

Oath Binds Klansmen to Blind Obedience of Klux Emperor

Candidate Swears to Participate Unconditionally in Any Task Under "Constitution and Laws, Regulations, Usages and Requirements" of Masked Klans Who Meet in Dark, Before Learning Rules Which Govern Them.

ALL GIVE W. J. SIMMONS A BLANK CHECK ON THEIR LIVES AND LIBERTY OF ACTION

Consent to "Disgrace, Dishonor and Death" if They Prove Wanting and Pledge Selves to Guard, by Sacrifice of Life, if Need Be, Any Evidence of Co-Conspirators, Except Only What May Involve Treason Against U. S., Rape and Malicious Murder.

The oath-bound secrecy which viles the membership and activities of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc., plus its revival of traditions of marked terrorism and its cultivation for propaganda purposes of racial and religious prejudices or hatreds, constitute the great potential menace of the movement to prevent which The Star is letting in clean daylight on every angle and corner, Ku Kluxism, whether incorporated or casual flourishes only in the dark.

In the propaganda "literature" of the Klan, Emperor Simmons states he does not want in his order any man who cannot assume a "real oath" with the serious determination to keep it inviolate. Also, to

back this requirement, he inserts in his initiation ceremony, as we have already seen, a death threat, just before his parody on the sacrament of baptism.

What is this real oath that need veiled hints of violence to back it, and which has been assumed voluntarily by 500,000 white, native-born, Gentle American citizens—by 65,000, if we accept the statements of Ku Kluxism's propagators? What have these Klansmen sworn to do?

The answer to that question is given here today in the photographic reproduction of the oath as printed and furnished to the Klan organizers and officials and in a detailed analysis of its contents.

"STIFFNESS OF KLAN OATH AMAZES HARDENED "JOINERS"

There is no doubt that Emperor Simmons, or whoever wrote the document, produced a "real oath." Hardened "joiners," members of as many orders as they have fingers, have examined it and found it the "stiffest" obligation they ever heard of. The first and last of its four sections are as dangerous matter as could be sworn to by a group of American citizens. One section, the last, is nothing more or less than an indorsement of the principle of secret mob rule.

Unconditional obedience to the as yet unknown "constitution and laws, regulations, usages and requirements" of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and to the "mandates, decrees, edicts, rulings and instructions" of Emperor Simmons, is the first obligation solemnly sworn to by the candidate, "in the presence of God and man."

Blind secrecy, even in the face of death, in regard to any and all "matters and knowledge" of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, is the second obligation, also assumed by the candidate before any "matters and knowledge" have been intrusted to him.

Fidelity in faithfully fostering "every interest" of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan is the third obligation, assumed "before God and in the presence of these mysterious Klansmen."

"Klanishness," to the extent of keeping the secret of a Klansman, with the sole exceptions of secrets concerning the violation of the Klan oath, treason against the United States, rape and malicious murder, and to the extent of using any and all "justifiable means and methods" to preserve "free public schools, free speech, free press, separation of church and state, liberty, white supremacy, just laws, and the pursuit of happiness" against any encroachment of "any nature" by any "person or persons, political party or parties, religious sect or people, native, naturalized or foreign, of any race, color, creed, lineage or tongue whatsoever," constitute the fourth and final section, which ends:

"All to which I have sworn with this oath I will seal with my blood, be Thou my witness, Almighty God. Amen!"

Klan and the Constitution
In this fourth section the candidate also swears to support the Constitution and "constitutional laws" of the United States and any State where he may reside and the Klan organizers make much capital of that fact. But in considering their patriotic professions it should be borne in mind that members of the original Ku Klux Klan also took an oath, as appears in the few surviving "Precepts" of the order.

Just how much weight was attached to the Constitution of the United States by the original bands which made "Ku Kluxing" and "White-capping" synonymous words in America to this day for describing masked violence and anonymous terrorism is shown by the countless recorded cases of what happened when they deemed it necessary to "put the fear of God" into a "carpetbagger," a "scalawag" or a negro. And how much weight their modern incorporated imitators attach to the same document, with its bill of rights guaranteeing every person within the boundaries of this country against arrest or interference with liberty except on a warrant duly issued or a sworn complaint, and

HERE IS THE TRIPLE OATH TAKEN BY KLAN INITIATES

Herewith is presented the full text of the oath of allegiance to the Imperial Wizard and the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, taken by the neophytes when naturalized into the "Invisible Empire." The oath is taken blindly—the "Knight" never sees the Constitution and the laws which he must "most zealously shield and preserve by any and all justifiable means and methods."

The asterisks take the place of the names of the Ku Klux Klan and in other places refer to the dignitaries of the order. This precaution is taken to protect the secrecy of the oath, as it is supposed to be carried in the pockets of the Klan officials.

It is a four-fold oath, involving obedience to "imperial authority, secrecy, fidelity and klanishness." The oath follows:

You will place your left hand over your heart and raise your right hand to heaven.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE
Sec. I.—Obedience

(You will say) "I"—(Pronounce your full name—and repeat after me) "In the presence of God and Man—most solemnly pledge, promise and swear—unconditionally—that I will faithfully obey the constitution and laws—and will willingly conform to all regulations, usages and requirements—of the * * * which do now exist—or which may be hereafter enacted—and will render at all times—loyal respect and steadfast support to the Imperial Authority of same—and will heartily heed—all official mandates—decrees—edicts—rulings and instructions—of the * * * thereof—I will yield prompt response—to all summonses—I having knowledge of same—Providence alone preventing.

Section II.—Secrecy

"I most solemnly swear—that I will forever keep sacredly secret—the signs, words and grip—and any and all other—matters and knowledge—of the * * *—regarding which a most rigid secrecy—must be maintained—which may at any time—be communicated to me—and will never divulge same—not even cause the same to be divulged—to any person in the whole world—unless I know positively—that such person is a member of this Order—in good and regular standing—and not even then—unless it be—for the best interest of this Order."

"I most sacredly vow—and most positively swear—that I will not yield to bribe—flattery—threats—passion—punishment—persecution—negligence—not any enticements whatever—coming from or offered by—any person or persons—male or female—for the purpose of—obtaining from me—secret or secret information—of the * * *—I will die rather than divulge same—so help me God—

"AMEN."

You will drop your hands.

GENTLEMEN (or SIR):
You will wait in patience and peace until you are informed of the decision of the * * * and his * * in klonkave assembled.

You will place your left hand over your heart and raise your right hand to heaven.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE
Sec. III.—Fidelity

(You will say) "I"—(Pronounce your full name—and repeat after me) "Before God—and in the presence of these mysterious *man—on my sacred honor—do most solemnly and sincerely pledge—promise and swear that I will diligently guard and faithfully foster—every interest of the * * *—and will maintain—its social cast and dignity."

"I swear that I will not recommend—any person for membership in this Order—whose mind is unsound—or whose reputation I know to be bad—or whose character is doubtful—or whose loyalty to our country—is in any way questionable."

"I swear that I will pay promptly—all just and legal demands—made upon me to defray the expenses—of my* and this Order—when same are due or called."

"I swear that I will most protect the property—of the * * *—of any nature whatsoever—and if any should be intrusted to my keeping—I will properly keep—or rightly use same—and will flee and promptly surrender same—on official demand—or if ever I am banished from—or voluntarily discontinue—my membership in this Order."

"I swear that I will most determine—maintain peace and harmony—in all the deliberations—or the gatherings or assemblies—of the * * *—and of any subordinate jurisdiction—or * thereof."

"I swear that I will most strenuously—discourage selfishness—and selfish political ambition—on the part of myself or any *man."

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