



Nugget

Four Banners

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

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

Summary

Four Banners - 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

9. THE FOUR BANNERS

The four Principal Banners are displayed in the Chapter room, they include images of an ox, a man, a lion and an eagle. They were originally the banners of four of the twelve tribes of Israel during the exodus from Egypt. You can see the same four symbols on the right-hand side of the shield in the coat of arms of the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE). There's a picture in the Book of Constitutions.

Every time the Israelites stopped to set up camp during the Exodus, the Ark of the Covenant was set down in its own tent, carefully aligned with the rising and setting sun, and the tribes camped around it in a strict hierarchy, in four divisions, one for each of the cardinal points of the compass. Each of the four leading tribes was responsible for a division: Judah (the lion banner), Ephraim (the ox banner), Reuben (the man banner) and Dan (the eagle banner). The placing of the Ark of the Covenant (which also features on the coat of arms of UGLE) eventually became the model for the layout of King Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem, which is, of course, a building of huge significance for both Craft and Royal Arch Masons.

Another place you may have seen the four emblems is in a church, for they were adopted by early Christians as symbols of the four evangelists, St Matthew (the man), St Mark (the lion), St Luke (the ox) and St John (the eagle).

##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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