

Grand First Principal's Quarterly Commentary – Winter 2025

Companions,

As the cold grip of winter begins to loosen (sort of!) and the promise of spring draws near, we are reminded of the ever-turning cycle of renewal and enlightenment. The season of winter, much like our journey in Royal Arch Masonry, offers time for reflection, strengthening our resolve, and preparing for the work ahead. This is a time to reflect on the lessons learned through our Royal Arch journey and their importance for our lives.

The **Mark Master Mason** Degree teaches that true worth is not determined by rank or recognition but by the sincerity and quality of one's work and character. It is a lesson in patience, faith, and the certainty that justice and truth will ultimately prevail.

The **Most Excellent Master** Degree teach us that true fulfillment comes not just from completing great works but from dedicating them to a higher purpose. It is a lesson in gratitude, unity, and sacred responsibility, reminding us that our greatest achievements should be consecrated to the service of God, our brethren, and mankind.

Finally, the **Royal Arch Mason** Degree teaches that the search for divine truth is the highest pursuit of a Mason. It reminds us that wisdom is often hidden, that perseverance leads to enlightenment, and that faith in God, our brethren, and the journey itself will ultimately reveal the most sacred of truths. It is the degree of completion, restoration, and the ultimate Light in Masonry.

I encourage you to discuss the symbolism of the following with respect to Royal Arch Masonry and how they are unveiled in our three Degrees.

- The Keystone
- The wages (corn, wine and oil)
- The workman's mark
- The completed Temple
- The Ark of the Covenant
- The Shekinah (divine presence)
- The discovery of the Word
- The ruins of the first Temple
- The second Temple
- The Arch and Vault

As we look toward the coming spring, let us be mindful of the opportunities before us: to welcome new Companions into our ranks, to renew our commitment to Masonic service, and to uphold the traditions that define our noble Craft. May we continue to labor in unity, ever seeking the Light that guides our path.

Educate, Illuminate and Celebrate.

Fraternally,

M. Ex. Comp. Dean Elliott

Grand First Principal, 2024-25

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Saskatchewan