



NUGGET

The Royal Arch: Companions not Brothers

Summary: An explanation of the term Companions which differentiates it from the term Brothers, used in Craft Masonry.

The word Companion originally came from a military background and referred to soldiers who shared bread together as messmates. It derives from the Latin words *cum* and *panis*, meaning *with bread*.



Your Companions were the men with whom you ate in the barracks and with whom you fought in the field. They were the men whom you defended in battle and who defended you; the men on whom your life might depend, and vice versa.

Your relationship is closer than friendship, closer than that of a Brother.

Relationships made in battle are hard to forget. In the Royal Arch, our relationship is closer to the Almighty than that of the Craft, and therefore our relationship to each other is a closer one.

The term Brother is not enough in the Royal Arch, we needed something more, and we have it in the relationship of a Companion.

We should be proud of this bond, this relationship, and to call each other Companion.



Recommended use of Nuggets

Nuggets offer a short, simple and readily absorbed means of progressing Masonic knowledge and an easy way to introduce learning to Lodges and Chapters. It is hoped that they will become a regular feature of Lodge and Chapter meetings as well as a source for private-study.

Nuggets can be included as an item in the summons and read at most Lodge/Chapter meetings. They can be:

Read by either a new or an experienced Mason with the minimum of preparation and practice; though ideally, they need to be read a few times beforehand.

Themed with the meeting or activity.

Used to initiate a discussion within a Lodge/Chapter, LOI/COI, or group.

Read at home and shared as a topic for a future discussion.

Used as a focus for an unplanned, informal discussion.

*Note: All biblical passages are taken from the Authorized King James version and any reference to ritual will be from Emulation unless otherwise specified.

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