

Ritual Instructions

This ritual is secret and is to be treated confidentially by all men. It must be guarded carefully and never left where it can be seen by the uninitiated.

TO BE READ BY THE MASTER TO ALL BROTHERS ASSEMBLED BEFORE CEREMONY BEGINS:

The importance of the ritual and ritual meetings cannot be overemphasized. The ritual is the basic fabric of the Fraternity. The Fraternity is united as an international organization by the fact that the same doctrines are preached in every Chapter when the ritual is expounded. When the ritual is not used, the Fraternity loses much of its character and becomes very little more than a social club.

The initiation ceremony is arranged by the Initiation Committee, the chairman of which is usually the Lieutenant Master, who is called the Master of Ceremonies. A sponsor accompanies and leads each neophyte throughout the ceremony, unless the chapter membership is small, in which event one or more brothers should act as sponsors for the group.

This ceremony is sacred to every brother of AEÀ □À, and should be made as impressive as possible for the neophytes. It is especially important that the initiation ceremony be performed properly, and with all the dignity and solemnity possible. This is a great moment in the life of the candidate, and one which he will always remember if his elevation to brotherhood in Alpha Epsilon Pi is made the impressive occasion it can be.

As the neophytes are firstly led into the room, all brothers will hum the "Gold and Blue" and stop immediately after the reading of the 23rd Psalm is concluded. This is resumed when the neophytes are again led around the room for the Key Man Lectures. All non-participating brothers shall remain in ABSOLUTE SILENCE throughout the ceremony. This means that no smoking, whispering, or moving about, is permitted. When the last neophyte has been congratulated by the Master, the Sentinel turns on the lights.

The Master will say, "Brother Master of Ceremonies, conduct the new brothers around the room for congratulations." The brothers will exchange handshakes and say only one word, "congratulations." The new brothers are then escorted from the room, Absolute Silence Prevailing. This procedure not only adds to the dignity and solemnity but also affords an opportunity for the new brothers to learn how to properly gain entry to a meeting.

The Master, Lieutenant Master, and initiation team are expected to rehearse the ceremony at least once before each initiation so that all participants will be thoroughly familiar with their parts. This means that the entire ritual team must read their parts aloud or recite from memory, in the presence of each other, so that constructive criticism will result in a perfect performance by the entire team. The Master, in particular, should memorize that part of the ritual, which occurs after the blindfolds are removed.

Alpha Epsilon Pi Initiation

The space set aside for the initiation ceremony is, wherever possible, rectangular. The Master is at the end farthest from the entrance, and each of the three ritual Key Men is stationed in the center of each side of the room: A, at the Master's right; E, in front; and D, on the Master's left.

THE ROOM IS DARK: CANDLES ARE BURNING. Chairs for the brothers are placed along the three sides of the room in front of the Brother Master. The Master, Master of Ceremonies, Sentinel, and the three Key Men wear the required ritual robes. The ritual lamp is burning, a sterilized needle, matches, and the Holy Bible placed upon the Master's table.

THE ROOM REMAINS DARKENED THROUGHOUT THE CEREMONY. Each Key man has a few burning candles at his station. When all is ready and the brothers are quietly seated, the Sentinel sounds a long, low whistle or makes a hand signal which notifies the Master of Ceremonies (Lieutenant Master) that he should proceed to bring the blindfolded neophytes to the door of the initiation room.

DIALOGUE

SENTINEL: "Who goes there?"

M. of C.: "A rightful brother of the Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity and neophytes who desire more light on brotherly love, more vision of faith and courage, and more instruction in honesty by being admitted into this fraternity."

SENTINEL: "Is it of their own free will and accord?"

M. of C.: "It is."

SENTINEL: "It is well. The Brother Master shall be informed of their request."

SENTINEL: Brother Master, the Brother Master of Ceremonies is accompanied by neophytes who desire more light on brotherly love, more vision of faith, and courage, and more instruction in honesty by being admitted into this fraternity."

MASTER: "Is it of their own free will and accord?"

SENTINEL: "It is."

MASTER: "Are they worthy and well qualified?"

SENTINEL: "They are."

MASTER: "Why do they wish to enter into this great privilege?"

SENTINEL: "That they may be helped to attain personal perfection and deep seated friendship; that they may be shown the healthy spirit of cooperation and helpfulness in order to create better understanding toward their fellow man; that they may be encouraged and may encourage others toward vigorous participation in University and community activity, to the mutual benefit of all."

MASTER: "Under what qualifications do they seek admission?"

SENTINEL: "By being men of good repute, well recommended, and students in good standing of . . . (name of university or college)."

MASTER: "Then let them enter."

SENTINEL: "The Brother Master has been informed of your request. You may now proceed."

MASTER: "Brother Master of Ceremonies, why are you here?"

M. of C.: "Brother Master, I am accompanied by neophytes who desire more light on brotherly love, more vision of faith and courage, and more instruction in honesty by being admitted into this fraternity."

MASTER: "Is it of their own free will and accord?"

M. of C.: "It is."

MASTER: "Under what qualifications do they seek admission into this fraternity?"

M. of C.: "By being men of good repute and well recommended; having successfully completed their period of pledge ship. They are students of . . . (name of university), in good standing, and finally passed upon by every active brother of this chapter."

MASTER: "Neophytes, you are now about to assume an obligation pertaining to this fraternity which will not interfere with your duty to God, your country, or your school. If you are ready to proceed, repeat after me the following oath: "I AM FULLY PREPARED TO MEET ALL THE OBLIGATIONS NECESSARY-TO BECOME A BROTHER OF THE ALPHA EPSILON PI FRATERNITY."

MASTER: "Neophytes, you will now take the solemn oath which all of your brothers before you have taken upon admission to this fraternity. Place your left hand on the Bible, raise your right hand, and repeat after me:

"ALPHA EPSILON PI AND BROTHERS HERE ASSEMBLED-IN THE PRESENCE OF ALMIGHTY GOD-AND IN SACRED SINCERITY TO THE IDEALS OF THIS FRATERNITY-WE PLEDGE FAITH OF BOTH MIND AND BODY-TO WHAT OUR TONGUES NOW SPEAK.-OUR ACTS WILL BE ONLY THOSE WHICH SHALL REFLECT HONOR-UPON OURSELVES AND OUR BROTHERS.-AS LONG AS THE HEARTS WITHIN US BEAT-AS LONG AS THE TONGUES WITHIN US SPEAK-SO LONG SHALL THE WORDS AND MYSTERIES-OF THIS FRATERNITY REMAIN CONCEALED-SO LONG WILL WE SUPPORT AND MAINTAIN ITS LAWS AND REGULATIONS:-SO HELP US ALMIGHTY GOD-IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THIS, OUR SACRED VOW."

MASTER: "Neophytes, the secrets of this fraternity are embodied in its initial letters, ALPHA, EPSILON and PI. ALPHA STANDS FOR, WHICH TO US SYMBOLIZES brotherly love; Epsilon stands for which to us symbolizes ~~BROTHERLY LOVE. Epsilon stands for~~ FAITH AND COURAGE: and PI for, which to us symbolizes HONESTY.

MASTER: "Brother Master of Ceremonies, conduct the neophytes to Brother A....."

BROTHER A.... "Neophytes, Harken to the message of A.....To AEP men all over the world, A.... is the symbol of Brotherly Love. It is our first symbol and perhaps our most important. Certainly it is the broad base upon which the principles of our fraternity are built. It is the foundation of our three ideals. Great discourses have been delivered on the meaning of Brotherly Love; many tomes have been written about it. In the words of the poet:

"No one could tell me where my soul might be;
"I searched for God, but He eluded me;
"I sought my brother out, and found all three."

BROTHER A....: But I think that no finer exposition of Brotherly Love can be found than in the story told about that famous teacher in Israel,.. Hillel. One day a Roman came to taunt him and asked Hillel to teach him the whole Bible while he stood on one foot. Hillel as you know was a gentle and patient man. Quickly he replied: "Do not do unto others what thou wouldst not do unto thyself. This is the whole law; all else is explanation." That, we feel is also the true meaning of Brotherly Love. And what better time to learn Brotherly Love than in your youth; in your college days, when you live those experiences which will provide memories for a lifetime to come. So go forth, Neophytes, and let this simple teaching of Hillel be a guide for you in your conduct throughout the years. "Do not do unto others what thou wouldst not do unto thyself." Brother Master, I have expounded unto the Neophytes the meaning of A

MASTER: Brother Master of Ceremonies, conduct the Neophytes to Brother E....

BROTHER E....: "Neophytes, Harken to the message of E The second of our ideals, embodied in E, is Faith and Courage, seemingly distinct and apart, but to us interwoven as one. Since the days of the early Greek philosophers, the mind of

man has struggled with the problem of the true meaning of Faith. To some, Faith is the blind acceptance of fixed dogmas. For them, reason is inconsistent with Faith. Yet, true Faith is not the mere credulous acceptance of a proposition, but such acceptance as is tempered by reason. It is rational and intelligent. That is the Faith of E Learn to understand, Neophytes, what you believe; try to understand why it is true. Learn to substitute for a blind, unthinking Faith the insight of reason. Still, Faith alone is but a passive instrument, which must be vitalized by Courage. The civilized man, like his primitive ancestor, lauds Courage as a virtue, and loathes cowardice as vicious and contemptible. To the primitive world, however, Courage took the form of physical action-attack and defense, while in civilized society it takes the form of patient duty or belief. Be of strong Faith, Neophytes, and of good Courage. Then will you have intense Faith that Right is right; and then will you have Courage in your Faith. Brother Master, I have expounded to the Neophytes the meaning of E

MASTER: "Brother Master of Ceremonies, conduct the neophytes to Brother P....

BROTHER P....: "Neophytes, Harken to the Message of P You now have the structure of this fraternity built up for you through the interpretation of A and E P, which to us symbolizes Honesty, is the capstone of our trilogy of ideals. Just as A, E, and Ξ merge into one in the badge of our fraternity, so do the meanings of the symbols portrayed by A, E, and P mould into a perfect entity to complete our banner of fraternalism. Honesty, the third of our ideals, refers not only to integrity; it means loyalty, steadfastness to our ideals. Honesty is that quality which shows a man to be fair and truthful, above cheating and misrepresentation. The honesty of P is that quality in man which carries him along a straight path of uprightness, of honesty and duty. Although we are imbued with the splendor of idealisms' mansions, we must be practical in the application of the lessons we have learned here and apply them honestly in the house of our earthly pilgrimage. Neophytes, meet reality face to face with the standard of your idealism. Be honest with yourself and you will then be true to your fellow man. Do not let the idealism of A and E become hollow sermons. Remember the words of P and bring your idealism into honest action. Brother Master, I have expounded to the Neophytes the meaning of P

MASTER: "Brother Master of Ceremonies, please escort the Neophytes before this table and remove their blindfolds."

MASTER: "Neophytes, the ideals of Alpha Epsilon Pi are just explained to you are embodied in our coat of arms forming a beautiful pledge as follows which you will **repeat after me**.

"We pledge (pledge button) ourselves to the ideals of the Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity-as embodied in the three key words A...., E...., and P...., (Esponda)-to knowledge (wisdom lamp)-to purity (fleur-de-lis)-to truth and honesty (six pointed star)-to courage (lion)-and to faith in these ideals. A faith as everlasting as the seven candles of the Menorah (Menorah lamp)-so that my life may remain an open book (book)-for all time until death (skull)."

MASTER: "Brother Master of Ceremonies, invest the neophytes with the signals and password necessary to enter a meeting and with the handshake of Alpha Epsilon Pi."

M. of C.: "Brother Master, I have invested the neophytes with the signals and handshake of Alpha Epsilon Pi."

MASTER: "I am about to confer upon you the highest honor in my power to bestow. Your fidelity, zeal, and constancy have gained for you this favor. Brother Master of Ceremonies, you will escort the neophytes out of the room and will readmit them when the proper signal is given by the Sentinel." (This line is spoken only once for ALL neophytes.)

MASTER: "By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Supreme Board of Governors, I will now make you brothers of the Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity."

MASTER: "Into this flame has been poured the life blood of all your brothers. Your blood is now mixed with theirs in the holy fire of brotherhood. You now are a lawful brother of Alpha Epsilon Pi. I congratulate you."

RITUAL PARAPHERNALIA REQUIRED

1. Plaqued Cofa
2. Six ritual robes
3. Bible
4. Ritual Lamp
5. Needle (not pin)
6. Gavel
7. Six Ritual books
8. Six or Seven candles and candle holders
9. Hoodwinks (masks) for each neophyte
10. The room for the ritual should be large enough and should be one that can be blacked out.

MEETINGS

DIALOGUE

SENTINEL: "Who goes there?"

ANSWER: "A-, E-, P-, Etc."

SENTINEL: "Enter, brother, and may God be with you."

MASTER: "Guardian
of the gate, what is your duty in this chapter?"

SENTINEL: "Brother Master, it is to protect the secrets and mysteries of this Fraternity."

MASTER: "Have you taken measures to that effect?"

SENTINEL: "Brother Master, I have. The Sentinel is at his post and all present have given the secret signals of a brother of the Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity."

MASTER: "All is well. We may now proceed with our business. Brothers of the Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity be seated." "In the name of the . . . Chapter of the Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity, and under its constitution and by-laws, and by virtue of the charter granted by the Supreme Board of Governors, I hereby open and call this meeting to order."

MASTER-(to Scribe): "Brother Scribe, what is your station in this chapter?"

SCRIBE: "Brother Master, to record proceedings of the meeting and reports of officers and committees."

MASTER-(to Exchequer):"Brother Exchequer, what is your station in this chapter?"

EXCHEQUER: "Brother Master, to receive and make all payments for the Chapter, to safeguard its funds, and keep complete and accurate records thereof."

MASTER(to Lieut. Master): "Brother Lieutenant Master what is your station in this Chapter?"

LIEUTENANT-MASTER: "Brother Master, to assist you in the conduct of our business and to enforce your decisions."

PLEDGING CEREMONY

SENTINEL: "Who goes there?"

HEAD SPONSOR: "A rightful brother of the Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity with candidates who desire admission into our secret councils."

SENTINEL: "Proceed with the candidates and inform the Brother Master of your request."

HEAD SPONSOR: "Brother Master, I am accompanied by (full names of candidates) who are desirous of entering into our secret councils."

MASTER: "Is it of their own free will and accord?"

HEAD SPONSOR: "It is."

MASTER: "Have they been carefully investigated and found worthy?" **HEAD SPONSOR:** "They have."

MASTER: "Have they been informed of and are they willing and able to meet the obligations of a brother of this Fraternity?"

HEAD SPONSOR: "Yes, Brother Master."

MASTER: "Then let them step forward to sign the pledge cards and receive the insignia." "With this insignia and oath you become pledges of the Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity. Your period of probation now begins. During the time you wear this insignia, you will be judged as to your worthiness of becoming a brother of this Fraternity. The interests of this Fraternity are to be held foremost in your mind. If you are prepared to proceed, place your left hand upon the holy Bible, raise your right hand and repeat after me, "I do most solemnly agree, so help me God, and make me steadfast to keep and perform the same."

MASTER: "Pledges, please read aloud the written pledge."

PLEDGE

After favorable consideration by the Chapter of the Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity, I do hereby pledge my word and honor that I will never reveal to any person or organization other than members of this Fraternity, anything that I have learned or may learn pertaining to this Fraternity or chapter; that I will obey all instructions issued to me by this Fraternity or Chapter; that I will not have fraternal negotiations with any other college fraternity without first obtaining the consent of this Fraternity. In testimony whereof, I do hereby solemnly swear and affix my signature, this . . . day of . . ., 19 . . . The Brother Master has just inducted you as pledges of the Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity. The little gold and blue button, our pledge pin, has been placed in the lapel of your coat. It has a greater significance than you may now realize. You will no longer be known only as Mr . . ., a student at (name of university) but also as Pledge . . ., a prospective brother of the Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity, and as such your actions will no longer reflect upon you individually, but upon this entire fraternity, with which you are now affiliated. You can readily understand the necessity of conducting yourselves in a manner which will reflect credit upon yourselves, your college and your Fraternity. This period as a pledge of Alpha Epsilon Pi, is one of probation for you. During this period it is your duty to meet with the brothers of this Fraternity frequently so that they may have an opportunity to become better acquainted with you and be enabled to form an opinion as to your worthiness of becoming a brother of this fraternity. I congratulate you and sincerely hope that in the near future I may have the pleasure of welcoming you into the ranks of brotherhood of the Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity"

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Invited to this assembly are all friends, family and brothers of the deceased. After the assembly has been called to order, the MASTER of the deceased brother's chapter, or any brother chosen by the MASTER, rises and says:

"BROTHER MASTER, BROTHERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS...WE ARE GATHERED HERE THIS EVENING TO COMMEMORATE AND HONOR THE MEMORY OF OUR DEAR, DEPARTED (name) who died on(date)."

(He then delivers the eulogy). After the eulogy, the MASTER rises and taps three times with his gavel, whereupon the brothers rise. The lights are then put out and the brothers hold lighted candles in their left hands, their right hands over their hearts. The MASTER then recites the Hebrew Mourners' Prayer. Upon conclusion all stand for one minute in silent memory of the departed one. At the conclusion of the Minute of silence the MASTER says:

"May his soul rest in peace," and the brothers answer, "Amen."

Wherever possible the ceremony shall be held in a synagogue or other Jewish Center.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The officers are installed inversely to the degree of their rank, the MASTER being installed last. The retiring MASTER shall act as the installing officer for the incoming officers. After the assembly has been called to order, the MASTER rises and taps three times with his gavel, whereupon the brothers rise. The MASTER then calls the first officer to be installed, and says:

"YOU HAVE BEEN ELECTED . . . (office) OF THE CHAPTER. BEFORE ASSUMING OFFICE, IT IS NECESSARY THAT YOU TAKE THE FOLLOWING OATH: I, (name) having been duly elected . . . (office), of the chapter of Alpha Epsilon Pi, with full knowledge of the duties and responsibilities required by this office, do most solemnly swear and promise to fulfill these duties to the best of my ability, so help me God.

The MASTER then turns to the newly installed officer, and says:

"I CONGRATULATE YOU AND SINCERELY TRUST THAT YOU WILL JUSTIFY THE FAITH THAT HAS BEEN PLACED IN YOU."

The newly installed officer then assumes the station in the chapter. The MASTER or a designated brother then addresses a few words to the newly installed officers with respect to the duties of their offices.

ENTRY OF SUPREME OFFICER OF PASS SUPREME MASTER TO CHAPTER MEETING

If the SENTINEL of a chapter upon answering an alarm notes that the brother knocking is a SUPREME OFFICER, or a PAST SUPREME MASTER, he partially closes the door and says to the MASTER of the chapter,

"BROTHER MASTER, BROTHER SUPREME (or PAST SUPREME MASTER) . . . (name) IS ABOUT TO ENTER."

The MASTER then raps three times with his gavel, whereupon the brothers rise. The SENTINEL then permits the SUPREME OFFICER to enter, then SENTINEL escorting him to the MASTER who then receives him, while some other brother temporarily takes the SENTINEL'S place at the gate. When the SUPREME OFFICER has been escorted to his seat, the MASTER raps once with his gavel, whereupon the brothers are seated.

RITUAL FOR OPENING OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL MASTER OF CEREMONIES

(The immediate past Supreme Master): We assemble here in the tradition of our fraternity, dedicated to advance the ideals and absorb the meaning of the brotherhood of Alpha Epsilon Pi. As is fitting, honor should be extended to the brothers who have given so unselfishly of their time and energies, bringing the wisdom they have amassed by long experience to our chapters and alumni clubs, so that Alpha Epsilon Pi may perpetuate itself as the truly great fraternity it is today. Selfless devotion to a cause has marked the administration of the incumbent Supreme Officers, and we honor them today as we meet in solemn session. Brother Sentinel, do the Supreme Officers await without?

SENTINEL: Brother Master of Ceremonies..... Behind the closed doors of this, the session of the Supreme Council, all Supreme Officers are grouped to assume their rightful positions as the honored leaders of Alpha Epsilon Pi.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: Then let them enter., (First-Supreme Governors in order of rank and finally the Supreme Master.)

SENTINEL: Brother Master of Ceremonies and Brothers, I present to you Supreme Governors , etc.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: The Supreme Governors constitute the immediate link between the chapters and the national fraternity, and represent the ever present help and guidance under which we all prosper. Their tasks are numerous, their present reward slight, but still they toil for the unending growth of Alpha Epsilon Pi. Brothers, welcome to thesession of the Supreme Council. We thank each of you for your devoted service. Brother Sentinel, let us proceed.

SENTINEL: Brother Master of Ceremonies and Brothers, I present to you Brother Supreme Sentinel.....MASTER OF CEREMONIES: Brother , welcome to this session of the Supreme Council. We thank you for your devoted service. Brother Sentinel, let us proceed.

SENTINEL: Brother Master of Ceremonies and Brothers, I present to you Brother Supreme Scribe.....

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: Brother..... , welcome to this session of the Supreme Council. We thank you for your devoted service. Brother Sentinel, let us proceed.

SENTINEL: Brother Master of Ceremonies and Brothers, I present to you Brother Supreme Master.....

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: Brother Supreme Master..... is the..... Brother of our fraternity to hold the exalted office of Supreme Master. To attain this esteemed position it is necessary to offer many valued years of effort in the cause of the fraternity. Standing before us-clothed in the robe of his office-is the man who was entrusted with the executive leadership of Alpha Epsilon Pi for the year now ending. We hope that tremendous satisfaction has come to him in the course of his labors. Brother..... , I welcome you to the Supreme Council of Alpha Epsilon Pi, assembled to direct the fortunes of this fraternity. At this moment, however, you have almost completed your term of office. You have been diligent in the discharge of your obligations, and we are deeply indebted to you. The events of the next few days will emphasize the success of your leadership. I bring you congratulations as you take the gavel (assume the chair) to lead the deliberations of this Supreme Council.

Big Brother Ceremony:

Arrangement:

Brothers are assembled on one side of the room, with the Master and Pledgemaster at the front (unless either of these two officers have little brothers, in which case other brothers should replace them).

Entrance:

The Sentinel will instruct the pledges that the appropriate response to the question they will be asked is "I am" (or "No"). He will then lead the pledges in blindfolded, with each pledge's right hand on the shoulder of the person in front of him. They shall be led directly in front of the head table, and should face it in one line. The majority of the brotherhood will be at their back.

Ceremony:

The Pledgemaster will read (taken from the pledge manual, with slight liberties):

The road to Alpha Epsilon Pi was chartered for us by our Founders. The signposts were perseverance, honesty, mutual helpfulness, faith, and humility.

If you will watch for these guides, and make them part of your own life, you will succeed in attaining brotherhood -- a brotherhood which will enrich and ennoble your whole life.

Perseverance -- the little group of eleven was faced with formidable obstacles. It had little reason to expect to succeed. It was young, weak, small, in a world of established organizations. But it had indomitable spirit. It had the desire and the will to succeed. It had no national to turn to for help, no alumni to advise and support it. It persevered. It succeeded.

Honesty -- They were honest with themselves. They recognized their limitations. They also recognized that there was no limitation on hard work and ambition, if it was made by honest effort. Honesty with each other became a keystone of the fraternity from the first.

Mutual Helpfulness -- the founders were close to each other. They were concerned about each other's welfare; they overlooked each other's shortcomings, and tried to assist each other's development. They helped each other in material ways when they were able to do so. They did things together, and enjoyed doing them together. This became one of their guides to brotherhood.

Faith -- the founders had faith in God, in their country, in their university, and in themselves. They believed with all their hearts that they had a God-given opportunity, in this land of ours, to create a great fraternity. They believed that New York University would look with favor on the development of a fraternity which would help to give leadership to the student body. They had faith in their ability to accomplish these goals. With faith as a keystone of their fraternal strivings, they succeeded. Faith is still a keystone in Alpha Epsilon Pi.

Humility – the founders were humble. They knew they were far from perfect. After all, they were a group of eleven very young men, with a very big dream. They recognized that human beings are imperfect, and that it was their mission to help develop the new men in the fraternity. They had to help them achieve their potential. They were never arrogant. They knew that the fact that they were fraternity men made them no better than those who were not. They knew that only achievement in worthwhile endeavors was a ground for satisfaction, not the mere wearing of a badge. Humility became another guidepost in Alpha Epsilon Pi.

Look closely, in your mind, at the pledge pin you now wear. It has a blue center, and four sides, curving inward, all edged with gold. This is your reminder of our guideposts. The blue center stands for honesty, which is the center and base of everything Alpha Epsilon Pi represents and strives to teach. The four sides, all linked and held together by the center stone of honesty, are perseverance, faith, mutual helpfulness, and humility. The sides are curved because life's path is not always straight. Sometimes one must make a slight detour to reach his goal, but if this is done in all honesty, and in good faith, the guideposts will eventually join together, and stemming out of honest effort, lead the wearer to what he seeks - **BROTHERHOOD** in Alpha Epsilon Pi.

Master: (to the pledges)

Soon, you will meet your big brothers. You have chosen these men as guides in your effort to meet the ideals of Alpha Epsilon Pi. Be honest with them, give them your faith. Be humble in recognizing that sometimes they may know what is good for you better than you yourself. Love them as your brother, and they will stand by you even after the pledge period is a distant memory.

Big Brothers, you are being given the sacred obligation of guiding these men on their search to attain an understanding of the guideposts of this fraternity. It is your duty to teach them, and in teaching to learn. Strive to be an example from whom your little brother will learn inspiration, motivation, and dedication.

Learn to understand what you believe
Try to understand why it is true –
Be honest with yourself and
You will then be true to your fellow man.

Pledgemaster:

Your big brother is your lifeline to the fraternity. He is your counselor, advisor, and confidant. He will become your lifetime friend. He has undertaken the duty of helping to guide you now, and in years to come, you will be given opportunities to help guide him through difficult periods in his own life. As a little brother, are you willing to undertake this obligation?

Pledges:

I am.

The Master will strike three raps with the gavel. All brothers will rise. The big brothers will take their places behind their little brothers. At a signal from the Master, they will place their right hand on the right shoulder of their little brothers.

Master:

You will have this feeling one more time before the end of the pledge period. Let it remind you then of the friendship which you will have developed with your big brother; remind you of your big brother himself; and remind you of your feelings for the fraternity which your big brother represents.

Pledgemaster:

Congratulations, big and little brothers. Little brothers, you may now remove your blindfolds and meet your big brothers.

After a short, affective pause, the Master should rap the gavel one time, at which point the ceremony is over. The other brothers should make this clear by congratulating the little brothers in an informal manner, and the Master and Pledgemaster may leave their posts at the front of the room.