



“**WELCOME
TO THE
CRYPTIC
ORDER**”



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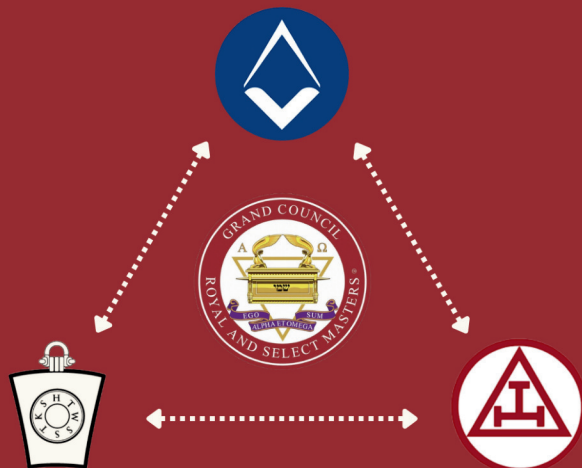
Royal and Select Masters

*Discover the links between the
Mark, Craft and Royal Arch*

DEGREE TIMELINE

The ceremonies of the Royal and Select Masters complete the Solomonic legend, as they prove the essential link between the degrees of Mark Mason, the raising in the Craft, and the Royal Arch

974 - 967 BCE	Preparation of the materials for the start of the budling of the Temple (Mark Mason)
969 - 968 BCE	Building progressing and construction of the secret vault (Select Master)
968 BCE	Death of Hiram Abiff (Royal Master & Raising in Craft)
967 BCE	Dedication of the Temple (Most Excellent Master)
586 BCE	Destruction of the Temple, the word is lost (Super-Excellent Master)
536 BCE	Return to Jerusalem and Rebuilding of the Temple (Excellent Master)
534 BCE	Discover and Recovery of the word (Royal Arch)



Qualifications for Membership

The Order of Royal and Select Masters is open to all Master Masons who are also both Companions of the Royal Arch and Mark Master Masons

The Four Cryptic Degrees conferred within a Council are:

Select Master

This builds on the Mark Degree. It explains the construction of the secret vault, or Crypt by Select Masons, sworn to secrecy and appointed by the three Grand Masters

Royal Master

Considered by many to be one the finest and most beautiful pieces of Masonic ritual, this degree takes place within the holiest of the holies, very shortly before the completion of the Temple. Hiram Abiff inadvertently explains to one of those Select Masters why the Master Word will never be lost.

Most Excellent Master

This degree covers the final stages of the construction of King Solomon's Temple, and its dedication. King Solomon rewards those who assisted in the construction of the secret vault with the title of Most Excellent Master

Super Excellent Master

This degree covers the invasion of Jerusalem, the siege and fall of the city, and the eventual destruction of the Temple by Nebuchadnezzar. The Jews are removed to Babylon, where they remain in captivity for 70 years. The Jews eventually return to Judah to begin the construction of the second Temple, as described in the Royal Arch.

Regalia of the Order

The Regalia of the Order of Royal and Select Masters is unique from other degrees in Freemasonry due to its triangular form.

