



Reviewed 08/02/20

## Companion

It is my pleasure to explain to you this certificate from the Supreme Grand Chapter before it is presented to you by the Most Excellent.

This Certificate is the documentary evidence that you are now a Royal Arch Mason and that your name has been registered in the records of Supreme Grand Chapter. 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 Additionally, there is a great deal of symbolism on the document and it has certain historical content, as such it should be carefully preserved.

There is evidence of this long and indissoluble link between the Craft and Royal Arch on this certificate, for at the head you will see these initials of **In The Name Of The Great Architect Of The Universe** and not as you might have expected **In The Name Of The True And 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 Chapter, in allusion to the secret vault. In addition, the seal of the Supreme Grand Chapter, except for the lettering around it, is identical to that of the United Grand Lodge.

Now as to the symbolism, in the centre is a pedestal which in a Royal Arch Chapter is a double cube representing **Heaven and Earth**. Immediately above the pedestal is the Blazing Star framed by the Sacred Delta – the equilateral triangle which is of course the ancient symbol referring to God.

At the left of the pedestal is a radiating sun within a triangle situated at the centre of two interlaced triangles representing our twofold nature **Spiritual and Material** and the whole is framed by two circles or halos denoting the **Deity and Eternity**. You will remember that the circle is referred to in the Royal Arch as an emblem of eternity, as it has neither a beginning nor an end, so is eternity without beginning of days or end of years.

At the right of the pedestal is the seal of the Supreme Grand Chapter. On the quarterings are the depictions of an Ox, a Man, a Lion and an Eagle which are here displayed on the Banners of the Three Principals (These can also be seen in the watermark of the certificate). At the top of the seal are some very tiny Hebrew characters meaning “Holiness to the Lord” and these words are, or should be, engraved on the sceptre of every Third Principal.

I now ask you to complete your certificate at the table in front of Companion Scribe E by writing your usual signature in the presence of all the Companions before the Most Excellent makes the formal presentation.

I congratulate you on being about to receive it.