



## Nugget

### Change for the Better

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

#### **Index**

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

#### **Summary**

Change for the Better - 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

### 6. CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

In the past, many of us joined the Royal Arch because we had been told that it was the next step in Freemasonry after the Third Degree, and we didn't think to question it. So, when we were Exalted, all we knew was that we had to wear new regalia. Many of us went through the Exaltation ceremony in a default state of mild confusion, though we noticed it was very different to anything we had done in the Craft. There were familiar faces, but in unfamiliar roles. It was too much to take in all at once. There were some very long pieces of ritual, especially for the Principal Sojourner, who was something like a Deacon in a Craft Lodge, in that he led us around, but he had a lot to say. Many of us wondered just what we had got ourselves into, especially when we thought he was going to tie us up.

Jump forward a few years, and some of us had become Principal Sojourners ourselves, and had committed the huge portions of ritual to memory, and this had helped us to understand what was going on. But we could still empathise with our contemporaries who confessed they were still confused, that they enjoyed the Royal Arch but didn't really understand it. It all got too much for some of them, and they let their Chapter membership lapse. There weren't that many Chapter Officers, and their roles seemed to involve either being very busy or mostly idle.

Fortunately, nowadays, things have changed. For example, the Principal Sojourner now shares his lines with two Assistant Sojourners, so there's not so much to learn and more opportunities for people to be involved. There are also points in the ritual now where a narrator – or a number of narrators – sets the scene and explains what's about to happen. Admittedly, one or two of the older Companions objected at first, but this was only out of habit.

Speaking as one of those old ones, the Exaltation ceremony now makes much more sense!

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##END##

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## 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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