

Preamble for explanation & demonstration of

LOVING CUP CEREMONY

(At the very beginning of explanation of the ceremony, the leading officer speaks to the audience, reminding all DSD members – student-members and/or graduate members – of their initiatory commitment to “Brotherhood” in our Fraternity:)

During your $\Delta \Sigma \Delta$ Initiation ceremony, the Worthy Master explained how:

“... in $\Delta \Sigma \Delta$ we pledge ourselves to be as watchful of one another’s interests as of our own, and to stand by each other in time of need.”

Due to pandemic precautions, we do not pass the one large Loving Cup among all members. Instead, now each member uses their personal/individual drink glasses for the toasts to adjacent members around the tables where they are seated.

The officer–speaker then proceeds with the text of the revised Loving Cup Ceremony.

THE LOVING CUP

SGM PETER T. BLENKINSOPP REVISION 2021



THE HISTORY OF THE LOVING CUP GOES BACK MANY YEARS TO THE ANCIENT PERIOD OF SAXON ENGLAND.

WHEN THE ROMANS LEFT ENGLAND IN 410 A.D., THEIR DEPARTURE WAS FOLLOWED BY SAXON INVADERS FROM GERMANY AND DENMARK. THEY RULED ENGLAND AS A SERIES OF FEUDING WARLORDS. THIS CAUSED A PERIOD OF GREAT INSTABILITY MADE WORSE BY VIKING INVADERS UNTIL THE NORMAN INVASION IN 1066.

DURING THIS TIME IT WAS CUSTOMARY FOR OUR FOREFATHERS DURING DRINKING PARTIES TO PASS AROUND A LARGE CUP FROM WHICH EACH DRANK IN TURN TO TOAST ONE OF THE OTHER PERSONS PRESENT.

THE PERSON DRINKING STOOD UP AND LIFTED THE CUP WITH BOTH HANDS THUS LEAVING HIS BODY EXPOSED WITHOUT DEFENCE AND HIS VISION OBSCURED.

AN ENEMY WITH THE INTENTION OF MURDER OFTEN SEIZED UPON THIS OCCASION TO DO SO.

CONSEQUENTLY, WHEN ONE OF THE COMPANY STOOD UP TO DRINK, HE REQUIRED THE COMPANION WHO SAT NEXT TO HIM TO PLEDGE HIS ALLEGIANCE.

IF AGREED, THE COMPANION STOOD UP AND RAISED HIS DRAWN SWORD TO DEFEND THE DRINKER WHILST HE WAS DRINKING AND HIS VISION WAS OBSCURED.

THE PROBLEM OF ASSASSINATION WHILE DRINKING FROM A LARGE WINE CUP WAS FURTHER ILLUSTRATED BY AN ACT OF TREACHERY IN ANCIENT ENGLAND IN CORFE CASTLE IN 979 A.D., TREACHERY TO CHANGE THE INHERITANCE OF THE ENGLISH CROWN.

THE MOTIVE BEHIND THIS ASSASSINATION IS AS FOLLOWS.

ALFRED THE GREAT RULED FROM 871 – 899 A.D. WHEN THE VIKINGS WERE DEFEATED AND THE SEPARATE KINGDOMS OF FEUDING WARLORDS WERE UNIFIED AND STABILITY WAS RE-ESTABLISHED.

SUBSEQUENTLY DURING THE REIGN OF KING EDGAR, ELFREDA THE SECOND WIFE OF EDGAR CONSPIRED TO HAVE HER STEPSON PRINCE EDWARD, SON OF THE KING'S FIRST WIFE, MURDERED SO THAT HER SON ETHELRED WOULD BECOME KING. IN THESE TIMES THE FIRST SON ALWAYS INHERITED THE CROWN TO BECOME KING.

THE MURDER WAS COMMITTED AT CORFE CASTLE IN THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND IN 979 A.D. THE OPPORTUNITY AROSE WHEN PRINCE EDWARD RETURNED FROM A HUNTING TRIP, THIRSTY, AND WAS DRINKING EAGERLY FROM A SILVER CHALICE. AT THIS MOMENT, AS PRE-ARRANGED, A PAID SERVANT PLUNGED A DAGGER INTO EDWARD'S BACK WHILE HIS VISION WAS OBSCURED BY THE CUP, EVENTUALLY KILLING HIM.

THE TRADITION OF OUR LOVING CUP OWES MUCH TO THIS PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOUR COMMON DURING THIS PERIOD OF SAXON ENGLAND AND TO THIS ACT OF TREACHERY.

ADDITIONALLY, THE CEREMONY IS A SYMBOLIC DEMONSTRATION OF THE WORDS IN OUR INITIATION CEREMONY WHEN WE ARE TOLD:

“TO BE AS WATCHFUL OF A BROTHER’S INTERESTS AS OF OUR OWN, AND TO STAND BY EACH OTHER IN TIMES OF NEED.”

THIS PIECE OF HISTORY ALONG WITH THE ANCIENT PRINCIPLE OF DEMONSTRATING ALLEGIANCE BY DRAWING A SWORD TO DEFEND AN INDIVIDUAL DRINKING FROM A LARGE CHALICE IS THE BASIS FOR THE SYMBOLISM AND TRADITION OF THE DELTA SIGMA DELTA LOVING CUP CEREMONY.

THE TRADITION THEREFORE OF THE LOVING CUP IS THAT SOMEONE YOU CAN TRUST STANDS WITH HIS BACK TO YOURS WHILE YOU ARE DRINKING SO AS TO PROTECT YOU WHILE YOUR VISION IS OBSCURED, WITH HIS RIGHT ARM RAISED WITH HAND CLENCHED TOWARD LEFT SHOULDER, AS IF A SWORD WERE BEING HELD FOR YOUR DEFENCE.

THE PROCESS OF THE LOVING CUP IS THAT IN TURN EACH PERSON TURNS TO TOAST THE PERSON ON THEIR RIGHT WITH THE WORDS:

“BROTHER/SISTER (person’s name), I DRINK TO YOU IN THE BONDS OF TRUE BROTHERHOOD IN DELTA SIGMA DELTA” –

AND THEN DRINKS FROM THE CUP.

WHILE THIS IS BEING DONE THE PERSON ON THE LEFT OF THE TOAST- GIVER STANDS WITH THEIR BACK TO THE PERSON WHO IS DRINKING, SO AS TO PROTECT THEM FROM ATTACK WHILE THEIR VISION IS OBSCURED BY THE CHALICE, WITH CLENCHED RIGHT HAND BY LEFT SHOULDER.

THE CUP IS PASSED AROUND THE ROOM TO EVERY PERSON IN TURN - ALL LISTENING IN SILENCE - UNTIL IT REACHES THE GRAND MASTER. HE TOASTS TO THE BROTHERHOOD, MUST FINISH WHAT IS LEFT, AND THEN INVERT THE CUP OVER HIS HEAD AS A DEMONSTRATION OF HIS GOOD OFFICE.

THE GM CALLS UPON THE MASTER OF CEREMONIES TO START AND CONTROL THE CEREMONY.

IN 1925, THE LOVING CUP CEREMONY WAS INTRODUCED TO THE LONDON CHAPTER BY BROTHER GEORGE NORTHCROFT, THEN GRAND MASTER OF LONDON CHAPTER, AND AN ALPHA CHAPTER 1889 GRADUATE DELTSIG.

IN 1978, SGM RONALD McCONNELL BROUGHT THE LOVING CUP CEREMONY TO THE SUPREME CHAPTER MEETING FOR ITS ANNUAL LUNCHEON, AFTER WHICH THE CEREMONY BECAME AN ANNUAL TRADITION IN THE U. S. A., AND GRADUALLY SPREAD AMONG GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE CHAPTERS.



LOVING CUP RITUAL

Br Graeme Ewers, ANZ Coordinator 2014 – 2019, modified.

- A) The Loving Cup, filled with a small amount of wine/champagne, sits in front of the GM.
- B) The GM stands and turns to his *RIGHT* towards Brother **B** and holds his own wine glass in both hands.
- C) The person on his *LEFT* Brother **Z**, stands back-to-back to the GM - to guard the back of the GM.
- D) The person the GM faces, Brother **B** stands and holds their glass with both hands.
- E) Both GM and Brother **B** raise their glasses and the GM says to Brother **B**:

“Brother/Sister ...(name)..... I drink to you in the bonds of true brotherhood in Delta Sigma Delta.
- F) They bow to each other. The GM drinks from his glass.
- G) The GM then rotates – raises his right hand clenched toward left shoulder as if holding a sword - to guard the back of Brother **B**, who turns and then repeats the toast to the person on their *RIGHT*, Brother **C**. As soon as the GM rotates, Brother **Z** sits down.
- H) As the toasting proceeds around the tables, **all others in the room should be listening and remain silent.**
- I) When the circuit is almost complete, after Brother **Z** has been toasted by Brother **Y**, Brother **Z** toasts the GM.
- J) Brother **Z** should then sit down.
- K) Finally, the **GM toasts the Chapter**, empties the Loving Cup, and inverts it over his/her head as demonstration of good office.

D ← C ← B ← GM ← Z ← Y ←