



# Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Queensland

## TRAINING MODULE TM-RA-02

### THE ROYAL ARCH – ELEMENTS OF THE DEGREE

- References:**
- A. Degree Ritual published 2001.
  - B. TM – RA-01.
  - C. DC Manual Rev Nov 2003.

**AIM.** To teach the ceremonial procedures involved in the Royal Arch Exaltation.

- Notes:**
1. Comp who take part in the various ceremonials should be in possession of the current Ritual. Numerous references are made within this Training Module to that Ritual in the form (pxxx).
  2. This Module contains only the details of the Exaltation itself. For information relating to the Setting up and the Opening and Closing of the Chapter, see Reference B.

#### **Regalia**

- The Royal Arch Apron and Sash, appropriate to their rank, is to be worn by all Comp.
- The Collar and Jewel appropriate to their office is to be worn by all Officers.
- Robes appropriate to office are to be worn by the Principals, SOJ and Scribes. **The Triangle on the robes of the Scribes must hang to the front over the left shoulder.**

#### **Ceremonial**

- The Degree Preamble **MUST** be read to the Cand before he is prepared for the Degree.
- At the discretion of the Chapter, the ceremony of Exaltation may be conducted over two successive meetings of the same Chapter. Then, and only then, can the Candidate's Exaltation be considered as complete and reported as such on the Chapter Meeting Report.
- Details for the splitting of the Degree are contained in (p141). Note that the first part of the Mystical Lecture is given in the first part of a split Degree to provide the Cand with the form and explanation of the several signs.
- Since the Constitution has been altered to authorize Chapter Dues and Grand Chapter Capitation Fees to be payable on the Advancement of a Cand, provision has been made for the presentation of the Warrant and the Constitution and By-laws at the conclusion of the Mark Degree. The SE is no longer required to retire with the PSOJ to check the Certificate and the requisite time of membership of the Cand as a Master Mason.
- All Biblical Readings are now published in the Ritual. The punctuation used for these passages, is that which is used in the VSL.
- It should be noted that the Closing, including the Closing Address are an integral part of the Exaltation ceremony and **MUST** be given and used on both occasions when the ceremony is split.

#### **Setting up the Chapter**

For the explanatory details refer to TM-RA-01, and note:

- **The Four Principal Banners** are arranged as closely as possible around the arc of a circle with the Altar as the centre. The order of the banners from the north is Man, Lion, Ox and Eagle.
- **Lights.** - Three Greater, three Lesser are arranged as per diagram, and a seventh is placed at the base of the south column of the Arch. The Altar should be in the centre of the triangle formed by the Greater Lights.
- **Twelve Tribal Ensigns.** - These should be numbered on the back for easy identification. No.1 is in the north east, No.2 in the south east, then 3 to 7 along the south and 8 to 11 back up the north. **Face the Ensigns inwards but turn the western edge outwards 30 degrees when looking from the west.**

- **Rods.** - Place 4 rods on the floor at the base of the Ensigns on each side, or under the seats on each side.
- **A Box of Arch Stones** is conveniently placed, just east of the Sword and Trowel.
- **Torches are required for H and J to read Scripture and for illuminating the P's triangle and for the PSOJ.**
- **A Kneeling Stool** is placed in front of VSL.
- **A Scroll** with the *first three verses of Genesis* is to be placed near the arch stones.
- **A small VSL** is needed for each Cand.
- **Ropes** for PSOJ are left in ante room.
- **A White Veil** is suspended across the north west door, preferably outside the door.
- **Additional Items for the Cand**
  - A Royal Arch Apron and Sash, with the apron previously fitted.
  - White Gown, a Rod, a Collar with the Triple Tau attached and a Royal Arch Jewel.
  - Hoodwinks and a Cable Tow are needed.

### **Preparation of the Cand**

The Cand wears a Craft Apron, has a Cable Tow around his waist and is hoodwinked.

**Note:** It is essential that the hoodwinks are not fitted until after the Cand has been proved in the signs, grips and words of the Excellent Master Mason Degree. He should be tested, then brought to the white curtain which was the last thing he saw in the previous Degree, and then hoodwinked.

The JAN [or some other Comp appointed by the Principal ] should read the Preamble of the Degree to the Cand and test the Cand while he is waiting for the SOJ to come out. (Every SE has been issued with the booklet containing the various preambles). It must be explained to the Cand that the Degree requires him to be lowered into a vault which he is to explore, but as this cannot be physically achieved it is done symbolically by asking him to kneel.

### **Perambulations and Salutes**

All perambulations, unless otherwise stated in the Ritual are by the shortest direct route. Those across the east are to follow the curve of the catenarian arch.

The SOJ and Cand are to be right hand to right hand across the body with the SOJ on the right.

All salutes and S of F are to be reciprocated.

It is not necessary for Comp to give the S of F during the reading of Scriptures.

## **EXALTATION**

### **Preparation of the Chapter**

(pp110-111). PSOJ prepares the Chapter, carrying his baton. The Chapter lights are not extinguished or subdued at this time.

## **DEMONSTRATION**

### **Proving the Candidate**

(pp111-112). PSOJ retires, without his baton, to prove the Cand, prepare him and entrust him with the Password.

**Note:** That part of the ritual relating to the retiral of SE is no longer required and has been deleted. The Cand is brought to the white curtain as before and hoodwinked. The white curtain should be OUTSIDE the door. It is the last thing the Cand saw in the EMM Degree.

## **DEMONSTRATION**

### **Alarm and Veiling the Altar**

(pp112-113. SN reports the alarm. When Z knocks, all rise without signs. SN proceeds to the south east about level with the apex of the greater triangle and, facing west, waits for the SE to take up a similar position in the north east. The Scribes proceed a few paces west of the Altar and turn about to face the east.

**Note:** The exact position will vary from Chapter to Chapter and can only be ascertained by retracing the seven steps from the desired finishing point.

**DC** (p112).

All present except the Scribes assume [35].

The Scribes advance to the east, conforming to the catenarian arch and halting with heels together after the 3rd step. They turn the upper body slightly towards the Altar as they assume [35], bow and then drop the sign before stepping off. They step off with the left foot and halt with heels together after the 5th step, facing west, salute and bow as before. The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> steps are taken towards the Altar as though following the outline of the keystone and in position to veil the Altar. After the 7th. step they salute and bow as before, pick up the Veil and cover the Altar. SN places the seventh light in the centre of the Altar. Both face the east and salute [35], all Comps drop the sign together. The Scribes proceed directly to their Stations. For an explanation of the steps see the diagram at the end of this TM.

## **DEMONSTRATION**

### **Entry of the Cand**

(pp113-115). PSOJ prompts the Cand responses to SN. SN reports, giving Cand full name, from in front of his chair. SN extinguishes the general lighting before admitting the Cand through the white veil. He places the Cand on the left of the PSOJ, returns to his seat via the south and east and gives the S of F to Z.

**Note:** For safety reasons, sufficient light must be maintained in the east. The Craft WM's pedestal light is recommended for this purpose.

The PSOJ takes the Cand, right hand to right hand across the body (remember the Cand is hoodwinked) and conducts the Cand to a position in front of the Kneeling Stool. The 2SOJ takes up a position on the left of the Cand.

**Note:** If there are two Cand the 2SOJ should position himself on the north side of the doorway before the first Cand is admitted. He then accepts the second Cand from SN and guides him, [at this stage], left hand to left hand across the body, thus keeping the two Cands together. Both Cands must be drawn through the Veil by SN with both hands. Batons are not carried by the SOJ during the perambulations.

## **DEMONSTRATION**

### **The Blessing**

(pp115-116). Z questions the Cand and, if necessary, the PSOJ prompts the Cand with the responses. The PSOJ assists the Cand to kneel on both knees. Z gives one knock. All. rise and assume the S of F.

**J** (p116).

PSOJ assists the Cand in his response to Z. and assists the Cand to rise.

### **Conducting through the Ruins**

(p116). The PSOJ places the Cand in the west in a position that will allow him to take the seven steps to the Kneeling Cushion. If there is only one Cand the 2SOJ remains in the west. If there are two Cand he takes the second Cand right hand to right hand, and follows the PSOJ.

**Note:** The Cand is hoodwinked, so the PSOJ should explain to him what is happening.

### **Advancing to the Sacred Shrine**

(p117). PSOJ instructs the Cand as directed, repeating the instructions quietly.

## **DEMONSTRATION**

### **Removing the Keystone and the Arch Stone**

(p117). PSOJ assists the Cand but he places the stones. Remember the Cand is hoodwinked, so guide his hand to the respective stones. If there is more than one Cand, the stones must be replaced and removed again by the second Cand.

## **DEMONSTRATION**

### **Biblical Reading**

(p118). J rises to deliver the reading. Comp remain seated without signs.

**Note:** It enhances the Ceremony if this Reading is printed on a Scroll. A torch is required.

### **Obligation**

(pp119-120). Delivered by Z from his station. PSOJ places a small VSL on Cand left hand and instructs him to place his right hand upon it. If there is more than one Cand, each one must have a VSL. The PSOJ relieves the Cand(s) of the VSL and assists their rising.

### **Lowering the Candidate into the Vault**

(p120). The PSOJ reminds the Cand, in a whisper, that by kneeling he is symbolically descending into the vault. He places the scroll within reach of the Cand.

### **Finding the Scroll**

(pp120). The PSOJ must again guide the hand to the Scroll and prompt the Cand in his responses.

### **Restoring to Light**

(pp120-121). The Cand remains kneeling until the following arrangements have been completed. DC arranges for eight Comps who should have been previously selected and instructed to form up, four on the north and four on the south, outside the ensigns, hold their rods to form two arches immediately to the east of the last two ensigns nearest the west on both sides. If insufficient Comp are available, position two Comp on the north and two on the south, holding their rods to form one arch immediately to the east of the last ensign nearest the west, on both sides. If necessary use the SE, Treas, Chap etc. Principals form a Triangle with their sceptres as in the closing of the Chapter. is formed

**Note:** The triangle must be illuminated. This can be achieved either with the PSOJ torch or by one held by the Scribe E or Chap.

The PSOJ then assists the Cand to his feet (again reminding him he is being raised out of the Vault), and removes the hoodwink. Pause here while the PSOJ tells the Cand to look around.

### **Reading the Scroll**

(pp121-122). The PSOJ should have a torch ready and prompt the Cand in the reading. After the Cand completes the reading, the PSOJ retains the scroll, Principals put away their sceptres and are seated and the comp hold their rods vertically at their sides.

**Note:** The PSOJ should always check whether the Cand needs glasses for reading and if so, have them ready, perhaps on SW pedestal.

## **DEMONSTRATION**

### **Removal of the Third Stone.**

(p122). Assisted by the PSOJ the Cand removes the third stone. He hands it to the 2SOJ who places it on the north side of the VSL near the Square and Compasses.

### **Biblical Reading**

(pp122-123). H rises to deliver the reading. The Comp remain seated without signs.

**Note:** It enhances the Ceremony if this Reading is printed on a Scroll. A torch is required.

### **Further Exploration of the Vaulted Chamber**

(pp123-124). The Cand kneels. DC arranges for the Comps with rods to face each other in pairs and form arches of sufficient height for the PSOJ and Cand to walk under. If there is only one Cand the 2SOJ remains in the west. The PSOJ assists the Cand to rise, conducts him through the arches on the north and directs his attention to the Ensigns. They proceed to the Altar. The Cand directed by the PSOJ lifts the Veil at the north east corner. The PSOJ indicates the Triple Tau and part of the Sacred Word, and assists in replacing the Veil. They pass outside the Greater Light, lift and replace the Veil on the south east corner, and continue their perambulation under the Arches in the south, again indicating the Ensigns.

While the Cand is perambulating, the 2SOJ moves the kneeling cushion slightly towards the west. Arriving at the kneeling cushion beside the 2SOJ, the PSOJ instructs the Cand to kneel.

### **Raising the Candidate from the Vault.**

(p124). The PSOJ, standing between the VSL and the kneeling cushion, raises the Cand with the Grand Grip (27). DC instructs the Comp to hold the rods vertically at their sides.

## **DEMONSTRATION**

### **Retiral of the Candidate**

(pp124-125). The PSOJ instructs the Cand(s), and the 2SOJ to salute the Excellent First Principal as Excellent Master Masons, they turn right, wheel by the west and retire. The Cand Cable Tow is removed. DC instructs Comp to replace rods and return to their places. He replaces the Keystone and the other two Stones in the box and restores the general lighting.

### **DEMONSTRATION**

### **Return of the Candidate**

(pp125-126). SN attends to the report, makes his report to Z from in front of his chair, admits the SOJ and Cand, closes the door, returns to his station by the west and south, gives S of F and is seated.

PSOJ, Cand. and 2SOJ enter and stand in line in the west facing the east. When SN is seated they salute [15a].

### **Dialogue**

(pp126-128).

### **Supplying the Implements of Labour**

(pp128-129). The SW supplies the implements of labour. He proceeds between the last Ensign and the Square and Compasses, [never over them]. Collecting the Working Tools, he proceeds along the other side of a triangle between the last Ensign and the Sword and Trowel. He steps in front of the PSOJ and presents the Crowbar with the chisel end down. Taking side steps to the Cand he presents the Shovel, with the working end down, and the hollow facing outwards. If there is more than one Cand. only one will carry a Working Tool. Taking side steps to the 2SOJ he presents the Pickaxe, with the working end down.

The SW passes behind the SOJ and Cand, resumes his station, gives the S of F to Z and is seated.

SOJ and cand salute the Excellent First Principal with the Sign of an EMM (15a), turn right, right wheel and retire, led by PSOJ.

**Hint:** The working tools are held in the left hand for the sign of an EMM.

### **DEMONSTRATION**

### **Preparation of the Principal Sojourner**

(p129). The PSOJ explains to the Cand that they are supposed to have discovered the crown of an arch, and have removed the Keystone and two Arch Stones. As it has fallen to his lot to explore the Vault, a lifeline has been fastened round his waist, and two guide lines are attached to his arms for signaling purposes. They are now about to report their discoveries to the August Sanhedrin

### **Re-entry of the Candidate and Sojourners**

(pp129). SN attends to the report, makes his report to Z from in front of his chair, admits the SOJ and Cand, closes the door, returns to his station by the west and south, gives S of F and is seated.

PSOJ, Cand. and 2SOJ enter and stand in line in the west facing the east carrying the working tools. The PSOJ also has the scroll with him. When SN is seated they salute [15a].

### **Dialogue**

(pp130-134). The dialogue is not illustrated by any action with the working tools.

### **Ascertaining the Truth of the Conjectures**

(pp134-136). SE, SN and DC take up their positions in the west. DC relieving the PSOJ. Scribes and PSOJ share the Sacred Word. PSOJ and DC return to their positions. Scribes unveil the Altar in a manner similar to the veiling. SN extinguishes the lamp on the Altar and places it at the foot of the Arch Column. The Scribes face the Principals, give the S of F and together report. They remain standing while Z, H and J confer.

**Note:** Comp do not stand.

### **DEMONSTRATION**

### **Relieving the SOJ of the Implements of Labour.**

(pp135-136). SE, SN and SW take up their positions, collect the working tools and deposit them in their proper places.

SW returns to his station. The Scribes turn left, take three or four paces to the south so that the SN is clear of the Ensigns and face the east, with the SE on the right.

#### **DEMONSTRATION**

##### **Investing with Insignia**

(p136). The Scribes and DC take up their positions. DC with the Apron and Sash on a cushion. [Apron previously fitted.], and his Deputy with a cushion. Cand is invested with Apron and Sash. DC and Deputy return to their stations and the latter is seated. SE faces the east. SN stands fast.

##### **Robe of Innocence**

(pp136-137). SE faces the west.

DC carries the Robe to the west and hands it to SN. Both Scribes attend to the robing. DC returns to his station and remains standing.

SE faces the east. SN stands fast.

##### **Conducting to the East**

(p137). The Scribes, SOJ and Cand(s) take up their positions. They proceed in two columns via the west and north to the east and halt when the Cand is in front of Z pedestal. All face east.

**Hint:** If there is insufficient room for a double file to wheel, the SE file moves off first, keeping to the right, it halts when about 4 or 5 paces up the north side.

The PSOJ file follows immediately behind and keeping to the left of the north aisle, halts when the PSOJ and SE are beside each other. When both files are in position they step off together for their positions in the east.

#### **DEMONSTRATION**

##### **Investing with the Collar, Rod and Jewel**

(pp137-138). J invests Cand with collar. Speak first and then the action. H entrusts Cand with a rod. Speak first and then the action. Z decorates the Cand with a jewel. Speak first and then the action. DC relieves Cand of the rod. The ceremony is enhanced if the DC presents the collar, rod and jewel on a cushion.

#### **DEMONSTRATION**

##### **Sharing the Words**

(pp138-140). The description given in the Ritual is a guide only and may be varied as required. DC gives an explanation of the ceremony as the Principals demonstrate. As a rule, the DC should first give a sectional explanation which is then acted on by the Principals.

Z and SN share the Words with the Cand.

**Note:** If there is more than one Cand, a Principal and Scribe or Sojourner will assist in sharing the Words with that Cand.

##### **Return of the Officers to their Stations**

(p140). Principals resume their stations as in the Opening, without their sceptres. The other officers return to their station under the control of the DC. It enhances the ceremony if all are seated together. Except the SOJ and Cand(s).

#### **DEMONSTRATION**

##### **Historical Lecture**

(pp142-145). Traditionally delivered by J from the front of the dais. The Cand is seated in front of the PSOJ station.

**Note:** There is no necessity for J to deliver the whole Lecture. It lends itself to be broken into three parts, one epoch for each comp.

##### **Symbolic Lecture**

(pp146-150). Traditionally delivered by H. The Cand is seated in front of the PSOJ station, but, by moving around the Chapter and by escorting the Cand closer to the items being discussed, it is believed a greater understanding will result.

**Note:** This Lecture can also be broken up if so desired and the following is one suggestion. H delivers the first two paragraphs from the dais. The second Comp preferably seated in the north east, takes up a position south of the apex of the greater lights, continues with the Stones and the Lights. The third, preferably seated in the south west presents the Apron and the perambulation round the Chapter. The fourth Comp completes the Lecture from the west.

### **Jewel Lecture**

(pp155-157). This lecture may be delivered by a comp. It should be delivered from the south west, close to the Cand where he can see the illustration of the Jewel. The Cand is seated in front of the PSOJ station.

### **Mystical Lecture**

This lecture can only be delivered by Past Principals, in as many sections as Z may direct. To start with, the Cand is seated in front of the PSOJ station.

**First Part:** (pp158-162). Is delivered from the floor east of the Altar. Ensure the Cand can see the presenter. This part contains the Signs of the Degree and the presenter must ensure the Cand is fully conversant with them.

**Second Part:** (pp162-167). Is delivered from the south east point of the Altar. The PSOJ places the Cand at the north east point of the altar.

**Note:** Neither the Cand nor the Lecturer must pass between the Altar and the Apex Light.

This Lecture lends itself to being divided into three sections:

First Section to the end of the paragraph “the Alpha and Omega, top of (p161).

Second Section to the end of the First Part (p162).

Third Section to the end of the Lecture.

### **Final Charge**

(pp167-168). The PSOJ places the Cand in front of Z facing east. The Charge is delivered and the Warrant presented.

**Note:** The Constitution and By-laws are now presented in the Mark Degree.

### **Closing**

The Chapter is then closed and the Closing Address given.

Refer TM-RA-01 The Royal Arch - Opening and Closing the Chapter.

## **SPLITTING THE DEGREE**

### **First Meeting**

If the Historical, Symbolic, Jewel and Second Part of the Mystical Lectures are to be deferred to the next meeting, the Ceremony continues after the candidate has been invested, entrusted and decorated (p140)all have returned to their places with the appropriate announcement by Z on (p141).

### **First Part of the Mystical Lecture.**

(pp158-162). This part contains the Signs of the Degree and the presenter must ensure the Cand is fully conversant with them. This lecture may be delivered in as many sections as Z directs.

The PSOJ conducts the Cand to the north, instructs him to salute Z with (35) and then be seated.

### **Closing**

The Chapter is then closed and the Closing Address given.

### **Second Meeting**

(pp141-142). At the second meeting, the Chapter must be fully set-up and the Cand wearing the Royal Arch Apron and Sash, the White Robe, and the Jewel of the Order, is seated in the north.

The Chapter is opened and business attended to.

**Note:** It is considered desirable that the two parts of the Degree should be taken as close together as possible and in the same Chapter. A Candidate cannot visit a Chapter performing a Royal Arch Degree until the second part of the Degree has been completed. When reporting the Degree Work on the Chapter Meeting Report, the SE should clearly indicate which part of the Degree has been worked. i.e. First, Second or both.

### **Lectures**

The Historical, Symbolic, Jewel and second part of the Mystical lectures are now delivered in accordance with normal procedures.

### **Final Charge**

(pp167-168). The PSOJ places the Cand in front of Z facing east. The Charge is delivered and the Warrant presented.

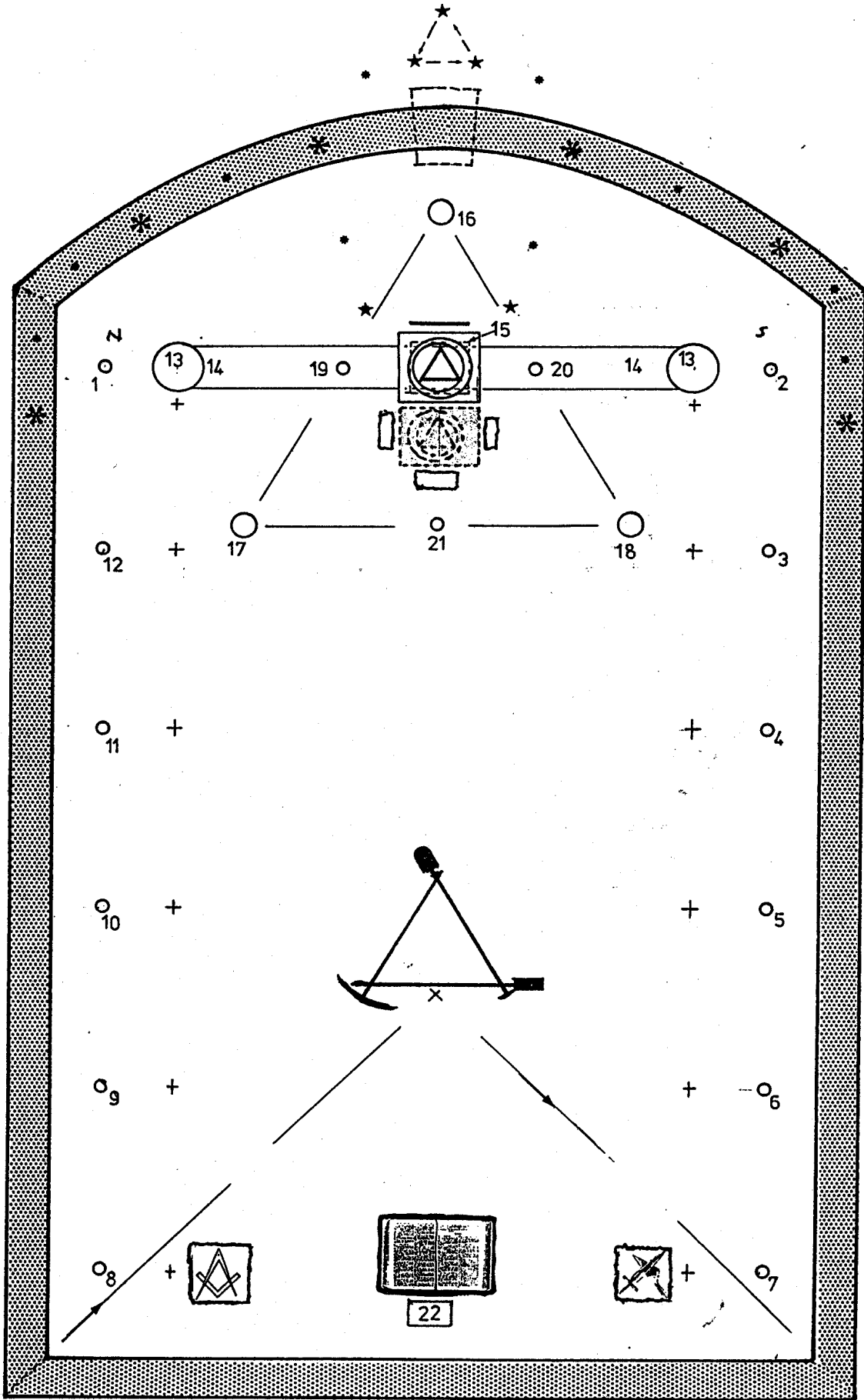
**Note:** The Constitution and By-laws are now presented in the Mark Degree.

**Closing**

The Chapter is then closed and the Closing Address given.

Refer TM-RA-01 The Royal Arch - Opening and Closing the Chapter.

DIAGRAM No. 1



**KEY TO DIAGRAM 1**

1	Tribal Ensign	Judah	Lion
2	Tribal Ensign	Issochar	Ass
3	Tribal Ensign	Zebulon	Ship
4	Tribal Ensign	Reuben	Man
5	Tribal Ensign	Simeon	Tower/Sword
6	Tribal Ensign	Gad	Troop of Horsemen
7	Tribal Ensign	Ephraim	Ox
8	Tribal Ensign	Manasseh	Vine
9	Tribal Ensign	Benjamin	Wolf
10	Tribal Ensign	Dan	Eagle
11	Tribal Ensign	Asher	Cup or Tree
12	Tribal Ensign	Napthali	Hind
13	Columns supporting the Arch		
14	The Arch		
15	The Keystone of the Arch		
16/17/18	The Greater Lights		
19/20/21	The Lesser Lights		
22	Kneeling Cushion		
xxx	Depicts the movement of the PSOJ and SW when attending to the Implements of Labour		
Large*	Depicts the positions of Z, H, J and the Scribes during their movement towards the east. The interspersed dots refer to their steps.		
Small*	Towards the west depicts the positions of the Scribes during their movement towards the Altar. The interspersed dots refer to their steps. Towards the east depicts the positions of Z,H and J during their movement to share the words. The interspersed dots refer to their steps.		