



Reviewed 08/02/20

Companion..... it is now my privilege and indeed pleasure to give you a brief explanation of your Supreme Grand Chapter Certificate before it is formally presented to you by the Most Excellent. This certificate is documentary evidence that you are now a Royal Arch Mason and that your name has been entered in the register of the Supreme Grand Chapter of England. It is also a means of Royal Arch identification should you be about to visit a Chapter where you are not known. Additionally, there is a great deal of symbolism on the certificate and it has certain historical content, as such it should be carefully preserved.

There is evidence of the long and indissoluble link between the Craft and Royal Arch on this certificate, for at the head you will see these initials representing the words In the name of the Great Architect of the Universe and not, as you might reasonably have expected, In the name of True & living God Most High, while at the foot you will see the flat mosaic pavement of a Craft Lodge and not the concave flooring of a R.A. Chapter in allusion to the secret vault. In addition, the Seal of the Supreme Grand Chapter, except for the lettering around it, is identical with that of the United Grand Lodge.

Now as to its Symbolism, in the centre is a pedestal. The Pedestal in a R.A. Chapter is a doubled cube, representing Heaven and Earth. Immediately above the Pedestal is the Blazing Star framed by the Sacred Delta, the equilateral triangle, which of course is an ancient symbol referring to God.

At the left of the Pedestal is a Radiating Sun again within a Triangle situated at the centre of two interlaced triangles representing the twofold nature of our Order, Spiritual and Material, and the whole is framed by two Circles or Halos denoting the Deity and Eternity. You may remember that the Circle is referred to in the Royal Arch as an being an Emblem of Eternity, for as it has neither a beginning nor an end, so Eternity is without the beginning of days or end of years.

At the right of the Pedestal is the Seal of the Supreme Grand Chapter. On the quartering's are depictions of an Ox, a Man, a Lion and an Eagle which are here displayed on the Banners behind the Three Principals. At the top of the seal are some microscopic Hebrew characters meaning 'Holiness to the Lord', these words are, or should be engraved on the Sceptre of every Third Principal.

You are now required to sign the Certificate at the table in front of the Scribe E, in the presence of all the Companions here assembled, before it is formally presented to you by the Most Excellent and I congratulate you on being about to receive it.