



Welcome to the Mark Master Degree!

In an effort to broaden an understanding of the Royal Arch Degrees, during the 2018 Grand Sessions (the Royal Arch equivalent of the Grand Lodge Annual Communication) a resolution was passed authorizing Master Masons to be advanced to the degree of Mark Master gratis. It was intended and hoped that the degree would make a favorable impression on recipients as the degree demonstrates many of the key tenants of Royal Arch Masonry – comradeship, charity and service.

Historically, the Mark Master Degree has been identified with the Fellowcraft Degree (even though only a Master Mason may take the degree). The focus of the degree has changed, in part, from a moral and ethical teaching to a more practical labor and service orientation.

We know that the practice of identifying one's work with a unique "mark" has a very long history. During the Middle Ages, there were Books of Marks where craftsmen would record their individual identifying mark which would be placed on their work. This process of adopting of a mark and its importance is a key to the Mark Master Degree

As noted by our neighboring Royal Arch Masons in Alberta:

In the Mark Master Mason Degree, we have a transition, similar to that of passing from school to the working world. We are brought face to face with the practical side of life, and we have to deal with the practical lesson of daily living. Instead of being taught mainly by lecture and precept, we are now participating in dramas that convey the lessons in a more vivid and personal manner. The first lesson taught is that of work and diligence, and throughout the degree we have several lessons that relate in some way to labour.

For instance, after his presentation and obligation, the candidate is sent to the quarries as a workman to prepare material for the Temple that is being built. He is sent to the quarries, not to learn by seeing or being told, but by the practical experience of doing the work himself. And so we are taught by enacting the part that "labour is the lot of man" and that without labour nothing can be built.

He then enters carrying work to be presented to the overseers for inspection and acceptance. It was found that it was not of his own work and was not according to the plans given him. It was rejected, thus teaching the lesson that it is our own labour that counts. That we cannot substitute the work of others and expect it to be used as material for our building.

The craftsman then attempts to obtain wages to which he is not entitled. The work he presents was not a product of his own labour, was not accepted, and therefore no wages were due him. His imposture was discovered and he was punished by a severe reprimand. Nor in life should we expect to be paid for work of other hands. Only by our own labours are we entitled to reward.

The craftsman is then returned to the quarries where, profiting by his mistakes, he resumes labour, and when found worthy, will receive his wages that are his due. Diligence in his labours will finally be rewarded. And so it is in outside life, we must profit by our mistakes. We must persevere in our labours, be diligent in well doing, work unceasingly at our allotted task, and then and only then can we expect to receive our wages.

And finally, when the craftsman is presented with the tools of the degree, he finds that they are not the instruments of measuring or planning, but the tools of labour. The tools to cut and carve, the tools with which to place on the product of his labours the mark of the honest workman who wrought with diligence and care.

The Mark degree seems specially suited to the intensely practical age in which we live. Its immediate teaching is not of the past or the future, but of the strenuous work-a-day present. The first and most impressive lessons is that of diligence, diligence in the pursuit of our calling whatever it may be. Above all, while it teaches the dignity and necessity of labour, it also teaches diligence in the building of character, which is one of the great purposes of Masonic life. Taken from <http://www.royalarchmasonsAlberta.com/index.php/library/aspeslet-library/mmm>

We hope that you will enjoy the Mark Master Degree experience and that you will find the Royal Arch Degrees beneficial and helpful both to your understanding of Masonry and life.

Fraternally,

/S/Andrew J. Olson,
Grand High Priest,
Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons
of Washington

General Notes:

1. There is no cost for the Mark Master Degree. When you become a Mark Master under this program, you will become a “Mark Master Mason at large” associated with the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Washington. You will receive a patent or diploma and membership card from the Grand Chapter, certifying that you are a Mark Master Mason.
2. If you want to go beyond the Mark Master Degree, you will need to submit a petition to an individual Royal Arch Chapter in Washington. However, do not be concerned about this process, we will help you in this. Moving beyond the Mark Master Degree will require payment of the appropriate degree fees.
3. Included in this packet is a form for you to record your individual mark. This should be done as soon as possible after the Degree. Your personal mark will be kept in a Grand Chapter Book of Marks, until such time as you may join a local Royal Arch Chapter, at which time we will send a copy of your Mark Record to your Chapter.



Notice of Intent to Take the Mark Master Degree

To the Grand High Priest, Officers and Companions of the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Washington,

GREETINGS:

I, _____, desire to be made a Mark Master Mason, through the recently enacted program allowing any regular Master Mason to undergo the Mark Master Degree at no cost, and thereby be made a Mark Master Mason at large of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Washington.

In support of this request, I submit the following:

I am a Master Mason in good standing in _____, located at _____, WA
My birthday is _____, I am/I am not married and my spouse's name is _____.
My address is _____, my email address is
_____ and my telephone number is _____.

Signed.

_____. this _____ day of _____, 20____.