The Porphyry stone is prominently displayed in the Tracing Board and occupies a central position in a Royal Ark Mainer's Lodge, that being the anchor of hope on which Noah fixed the station of the Ark on Mount Ararat. It symbolically implies that your hope has to be firmly moored in Faith and perseverance.

We trace its use to a time before the sacred writings were in existence. In the centre of the Porphyry Stone is (indicates) a Triangle within a Circle. The Triangle (indicates the Triangle on the floor of the Lodge) is the emblem of this Degree and is also symbolic of the Deity; the Circle represents Eternity. Their conjunction teaches you the fundamental truth that Deity pervades Eternity, and as this combined symbol also relates to the Royal Arch Degree, you are again reminded that there is still greater knowledge to which you may yet attain.

On the left of the Tracing Board, is displayed the tempestuous deluge overshadowed by billowing dark clouds pouring down destruction and on the right the

tranquil sea with Mount Ararat, the haven of safety in sight, separated only by the larger triangle, representing the deity himself, alluding that each of us is an Ark floundering in the sea of needs and desires, buffeted and blown away by the opinion of others and it is only He who separates and protects us from perishing in the deluge of our desires, even as the rudderless ark, drifting seemingly hopelessly in the endless waters, yet safely arrives at the holy ground of Mount Ararat.

The seven coloured Rainbow is the reminder of God's covenant with Noah to bestow Ark Mariners with his merciful munificence. The Dove and Olive branch are emblems of hope and peace.

The three vertices of the triangle together with the stairs (or steps) are indicative of nine steps every ark mariner has to take to reach the Ark. The triangles in the Border, all equal and equilateral, remind you of the triangle on which you were admitted as well as your triangular perambulation.

The Royal Ark Mariner Degree assures you that to those who strive with diligence and faith, the Supreme Commander of the Universe shall grant safe passage over the turbulent waters of this life. However dark the clouds or fierce the tempest, never forget those gracious Words you have already heard once today, "neither shall the Covenant of my Peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee". With that promise of God, may mercy devolve on you and all ark mariners.

(615 words)