

## OPENING AND CLOSING A ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER

### Opening a Royal Arch Chapter

(*High Priest, only, is standing*)

**H P:** \* Companions, we are about to open a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the dispatch of business, and will thank you for your attention and assistance. The Officers and Companions will clothe themselves in their appropriate regalia, Officers assume their jewels and take their respective stations; any present not Royal Arch Masons will please retire.

(*Most Excellent High Priest sits*)

Companion Royal Arch Captain,

**R A C:** (*Rises*)

**H P:** you will introduce the Guard.

**R A C:** (*At door*) Companion Guard, you will approach the Altar.

**H P:** Companion Guard, your station?

**Guard:** At the outer avenues leading to the Tabernacle, Most Excellent.

**H P:** Your duty there?

**Guard:** To guard the entrance to the same and permit none to pass but such as are duly qualified and have your permission.

H P: You will arm yourself with the proper implement of your office, repair to your station, and guard accordingly.

Guard: (*Presents sword, resumes station*)

R A C: (*When Guard arrives at door, returns to his station and is seated*)

H P: Companion Captain of the Host,

C O H: (*Rises, faces the Most Excellent High Priest*)

H P: are you satisfied that all present are Royal Arch Masons?

C O H: I am satisfied, Most Excellent.

H P: Are you satisfied that there is a constitutional number present to open a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons?

C O H: I am satisfied.

H P: Thank you Companion, be seated. \*\* / Companion Royal Arch Captain

R A C: (*Rises, Gives sign*)

H P: when about to open a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, your duty?

R A C: To see that the outer avenues leading to the Tabernacle are duly guarded, Most Excellent.

H P: You will attend to that duty and inform the Guard that we are about to open a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the dispatch of business and direct him to guard accordingly.

**R A C:** (*At door*) Companion Guard, we are about to open a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the dispatch of business and you are directed to guard accordingly.

(*Closes door*) \*\* \*\* \*\* \*

**Guard:** \*\* \*\* \*\* \*

**R A C:** (*Returns to station, sign*) We are guarded, Most Excellent.

**H P:** How guarded, Companion?

**R A C:** By a worthy Companion Royal Arch Mason, stationed at the outer avenues leading to the Tabernacle, armed with the proper implement of his office.

**H P:** His duty there?

**R A C:** To guard the entrance to the same and permit none to pass but such as are duly qualified and have your permission.

**H P:** Are you a Royal Arch Mason?

**R A C:** I am, that I am.

**H P:** How may I know you to be a Royal Arch Mason?

**R A C:** By three and three times three, over a triangular pavement and under a living arch.

**H P:** What makes you a Royal Arch Mason?

**R A C:** The obligation.

**H P:** Where did you receive the obligation?

**R A C:** Within the body of a just and legally constituted Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, duly assembled in a room or place representing the Tabernacle erected by our ancient Brethren near the ruins of King Solomon's Temple.

**H P:** How many compose a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons?

**R A C:** Nine or more, Most Excellent.

**H P:** When composed of nine, of whom does it consist?

**R A C:** The Most Excellent High Priest, Excellents King and Scribe, Companions Captain of the Host, Principal Sojourner, Royal Arch Captain, and three Masters of the Veils.

**H P:** Station of the Master of the First Veil?

**R A C:** At the First Veil, Most Excellent. (*Sits*)

**H P:** \*\*

**1st V:** (*Rises, Gives sign*)

**H P:** Your duty there, Companion?

**1st V:** To guard the entrance to the same and permit none to pass but such as are duly qualified and are in possession of the proper passwords.

**H P:** What are those passwords?

**1st V:** I a\_ t\_\_ I a\_, I a\_ h\_\_ s\_\_ m\_ u\_\_ y\_\_.

**H P:** The color of your banner?

**1st Veil:** Blue.

**H P:** What does it denote?

**1st V:** Friendship, and is the peculiar characteristic of ancient craft Masonry.

**H P:** Station of the Master of the Second Veil?

**1st V:** At the Second Veil, Most Excellent.

**H P:** \*\*

**2nd V:** (*Rises, Gives sign*)

**H P:** Your duty there, Companion?

**2nd V:** To guard the entrance to the same and permit none to pass but such as are duly qualified and are in possession of the passwords of the Master of the First Veil.

**H P:** What are those passwords?

**2nd V:** S\_\_\_\_\_, H\_\_\_\_\_, and J\_\_\_\_\_.

**H P:** The color of your banner?

**2nd V:** Purple.

**H P:** What does it denote?

**2nd V:** Union, it being produced by a due admixture of blue and scarlet, is placed between the first and third veils to denote that intimate connection which exists between ancient craft Masonry and this Sublime Degree.

**H P:** Station of the Master of the Third Veil?

**2nd V:** At the Third Veil, Most Excellent.

**H P:** \*\*

**3rd V:** (*Rises, Gives sign*)

**H P:** Your duty there, Companion?

**3rd V:** To guard the entrance to the same and permit none to pass but such as are duly qualified and are in possession of the passwords of the Master of the Second Veil.

**H P:** What are those passwords?

**3rd V:** M\_\_\_\_\_, A\_\_\_\_\_, and B\_\_\_\_\_.

**H P:** The color of your banner?

**3rd V:** Scarlet.

**H P:** What does it denote?

**3rd V:** Fervency and zeal, and is the appropriate color of the Royal Arch Degree.

**H P:** Station of the Royal Arch Captain?

**3rd V:** At the Fourth Veil, Most Excellent.

**H P:** \*\*

**R A C:** (*Rises, Gives sign*)

**H P:** Your duty there, Companion?

**R A C:** To guard the entrance to the same and permit none to pass but such as are duly qualified and are in possession of the passwords of the Master of the Third Veil together with the Signet of Truth.

**H P:** What are those passwords?

**R A C:** J\_\_\_\_\_, Z\_\_\_\_\_, and H\_\_\_\_\_.

**H P:** What is the Signet of truth?

**R A C:** Z\_\_\_\_\_.

**H P:** The color of your banner?

**R A C:** White.

**H P:** What does it denote?

**R A C:** Purity, and is emblematic of that purity of heart and rectitude of conduct so essentially necessary for all to possess who seek to pass the fourth veil into the Sanctuary.

**H P:** Station of the Principal Sojourner?

**R A C:** On the left and in front of the Council, Most Excellent.

**H P:** \*\*

**P S:** (*Rises, Gives sign*)

**H P:** Your duty there, Companion?

**P S:** To bring the blind by a way they know not, to lead them in paths they have not known, to make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things to do unto them and not forsake them.

**H P:** Station of the Captain of the Host?

**P S:** On the right and in front of the Council, Most Excellent.

**H P:** \*\*

**C O H:** (*Rises, Gives sign*)

**H P:** Your duty there, Companion?

**C O H:** To receive the commands of my chief, see them duly executed, and preside at the introduction of strangers among the workmen.

**H P:** Station of the Excellent Scribe?

**CO H:** On the left of the Most Excellent High Priest in Council.

**H P:** His duty there?

**C O H:** To sit in Council, assist the Excellent King and Most Excellent High Priest in the discharge of their duty, and in their absence, preside.

**H P:** Station of the Excellent King?

**C O H:** On the right of the Most Excellent High Priest in Council.

**H P:** His duty there?

**C O H:** To sit in Council, assist the Most Excellent High Priest in the discharge of his duty, and in his absence, preside.

**H P:** Station of the Most Excellent High Priest?

**C O H:** Within the Sanctuary.

**H P:** His duty there?

**C O H:** To preside in Council, read and expound the law, and give good and wholesome instruction to the Companions.

**H P:** Companion Captain of the Host, it is my order that you assemble the Companions around the Altar to assist in opening a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in due and ancient form.

**C O H:** (*Right face, moves West past Altar, marches South to center of Altar, faces East*)

**R A C:** (*Follows Captain of the Host, halts on North side of Altar, faces South*)

**P S:** (*Marches with Royal Arch Captain, moves West, halts on South side of Altar, faces North*)

**C O H:** (*Battery*) \*\* \*\* \*\* \*

**C O H:** Companions, it is the order of the Most Excellent High Priest in Council that you assemble around the Altar to assist in opening a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in due and ancient form.

**1st V:** (*Moves to a position between P S and C O H*)

**2nd and 3rd V:** (*Move to a position between R A C and C O H*)

**All at the Altar:** (*Right arm over left, hook hands with Companions on either side. P S and R A C remain unhooked for arrival of the Council*)

**C O H:** Most Excellent High Priest, the Companions await the Council.

**H P:** The Council will advance.

**H P, E K and E S:** (*Uncover, leave hats in the East, advance to Companions and hook up*)

**All:** (*Balance three times*) Peace be with us.

*(If kneeling, all must kneel and repeat Lord's Prayer)*

*Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

*(Balance three times...)*

Peace be with us.

*(Arise if kneeling and balance three times)*

Peace be with us.

*(Break chain, step back one pace with left foot)*

**H P:** Companions, you will attend to giving the signs.

**ALL:** (*Ea, Fc, Mm, Mark [3], Pm, Mem [2], Ra [2]*)

**H P:** Companions, you will form in trios (*TRY-OHS*) commencing with the Principal Sojourner on the left and bring up the word.

*(Each right hand companion in his trio {try-oh} will start wording except, Most Excellent High Priest will start in his trio {try-oh})*

**1st Companion:** A\_ w\_ t\_ d\_ a\_ i\_ p\_ , l\_ , a\_  
u\_ t\_ s\_ w\_ t\_ k\_ .

**2nd Companion:** S\_ w\_ t\_ d\_ a\_ i\_ p\_ , l\_ , a\_  
u\_ t\_ s\_ w\_ t\_ s\_ .

**3rd Companion:** N\_ w\_ t\_ d\_ a\_ i\_ p\_ , l\_ ,  
a\_ u\_ t\_ r\_ t\_ l\_ a\_ .

*(Pass word around three times by each)*

1st Companion: J\_\_. 2nd Companion: B\_\_. 3rd Companion: O\_\_.

2nd Companion: J\_\_. 3rd Companion: B\_\_. 1st Companion: O\_\_.

3rd Companion: J\_\_. 1st Companion: B\_\_. 2nd Companion: O\_\_.

H P: Companions, has the word come up right?

P S: (*Steps forward half step with left foot, sign*) I vouch for my trio {TRY-OH}, Most Excellent. (*Steps back into line*)

Companion on the right of each Tri-o except Northmost:  
(*Steps forward half step with left foot, sign*)

I vouch for my trio {TRY-OH}, Most Excellent. (*Steps back into line*)

R A C: (*Steps forward half step with left foot, sign*) I vouch for my trio {TRY-OH}, Most Excellent. (*Steps back into line*)

H P: And I vouch for the Council. The Council will reassemble in the East.

HP: \*\*      EK: \*\*      ES: \*\*

HP: \*\*      EK: \*\*      ES: \*\*

HP: \*\*      EK: \*\*      ES: \*\*

HP: \*      EK: \*      ES: \*

H P: (*Uncovers*)

In the name of God and our ancient and worthy Patron Zerubbabel, I now declare a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons

opened in due and ancient form. Companion Royal Arch Captain, you will inform the Guard. \*

**R A C:** (*To door on square and gives battery*) \*\* \*\* \*\*  
\*

**Guard:** \*\* \*\* \*\* \*

**R A C:** \*

**Guard:** \*

**R A C:** (*Opens door*) Companion Guard, a Chapter has been opened in the Royal Arch Degree for the dispatch of business and you are directed to guard accordingly.

(*Closes door, returns to station, on square and is seated*)

### If Work is to be Done in the Mark Master's Degree

#### Ascertaining if Candidates are in Waiting

**H P:** Companions, the Chapter has been called and opened on this occasion for the purpose of work. Companion Secretary, are candidates in waiting?

**Secretary:** Brother \_\_\_\_\_, who has been balloted for and constitutionally elected to receive the Chapter Degrees, is now in waiting to be marked, Most Excellent.

**H P:** Companion Secretary, are you satisfied?

**Secretary:** I am satisfied.

*If work is to be done in other than the Royal Arch Degree, labor shall be dispensed in the Royal Arch Degree and labor resumed in the appropriate degree. Refer to the section on Dispensing and Resuming Labor for the details of this process.*