



Companion Adept of the Temple Program

York Rite
Sovereign College of North America
Detroit, Michigan



Exam II. The Degrees of the Capitular Rite Most Excellent Master • Royal Arch The WORDS in Masonry

Name _____

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The York Rite Companion Adept of the Temple program is a by-mail self-study program through the Degrees and Orders of the York Rite of Freemasonry administered by the Sovereign York Rite College of North America. This program is offered to any Knight Templar by enrollment through the Sovereign College website, www.yrscna.org.

The program offers a series of exams focused on the ritualistic, philosophical, and esoteric teachings of the York Rite. The exams include a combination of multiple-choice, true-false, and essay questions pertaining to information presented in the Degrees and Orders of the Rite and/or in the resource materials which are recommended for purchase with the program.

Increase or test your knowledge of the York Rite while you read the classic texts of Albert Mackey, Jackson Chase, Jeremy Cross, and George Conner. Resource material is listed below. You will want to have access to your local Chapter, Council and Commandery rituals as you peruse the answers to the exams presented in the Companion Adept of the Temple program. The five quizzes are open book and you can advance at your own pace. This is an ideal course for individual study, and will sharpen your writing skills as you address in your own words the essay questions presented in the quizzes.

Mail completed exams to the York Rite Sovereign College office, 500 Temple Ave., Detroit, MI 48201. You will receive a personalized certificate of completion naming you as a Companion Adept of the Temple of the York Rite of Freemasonry!

ONLINE RESOURCE MATERIAL (PDF)

"The Book of the Chapter" by Albert Mackey.
<http://books.google.com/books?id=JH9JAAAAIAAJ>

"Freemasons Book of the Royal Arch" by Bernard E. Jones.
http://www.pheonixmasonry.org/freemasons_book_of_the_royal_arch.htm

Most Excellent Master

- d. to mark a change, or transition, from one state of being to another

a.) of American origin and developed as an attached degree prior to 1797

b. an American version of the older Excellent Master's Degree conferred under the rules of the Grand Lodge of England

c. one of a sequence of Degrees worked in an 'Ancients' Lodge in Liverpool from 1792 until 1822

d. a Craft Lodge Degree created in Ireland in conjunction with the working of the Royal Arch Degree prior to 1786.

The Most Excellent Master's Degree is both historical and traditional. We are told in the ritual that it is symbolical of the completion of the Temple of the present life. Name three peculiarities about this Degree that reinforces this symbolic interpretation:

a. _____ b. _____ c. _____

In the earliest Degree of Masonry, we are placed in the northeast corner and admonished that we are the cornerstone of our own temple to God. In another of the lectures in symbolic Masonry, we are informed that we are as living stones for "that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." As Mark Masons we are told that we are the keystone, as Hiram. This must imply that a Most Excellent Master is all three—a foundation stone, a keystone and a cope stone. In your own words, provide a practical definition of the operative meanings of these three stones and give your symbolic interpretation of how man is all three of these stones and how each is related to building our own temple to God: (Attach additional page if needed)

The candidate is not initiated into anything in this degree. Give at least three reasons why initiation is no longer necessary in our journey through the higher Degrees: (Attach additional page if needed)

What is meant by the phrase that one makes himself a Most Excellent Master? (circle all that apply):

a. He has passed all the proficiencies required of him in earlier degrees.

b. He has served as a Master of his Symbolic Lodge.

c. His concerns are no longer of the world from which he came.

d. He recognizes his duty is now to enlighten mankind

e. He is no longer a student, but a teacher of knowledge.

f. He is an adept in Masonry.

There is no greater gift a man can give his fellow man than (circle the best answer):

a. compassion b. forgiveness c. knowledge d. hope e. friendship

Answer the following questions true/false by circling your choice:

8. With the symbolic completion and dedication of King Solomon's Temple, our work as Operative Masons is completed. **True** False

9. A Most Excellent Master is granted the privilege to travel in foreign countries to dispense true Masonic Light to those less informed. **True** False
10. The title of Most Excellent Master is given especially to those who can accurately recite the lectures of this Degree. True **False**

Royal Arch

1. The Third Degree of Masonry relates to events regarding the building of the Temple of Solomon; the Most Excellent Master's Degree, its completion and dedication. The Royal Arch Degree relates to events that occurred around the building of the Temple of Zerubbabel. What do the two temples represent in Masonry? In our life? (Attach additional page if needed) _____

2. The Lost Word has much meaning in Masonry and is related to the loss of the "True Name of God." What is the allegorical meaning of the Lost Word? Why is the Sacred Name considered magical? Why is it not to be uttered? (Attach additional page if needed) _____

3. The ceremony of the passing of the veils has been interpreted by various writers to symbolize all of the below ideas. Which do you believe has the most relevant meaning in the context of the Capitular Degrees?
- the uncovering of the inner faculty of insight and wisdom
 - the suffering of the Jews in returning from exile
 - the removal of the superstition and ignorance which divides man from his divine nature
 - trials and difficulties that must be overcome in the search for truth**
 - the enlightenment which comes from progress in Masonry
4. Each of the four Veils comprise a different color, and the colors give us a hint to the connection that exists between symbolic Masonry and the Royal Arch Degree. Match the veils and their colors with the appropriate associations:
- | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|
| 1st veil (blue) | 2 | 1. fervency and zeal; emotion |
| 2nd veil (purple) | 4 | 2. universal friendship and benevolence |
| 3rd veil (Scarlet) | 1 | 3. purity |
| 4th veil (white) | 3 | 4. fraternity, union, authority |
5. On admission of the candidate into the Chapter room, the first words spoken are from a scripture reading from St. Luke, wherein the Divine Master said; "he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." This is an obvious admonition toward humility. Why is humility an essential virtue to those who are engaged in the search after truth? (Attach additional page if needed)

6. What does the pot of manna signify in this Degree?
- plenty
 - wisdom
 - c. truth**
 - beauty
 - spirituality
7. The signet of Zerubbabel alludes to Haggai's declaration that the Lord had made their leader, Zerubbabel his signet. It is more appropriately called the Signet of Truth. It is a token both of exaltation and elevation. To what does the signet promise its wearer? _____

8. Explain how the candidate represents Zerubbabel in this section of the Degree: (Attach additional page if needed) _____
9. Solomon built a holy inner sanctum with the temple and the Holy of Holies was housed in this tabernacle until King Nebuchadnezzar's armies removed it and carried it away to Babylon, where it was likely destroyed. In one of the most meaningful sections of the Degree, a description is given of the contents of the Ark. Why is the Ark of the Covenant so important to both Mankind and Freemasonry? (Attach additional page if needed)

The WORDS in Masonry

This Degree purports to give us the TRUE WORD. But does it? Perhaps a review of "Mason Words" is in Order.

Lost Word: In the Master Mason Degree, we refer to the Lost Word. We acknowledge that the Word was known in three parts only by the three Kings. With the death of Hiram, the Word was Lost. In Masonry, the Lost Word is a symbolic association with the fall of man. Since Adam's Fall from perfection and his eviction from Eden, man's finite mind has been unable to conceive infinity and eternity, or the spirituality of the soul, nor can language adequately express these. The result is that man has reduced this entire, perfect, absolute Truth in regard to God's nature and attributes to incomplete and unworthy concepts of God.

In every culture and every generation, God is as Man conceives Him, and often the reflected image of Man himself. God has become an incarnate Divinity with Man's attributes. This is what Masonry calls the Lost Word.

Substitute Word: In all three Royal Arch Traditions, we learn that the Lost Word (the lost understanding of God) means that the higher concepts of God, that is, God as the Supreme Principle, eternal, infinite, self-existent, omniscient, omnipotent, from Whom or which all that exists was projected according to fixed laws, has been lost in the course of time by the masses of ordinary people. It has been replaced by "false Gods," that is to say, anthropomorphic and sectarian concepts of Deity which have too often resulted in anger, jealous, violent, whimsical, revengeful man-like qualities.

In other words, trying to define the ineffable reality of the Supreme Principle in human terms is futile. Regardless from whence we have come, our reality is only a substitute for the REALLY REAL. This is the meaning of the Substitute Word.

In Masonry, we consider all Substitute Words, (for example, in European rituals, MA(C)HABIN, or GUIBULIM, JEBULEM and ADONAI as "covered words," that is they conceal the true nature of God.

Ineffable Words: Emblazoned on the triangle etched into the Ark of the Covenant, is one of two ineffable words taught in the Royal Arch Degree. In the lectures, we learn the Ineffable Name within the triangle represents the Lord God on High. The Hebrews were taught this was the Ineffable Name. The Kabbala taught that YHVH was the only name of Deity, and unpronounceable.

Here is the secret: The Hebrews were Arabians, and came originally from India, by way of Chaldea. Their initiates had the Hindu Sacred and Ineffable Word; and it can be found in the Blue Degrees.

The Ineffable Name of Deity, or the L ∴ L ∴ M ∴ W ∴ is called the Ineffable Creative Word, concealed in the names of Hiram's murderers. JubelA, JubelO, JubelUM. In the Royal Arch of Solomon tradition, this forms an acronym for three Hindu words, which allude to three attributes of Deity. Likewise, the acronym given as the three Hebrew words in the Royal Arch of Zerubbabel tradition allude to three different names of Deity. Thus, the two acronyms mean the same thing.

The allegorical meaning of the Word in Masonry is that The True Word is to be found where it is hidden.

The True Word

1. The True Word: The True Word of a Mason is the highest and noblest conception of what he calls God that his limited mind is capable of forming. The highest view we can form is nearest to the Truth. Explain in your own words why this "Word" is ineffable: (Attach additional page if needed) _____
2. The equilateral or perfect triangle symbolizes that all essential attributes of God equate to one God. This ultimate idea explains why the number 3 is held in the highest esteem by Freemasons. There are more than thirty allusions to the number 3 in the combined Craft and Capitular Degrees. (e.g. three lesser lights, three knocks, etc.) List as many threes as you can recall from the first seven Degrees of Masonry. (Attach additional page if needed) _____