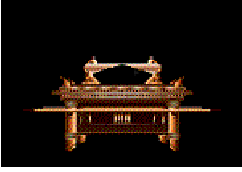


MICHIGAN TRIPLE TAU

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Michigan
17635 Manitou Beach Road
Addison, Michigan 49220-9773



Official Publication of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Michigan

November 2008

Capitular Growth in Michigan through Masonic Education -- "Sailing into the Future"

The Necessity of the Royal Arch Degree to the Master Mason

The system of Masonic degrees, as now practiced, is the product of an evolution. Prior to 1717 there is no record that Freemasonry consisted of more than one degree. The symbolism, the beautiful lecture, the ornate diction, with which we find it clothed today, represents the growth and development from the crude and transition stage of past centuries. Strictly speaking, there was no degree from the dawn of Freemasonry until it began to take on the speculative feature. The Mason, prior to the 'Revival' of 1717, was designed as an Apprentice, Fellowcraft, or Master, not because of any special ceremony or degree work, but because of the length of time of service and skill manifested in his handicraft. The Ancient Charges and Regulations, as read to the apprentices, referred to the duties they owed to each other, to the lodge and the Holy Church. It is even doubted by some of our best historians that the grip and password were connected with these ancient ceremonies.

The introduction of the speculative Mason prepares the way for the dawn of Freemasonry. The so-called "Revival" of 1717 was but the bursting forth of the evolutionary forces that had been slowly developing for half a century. These same forces are at work today, so that it can truly be said that Freemasonry is a progressive science. Masonic historians are agreed that some time between 1723 and 1730 the Second and Third degrees were evolved, and in the evolution of degrees, ritualism and symbolism were developed, resulting in the intellectual and philosophical Freemasonry of today. The central idea of the entire system of Freemasonry became the "loss" and the "recovery" of the "Word," symbolizing death and the resurrection, the ending of the present and the beginning of the future life.

The Royal Arch stands as the rainbow of promise of the resurrection; of what was lost and that which shall be recovered. In our present ritual of the Third Degree the Master's Word is lost – **the "Word" was never lost but transferred to the Royal Arch.** Before the legend of Hiram Abif was introduced to the Master's Degree the True Word was communicated in the Master's Degree and not a substitute Word. It necessarily followed that when the legend of HA became a part of the ritual of this degree the "loss" of the "Word" followed, as the "loss" is a part of the Hiram legend. But the "loss" without a "recovery" would be an absurdity; to complete the symbolism of Freemasonry, the "Word" must be recovered, hence the necessity of a Fourth Degree, the Royal Arch. **In 1738, or earlier, the story of the loss of the "Word" and the new legend, the Royal Arch, were gradually introduced into the**

Lodges, and when the Freemasonry of England was divided into the 'Moderns' and 'Ancients' (in 1751), the latter organizing a Grand Lodge and adopting ritual of four degrees, the fourth being the Royal Arch. The Grand Lodge of 'Moderns' evidently continued to use the old ritual, without the legend of HA, while the Grand Lodge of 'Ancients' used the new ritual containing the Hiram legend and the Fourth Degree, until the year 1813, when the two Grand Lodges united and formed the present United Grand Lodge of England. It is therefore to the Grand Lodge of Ancients that we owe the Master's degree as found in our ritual and also the preservation of the Royal Arch degree. We see, therefore, that the Royal Arch is merely the evolution of a truth contained in the early Third Degree.

The Master Masons Degree without the Royal Arch is a story half told, a song half sung and a promise unfulfilled. The candidate is promised that he should receive, but is put off with a "substitute." He is left in darkness, in doubt, and to the thoughtful one, in a condition of disappointment. Yet, there is a purpose behind this seeming deception. Light and revealed Truth come only through toil and willing service. This lesson must be learned before any Mason is qualified to know and to appreciate the Truth, the Master's Word. It is, possibly, unfortunate that the Royal Arch Degree was separated from the "Blue Degrees" – but fortunate or unfortunate – the Royal Arch stands as the last of the degrees to Ancient Craft Masonry. **It is the summit, and no Master Mason is in possession of all that Freemasonry teaches with the Royal Arch.** The series of four degrees continued to be conferred under a lodge charter until about 1750, in America at least. The earliest history that we have of the Royal Arch in this country was in 1753, when it was conferred under lodge charter in Fredericksburg, Virginia. It was introduced into New York about the same time by an English military lodge, and into Massachusetts in 1769, where it was conferred in St. Andrew's Lodge. Since that time the Royal Arch Degree has remained secure in its superior place.

The term "Royal Arch Lodge" was succeeded by "Chapter" and Royal Arch Chapter." The word "Chapter" was used in Connecticut as early as September 5, 1783; in Pennsylvania, September 5, 1789; in New York, April 29, 1791; in Massachusetts, December 19, 1794. The word "Chapter" took the place of "Lodge" in England for the first time, April 29, 1768. The word "Companion," used in the Chapter in place of "Brother," was first used in England in 1778. These terms Chapter and Companion were soon carried to America where they flourished as elements in

Continued page 6



William B. Fairchild, Grand High Priest

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“Sailing Into The Future”

GREETINGS FROM THE EAST

My Companions:

Another Capitular year has begun. The last two months have flown by. My first visitation was to represent the Grand Chapter at the DeMolay Session held in Lansing on August 8th. The Degree work those young men put on was excellent. It is good to know that we have such a great group of men following us.

On the 23rd of August I attended the Tri-State York Rite Session, held in Wausau Wisconsin. The Grand High Priests of Minnesota, and Wisconsin were in attendance also. On August 27, 28, 29 and 30th I attended General Grand Chapter in Indianapolis, Indiana. It was a wonderful session.

The Banquet Field has kept us busy. On September 7th I attended the reception for the Grand Royal Matron, of the Grand Court of Amaranth of Michigan. Ann and I attended Tony Chamberlin Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Michigan reception, in Marysville on the 14th and attended North Branch Chapter RAM, on the 15th, for the conferral of the Royal Arch Degree. The spaghetti feed, before the meeting, was fabulous. Congratulations to all of the Companions, who were there. It was a wonderful night. I want to thank all of the Companions for the Honorary Membership.

September 18, Ann and I attended a dinner, held in Escanaba, at the Day's Inn hosted by the Grand Commandery. I want to thank Roy Ickes, Grand Captain General of the Grand Commandery, for the wonderful cooperation to make this event come off perfect. I want to express my very sincere thank you to all who were able to attend my reception. Ann and I hope that all of you enjoyed yourselves. We sure enjoyed having all of you there. It was surely a high part of my life. I am now an Admiral in the Kentucky Navy, presented by my great friend Kenny.

On September 27th I traveled to Grand Rapids for the All Degree Day. There were 15 new Companions exalted. Congratulations to Grand Rapids Chapter for a job well done. What a wonderful day.

October 4th went to Marquette, for the Rededication of their Temple. They are 150 years old. I attended St. Clair Shores Chapter, and really enjoyed the Companionship extended. From there Ann and I went to Miamisburg, Ohio for their Grand York Rite Session held on October 7-8. They had a great Session.

October 10, attended Marquette Consistory. I was at the KYCH meeting in St. Ignace on the 11th along with a RAM Foundation Meeting. We then traveled to Muskegon on the 12th to be at David Seyferth's Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Michigan Reception.

Will attended the Grand Chapter of the Eastern Star, of Michigan, at Birch Run.

On October 17, 18, Grand Officers Educational Seminar was held in Auburn Hills. Also, we had a Grand Officers Meeting.

Remember the Reception on November 1, for Excellent Companion David W. Miller, Region II MSA Recipient, in Belding. Also, the MSA Award for Region I for William LeVeque will be presented to him at his Reception on November 8, at Allen Park.

The raffle, for the time share to be given at our next Grand Session, has been approved by the State of Michigan.

Ann and I wish all of you Companions, and your families, a wonderful Thanksgiving Day.

Fraternally,

William Fairchild GHP

Royal Arch Masonry, or “Capitular Masonry”, is known as the “Chapter” and consists of four degrees. They are **MARK MASTER MASON, PAST MASTER MASON, MOST EXCELLENT MASTER MASON** and the **HOLY ROYAL ARCH**. These four degrees are a continuance of Ancient Craft Masonry and belong within the scope of Speculative Masonry in a much more decided sense than any other appendant Degrees.

The legends and symbols of these degrees relate:

To the History of King Solomon’s Temple, after its completion and dedication;

To the destruction of the Temple by the Chaldeans and Babylonian captivity of the Jews:

And to the erection of the Second Temple by Zerubbabel.

A distinct connection with the Third Degree of the Symbolic Lodge is the “recovery of certain secrets”, which were lost when Hiram Abif was slain.

FURTHER LIGHT – THE MARK MASTER MASON. Just as the Fellow-Craft Degree is devoted to the inculcation of learning, so the Mark Master Degree instructs us in how learning can be most judiciously and usefully employed for our own honor and the profit of others. Having been taught the necessity of discharging all the duties of life, we are now instructed in the importance of performing them with systematic regularity. The goal of every true Mark Master Mason is so to live and work that he may receive, at the conclusion of his services, that welcome plaudit, “Well Done, good and faithful servant; for thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many: Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.”

The Mark Master Degree, the first Degree of Royal Arch Masonry, is based upon the tradition of an organization of the Operative Masons who were employed on the Temple at Jerusalem, by means of which disorder and confusion were avoided. Symbolically, it directs the Fellow-Craft to the inculcation of order, regularity, and discipline. It teaches us that the discharge of all the duties of our several positions and stations in life should be discharged with precision and punctuality. That the work of our hands and the thoughts of our hearts should be good and true, not unfinished and imperfect, not sinful and defective, but such as the Great Overseer and Judge of heaven and earth may see fit to approve.

FURTHER LIGHT – THE PAST MASTER DEGREE. The second degree of Royal Arch Masonry was originally an honorary degree conferred upon the Master of a Lodge at his installation by three or more Past Masters. In the Royal Arch Chapter, it has no historic or direct connection with the preceding degree, nor with the degrees which follow. The brief ritual is not especially significant in the advancement of initiates in Royal Arch Masonry, but is regarded as necessary. For those who have not served as the Master of a Symbolic Lodge, a ceremony of investiture is given. In the Allegory of this degree a candidate is instructed in why he is eligible to become the Master of a Lodge and in the implements and their proper uses of the Master of a Lodge.

FURTHER LIGHT – THE MOST EXCELLENT MASTER DEGREE. This the third Degree of the Royal Arch brings together for all the completion of the Temple and the dedication of the same. It explains who was permitted to participate in the dedication and then depicts and displays the miracle that came down from Heaven at the dedication of the same. Your skills displayed thus far will permit you to travel and work freely within the world or to stay and see to the proper maintenance and repair of the Temple, your Temple, your body in spirit and in mind.

From the beginning, or 1st Section, of the Mark Master Mason Degree through the Most Excellent Master Degree is a time span of 7 years. The time which it took for the Temple to be completed. This the Most Excellent Master Degree is only able to take place because of a major discovery in the Mark Master Degree.

FURTHER LIGHT – THE ROYAL ARCH DEGREE. Also called the Holy Royal Arch. This the final Degree in the Royal Arch Chapter takes place over a period of over 70 years. From the destruction of King Solomon’s Temple to the beginning of the construction of the Second Temple on the Site of the original Temple. This Degree displays the hardships and toils of those who desired to return to Jerusalem to work on the rebuilding “of the House of the Lord.” They made many discoveries while participating in this glorious task. The importance of those discoveries to the Craft today were made known to all.

Each of the Degree has its signs, symbols, grips, words, working tools of the craft. Each of these has a specific significance to the growth and development of the new member.

Please contact the Secretary/Recorder of the various bodies for more specific information regarding the event that you have in mind of attending or bringing a candidate to receive the Degrees and Orders.

MSA Dinner: David W. Miller, PHP

November 1 Belding-Ionia Masonic Temple Belding, MI

Grand Master 1st Veil Dinner: R. E. Comp. Donald L. Galway

January 11 Livingston Chapter, Howell Masonic Temple Howell, MI

The following Dates are *tentative* dates from previous years events only:

(Please put them in your calendar in pencil)

Feb 7 – All Chapter/Council Degree Day Flint/Saginaw/Bay City Area

Feb. 14 – Caro, George Washington Birthday Dinner *Grand Officers Meeting earlier in the day.*

Feb. 28 – Tri-State, Ind./Michigan/Ohio All Chapter/2 Council Degree Day

Mar. 7 – Kalamazoo All Chapter/Council Degree Day

Mar 14 – East Central Conference – Grand Chapter & Grand Council

Mar 21 – 2 Order Day – Battle Creek

Apr 25 – Strawberry Festival All Council Deg Day – Mason

May 9 – KYCH – Mason Masonic Temple

June 13 – All Chapter Outdoor Degree Day – Dowagiac

Aug 5th – Grand Chapter – Gateway Centre, 5353 Gateway Centre, Flint 48507

Aug 6th – Grand Council – Gateway Centre, 5353 Gateway Centre, Flint 48507

Aug 6th – Grand Banquet – Gateway Centre, 5353 Gateway Centre, Flint 48507

Aug 7 & 8 – Grand Commandery – Gateway Centre, 5353 Gateway Centre, Flint 48507

RUNNING FOR THE OPEN CHAIR

Any companion considering running for an office in the Grand Chapter Line the following Procedure is strongly suggested by the Protocol Committee.

One of the first things you should do is to contact the Protocol Committee, who will provide you with all the information necessary to make an informed decision. This decision should be made by both you and your lady.

You should next go to your Chapter and inform them of your intentions, who will then vote to support you in your ambitions. This support is necessary because you are going to need their help throughout the coming years, with their time and possible financial Aid.

Next you need to put together a mailing containing; Pertinent information on your Private Life, A Biographical Sketch on your Masonic Activities and the Endorsement by your Chapter.

Send this mailing to all the Grand Officers, District Deputy Instructors, Past Grand High Priests and all the Chapters in this Jurisdiction. Also, a formal letter to the Grand Secretary. All the above should be completed as soon after the current Grand Convocation as possible.

You should make every attempt to visit as many Chapters as possible. Plan on attending York Rite dinners, Banquets and all the various functions held throughout the state introducing yourself as a candidate for Grand Honors.

Prior to the Grand Convocation make yours and your Chapter Reservations as early as possible with the Headquarters hotel. Make sure your reservations are made for the entire session or longer.

Plan on holding a Hospitality Room (Possibly in your room) for the evening prior to the day of the vote. This gives the Companions, who have not had the opportunity to meet you and your spouse in an informal manner before. I need not tell you that impressions are very important at this juncture. Have your literature available at this time.

On the day of the Grand Convocation go down early, armed with more literature. Place this information on each seat of the Grand Chapter, then go out and “greet and meet” as many of the voting delegates as possible prior to the opening.

You have now done the best you can, the rest is up to the Companions, you should however, have a Tuxedo at hand should you be elected.

Good Luck!

Carl S. Hobday, PGHP – PDGGHP., Rt. Ex. Grand Chaplain and Chairman of the Protocol Committee.



Paul C. Howell, PGHP

Grand Secretary

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My Companion Secretaries:

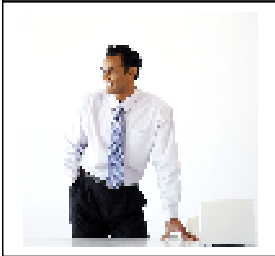
It's hard to believe that it is late fall of the year already. The leaves have pretty much left the trees. (lot's of raking to do.) The deer hunters will be out in the woods soon, and they will be back into the house in time for their Thanksgiving Turkey with all the fixings and we will all be able to sit down at the TV and watch the annual ritual of the Detroit Lions football game.

Please take note and make it a special occasion on your part to thank all of the Veterans you meet on the street, in your place of business or wherever else you may run into them on the 11th of November. That is Veterans Day. Those Veterans gave so much so that you could have and enjoy the freedoms which you have. Never forget them!

Every Chapter should be making plans and arrangements for getting their Master's Pins distributed to the new incoming Worshipful Masters in their area. Take petitions with you to pass out at the time of your presentations. It is a shame that we still have some Chapters who do not make this effort. These are oftentimes the Chapters that are having difficulty in getting new members. How many Brothers, that are active in their Lodges activities have never hears about the Royal Arch Chapter or the York Rite? Now is the time to enlighten them! Don't miss this golden opportunity.

Good luck and God Bless each of you ---

Keep a smile on your face and a chuckle in your voice.



This could be your Ad

Don't waste this space

Place your ad in your

Michigan Triple Tau

Today!

NO DECEMBER TRIPLE TAU

The decision was made several years ago that the Triple Tau, a 10 month a year publication, would not be published in the months of December and June but would be published in July and August which it was previously not done.

The publishing in July and August was determined to be best because it is prior to the Annual convocation and therefore, extremely important in getting the information about the Grand Convocation out to the Companions in a very timely and efficient manner. Also, it is much less expensive than other means of mass communication, US Postal Service.

The next issue will be for January 2009 and will be published and distributed in late December.

This gives you plenty of time to get your articles put together for consideration for publication. Articles will be due ***not later than*** December 15th, 2008.

Chapter Education Officer

Should be:

1. A good teacher.
2. Have plenty of patience and perseverance.
3. Able and willing to attend Chapter regularly.
4. Dedicated Royal Arch Mason, who can inspire members to be good Ritualists.
5. Good, confident, clear, concise speaker.
6. Enthusiastic LEADER who can answer questions, or willing to find answers, on the whys and wherefores of Capitular Masonry.
7. Willing to give (make) short, approximately 3 minute, monthly educational talks, or able to get others to do the same.
8. Understands why no question is a bad question and no question is answered with a guess for an answer. Will always want to find the correct answer before giving any.

Tupperware

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The Necessity *Continued page 1.*
the Capitular system of degrees.

Such, in brief, is the history of the Royal Arch Degree. Its parentage is as legitimate as any of the degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry – the fruit of symbolism and allegory. To be a Master Mason is the highest and most honorable degree that any man can attain - it entitles him to all the rights and privileges of the Craft – all the accumulated so-called higher degrees do not add anything to his Masonic stature. The Royal Arch is a part of the Master's Degree – the summit of its excellency. It is the privilege and should be the duty of all Master Masons to complete the Masonic story, told in allegory and revealed in symbolism, by receiving the Royal Arch. To be 'exalted' as one living in that future generation that shall discover IT – Act now. Talk to your local RA Chapter, or if already a member then propose a new candidate.

**THE MISSION FOR
ROYAL ARCH MASONS
IN MICHIGAN**

(as established in 1995)

To be a preeminent body of Freemasonry by providing knowledge, skills and quality services. To be the prime choice of Masons, contributing to the strength of the organization and enhancing its ability to achieve the vision. Royal Arch Masonry, in Michigan, shall accomplish this by creating a growing, active, relevant organization of great appeal that is well known and respected.

The above paragraph was the Mission Statement adopted by you and your Grand Chapter several years back. Should this remain as our Mission Statement? If not then what is our true Mission of the Grand Chapter today? If so what are we doing to live up to this statement? To make it be fact and not just a statement? What is your plan of action to see to it that this is not just a bunch of words put on paper, to impress ourselves?

Michigan Grand Chapter Raffle

Win: 1 week, Feb 21, 2010 to Feb 29, 2010 at the Naples Gulf Pointe Resort at Vanderbilt Beach in Naples, Florida.

No restrictions, other than no pets. All taxes are paid. No maintenance fees required. Limited parking, no camper trailers permitted.

May cook in or eat out. Full kitchen in unit or Good restaurants in area. Small shopping area with walking distance of resort.

Tickets: \$5.00 each. Only 1000 being sold.

Proceeds to the RA Foundation.

Tickets available from Grand Officers or District Deputy Instructors.

Out of State contact either Bill Fairchild or Paul Howell.

Officers Workbook

In September 1997 An Officers Workbook was presented to the Grand Chapter and 5 copies to each Chapter of this Grand Chapter. It was put out in a 3 ring notebook binder so that corrections, updates and improvements could be made.

It was made on 8 ½ X 11 sheets of paper so that it could be easily reproduced.

Updates have been given to the Chapters since that time. *(Some Chapters even went so far as to see to it that they were placed in the books)* This workbook has, however, never been reviewed since being presented to the Chapters for use.

How about for an educational program in your Chapter that you take a section of this workbook and review it in complete detail and make corrections, changes, additions and subtraction recommendations.

These should be sent to the Membership/Instruction Manual Committee or to the specific Committee to which that section relates. Example to the Protocol Committee or the Philanthropy Committee.

It would be great experience for YOU and would also be assured of getting the Committee to think about what they should be doing.

Educational Seminar of Grand Chapter

The Grand Officers along several PGHP's, a couple of DDI's and a seated High Priest attended the Educational Seminar which began on Friday afternoon, Oct 17th with a presentation by PGM Robert Conley on "Leadership".

Saturday morning was devoted to comments and concerns of the Grand Officers and several of the Committees. After that session a movie entitled "The Last Lecture" was presented.

After lunch Bob Cooper, Mike Colpus & David Dossette presented materials on the "Enhance The Secret Program" of the Grand Chapter. *(It is hoped that they will be having a short write-up in each Triple Tau, hereafter, to begin to explain it too you.)*

This program will be initiated for trial testing in three areas of the state beginning this Spring.

A skit is being put together for presentation at these programs.

Articles for your Triple Tau ---

Please put your thoughts on Royal Arch Masonry down on paper and send them to Paul Howell for inclusion in the Triple Tau. This is not his paper, even though he is the editor!!!!

The Royal Arch "Its Hidden Mysteries"

By: George H. Steinmetz

The Most Excellent Master

In the "Blue" Lodge degrees the candidate is "INITIATED" an Entered Apprentice, "PASSED" the degree of Fellowcraft, and "RAISED" to the sublime degree of Master Mason. All these ceremonies are true initiation." In the Mark Master degree the candidate is "ADVANCED" Again, correctly speaking, he is "Initiated." His "INDUCTION" into the oriental chair in the Past Master degree, it was discovered is not "initiation: neither can the ceremony of the Most Excellent Master degree be so called. It is more correctly described as a pageant.

In this degree the candidate is not "initiated," he is not "made" anything, he is but "RECEIVED AND ACKNOWLEDGED." This is highly consistent with all Masonic teaching, for the candidate who has actually made suitable proficiency in the preceding degrees has MADE OF HIMSELF, a Most Excellent Master. It remains only for the Lodge to "RECEIVE AND ACKNOWLEDGE" him as such.

This degree contains no ancient, veiled symbolical meaning. It is modern and was created for a specific purpose. It performs the function for which it was originated. The only symbology contained therein is that referring to other degrees, and its import is identical with the meaning discovered in the degree from which taken.

The degree of Most Excellent Master is said to have originated in Temple Chapter, Albany, New York about the year 1797. Thomas Smith Webb has generally been credited with having been its author. Its sole raison d'être is to bring to the candidate the story of the completion and dedication of the Temple of Solomon and it attempts to fill the gap in Masonic legend which would otherwise remain between the Third degree and the Royal Arch Degree.

In the Third degree the Temple is under construction and nearing completion, but of that completion and dedication the candidate never learns. His attention is abruptly turned from the actual building to more serious matters. Thenceforth the ritual confines itself to the events immediately following that tragedy and finally concludes with the story untold, a great loss and the candidate in possession of but a substitute for that of which he was in search.

As an introduction to the Royal Arch Degree, which is claimed to be the consummation of the Third degree, it is highly consistent that the candidate be acquainted with the material Temple in the Most Excellent Master degree.

A portion of the allegorical story of the second section of the Third degree is taken from the Bible,

then the statement is made: "Masonic tradition informs us." This phrase when used in Masonic ritual, is always warning that a departure is about to be made from Scriptural historical recital and the realm of fancy is to be entered for the benefit of "veiling in allegory." The Most Excellent Master degree returns to the Biblical account of the completion and dedication of the Temple and uses much of the story as related in 1 Kings: 8. Only in the setting of the Keystone does the ritual digress from the Biblical narrative and this brief return to "Masonic tradition" is vitally essential to set the stage, so to speak, for the future discovery in the Royal Arch degree.

The steps taken by the candidate in his approach are accounted for numerically by the position of the degree in sequence from the First degree of the "Blue" Lodge. As observed, the position in which the obligation is assumed is the same as in the preceding degrees of the Chapter and also of another degree. This is consistent as there is no symbolic necessity for a change.

One of the exceptions referred to in the introductory remarks is noted in the obligation and this exception is one of the most praiseworthy in any "modern" degree found in Freemasonry. It recognizes the real reason to the perpetuation of Masonic philosophy. To enlighten mankind and makes the acquisition of knowledge a duty and its dispensing an obligation.

In ancient times the Hebrew Priest appeared before the congregation of Israel with the tallith (praying shawl) over his head, which he held uplifted from his face with both raised hands. His index fingers touched each other, thereby forming, approximately, an equilateral triangle. The fingers of each hand were held divided, that is the first and second fingers were together with a space between the second and third, the third and fourth being together. This formed the Hebrew letter shin, initial letter of "shaddai." "Shaddai" literally means, "hovering over" and carries the inference that it is "Divine Presence" which is "hovering over."

In this manner the Priest utter the "three-fold benediction repeated three times: It is an interesting sidelight that this might easily be referred to as "three times three."

"May the Lord bless thee, and keep thee.
May the Lord let his countenance shine
Upon thee and be gracious unto thee.
May the Lord lift up his face unto thee
And bestow upon thee peace."

This beautiful benediction suffers through translation; the English word "peace" does not convey the fullness of meaning of the Hebrew word "shalom" which means "completeness of being." *Continued Page 8*

More cannot be written without Masonic indiscretion, but the similarity between this ancient sign and one used in the Most Excellent Master degree, as well as a sign used in a degree of the Symbolic Lodge will be apparent to any well informed Royal Arch Mason. When one reflects on the preeminence to which a Most Excellent Master has presumably attained, it is obvious that a reminder of his final goal – COMPLETENESS OF BEING is most appropriate.

There is no more altruistic teaching nor loftier sentiment express in any degree of Freemasonry than in the charge of the Most Excellent Master degree. Printed in plain English in all manuals, no one can take exception to quoting in part therefrom. No profane can read it without forming “a favorable opinion of the order.” No Royal Arch Mason can be too often reminded of its content:

“It is one of your GREAT DUTIES, as a Most Excellent Master, to DISPENSE LIGHT AND TRUTH to the uninformed Mason; and I need not remind you of the impossibility of complying with this obligation without possessing an accurate acquaintance with the lectures of each degree. If you are not already completely conversant with the degrees heretofore conferred on you, remember that an indulgence, prompted by the belief that you would apply yourself with double diligence to become so, has induced the brethren to accept you. LET IT, THEREFORE, BE YOUR UNREMITTING STUDY TO ACQUIRE SUCH A DEGREE OF KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION AS SHALL ENABLE YOU TO DISCHARGE WITH PROPRIETY THE VARIOUS DUTIES INCUMBENT UPON YOU.”

There is no greater gift man can give his fellow man than knowledge. Think for a moment, what a glorious renaissance Freemasonry would experience if each Companion who has assumed this solemn obligation accepted the duty which it imposes upon him and heeded the charge. If he faithfully let it be his “UNREMITTING STUDY TO ACQUIRE SUCH KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION” as would enable him to actually “DISPENSE LIGHT AND TRUTH TO THE UNINFORMED MASON”; that he might in fact be such a EXCELLENT MASTER as the Hebrew word “Rabboni” describes – “MY MASTER, -- MY TEACHER, -- MY GREAT ONE.”

DID YOU CHASE THEM AWAY?

Did you chase them away? That new Brother or Companion just coming in and you said to them – “We sure could use you. We need new members for our Officers Line.” Is that the same as saying to them, welcome, glad you are a member, we are not going to give you any time to learn and appreciate that which you just joined.” In most cases the next words you could utter are: “Good bye.”

Congratulations Traverse City Companions

On Saturday, October 25, 2008 the Companions of Traverse City Chapter were treated to the Exaltation of two new companions into the Chapter. The day began with the most Excellent Masters Degree. They opened the Chapter at 10 am then “received and acknowledged” the new Most Excellent Master Degree. After an excellent luncheon they then Exalted the two new Brothers as Companions of the Royal Arch. They put on a very excellent degree and the new Companions were extremely attentive and duly impressed.

Later that evening the Companions of Traverse City were rewarded for the hard and dedicated work by having the Grand Council Royal & Select Masons restored the Charter to Traverse City Council. The Charter was returned at the Installation Ceremony of the new Officers. It was first time since 1944 that Traverse City has had a Council. Congratulations to all of the Companions and keep up the hard work for the betterment and benefit of all of York Rite in Michigan.

How to Sell Royal Arch Masonry

How to sell Royal Arch masonry?

Well, you don't sell it! It sells itself!

But you have to have it out where it can be seen. And you may have to explain it, and how it operates. But it sells itself.

There are ways of presenting the values of Royal Arch Masonry. But, unlike other products, there is not show-case in which to make a display. You are Royal Arch Masonry's showcase! What you do; what you have learned from your membership in Royal Arch Masonry, and your present-day interest, is the best advertisement for Capitular Masonry.

You cannot sell one already a member – so you have to have prospects. Master Masons are the only prospects. But this is not a limited field, ‘for in Michigan alone we have over 40,000 prospects.’

Most Royal Arch Masons are to be found working in their lodges and so are familiar with the names of those brethren eligible to receive our degrees. Given the name of some good Master Mason, our task should be simple, for it consists in affording our prospect a knowledge of what constitutes Royal Arch Masonry.

*A Handbook for Royal Arch Masons
Except between ‘ ‘*