

YORK RITE FUNDAMENTALS

1) Basic movements and tactics

- Standard Masonic protocols are carried over (e.g., breaking the light, standing to address the East, square on walking lines, etc)
- Gavels given in pairs
- Gavel and tag officer simultaneously
- Subordinate officers rise when addressed by a superior
- Stepping out of station when called upon
- Stand when addressing candidate(s)
- Lead on candidate's right
- Check knocks when opening door (breaking seal)
- Chapter raises candidates in the north, Council in the south
- OK to "walk and talk"
- Others?

2) Chapter Officers

MEHP:

- Equivalent to WM in Blue Lodge.
- Represents Joshua, son of Jozadak. He was the High Priest of the Jews when they returned from Babylon to Jerusalem.
- Referred to as Joshua in Haggai 1:1 and Zechariah 6:11.
- Referred to as Jeshua in Ezra 2:2 and 3:2.

EK:

- Equivalent to the SW in Blue Lodge.
- Represents Zerubbabel.
- Zerubbabel was the governor of Judah following the Babylonian exile. He rebuilt the temple in Jerusalem (ca. 516 BC).
- Zec 4:6-7 - *Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to **Zerubbabel**: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts. Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain. And he shall bring forward the head stone amid shouts of 'Grace, grace to it!'"*

ES:

- Equivalent to the JW in Blue Lodge.
- Represents Haggai the Prophet. He returned with Joshua and Zerubbabel to Jerusalem after the proclamation of Cyrus.
- Would have served as the scribe, or secretary, of the Grand Council.
- See book of Haggai.

CoH:

- Equivalent to Mar in Blue Lodge, and has some duties similar to the SD.
- Represents the general or leader of the Jewish troops who returned from Babylon. Equivalent to a modern general.
- Jos 5:13-15 - *And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.*

PS:

- Equivalent to SD in Blue Lodge.
- Represents the leader of the small party of Israelites who returned from Babylon.

RAC:

- Equivalent to JD in Blue Lodge.
- Represents the Captain of the King's guard.
- Veil - Judah / Lion / White
- It should be noted that the four veil colors are unique to the US.
- Why four banners? Mackey states the Talmudists refer to these as the 4 principal tribes. England still uses 12.
- Covenant – Drawn from Revelations? New heaven and new earth
- Haggai 2:21-23 - *23 On that day, declares the LORD of hosts, I will take you, O **Zerubbabel** my servant, the son of Shealtiel, declares the LORD, and make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you, declares the LORD of hosts."*

3V:

- Veils could loosely be thought of as Stewards in Blue Lodge. They also correspond to the Overseers in the Mark.
- Veil - Ephraim / Ox / Red
- Covenant – God to the Children of Israel and Moses, borne of the blood with which they painted the lintels of their houses to indicate their trust in Yahweh.
- Exodus 31:1-5 - *And the LORD spake unto **Moses**, saying, 2 See, I have called by name **Bezaleel** the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: 3 And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, 4 To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, 5 And in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship*
- Exodus 31:6-11 - *6 And I, behold, I have given with him **Aholiab**, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan: and in the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee.*

2V:

- Veil - Reuben / Man / Purple
- Covenant - God and Abraham, *"I will make of thee a great nation and I will bless thee and make thy name great"*. Sealed by Melchizedek who gives him bread and wine (purple color).
- Genesis 6:9-10 - *9 These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. 10 And Noah begat three sons, **Shem, Ham, and Japheth**.*

1V:

- Veil - Dan / Eagle / Blue
- Covenant - God to Noah (blue for water)
- Exodus 3:13-14 - *13 And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? 14 And God said unto Moses, **I AM THAT I AM**: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, **I AM hath sent me unto you**.*

Guard:

- Equivalent to Tyler in Blue Lodge.

3) Council Officers

- Solomon, Hiram of Tyre, Hiram Abif

4) Discuss reception in the degrees – Discuss the symbolism in each form of reception

- MM - Advanced to honorary degree
- PM – Regularly seated in oriental chair
- MEM – Received and acknowledged
- RA – Exalted to the sublime degree
- RM – Advanced to the rights and honors
- SM – Hail and greeted a Royal and Select Master

5) **Review Signs**

- Chapter
- Council

6) **Review Grips / Words**

7) **Review Trios**

Misc Notes:

Chronology of degrees:

- Entered Apprentice
- Fellow Craft
- Mark Master
- Select Master
- Royal Master (1st section)
- Master Mason
- Royal Master (2nd section)
- Most Excellent Master
- Super Excellent Master
- Royal Arch Mason