

Grand First Principal's Quarterly Commentary – Fall 2024

Greetings all,

As the cooler days of fall take over, we know that activities in our 10 Chapters will begin to ramp up. I encourage all Companions to embrace my theme of **Educate, Illuminate** and **Celebrate**. There should always be education, however brief it might be, at every Chapter meeting. **Education** should help **Illuminate** the wonderful story that is Royal Arch Masonry.

Do you know where the Royal Arch degrees fit into the timeline of Freemasonry? Much of York Rite Masonry involves symbolism related to King Solomon's Temple and the Hiram legend. The following list shows the chronological order of the degrees and the body in which they are worked.

Degree or Order	Body	Subject
Entered Apprentice	Lodge	Introduction to Masonry
Fellowcraft	Lodge	Philosophy of a Fellowcraft
Mark Master	Chapter	Work on the Temple, teaches the value of workmanship, honesty and charity
Royal Master	Council	The day prior to the death of Hiram Abif
Select Master	Council	Completes the story of how the lost secret was hidden
Master Mason	Lodge	The death of Hiram Abif and loss of the Master's word
Most Excellent Master	Chapter	The completion and dedication of the first Temple
Super Excellent Master	Council	The destruction of the Temple and fall of Judah
Royal Arch Mason	Chapter	The return of Jews to Jerusalem, preparation of the building of the second Temple and return of the long-lost Master's word
Order of the Red Cross	Preceptory	Links between the Cryptic degrees and the Orders that follow
Order of Malta	Preceptory	Making the candidate a King of St. Paul or the Mediterranean Pass
Order of the Temple	Preceptory	Making the candidate a Knight Templar

Of course one may add much more detail to the table above, such as the dates covered by the degree or order, the principal characters involved, the symbols associated with a degree or Order and the lessons associated with the degree or order.

I leave it to you to use this table as a starting point for discussions within your Chapter about the intricacies of Royal Arch Masonry.

Best wishes to all as we take time to show our respects on Remembrance Day and then **Celebrate** the joy of the Christmas holiday season.

Educate, Illuminate and Celebrate.

Fraternally,

Dean

M. Ex. Comp. Dean Elliott

Grand First Principal, 2024-25

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Saskatchewan