

1
A

Program #1

The York Rite

GOOD EVENING BROTHERS: WE WERE ASKED TO COME HERE TO _____ LODGE # _____ TO GIVE YOU A SHORT PROGRAM ABOUT THE YORK RITE.

FIRST: I WOULD LIKE TO BRING GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDING GRAND OFFICERS.

SECOND: I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE THE GRAND YORK RITE OFFICERS WHO WILL TALK ON THEIR RESPECTED BRANCH.

RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS _____, GRAND _____ OF THE GRAND COUNCIL ROYAL AND SELECT MASTER IN NORTH CAROLINA.

EMINENT _____, GRAND _____ OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF NORTH CAROLINA.

AND MYSELF I'M RIGHT EXCELLENT GRAND _____ OF THE GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF NORTH CAROLINE.

I WOULD ASK IF YOU WOULD HOLD AN QUESTION UNTAL THE END.

I would like to give you a little history of York Rite Masonry.

The Grand Lodge of England (which is the Mother Grand Lodge of North Carolina), in 1813, stated, "Ancient Masonry consists of three degrees and no more; those of Entered Apprentice, Fellow craft and Master Mason, including the Royal Arch". Then, 43 years later, in 1856 they resolved that; "the Mark Master Degree was not at variance with the Ancient Landmarks of the Order and that the Degree be an addition to and a part of Ancient Craft Masonry; and consequently, may be conferred by all regularly warranted Lodges."

So, my brothers, you are a York Rite Mason! You may not have completed your degree work, but; nevertheless, you are already a York Rite Mason. The question is, do you wish to complete what you have

started?

The York Rite is divided into four branches; The Blue Lodge, the Royal Arch Chapter, the Council of Royal and Select Masters, and the Commandery of Knights Templar. We all are familiar with the three degrees in the Blue Lodge and we remember how each taught us Masonic Lessons in their own manner. Remember when you took your Entered Apprentice Degree. When you were learning the catechism, it was hard to imagine that the next two degrees could be any more profound than the one we had just received. Yet, each time we knocked upon the door we received more and further light beyond any expectation. Well, my brothers the York Rite offers ten more opportunities to knock on that door and each time we do further light, just as revealing as that light we labor under here tonight, will brighten our paths and our lives.

Let me give a short explanation of the degrees.

Chapter Degrees

The Chapter has four Degrees, which I will explain.

If you remember, at the close of the Master Mason's Degree, the temple was almost complete, Grand Master Hiram Abiff had been slain, the Master's Word was lost and the Temple was in great confusion. The Royal Arch Degrees take you back to the Temple and continues until completion.

The opening degree, **Mark Master**, takes place in one of the workshops near King Solomon's Temple and the candidate is taught by practical demonstrations the value of Honesty and Charity.

The Degree of **Past Master** for many years was conferred only

upon those who had served as Master of their Blue Lodge and in some jurisdictions (where the Chapter Degrees are still controlled by the Grand Lodge) you cannot use the title Past Master until this degree has been conferred upon you. This degree teaches Harmony and Justice.

The degree of **Most Excellent Master** is by far the most spectacular in all of Freemasonry. It takes the candidate to the completion and dedication of King Solomon's Temple, which is the basis for all of Freemasonry. It teaches, by example, the necessity for things spiritual.

The degree of **Royal Arch Mason** is a beautiful completion of the Masonic story and symbolism. It teaches that truth will prevail over all and that we must worship and respect one living - true - God, under whatever name he is worshiped.

The charity of the Chapter is central auditory processing disorder. (CAPD)

CAPD is a condition in which one has difficulty processing or interpreting auditory information when presented in a less than optimal listening environment. Typically, individuals with a central auditory disorder have normal hearing when taking a traditional pure tone and speech hearing test but are unable to interpret or process speech when in an environment which is less than quiet. The vast majority of children and adults that have been evaluated at the Center for Central Auditory Research can hear even the faintest of sounds, but are unable to process verbal stimuli in an effective manner in their everyday listening situations. Environments such as a classroom setting, the work place, community gatherings, and church are often seen as threatening because

4

of this auditory difficulty.

Central auditory processing function is an important consideration in the communication process. Efficient processing of auditory information is critical for academic and work performance, social and emotional status, and overall well-being. Identifying and managing children and adults with this auditory challenge can further enrich their overall function. Thank You.

RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS _____ WILL INTRODUCE YOU TO
THE COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS.
Council Degrees

The degree of **Royal Master** takes you once again to the building of the Temple and fully explains many of the symbols of Freemasonry while stressing the great lesson of right living here on earth, is actually building our spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the Heaven. The Holy Vessels are the symbols of this degree.

The degree of **Select Master** provides details of certain traditional happenings which enables you to properly understand the "Masonic Story". It teaches the truly Masonic lesson of overlooking the shortcomings of others. The Ark of the Covenant is the symbol of this degree and its use and symbolism is fully explained.

The **Super Excellent Master's Degree** is the favorite of many York Rite Masons. It teaches that while men may continue to build, the only permanent Temple is that Spiritual Temple which each man erects within himself. This degree exemplifies one of the most tragic events in the history of the Jewish people.

Thank you _____.

The Commandery does not have Degrees they have Orders.

EMINENT _____, WILL INTRODUCE YOU TO THE
COMMANDER ORDERS.

Every Christian Mason should be a Knights Templar. Masonic virtues and lessons as they pertain to the Christian religion are taught in these degrees.

The first Commandery order is the **Order of the Red Cross**, connects the Chapter Degrees to the Chivalric or Templar system. It continues the story of the Jewish people, from their darkest hour until the Rebuilding of the Temple. It teaches that truth, even though crushed to the earth, will rise again; and emphasizes the importance of Liberty and Justice, and the right to worship Deity.

The **Order of Malta** is strictly Christian in origin and character, and even though there are no restrictions as to who may receive it, the scenes and character referred are taken from the New Testament and the degree presents a Masonic interpretation of the New Dispensation, Christianity.

The **Order of the Temple**, often referred to as Knight Templar is the climax of the Christian Orders of Knighthood. It retains in its ritual many of the ancient ceremonies of the original order, conferred upon Knights of Malta during the Crusades. It receives its name from those crusaders who were sworn to protect pilgrims and uphold the Cross. Also, taken from the New Testament, it teaches that Love is the greatest characteristic of all who would aspire to immortality. Love, which overcomes all hate and difficulties and which will one day unite all the world into a Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.

Thank you _____.

The York Rite dose not consist of a large number of degrees. Its degrees and Orders have names and not numbers. Its degrees are conferred-never communicated, believing that if a degree is worth anything at all it is worth the effort necessary to confer it. Your Masonic education will not depend so much upon how many degrees you may received, but upon how will you understand and practice those you have received.

WE HOPE WE HAVE PEAK YOUR CURIOSITY.



The York Rite

(Tell a story about why you or someone you know got into Masonry, giving some reasons why men chose to petition the Lodge)

But, whatever our reasons, Masonry has had a profound effect on every man raised to its Sublime Degree. We have many members who are just that, members, and Masonry needs them, they are surely good men, but for whatever reason they refuse to stop and smell the roses. But, you, you who are here tonight, that backbone of Freemasonry, why do you keep coming back? You, who live Masonry, attend the meetings, confer the degrees and keep Masonry alive. You do it for one reason "LIGHT IN MASONRY". It is a wonderful, warm, loving light and those of you who are active are proud to step out of the shadows and bask in it.

Guess what? There's more where that came from. That's right there is still further light in Masonry. And, you may not know it but, you are already a York Rite Mason. Let me explain.

The Grand Lodge of England (which is the Mother Grand Lodge of North Carolina), in 1813, stated, "Ancient Masonry consists of three degrees and no more; those of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason, including the Royal Arch". Then, 43 years later, in 1856 they resolved that; "the Mark Master Degree was at variance with the Ancient Landmarks of the Order and that the Degree be an addition to and a part of Ancient Craft Masonry; and consequently, may be conferred by all regularly warranted Lodges."

So, my brothers, you are a York Rite Mason! You may not have completed your degree work, but, nevertheless, you are already a York Rite Mason. The question is, do you wish to complete what you have started?

The York Rite is divided into four branches; The Blue Lodge, the Royal Arch Chapter, the Council of Royal and Select Masters, and the Commandery of Knights Templar. We all are familiar with the three degrees in the Blue Lodge and we remember

how each taught us Masonic Lessons in their own manner. Remember when you took your Entered Apprentice Degree. When you were learning the catechism, it was hard to imagine that the next two degrees could be any more profound than the one we had just received. Yet, each time we knocked upon the door we received more and further light beyond any expectation. Well, my brothers the York Rite offers ten more opportunities to knock on that door and each time we do further light, just as revealing as that light we labor under here tonight, will brighten our paths and our lives.

Let me give a short explanation of the degrees.

Chapter Degrees

If you remember, at the close of the Master Mason's Degree, the temple was almost complete, Grand Master Hiram Abiff had been slain, the Master's Word was lost and the Temple was in great confusion. The Royal Arch Degrees take you back to the Temple and continues until completion.

The opening degree, **Mark Master**, takes place in one of the workshops near King Solomon's Temple and the candidate is taught by practical demonstrations the value of Honesty and Charity.

The Degree of **Past Master** for many years was conferred only upon those who had served as Master of their Blue Lodge and in some jurisdictions (where the Chapter Degrees are still controlled by the Grand Lodge) you cannot use the title Past Master until this degree has been conferred upon you. This degree teaches Harmony and Justice.

The degree of **Most Excellent Master** is by far the most spectacular in all of Freemasonry. It takes the candidate to the completion and dedication of King Solomon's Temple, which is the basis for all of Freemasonry. It teaches, by example, the necessity for things spiritual.

The degree of **Royal Arch Mason** is a beautiful completion of the Masonic story and symbolism. It teaches that truth will prevail over all and that we must worship and

respect one living - true – God, under whatever name he is worshiped.

Council Degrees

The degree of **Royal Master** takes you once again to the building of the Temple and fully explains many of the symbols of Freemasonry while stressing the great lesson of right living here on earth, is actually building our spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the Heaven. The Holy Vessels are the symbols of this degree.

The degree of **Select Master** provides details of certain traditional happenings which enables you to properly understand the “Masonic Story”. It teaches the truly Masonic lesson of overlooking the shortcomings of others. The Ark of the Covenant is the symbol of this degree and its use and symbolism is fully explained.

The **Super Excellent Master’s Degree** is the favorite of many York Rite Masons. It teaches that while men may continue to build, the only permanent Temple is that Spiritual Temple which each man erects within himself. This degree exemplifies one of the most tragic events in the history of the Jewish people.

Commandery Orders



Every Christian Mason should be a Knights Templar. Masonic virtues and lessons as they pertain to the Christian religion are taught in these degrees.

The first Commandery order is the **Order of the Red Cross**, connects the Chapter Degrees to the Chivalric or Templar system. It continues the story of the Jewish people, from their darkest hour until the Rebuilding of the Temple. It teaches that truth, even though crushed to the earth, will rise again, and emphasizes the importance of Liberty and Justice, and the right to worship Deity.

The **Order of Malta** is strictly Christian in origin and character, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], the scenes and character referred are taken from the New Testament and the degree presents a Masonic interpretation of the

New Dispensation, Christianity.

The **Order of the Temple**, often referred to as Knight Templar is the climax of the Christian Orders of Knighthood. It retains in its ritual many of the ancient ceremonies of the original order, conferred upon Knights of Malta during the Crusades. It receives its name from those crusaders who were sworn to protect pilgrims and uphold the Cross. Also, taken from the New Testament, it teaches that Love is the greatest characteristic of all who would aspire to immortality. Love, which overcomes all hate and difficulties and which will one day unite all the world into a Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.



(B) + (D)

Program #3

The Blue Lodge Mason who petitioned to receive the York Rite Degrees and Orders, is in a unique position. The York Rite can show him the "Keys" which, if he will use them, will admit him into a glorious mansion whose rooms are filled with treasures of the heart, mind, and spirit; and there in this mansion, if he will, he can, begin the fulfillment of all the hopes and dreams embodied in the goal of life richly and well lived.

Since antiquity, Freemasonry has been a way of life for men of honor and integrity. The heritage of every Mason can be summed up - duty and practical service to God, country and fellow man. Freemasonry is a way of life!

In 1813 the Mother Grand Lodge of England issued an official edict stating that the "Ancient Craft Masonry consist of three degrees and no more, namely those of Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and Master Mason, including the Holy Royal Arch." Thus, the Mother Grand Lodge set out Royal Arch Masonry as something to be attained by those who were interested in Masonic advancement. Why? Because, in Royal Arch Masonry, we found the essentials of symbolism and philosophy necessary for a Master Mason to understand that which he has received only in part.

The Degrees and Orders of York Rite of Freemasonry are not designated by numbers, but are known by significant, symbolic names.

We in the York Rite are offering the opportunity to complete the work begun in the lodge, and to receive further light in Masonry through the Degrees and Orders of

the Chapter, Council, and Commandry. The Chapter degrees consist of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Holy Royal Arch Mason. The Council Degrees consist of Royal Master, Select Master, and Super Excellent Master. The Commandry Orders are to further teach a Master Mason the Knightly and Christian virtues known as the Knights Temple, which have a great background consisting of the Order of the Red Cross, the Order of Malta, and the Order of the Temple, each of which is based on the New Testament and candidates must swear an allegiance to the Christian religion.

Honors in York Rite include many side degrees which are by invitation only.

Charities supported by the York Rite include medical research, eye surgery for those who cannot otherwise afford treatment, and paid pilgrimages to the Holy Land for Christian Ministers.

~~_____ York Rite Master~~
~~_____~~