

“pass the chair” of Solomon, but allows him none of the rights and privileges of an actual Past Master of a Symbolic Lodge. Thus, as a “virtual” Past Master, he is permitted to qualify for the Degree of Royal Arch Mason.



Most Excellent Master – *When the traveler receives the Most Excellent Master Degree, he participates in the inspiring ceremonies of the final completion of the Temple, and assists in fulfilling the purpose for which the Sanctum Sanctorum, or Holy of Holies, was created. He observes the solemn ceremonies of the dedication and consecration of the Temple by King Solomon, and experiences the awe-inspiring event of the acceptance of Solomon’s gift by the Lord.*



Royal Arch Mason – *As a Royal Arch Mason, the candidate is taught humility and is present at the destruction of the magnificent original Temple, a consequence of the arrogance and heresy of the children of Israel. He endures the humiliation of captivity at Babylon, and rejoices when freedom is*

again restored. He travels the rough and rugged road back to Jerusalem and there assists in the rebuilding of the Temple. While thus engaged, he is instrumental in discovering the Ark of the Covenant and restoring to Masonry that which was lost, the Lost Master’s Word. This restoration was foreseen by King Solomon, when he proclaimed the use of a substitute Word until future ages might reclaim the Lost Word. This rediscovery of the Word forms the direct tie between the Symbolic Degrees of the Blue Lodge and the Capitular Degrees of Royal Arch Masonry. And the process of discovery of the Word as well as the Ark and its contents is richly symbolic.

For further information, contact:

Have You “Made Your Mark” in Freemasonry?

An invitation to a Master Mason



The York Rite of Freemasonry is an extension and expansion of the Degrees of the Symbolic or Craft Lodge.

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in California – the governing body for the York Rite Degrees beyond the Degree of Master Mason – has recently adopted a program to acquaint Master Masons with the further Light available to them in the York Rite.

Now, at no cost to you, your local Chapter of Royal Arch Masons will confer upon you the first of the Chapter’s Degrees – the Mark Master Degree.

Here is how the program works—

The first step is for you to submit a petition to your local Chapter, asking to be advanced to the Degree of Mark Master Mason. You submit no fee with this petition.

If your petition is approved by the local Chapter, you will be qualified to receive all the Degrees of the Chapter, should you ever wish to do so at a future date. However, you will only be scheduled for advancement to the Degree of Mark Master.

The second step is actually to be advanced to the Degree of Mark Master Mason, in the company of other Blue Lodge Brethren who are also exploring York Rite opportunities.

Any additional steps are up to you.

If you decide, after receiving the Mark Master Degree, not to proceed to further Degrees in the Royal Arch Chapter, you will not be scheduled for them. However, you will still be a Mark Master member of your local Royal Arch Chapter – in much the same way that an Entered Apprentice is a member of his Lodge. You will be welcome to sit in any Lodge of Mark Master Masons, when convened by your Royal Arch Chapter.

On the other hand, if you decide, either right after receiving the Degree of Mark Master or at any other time in the

future, to proceed with the other three Degrees of your Chapter, you will simply pay the degree fee to your Chapter for those additional degrees, and subsequently be scheduled to receive them. Only then, after receiving the Royal Arch Degree and becoming a full-fledged member of your Chapter, will you have any obligation for Chapter dues.

No memorized proficiencies are required for advancement through the Chapter Degrees.

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in California believes its degrees have great additional fraternal Light to offer a Master Mason. We hope you will give this invitation to explore the York Rite your serious and careful consideration.



To help you understand the entire set of Degrees offered by a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, the following commentary on each of those degrees is provided for your information.



Mark Master-- *When a Master Mason seeks further Light in Masonry by way of the York Rite, he first learns the lessons of a Mark Master. In the Fellowcraft Degree he found that when he gained admission to the Middle Chamber of the Temple he was entitled to receive wages. As a Mark Master he learns how and from whom to receive those wages, the consequences of claiming another's work as his own, and of attempting to draw wages that are not his due. At this time he will also select and have recorded his own "Mark," such as ancient craftsmen selected and used to distinguish their work.*



Past Master (Virtual)— *In the early days of Masonry the Royal Arch Degree was considered so important a degree that only Masters or Past Masters of Lodges were permitted to receive it. When Royal Arch Masonry arrived in the United States, this practice was considered too restrictive, and in order to allow more Brethren to share in the Light, the "virtual" Past Master's Degree was devised. This degree allows a Brother to*