



Nugget

Not about Politics

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

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Not about Politics - one of a series of introductory talks about the Royal Arch for Craft Meetings.

Summary

Not about Politics - 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

2. NOT ABOUT POLITICS

In recent years, we have witnessed an increase in vitriol, back-stabbing, finger-pointing and threats during election campaigns and debates. Many of us who follow the news cannot fail to have become concerned. As Freemasons, we are not permitted to discuss religion or politics at Lodge or Chapter meetings, and there is no intention of disobeying this here. However, the level of rudeness and abuse during so-called discussions has become disturbing, to say the least. It is hard to understand how politicians seem unable to demonstrate a basic level of respect towards others with differing views.

Freemasonry, while it claims we are all equal, in that we all wear a white lambskin apron underneath differing trims and tassels, is an intensely hierarchical organisation. Each Lodge has a Worshipful Master, each Province a Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, all overseen in England by His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, KG, GCMG, GCVO, CD, ADC(P). However, each Lodge is autonomous and is only expected to ask for assistance from the Province or Grand Lodge in dire emergencies. This spirit of self-control and compromise is even more evident in a Royal Arch Chapter. For example, instead of a Worshipful Master, there are three Rulers, Zerubbabel, Joshua and Haggai, and the same triumvirate at Provincial and Grand Chapter levels. The Companions in a Royal Arch Chapter represent members of the Grand Sanhedrin, which was essentially a citizens' watch committee dedicated to monitoring the moral and spiritual wellbeing of the Jewish community through discussion and compromise.

The Exalte goes through the Exaltation ceremony as part of a team, and, as we continue our journey from darkness to light in the Royal Arch, we strive for more tolerance, understanding and co-operation than in the Craft. Of course, not all of us are perfect, but it is nice to think that we are working towards a society where we aren't intent on stabbing our neighbours in the back.

##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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