



NUGGET

The Chapter Key

Summary: The Chapter Key - connecting the Craft and Royal Arch.

The Royal Arch story is a continuation of the stories told in Craft Freemasonry and its members are called Companions. The Companions meet in a Chapter, a word of ecclesiastical origin, used to designate a gathering of Monks in a Monastery or Canons in a Cathedral, before which a chapter from the Bible was read aloud.



The allegory of the Royal Arch Exaltation Ceremony (exaltation means elevating someone in rank or power) is based on the Old Testament story of the return of the Jews to Jerusalem after their exile in Babylon. Like Craft Freemasonry, it is open to all faiths.

The Candidate plays the role of one of the returning exiles and sets to work preparing the ground to rebuild the temple. While doing this, he makes a number of discoveries which emphasise the centrality of God to our lives.

The ceremony leads him to reflect on the nature of God, and his personal relationship with the Almighty, whatever his religion. Of course, this spiritual aspect had been introduced in the Third Degree, but in the Royal Arch it becomes the central message. The practical lessons of the Craft Degrees are completed by a contemplation of our spiritual nature, reinforcing what has already been learned.



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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