

## ADDRESS TO NEW EXALTEES - 2017

Companions, I am sure you have been welcomed into your several Chapters but I now welcome you into the Royal Arch Chapter Province of Sussex. The meaning of the Royal Arch involves, I think, a more difficult concept than the Craft which deals with our mortal birth, life and death through the teachings of Masonic symbolism and requires you to follow the teachings of your religion during the course of your mortal life on earth

Chapter, however, instructs you that live and practice those teachings – of your religion and of the Craft - in the context of eternity. You now exchange the emblems of mortality for intimations of immortality

In the Craft you were made aware of the prime importance of the three Great Lights. They are the first furnishings you see, indeed you are positively forced to observe them on being restored to material Light. They are drawn to your attention in all three Degrees and, if you have been through a Craft Chair, you will be aware that they are again brought to your notice in the Inner Working and always at that important point in the ceremonies immediately after you have taken your obligations. In Chapter, however, they are relegated, at the time you were raised after your obligation, and I use the word relegated advisedly, to a position on the ground near to your left foot. Only the Volume of the Sacred Law survives to accompany you on the continuation of your Masonic journey in the Royal Arch. What more telling message can there be to you that you had advanced as far as the Craft could take you and that in the Holy Royal Arch you move beyond the teachings of the Craft.

It is vital to your enjoyment of Chapter that you endeavour to understand its message and symbolism but as is wisely stated in one of the lectures you heard at your Exaltation:

“...we should not expect to understand immediately all that we encounter, but try to comprehend its meaning by continued study and enquiry.”

Be patient but observe and ask questions to understand the message and symbolism and if you don't receive the answer to which you are entitled then keep asking others until you do. Understanding what we do and why we do it will make your Royal Arch journey all the more rewarding and enjoyable but do give it time. If you do I am sure you will have a very happy time amongst us.