

## ROYAL MASTERS DEGREE

Bible: Proverbs xxx:8-9

**TIM:** \* The Council will now come to order. Companions, you will assemble around the Ark of the Covenant and form the Cherubim. Companion Conductor, you will prepare and introduce the Candidate.

**COC:** *AND THE KING COMMANDED, AND THEY BROUGHT GREAT STONES, COSTLY STONES, AND HEWED STONES, TO LAY THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE HOUSE. AND SOLOMON'S BUILDERS AND HIRAM'S BUILDERS DID HEW THEM, AND THE STONE SQUARERS; SO THEY PREPARED TIMBER AND STONES TO BUILD THE HOUSE. AND KING SOLOMON SENT AND FETCHED HIRAM OUT OF TYRE. HE WAS A WIDOW'S SON OF THE TRIBE OF NAPHTALI, AND HIS FATHER WAS A MAN OF TYRE, A WORKER IN BRASS; AND HE WAS FILLED WITH WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING AND CUNNING TO WORK ALL WORKS IN BRASS. SO SOLOMON BUILT THE HOUSE AND FINISHED IT, AND THE ORACLE HE PREPARED IN THE HOUSE WITHIN, TO SET THERE THE ARK OF THE COVENANT OF THE LORD.*

**RIDM:** *AND HE SET THE CHERUBIM WITHIN THE INNER HOUSE; AND THEY STRETCHED FORTH THE WINGS OF THE CHERUBIM, SO THAT THE WING OF THE ONE TOUCHED THE ONE WALL AND THE WING OF THE OTHER CHERUB TOUCHED THE OTHER WALL, AND THEIR WINGS TOUCHED ONE ANOTHER IN THE MIDST OF THE HOUSE. AND BEHOLD I COME QUICKLY, AND MY REWARD IS WITH ME, TO GIVE EVERY MAN ACCORDING AS HIS WORK SHALL BE. I AM ALPHA AND OMEGA, THE BEGINNING AND THE END,*

*THE FIRST AND THE LAST. BLESSED ARE THEY THAT DO HIS COMMANDMENTS, THAT THEY MAY HAVE RIGHT TO THE TREE OF LIFE, AND MAY ENTER IN THROUGH THE GATES INTO THE CITY.*

**CG:** *AND SOLOMON MADE ALL THE VESSELS THAT PERTAINED UNTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD: THE ALTAR OF GOLD AND THE TABLE OF GOLD, WHEREUPON THE SHEW BREAD WAS. AND THE CANDLESTICKS OF PURE GOLD, FIVE ON THE RIGHT SIDE AND FIVE ON THE LEFT, BEFORE THE ORACLE, WITH FLOWERS AND THE LAMPS, AND TONGS OF GOLD. AND THE BOWLS AND THE SNUFFERS, AND THE BASONS AND THE SPOONS, AND THE CENSERS OF PURE GOLD; AND THE HINGES OF GOLD, BOTH FOR THE DOORS OF THE INNER HOUSE, THE MOST HOLY PLACE, AND FOR THE DOORS OF THE HOUSE, TO-WIT, OF THE TEMPLE. AND HIRAM MADE THE LAVERS, AND THE SHOVELS, AND THE BASONS. SO HIRAM MADE AN END OF DOING ALL THE WORK THAT HE MADE KING SOLOMON FOR THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.*

**COC:** Here is a beautiful piece of work which I have prepared especially to please our Grand Master Hiram Abif. Let us take it up and offer it for deposit in the Sanctum Sanctorum, hoping he may be delighted with it, and reward our skill.

**TIM:** Illustrious Principal Conductor, what is the hour?

**IPC:** High twelve, Thrice Illustrious Master.

**TIM:** That being the hour, it is my order that this Council of Royal Masters be now called from labor to refreshment. This order you will communicate to the Companions.

**IPC:** \*\*\* Companions, it is the order of the Thrice Illustrious Master that this Council of Royal Masters be now

called from labor to refreshment. Of this order you will take due notice and let it accordingly so be done.

**TIM:** \*

**IPC:** (Prays at Altar)

*REMOVE FAR FROM ME VANITY AND LIES; GIVE ME NEITHER POVERTY NOR RICHES; FEED ME WITH FOOD CONVENIENT FOR ME; LEST I BE FULL AND DENY THEE, AND SAY, WHO IS THE LORD ? OR LEST I BE POOR AND STEAL, AND TAKE THE NAME OF MY GOD IN VAIN. AMEN.*

(Attempts to pass out South side of opening in veil where other deposits have been placed)

**COC:** Our Grand Master Hiram Abif, I too have something to offer for deposit in the Sanctum Sanctorum.

**IPC:** (*takes it and examines it and says*) This is indeed a very beautiful piece of work. He who formed it must be skillful in the arts, and deserves well his reward. I will receive it on deposit in the Sanctum Sanctorum with pleasure.  
(*He again attempts to move on*)

**COC:** Our Grand Master Hiram Abif, when may I expect to receive the secret word of a Master Mason?

**IPC:** Friend Adoniram, you have often importuned me upon this subject, and I now tell you, once for all, I know not when, or whether you will ever receive it. Owing to an agreement between our Grand Masters Solomon King of Israel, Hiram King of Tyre, and myself, the secret word of a Master Mason cannot be given by either of us unless all three are present, and then only at the completion of the Temple. You must therefore wait until the Temple is completed and then, if

found worthy, you can have it; otherwise you cannot. (*Again attempts to pass out*)

**COC:** But, our Grand Master Hiram Abif, suppose in the meantime one of you three should be removed hence by death, how then may I expect to receive it?

**IPC:** (*Tapping three times on the floor with his right foot*) If I die, they will bury it there. (*Pointing to the floor beneath him*)

(*Soliloquy-First Round*)

BUT FRIEND A\_\_\_\_\_, DEATH IS A SUBJECT THAT ADMITS OF NO LEVITY WHEN MENTIONED BY MORTAL MAN; THE YOUNG MAY DIE, THE OLD MUST DIE, THE WISEST KNOWETH NOT HOW SOON. THE YOUNGEST ENTERED APPRENTICE UPON THE CHECKERED PAVEMENT BELOW DWELLS EVER IN THE SHADOW OF DEATH, WHILE THE INVISIBLE HAND EXTENDS EQUALLY ABOVE KING SOLOMON ON HIS IVORY THRONE. WE WALK UPON THE ASHES OF GENERATIONS WHO HAVE GONE THIS WAY BEFORE US, AND OUR BODIES, TOO, MUST SOON CRUMBLE INTO DUST. IT IS NOT FOR ME, FRIEND ADONIRAM, TO HOPE THAT I SHALL ESCAPE THE COMMON DOOM OF MAN; I MAY NOT LIVE TO SEE THE TEMPLE COMPLETED, THE SECRET WORD MAY BE LOST; (*Taps and points*) BUT IF I DIE, THEY WILL BURY IT THERE.

(*Soliloquy-Second Round*)

FRIEND A\_\_\_\_\_, DEATH TERMINATES OUR PHYSICAL LABORS; THERE IS NO WORK, NOR DEVICE, NOR KNOWLEDGE, NOR WISDOM IN THE GRAVE; THENCEFORTH THE GENERATIONS MAY BUILD AND OCCUPY BUT WE WILL NOT BE THERE. THE TEEMING

BRAIN, THE SKILLFUL HAND, AND THE SINEWY ARM ARE ALIKE USELESS AND SUPERFLUOUS IN THE GRAVE; WHAT AN INCENTIVE TO AN INDUSTRIOUS USE OF OUR FACULTIES, THAT WE SHOULD LABOR DILIGENTLY TO COMPLETE THAT INNER TEMPLE FOR GOD'S ETERNAL PRAISE, AND BE READY TO SLEEP IN PEACE WHEN THE WEEK CLOSES AND THE SABBATH OF ETERNITY SETS IN. MY WORK, FRIEND ADONIRAM, IS NOT YET COMPLETE, (*Taps and points*) BUT IF I DIE, THEY WILL BURY IT THERE.

(*Soliloquy-Third Round*)

FRIEND A\_\_\_\_\_, IT IS THROUGH THE GATE OF DEATH THAT WE FIND AN ENTRANCE TO THE PLACE OF WAGES, REFRESHMENT, AND REST. THE SUPREME MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE, BEFORE WHOM WE BOW IN ADORATION AND WHOSE ALL-SEEING EYE HAS MARKED OUR LABORS IN THE LODGE BELOW, PROMISES, IF FOUND WORTHY, TO SPREAD BEFORE US IN THE STUPENDOUS LODGE ABOVE ALL THE GLORIES OF HIS ETERNAL SABBATH. AFTER THE STRONG HAND OF DEATH HAS LEVELED ALL IN THE HUMILIATION OF THE GRAVE, THE ALMIGHTY HAND OF THE SUPREME MASTER SHALL PREVAIL AND EXALT EVERY WORTHY BROTHER TO THE GLORIOUS COMPANIONSHIP OF THAT UNDISSOLVING LODGE; THERE THE DESIGNS UPON THE TRESTLE BOARD WILL BE SEEN COMPLETED; THERE THE ADORATION OF THE TWELFTH HOUR WILL BE THE EVERLASTING JOY; THERE THE NOON-TIDE OF BLISS WILL ETERNALLY SHINE; THERE THE SCALES OF DOUBT AND DARKNESS SHALL FALL FROM OUR EYES, AND THE WISE PURPOSES OF THE DIVINE ARCHITECT BE DISPLAYED IN ALL THEIR SPLENDOR. WITH THIS FAITH BEAMING UPON ME, O DEATH, WHERE IS THY STING ? MY HOPE, FRIEND ADONIRAM, RESTS IN THE HIGHER

LODGE TO WHICH I AM ADVANCING, AND IF I DIE BEFORE THE TEMPLE IS COMPLETED, (*Taps and points*) THE SECRET WORD OF A MASTER MASON WILL BE BURIED THERE.

(Leads Candidate to the anteroom)

NOW, FRIEND A \_\_\_\_\_, YOU WILL RESUME YOUR LABORS, AND MAY YOU NOT ONLY SEEK TO BE FOUND WORTHY TO ENTER THIS EARTHLY SANCTUM SANCTORUM TO BEHOLD THE GLORY OF ISRAEL, BUT BY A LIFE WELL SPENT AND DUTY FAITHFULLY PERFORMED MAY YOU BE FOUND WORTHY TO ENTER THE HOLY OF HOLIES ABOVE, INTO THE PRESENCE OF THE SUPREME GRAND MASTER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, AND FROM HIM RECEIVE THE REWARD OF EVERLASTING JOY.

**TIM:** Illustrious Principal Conductor, what is the hour?

**IPC:** One hour past high twelve, Thrice Illustrious Master.

**TIM:** That being the hour, it is my order that this Council of Royal Masters be now called from refreshment to labor. This order you will communicate to the Companions.

**IPC:** \*\*\* Companions, it is the order of the Thrice Illustrious Master that this Council of Royal Masters be now called from refreshment to labor. Of this order you will take due notice and let it accordingly so be done.

**TIM:** \*

**COC:** (*With Candidate(s) before Altar*) Thrice Illustrious Master, I take pleasure in presenting to the Illustrious Council, a worthy Companion who has received all the degrees from Entered Apprentice to Royal Arch Mason

inclusive, and now prays for further light in masonry by being advanced to the rights and honors of a Royal Master.

**TIM:** My Companion, is it of your own free will and accord you make the request?

**Candidate(s):** It is!

**TIM:** Companion Conductor, is he duly and truly prepared, worthy and well qualified?

**COConductor:** He is!

**TIM:** By what further right does he expect to gain admission into this Council of Royal Masters?

**COConductor:** By benefit of the password.

**TIM:** Has he the password?

**COConductor:** He has it not, but I his Conductor have it for him.

**TIM:** Advance and give it.

**COConductor:** (*Advances to the East and whisper's password*) A \_\_\_\_\_  
P \_\_\_\_\_ H \_\_\_\_\_.

**TIM:** The password is right. My Companion, it becomes my duty to inform you that you cannot proceed further without taking upon yourself a solemn obligation appertaining to this degree, while I take pleasure in informing you that there is nothing contained in it which will interfere with the duties you owe to God, your country, your family, or yourself. With this assurance upon my part are you willing to proceed?

**Candidate:** I am!

**TIM:** Companion Conductor, you will place the Candidate in proper position to receive the obligation.

**COG:** My Companion, you will kneel on both knees and place both hands upon the Holy Bible. Thrice Illustrious Master, the Candidate is in position and awaits your pleasure.

**TIM:** \*\*\* *(At Altar)* My Companion, you will announce your name and repeat after me,

I, \_\_\_\_\_, % m o f w @ ac, i t p % A G @ ths Cnl % R Ms, er t h @ dd t H A, do hb @ hn, m s p @ s, tt I wi n rvl t se % ts d t a prsn, xt i b i a r Cl, o t a k wth C R M, @ n un af s tr, d xn o lf mc i, I s hv fd h o t, jly entid t rc t sm.

A I ms s p @ s tt I w std to @ abd b t B-ls, rs @ rgl s % ths o ay ot C % R Ms % wh I ma bc a mb, @ wl sp rt t Cn st, res @ eds % t G Cl, undr whs jrsdctn I ma b, so fa a th ma cm t m knldg @ r nt sbvrsv % t prncpls @ grdwk % fmy @ wl oby al du sgs @ summns snt o hn dd t m fr a rg Cl o by a kn wrthy Cm R M if wthn lngt % my Ct.

To a % w I m s p @ s wtht ny eq, s-ev or mtl rsv wtev, bdg ms un t pn % bg B A, shld I wlfly vl ny pt % t sn o % a R M. S h m G.

In token of your sincerity, you will kiss the Book before you which is the Holy Bible.

*(Gives \* and returns to Altar)*

As a further token of my brotherly love and esteem, I extend to you the right hand of fellowship,

*(Raises Candidate South side of Altar facing east)*

and will now invest you with the sign of the degree of Royal Master. It is given by interlacing the fingers in this manner, bring the hands above the head, down upon the head, slightly

bending the knees. It alludes to the penalty of the obligation wherein you said you would be buried alive and so forth. It is also the working sign of the degree, the sign to be given on entering or retiring from a Council of Royal Masters. The passwords and words of this degree are communicated by means of a dialogue which I will now rehearse to you with the assistance of a Companion. \*\*\* (*Taps three times with right foot*) Do you know anything about this?

**COC:** I know something about the beginning of it. \*\*\*  
(tapping) Do you know anything about this?

**TIM:** I know something about the ending of it. What do you know about the beginning?

**COC:** Alpha.

**TIM:** Omega.

**COC:** The beginning.

**TIM:** The end.

**COC:** The first.

**TIM:** And the last.

**Both:** (*Form square with hands and arms, & broken triangle with feet*)

**TIM:** What do you see?

**COC:** Something wanting.

**TIM:** (*Break's square and turns to right*) A\_\_\_.

**COC:** (*Turns to right*) P\_\_\_ H\_\_\_.

**TIM:** A \_\_\_ P \_\_\_ H \_\_\_ is the password. This (*rejoins square*) is the grip, and Alpha Omega the word of the degree. There is also a trial lecture connected with this degree which will enable you to test a Companion while at the same time you are proving yourself a Royal Master. It is to take something from your person, a pencil or pen-knife, and say, "Do you know anything about this?"

**COC:** I know something about the beginning of it. Do you know anything about this? (*Showing some object*)

**TIM:** I know something about the ending of it. What do you know about the beginning?

**COC:** Alpha.

**TIM:** Omega.

**COC:** The beginning.

**TIM:** The end.

**COC:** The first.

**TIM:** And the last.

**COC:** (*Moves candidate west of altar, without order, for Lecture...Conductor on Candidate's right*)

**TIM:** Companion, I will now explain the ceremonies through which you have been made to pass on this occasion.

During the process of the building of the Temple, our ancient Grand Masters, Solomon King of Israel, Hiram King of Tyre, and Hiram Abif upon consultation decided that when the Sanctum Sanctorum had advanced sufficiently toward completion, they would have brought up all the patterns and models of everything important in and about the Temple and

have them placed in the Sanctum Sanctorum for safe-keeping in charge of our Grand Master Hiram Abif until a more secure depository could be prepared for their reception, and likewise that the Ark of the Covenant containing valuable treasures should be placed there, and that all this should be done with solemn ceremonies. The work of the Royal Masters Degree is intended to represent those ceremonies and this room represents the Sanctum Sanctorum where was placed the Ark of the Covenant upon which was the mercy seat surrounded by the Cherubim, the wing of the one touching the one wall and the wing of the other touching the other wall; and the Companions stretched forth their hands so as to represent the wings of the Cherubim touching each other.

You were caused to bow your head and pass under the extended wings of the Cherubim as if offering adoration to God. It was upon the mercy seat, between the Cherubim, that God appeared in a cloud of glory to his chosen people. The Ark was therefore a symbol of the divine presence and was called the glory of Israel. After making several circuits, you and your Brother Craftsmen passed out of the room and returned, bringing up different articles for deposit in the Sanctum Sanctorum. That ceremony was intended to represent those ancient Craftsmen bringing up the patterns and models and depositing them in the Sanctum Sanctorum in charge of our Grand Master Hiram Abif.

One of the craftsmen, called Adoniram, had long observed that our Grand Masters had some secret which had not been communicated to him. He had often importuned our Grand Master Hiram Abif for it. He knew that the patterns and models about the Temple were to be taken up and deposited in the Sanctum Sanctorum in charge of our Grand Master Hiram Abif. Adoniram conceived the idea of making a very beautiful piece of work of his own workmanship and invention, and taking it up on that interesting occasion and offering it to our Grand Master Hiram Abif for deposit in the

Sanctum Sanctorum, hoping he would be delighted with it, and while in that happy frame of mind he hoped to obtain from him the secret word of a Master Mason. He selected the hour of high twelve as the time to present his work, knowing that it was the custom of our Grand Master Hiram Abif, at that hour to enter the Sanctum Sanctorum alone, to offer his devotions to Almighty God and draw his designs upon the trestle board. You have on this occasion been made to represent Adoniram bringing up that piece of work and presenting it in these words, "Our Grand Master Hiram Abif, I too, have something to offer for deposit in the Sanctum Sanctorum." Hiram Abif, taking it and examining it, said, "This is indeed a very beautiful piece of work. He who formed it must be skillful in the arts and deserves well his reward. I will receive it on deposit in the Sanctum Sanctorum with pleasure." He now moves away, when Adoniram accosts him again, "Our Grand Master Hiram Abif, when may I expect to receive the secret word of a Master Mason?" Hiram Abif replied, "Friend Adoniram, you have often importuned me upon this subject and I now tell you, once for all, I know not when, or whether you will ever receive it. Owing to an agreement between our Grand Masters Solomon King of Israel, Hiram King of Tyre, and myself, the secret word of a Master Mason cannot be given by either of us unless all three are present and then only at the completion of the Temple. You must therefore wait until the Temple is completed and then if found worthy, you can have it, otherwise you cannot." Again turning to leave, Adoniram accosts him again, "But, our Grand Master Hiram Abif, suppose in the mean time one of you three should be removed hence by death, how then may I expect to receive it!" Hiram Abif, tapping three times on the floor with his right foot said, "If I die they will bury it there." And if you will closely follow the history of the succeeding degree, you will see how strikingly this prophesy of our Grand Master Hiram Abif, was verified.

You will now take your seat among the Companions.