



Nugget

Egypt and the Royal Arch

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

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

Summary

Egypt and the Royal Arch - 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

7. EGYPT AND THE ROYAL ARCH

In 1860, a small book with a long title was published. It is called *'The Mysteries of Freemasonry: or, an Exposition of the Religious Dogmas and customs of The Ancient Egyptians'* by John Fellows. It examines the origin, nature and object of the rites and ceremonies of Ancient Egypt and their relationship with modern Masonic Ritual, with some comments on the *'Metamorphoses'* of Apuleius. As it is now out of copyright, you can download it online, but, be warned, it is not an easy read, though it probably sold well 160 years ago.

In his section on the Royal Arch, Fellows writes: *'The Royal Arch degree owes its title to the imaginary arch made in the heavens by the course of Ra, the sun-god, from the vernal to the autumnal equinox. The signs of the zodiac through which he passes in forming this semi-circle, including those of the equinoxes, being seven, this is the number of steps required to be taken by the Mason to entitle him to the honours of this degree'*.

Given the very Old-Testament-Jewish background to the story of the Royal Arch, you might be surprised to find that the Ancient Egyptian gods were in any way Involved, but many of our symbols and allegories date back to Ancient Egypt, and while the names and the stories have changed, the underlying truths remain. Certainly, the daily movement of the sun still features in the Craft Degrees.

##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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