



LEVEL 3: UNIT RESOURCES

Engage > Continued Support > Continuing your journey

FROM INITIATION TO EXALTATION

- Every Master Mason is encouraged to continue their journey from Initiation in the Craft to Exaltation in the Royal Arch.
- When the Antient and Modern Grand Lodges came together to form the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) in 1813, they declared that “Pure Antient Masonry” consists of three degrees – the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason *including the Royal Arch*.
- This declaration still stands at the front of our Book of Constitutions and means there are four parts to a Freemason’s journey.
- For historical reasons, the first three are governed by UGLE, while the Royal Arch is governed by the Supreme Grand Chapter of England (SGC).
- In real terms, UGLE and SGC are one organisation.
- Because of this link, our Grand Master automatically serves as the First Grand Principal in the Royal Arch, and many other senior roles are also shared.
- This connection makes English Freemasonry unique around the world and represents an important part of our history and heritage.

DISCOVER MORE

- Whether you have just been Raised as a Master Mason or have been so for some time, you probably have questions such as:
 - What is the next part of the story?
 - How do I discover the secrets that were lost?
 - What does it all mean?
- You may also be wondering how to enjoy more of what Freemasonry has to offer and how to expand your experience, understanding and connections beyond your Craft Lodge.
- The Royal Arch provides answers to these questions and is where you will discover more.

CONTINUE THE JOURNEY

- When you became an Entered Apprentice Freemason you were placed in the North-East corner of the Lodge to represent the foundation stone of a new building.
- You were also encouraged to *raise a superstructure perfect in all its parts and honourable to the builder*.
- Your Initiation was the beginning of a lifelong journey in which you will discover more about who that builder is.
- The degrees you pass through on this journey contain allegorical lessons that aim to help you live a better life in harmony with others, and serve as an example that benefits society.



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- Even though the world has changed much since the Eighteenth Century when these stories and allegories were first conceived, the principals involved are just as important now as they ever were.

FOLLOW THE CLUES

- By the time you became a Master Mason you will have learned a great deal and made much personal progress.
- You will also have learned that the journey is not finished because the genuine secrets of a Master Mason remain lost.
- This implies there is more to learn.
- In the Royal Arch, you will complete this journey and recover the true secrets of a Master Mason through a spectacular, colourful, and dramatic ceremony you will remember forever.
- However, the 'genuine secrets' you recover in the Royal Arch are not what you think they are. They are even better.

ENJOY COMPANIONSHIP

- You will also learn the important lessons of companionship and collaboration.
- Just as the three original Grand Masters worked together to build King Solomon's temple, everything in the Royal Arch is done as part of a team.
- This emphasises the further friendship and companionship to be found within the Order, and the important value of working in harmony with others.
- In addition, what you learn as a Royal Arch Mason encourages you to act as an example to support and inspire others.

DISCOVER ANSWERS

- If you have enjoyed the three Craft Degrees, then you will be pleased to know there is still more to discover in the Royal Arch.
- You will be highly impressed by the splendour and drama in the Ceremony of Exaltation, and will learn more about the story behind the building of King Solomon's temple.
- You will also have a fantastic and enjoyable time on your journey and make new friends and Companions while doing so.
- As the journey unfolds, you will start to understand Freemasonry in a whole new way.
- Your understanding of the nature and duty of the 'builder' referred to at your Initiation will be clarified and you will begin to understand how to build the superstructure that is perfect 'in all its parts.'



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FREEMASONRY IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

- The journey through Pure Antient Masonry and the discoveries each person makes in the Royal Arch are very personal.
- You will discover that, even today, the stories and allegories still offer valuable lessons from which we can all learn, and which we can all enjoy.
- By applying what we learn on this journey, we can indeed become *honourable to the builder* in a way that would still be recognisable to those who first developed these messages hundreds of years ago.

THE NEXT CHAPTER – WHAT WILL I DISCOVER?

- **Answers:** Follow the clues from the Third Degree to complete the story and your personal journey in Pure Antient Masonry.
- **Companionship:** Work together with old friends and new Companions to build on and develop the principles of the Craft.
- **Splendour:** Learn more about our history in the spectacular ceremony of the “beautiful degree”, which you will remember forever.
- **Yourself:** Uncover new perspectives that will support you in a personal journey of discovery.

WHEN CAN I JOIN THE ROYAL ARCH?

- You are eligible to join the Royal Arch four weeks after you have been Raised as a Master Mason.
- In the past, some suggested waiting until you had been Installed in the Chair of your Lodge before joining. However, this myth is based on outdated ideas and old rules that no longer apply.
- The simple answer is to find the most suitable Chapter and join at a time that is right for you – your Lodge and Personal Mentor are there to support you as you look to *continue your journey*.
- Just like in the Craft, there are many different Royal Arch Chapters, each with their own history, traditions and special features. There are also many special interest Chapters.
- So, just ask your Lodge’s Royal Arch Representative for advice, or contact your Metropolitan, Provincial, or District office and of course your Lodge and Personal Mentor.
- Or speak to anyone wearing a Royal Arch jewel. They will be pleased to help you complete your journey, as all members of the Royal Arch are ambassadors!

Further reading can be found here <https://www.ugle.org.uk/about-us/royal-arch>

Access the Discover More Royal Arch information booklet

<https://www.ugle.org.uk/sites/default/files/media/file/discover-more-royal-arch-for-download.pdf>