



## Nugget

### Completing the Craft

One of a series of Twelve short talks about the Royal Arch

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Completing the Craft - one of a series of introductory talks about the Royal Arch for Craft Meetings.

#### **Summary**

Completing the Craft - one of a series of short talks for presentation at Craft Meetings, to introduce members to the Holy Royal Arch and encourage them to join.

#### **Keywords**

Royal, Arch, Talks, Attract, Recruit

## Twelve Short Talks for Craft Lodges regarding Royal Arch Chapters

### 1. COMPLETING THE CRAFT

The Royal Arch story is a continuation of the stories told in Craft Freemasonry. Its members are called Companions, a word we first heard in the Third-Degree. 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.

Craft Master Masons are not obliged to join a Royal Arch Chapter, but it is advised. Nor is it mandatory to join the Chapter attached to your own Lodge, there are many opportunities for enlarging your circle of friends and experience by becoming a Companion elsewhere.

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##END##

### 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.

**For further nuggets and other learning materials visit "Solomon" at <http://solomon.ugle.org.uk>**

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