



## *Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, the Capitular Degrees*

### **MARK MASTER:**

The work on the temple continues. Amplifying the Fellowcraft Degree, we are taught that the learning we receive there can most usefully and judiciously be employed for our honor and the profit of others, to whom our duty is more clearly defined. A beautiful lesson is exemplified, inculcating the encouraging truth that though we are often misunderstood, underrated, and defamed, there is ONE who will make the rejected stone, the Head of the Corner.

### **PAST MASTER:**

This Degree begins the preparation for the Royal Arch. We are told it was removed from the Symbolic Degrees, of which it was once a part, to reserve it for the more earnest seeker of more Light in Freemasonry. Originally, only actual Past Masters of Lodges were admitted to the sublime secrets of the Royal Arch, which meant that very few could receive them. The Degree of Past Master (virtual), by teaching the candidate that he must first learn to obey before he can rule, and to govern himself before he can govern others, fulfills the obligation and qualifies him for advancement.

### **MOST EXCELLENT MASTER:**

Here we have the most significant Degree in Ancient Craft Masonry. King Solomon's Temple, which was begun so suspiciously and halted so dramatically in the third Degree, is here completed amid much rejoicing and great splendor. The labors of the Craft are given the blessing of the Lord descending as fire from heaven, and King Solomon in his gratitude, received and acknowledged them Most Excellent Masters, empowered to travel and receive Master's Wages, and charged with the responsibility of sharing their Masonic Light and Knowledge, with those who needed it.

### **ROYAL ARCH:**

In this Degree we find the actual completion of the Master Mason's Degree and the Recovery of the lost Word. After the death of King Solomon, his magnificent Temple was destroyed and the Israelites carried away captive to Babylon. Here they lived for about seventy years, many of them acquiring considerable wealth, and some attaining

high rank and influence in the Chaldean government. However, when liberated by King Cyrus, many of them returned to Jerusalem and began the rebuilding of the Temple. While this work was going on and the rubbish of the ruins of the first Temple was being cleared away, many interesting and valuable discoveries were made, chief of which was the recovery of the lost WORD.

With the recovery of that which was lost, it would seem to the novice that his search for Light was ended, however, in order that he might better acquire the lessons, a seemingly inverse movement of the Degree historically is set up.



## *Council of Royal & Select Masters, the Cryptic Degrees*

### **ROYAL MASTER:**

This Degree takes us backward in time to a day before the death of the builder, who is again the central character. He imparts to the candidate sublime teaching of a useful labor on earth, and gives him valuable instruction as to preservation of our valuable secrets. This is one of the most beautiful Degrees in all Freemasonry with lessons so impressive that they are never forgotten. It is especially illustrative of the third and seventh Degrees.

### **SELECT MASTER:**

This degree also historically occurs prior to the third Degree, and deals with incidents that occurred at the building of the first Temple. It is closely connected with the Royal Arch Degree and affords the explanation needed for its perfect understanding. This Degree is highly dramatic and of great interest.

### **SUPER EXCELLENT MASTER:**

This Degree, which is conferred usually on large classes and on special occasions, refers to circumstances and incidents during the siege of Jerusalem, and the final destruction of the Temple. It is very dramatic and impressive, and is conferred upon Select Masters.

Here is completed the Circle of Perfection of Ancient Craft Masonry, but to the follower of Christ there is a definite need and desire for the application of these impressive lessons and beautiful ceremonies to the Christian Believer and his way of life. To fulfill this need we have the...



## *Commandery of Knights Templar, the Chivalric Orders*

### **ORDER OF THE RED CROSS:**

Here again we revert to the period of the Royal Arch Degree, when the Jews were returning from Babylon to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple. One of their number prevails upon the King to restore to the new Temple the Holy Vessels carried away by the Babylonian armies when the first Temple was destroyed. In presenting his plea before Darius the King, a powerful testimony to the almighty force of Truth was offered, and a new Order founded, which is a fitting foundation stone for the Orders that follow.

### **ORDER OF KNIGHT OF MALTA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN PASS:**

Shifting to the time of the Crusades, admission to the Mediterranean Pass is sought, that a safe pilgrimage to the Holy Sepulcher might be undertaken, this is a very sublime and sacred Order, which culminates in the enrollment of the candidate as a Knight of Malta.

### **ORDER OF THE TEMPLE:**

No Degree or Order in Freemasonry is more solemn, more impressive or more soul-searching than the Order of the Temple. It becomes a fitting climax to the labors of the humble penitent, who has faithfully performed the symbolic seven years of preparation for the consummation of his endeavors, his knighting as a Christian Warrior.

Knights Templar were so named because of their close association with the site of the Temple, during the number of years that they occupied and held Jerusalem. The Ancient Order of the Temple has been dispersed, and the warlike spirit of the Order has passed away, but there remains a spirit of refined and moral Chivalry, which prompts its members to be ever ready to defend the weak, the innocent, the helpless, and the oppressed, and thus warrant the title of true KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

The Order of the Temple has been called the most beautiful of all the Orders and Degrees of Freemasonry. No Freemason, who is a believer in the Christian religion, should be satisfied until he has received this, the capstone of the York Rite.

# THE YORK RITE OF FREEMASONRY OF MISSOURI



## Missouri York Rite of Freemasonry

The degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry are the first three degrees of York Rite Freemasonry. Those who have attained the degree of Master Mason may petition for the remainder of the York Rite Degrees and Orders.

As a Master Mason, an overseer of the Word, you are taught many moral lessons and are prepared for the life to come, but the Temple of life is not yet completed. Those faithful Craftsmen who have labored so long are deprived by the wickedness of others, of that for which they have wrought so faithfully, the WORD, which would entitle them to WAGES. Because of the symbolism used in the Ancient Craft Degrees, it is often difficult to comprehend. The York Rite Degrees and Orders exist to explain and make clear the wonderful knowledge imparted to us in symbolic form, and to supply that which was lost but later FOUND.

Please ask a York Rite friend to sign the attached petition.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To the Officers and Members of:

\_\_\_\_\_ Chapter No. \_\_\_\_\_ Fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Council No. \_\_\_\_\_ Fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Being a firm believer in the Christian Religion, the undersigned petitions:

\_\_\_\_\_ Commandery No. \_\_\_\_\_ Fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Fees for the Chapter, Council and/or Commandery are listed above and total \$ \_\_\_\_\_, which amount must accompany this petition.*

I, the undersigned, being a Master Mason in Good Standing in \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_, A.F.& A.M., located at \_\_\_\_\_, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of \_\_\_\_\_, certify that I have resided within the jurisdiction for the past twelve months, and do respectfully petition for the degrees and orders of the York Rite of Freemasonry, as indicated above, promising always to conform cheerfully and strictly to all by-laws, rules and regulations of the national, state and local bodies of the York Rite of Freemasonry.

Recommended By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature in full)

*If the applicant has previously applied for any of the degrees or orders, he will explain fully on a separate sheet of paper, giving all particulars relating thereto.*

### PETITIONER MUST GIVE DETAILED INFORMATION BELOW

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(first name) (middle name) (last name)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(mailing address) (city) (state) (zip)

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(mailing address) (city) (state) (zip)

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*If this petition is for Council or Commandery only, please complete the following:*

(Council) I am a member in good standing in \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter No. \_\_\_\_\_

(Commandery) I am a member in good standing in \_\_\_\_\_ Council No. \_\_\_\_\_

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION

(Commandery only)

\_\_\_\_\_, Favorable

\_\_\_\_\_, Favorable

\_\_\_\_\_, Favorable



For More Information, Contact:

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