

Exaltees Readings & Setting the Scene

Over many years, we have often heard the words “The Royal Arch – I don’t understand it!” One of my many tasks has been to look at how we can enhance the experience of every Exaltee who passes through the doorway of every Chapter in the Province, and leaves satisfied, that they have joined something rather special and furthered their masonic knowledge.

We only have one chance to make a first and lasting impression and as the Royal Arch Ceremony is so very different from the three degrees of the Craft, it is hoped that with the adoption of the enclosed “Exaltees” and “Setting the Scene” readings, it will not only help the Exaltee to understand the ritual they are experiencing but also enhance the knowledge of the Companions who are witnessing and are part of the Ceremony of Exaltation. After all, it is all our responsibility to ensure that every Exaltee appreciates and understands the beauty of the ceremony, so that they can begin to enjoy and participate at the earliest opportunity.

The explanation to the Exaltee should be read outside the door of the Chapter by one of the Sojourners preceding the Exaltees first, second and third entrances whilst the “Setting the Scene” dialogue should be read to the companions, by a designated reader inside the Chapter, during the natural intervals when the Sojourners and Candidate have retired from the Chapter room, therefore not adding any time to the delivery of the ceremony.

We have trialled these readings in a couple of Chapters in the Province and they have been very well received by not only the Candidate, but the Companions of the Chapter, and I would therefore commend their use to you.

I hope that you and the members of your Chapter will agree that the use of these readings will enhance their knowledge of the ceremony, help put the Candidate at ease and assist him in enjoying the ceremony he is about to undertake.

If you have any questions and queries about the introduction of these readings, I would be more than happy to hear from you.

David J Hampton

Deputy Grand Superintendent of Hertfordshire