

“Fervency and Zeal”

ROYAL ARCH PROGRAM FOR SYMBOLIC LODGES

Thirty-first Capitular District, Royal Arch Masons, State of New York

"I will dispense true Masonic Light and Knowledge"

Adapted for use by The Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Maryland

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Participants are: **Director** – Tux, gloves & RA apron giving the Prolog and Conclusion

Monitor – Tux with Gloves – Chapter officer Apron

Mark Master Mason – Craftsman clothing as Fellowcraft

Past Master – Tux with Gloves and Masters Top Hat

Most Excellent Master – garbed as King Solomon

Holy Royal Arch – garbed as High Priest, including Breastplate

Senior Warden or Past Master of the Lodge who is not a Royal Arch
Mason

Prolog given by director - (*On the Level in the East.*)

With this program we go forward to dispense true Masonic Light and Knowledge to you, our Symbolic Lodge Brethren and express the vital, important, and necessary value that the Holy Royal Arch has in relationship to the Symbolic Lodge. Royal Arch Masonry provides the only legal, true and Historical completion of the Third degree.

Let us begin with a brief review of the Third Degree Legend. You may remember that after the Craftsmen who conducted the search, deliver the Jewel to KS. He studies it momentarily and then says, “ATIITJOOGMHA ...,(Md Ritual) etc.” He also says, “IDTHSMATG and TFWSPM, ... etc.” (as per Maryland ritual) Remember the Capitular Degrees take place chronologically after the Third Degree.

Will the JW please retire from his Station for this part of the work?

OPENING

Monitor: *(On the Level in the East)*

My Brothers, our program tonight is one of Masonic education and to dispense True Masonic Light and Knowledge to our Blue Lodge Brethren. We will endeavor to show the connection that exists between the Master Mason Degree and the Holy Royal Arch.

In 1813, when the two Grand Lodges in England united, to form the United Grand Lodge, the first and last authority, and that from which all Speculative Masonry derives, a firm and solid landmark was adopted, incorporated and placed into the Articles of Union and general regulations and Laws to forever guide Freemasonry throughout the World.

That firm and solid landmark declares that "Pure Craft Masonry shall consist of three Degrees and no more, that is: those of entered Apprentice, the Fellowcraft, and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch."

When you were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, you were informed that the Master's word was lost and the word that was communicated was, in effect, a substituted word. The Third Degree therefore, remains incomplete. The true word and secrets are given in the Holy Royal Arch and in that Degree only.

The Symbolic Lodge constitutes the foundation and framework of Ancient Craft Masonry. The Holy Royal Arch is the cementing factor to that foundation. It offers to the Master Mason the only legally recognized, and historically true, completion of the Third degree.

The Royal Arch Degree is conferred in a chapter of Royal Arch Masons as a Summit or Climax of a series of four degrees. In this series are the degrees of Mark Master Mason, Past Master, and Most Excellent Master, all of which precede the Royal Arch, in that order.

Senior Warden or a non RA Brother will now assist me in the next phase of our program.

Brother SW (or other non RA Brother) "Will you please join me in the NE corner,
Where you received your first Masonic Instructions.

My Brother, what induced you to become a Master Mason? His answer is given.
Where were you made a Master Mason? His answer is given.

My Brother, have you, within the structure of Pure Ancient Craft Masonry seen the Temple completed?

His answer is given. (NO)

[Note: the SW needs to be prompted prior to this exchange]

You will then proceed with me to the Craftsman representing the Mark Master Mason Degree.

(Proceeds to the North Station)

THE MARK MASTER DEGREE

My Brother, the Mark Master Degree is the development, elongation, and completion of the Fellowcraft degree. In its proper sequence, it should be placed between the Fellowcraft Degree and the Master Mason degree

As a young Fellowcraft you will be required to repair to the quarries and begin your labors. In the course of your labors you come across this piece of work. (*HOLDS UP THE KEYSTONE*) and concluding it designed for some portion of the Temple, you bring it up for inspection. For certain reasons, it is rejected and cast aside by the Overseers. An important lesson then evolves,

“That the stone that the builders rejected became the head of the corner!”

You then return to the quarries and resume your labors with orders to produce and exhibit a suitable specimen of your own work upon which you will be required to place your mark as a means of identification which entitles you to wages. This completes the Fellowcraft Degree.

After instructions on how to receive your wages and under orders of the Right Worshipful Master, you are conducted to the apartment of the Senior Warden and there receive your Masonic Wage. An important lesson is then learned, “The last shall be first and the first last.”

(Monitor is handed the Keystone and he and Bro. proceed to the West)

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PAST MASTER

My Brothers, when Royal Arch Masonry was under the government of the Symbolic Lodge, it was a regulation that no one could receive the Royal Arch degree unless he had been duly elected to preside as Master. This regulation greatly impaired the usefulness of the Holy Royal Arch. The Grand Master often granted his dispensation to permit certain Master Masons to, “Pass the Chair,” by investing them with the mysteries of the chair and entitling them to advance to the Holy Royal Arch.

With the formation of Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, this regulation continued to be observed as a law and the regulation still exists in that the Degree of Holy Royal Arch is restricted to Past Masters. Candidates now are permitted to “Pass the Chair” in the Past Master Degree as preparation, and to qualify them for the Holy Royal Arch Degree.

The Past Master Degree confers on the candidate no official rank outside the Chapter. Those who receive it are termed “Virtual Past Masters” and are not entitled to the rights and prerogatives of an “Actual Past Master.”

The lesson taught here is that: “To rule, one must learn to submit and obey.”
(Monitor and Bro. proceed to the South. - Monitor gives Keystone to KS in the south.)

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MOST EXCELLENT MASTER

My Brother, while laboring in the quarries, as a young Fellowcraft, you came across this piece of work (Shows Keystone) and concluding it designed for some portion of the Temple, you brought it up. In the Most Excellent Master degree, this particular piece of work is put to its intended use in completing King Solomon's Temple where you were made a Master Mason.

Now as you behold the completed Temple, your labors are over, your apron is laid aside, and you are received and acknowledged a Most Excellent Master.

King Solomon then stands before the congregation of the children of Israel and blesses them. Then, kneeling before the altar, consecrates that magnificent edifice to the worship of God, dedicates it to his Holy Name and prays for a sign of acceptance by the Almighty.

"For he is good, His mercy endureth forever."

(Monitor and Bro. proceed to the East)

ROYAL ARCH DEGREE

My Brothers, about 418 years after the completion of King Solomon's Temple, the Children of Israel, having done evil in the sight of the Lord, were set upon and taken captive by command of the King of Babylon. The temple of Solomon and the City of Jerusalem were destroyed. Not one stone remained upon another.

The Israelites remained captive in Babylon for about 70 years, until the reign of Cyrus, King of Persia, who was charged by the Lord God to build the second Temple in Jerusalem.

In this Degree you will represent a Most Excellent Master, a descendent of those present at the destruction of the King Solomon's Temple, who travel from captivity in Babylon to Jerusalem to assist in the rebuilding of the House of the Lord - the Second Temple

Upon arrival, you will stand before a tabernacle erected near the ruins of King Solomon's Temple, wherein the Grand Council is in session. After gaining audience with the Grand Council, you are instructed in your labors and placed at work among the ruins.

During the course of your labors, you uncover certain valuable treasures long buried. These treasures lead you to the summit of Ancient Craft Masonry and the Completion of the Third Degree and the recovery of the "Long Lost Master's Word."

Given by Director

My Brothers, our signet is of Truth. The importance, necessity and validity of the Royal Arch Degree lie in the fundamental landmark of pure Ancient Craft Masonry, which states:

“Pure Ancient Craft Masonry shall consist of three degrees and no more,
That is, those of Entered Apprentice, the Fellowcraft, and the Master Mason, including the Holy Royal Arch Degree.”

Royal Arch Masonry is not just another Masonic Body, Degree or Rite.

It is the most integral part of Historical Speculative Masonry and provides those crucial elements, without which, Ancient Craft Masonry, Symbolic Lodge, and the Third degree remain incomplete.

The central; theme of Freemasonry finds its fullest and richest expression in the Holy Royal Arch; and without the Royal Arch Degree, ones Masonic Life, while deeply significant, lacks completeness.

Are you a Royal Arch Mason?

Why not?

Thank You