



Nugget

Chapter Key

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

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

Summary

Chapter Key - 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

11. THE CHAPTER KEY

The breast Jewel of a Royal Arch Mason has a Latin inscription: *'Nil nisi clavis deest'*, meaning 'Nothing but a key is needed' or, by extension: 'Everything is here, all you need is the right key to obtain access to it'.

This doesn't mean that, when you become a Royal Arch Mason, you will find something magical that will solve all your problems in life without any effort. The real objective of the Royal Arch is to discover wisdom. The Royal Arch points us in the right direction to understand more and better. Like the other parts of Freemasonry, the Royal Arch tells a story in allegorical form. Its purpose is not to present history or science with precision, but to attempt to show what is behind the visible universe. Early Freemasonry attempted to express grand moral ideas on the basis of a very broad concept of God, without introducing anything that could create religious controversy. It is this underlying philosophy that really matters. The most elaborate ceremony, the most splendid costumes and the most beautiful language are without value unless they convey something profoundly important to us, beyond mere words. Of course, this does not mean that well-rehearsed Ritual and ceremonies are not important, for the better the Ritual, the more chance the Candidate has of receiving the correct message.

The Royal Arch Exaltation ceremony was a later creation, appearing decades after the formation of the Supreme Chapter, and follows on from the story of the Third-Degree. It has a strong spiritual element, and contains several readings from Scripture, with special emphasis on the idea of the search for wisdom, not as a means of understanding the material world, but rather the mystical world, the inspiration given by the God we each serve. The Candidate for Exaltation is introduced to a different world, at a level more concerned with spiritual matters rather than material ones. The key to this world is wisdom.

##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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