



ROYAL ARCH MASONS

The various Chapters operate under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of each State, and they in turn under the Jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter—thus constituting the largest Masonic body in the world.

The Chapter confers four degrees (Capitular Degrees), giving a complete story of Masonic symbolism, in the following order:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Mark Master | 3. Most Excellent Master |
| 2. Past Master | 4. Royal Arch |

The Mark Master degree is perhaps the oldest Masonic degree. It teaches practical lessons which will be found helpful in our everyday life. This degree fills the vacancies left in the Fellow Craft degree.

The Past Master degree teaches the aspirant the important duties and responsibilities of the Master of a Lodge, so that he may be qualified for advancement.

The symbolism of Freemasonry surrounds the building of a Temple. In symbolic Freemasonry, the Temple is never completed. In only one degree of Freemasonry is the ceremony attendant upon the completion and dedication of this temple mentioned and brought to our attention through a ceremony in the degree of Most Excellent Master.

In the degree of the Royal Arch, the ultimate of Masonic symbolism is found. It has been said, "The Royal Arch is the root, heart and marrow of Masonry, without a knowledge of which the Masonic character cannot be complete."

The Royal Arch degree is the completion of the whole system of Freemasonry; having once begun the regular advancement through the symbolic lodge, it is the duty of each Master Mason to complete the series of degrees upon which he has started. Those who by chance have ascended by other routes should return and retrace their steps, advancing through the various stages of the Rite until they can receive the climax of Masonic symbolism in the message of the Royal Arch.

Only those who have attained the Royal Arch may be said to have completed their Masonic work.

No Rite of Freemasonry covers the world so much as does Royal Arch Masonry. In every civilized country of the earth; on every continent and on many of the isles of the sea, will be found Royal Arch Chapters, eager and willing to receive their companions from other parts of the world into that full Fellowship which characterizes Royal Arch Masonry. In Asia, in Africa, in Europe, in the Americas, and the Continent of Australia will be found hundreds of Royal Arch Chapters into those halls you will ever be a welcome visitor. In our own country we find upwards of three-quarter million members, meeting in 3,000 chapters.

BROTHER MASTER MASON

Surly it must be quite a disappointment to the average man, on being raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, to be told that he has not completed his work and the secrets pertaining to the ceremony will not be given him, but instead a substitute. This is indeed unfortunate, yes, but the secrets and non-substitute are given in the Royal Arch, and in that degree only. Hence, no man actually can become a Master Mason until he receives that supreme and holy order.

There are some who would have the newly raised Master Mason believe that he can receive the secrets of that degree other than in the Royal Arch. This is not true, either historically or otherwise, and so dogmatic was the mother Grand Lodge—from which all speculative Freemasonry is derived—that in 1813, when the two grand lodges in England united a firm and solemn landmark was adopted and placed in the Articles of Union to guide throughout the world, forever on this matter.

"Masonry does not reveal her secrets to the thoughtless, nor all in one degree. 'There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars' says the Apostle, and 'one star different from another Star in glory'. So in Masonry, one degree differs from another degree in beauty, wisdom and truth. The moral truths of the Blue Lodge and the deeper philosophy of the Royal Arch are only a part, albeit a profound and interesting part of the whole." —Snodgrass.



ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS

The Council of Royal and Select Masters—The various Councils operate under the jurisdiction of the Grand Council of their respective states and confer three degrees (Cryptic Degrees), namely:

1. Royal Master.
2. Select Master.
3. Super Excellent Master.

Without the Royal and Select Master degrees, neither the Master Mason degree nor the Royal Arch degree is complete for they rationally account for the concealment and preservation of the treasures revealed in the Royal Arch

The Super-Excellent Master is an honorary degree, to which any Council Mason is entitled by virtue of his being in good standing in his Council. This is classed as the most dramatic and spectacular degree of all Masonic systems

OUR DUTY

A man should do all that lies in his power to improve the life here on earth; to render it a scene of elevated happiness to himself, to those around him, and to those who are to come after him. He should, by all means, consider his life here to be part of his immortality, and act accordingly.

—The Missouri Constitution



KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

The Commandery of Knights Templar—the various commanderies operate under the jurisdiction of the Grand Commanderies of their respective states, and they in turn under the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U. S. A.

In the Commandery, the Chivalric Orders of Christian Knighthood are conferred as follows:

1. The Illustrious Order of the Red Cross
2. The Order of Knight of Malta
3. The Order of the Temple

The Illustrious Order of the Red Cross is founded upon Truth—a divine attribute, the foundation of every Virtue.

The Order of Knight of Malta, first called Knights Hospitaller of St. John of Jerusalem, is known to have been in existence as early as 1099 A. D. It was the first organized body whose avowed purpose was the succor and care of the injured on a field of battle. The teaching of the Christian application of Masonic precepts begins with this order.

The Order of the Temple, the crowning glory of York Rite Masonry, has been characterized by many as the most solemn and impressive experience in Masonry. Here the aspirant progresses step by step, the way trod by Jesus of Nazareth until the empty tomb joins with the sprig of acacia to teach that at last we shall dwell forever in realms of life and light eternal.

"The only argument which can be used against the knightly Orders as component parts of the Masonic System is that they are essentially Christian in their character and scope. This, however, arises from the circumstances which are inseparably interwoven in the world's history and which therefore cannot be annulled. We have inherited from the fathers aforesaid an organization which has for its symbol the triumph of the Cross and which commemorates the deeds of its defenders. Having accepted the inheritance, we must adhere to the tact that was sealed in blood amid the din of arms and the carnage of battle."

(Warvelle.)

While Freemasonry demands only a belief in God; while Hindu, Mohammedan, Jew and Gentile may worship around its altars, yet it cannot be deemed inconsistent that the Christian Freemason should establish a branch of the fraternity where he may be free to interpret the symbols of the Blue Lodge according to his religious belief. Thus the Masonic Orders of Christian Knighthood are the logical outcome of the Christian Mason's belief in Christ as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, whose hand will raise the dead to life and in whose Holy Name the True Word is found and restored at last. "In me beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

What Does York Rite Masonry Offer?

We trust the foregoing has increased your interest in THE YORK RITE. The frequent meetings of the various grades are conducive of firmer friendships and a closer spirit of brotherly love. Wherever you go in an Anglo-Saxon land the YORK RITE will be found to have taken deep root.

The noble heritage of York Masonry is yours to take—not that decorations may be proudly worn—not that you may be known as a Mason of "high" rank, but that you may the more abundantly realize in your own life the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. We invite you to claim this heritage.

THE YORK RITE OF FREE MASONRY

York Masonry is the oldest and best known of all Masonic Rites. It takes its name from York, England, where the earliest known record of Masonry exists, dating from about 923 A. D. Masonry's first written record is centered around York. This was the seat of the Ancient York Grand Lodge which finally merged with another group called the Modern Grand Lodge about 1717. This is the basis upon which our present system of Blue Lodge Masonry is built.

The Mother Grand Lodge of England, many years ago set forth as Paragraph 1 of its general Laws and Regulations:

"By the solemn act of the union between the two Grand Lodges of Freemasons of England in December, 1813, it was declared and pronounced that Pure Ancient Masonry consists of three degrees and no more, viz: those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason, INCLUDING THE SUPREME ORDER OF THE HOLY ROYAL ARCH."

And today in England, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, by virtue of his Grand Lodge office, is also the head of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

But in the North American Continent, there are additional degrees in the system, supplementing the work of the Lodge and the Royal Arch. The degrees of the Lodge, Chapter, and Council, and the orders conferred in the Commandery have been arranged into a System or Rite referred to as the American, Canadian, or York Rite of Freemasonry.

IN THE BALANCE

Masonry is no respecter of persons. It does not make any difference who you are or what your calling in life may be when you enter a Masonic Lodge you are no better than the humblest man there.

This is one of the distinguishing features of Freemasonry, in that it levels all distinctions of life and brings men together as men, completely stripped of external environment.

No man honors Masonry. It is the man who is honored when found worthy to be received into the Masonic household.

—Temple Topics.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE of the
NEBRASKA GRAND CHAPTER, R.A.M.
202 S 20th St.
Omaha, NE 68102

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YORK RITE MASONRY IN OMAHA

OMAHA CHAPTER NO. 1 RAM
Second Monday of the Month
Benson Masonic Center
5903 Maple Street
Omaha, NE 68104
Dave Shaw – 402-301-6738

Florence Chapter No. 61 RAM
Second Wednesday of the Month
Papillion Masonic Center
8411 Centennial Road
Papillion, NE 68046
Carl Highman – 402-547-8152

Omaha Council No. 1
Third Thursday of the Month
Bellevue Masonic Center
1908 Franklin Street
Bellevue, NE 68005
Dennis Newman – 402-490-1381

Mt. Calvary Commandery No. 1
First Friday of the Month
Papillion Masonic Center
8411 Centennial Road
Papillion, NE 68046
AJ Johnson-402-679-6141

All bodies meet monthly except for the months of July & August

Why YOU a MASTER MASON Should Be Interested In

The YORK RITE of FREE MASONRY

Consisting of

FOUR DISTINCT AND SEPARATE
SOVEREIGN MASONIC BODIES

1. The Symbolic Lodge
2. The Chapter of Royal Arch Masons
3. The Council of Royal and Select Masters
4. The Commandery of Knights Templar

The symbolic degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason, as conferred in the United States, are degrees of the York Rite.

You, therefore, as a Master Mason, have received the first three degrees of that Rite. It is perfectly natural that having begun your Masonic work in that Rite, you should want to continue with it.

The Royal Arch Chapter offers you that opportunity, for in its last degree—the Royal Arch is to be found the very essence of pure Freemasonry.