

# Step 9: Introducing the Royal Arch

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*This Step follows the new Freemason's completion of the three degrees of Craft Freemasonry and looks at the Lodge's role in introducing him to the Royal Arch.*

- The Royal Arch is the completion of the journey in pure Ancient Freemasonry and all reference to it being the completion or an extension of the Third Degree has been removed from the ritual and other documents.
- The Royal Arch should have been mentioned in the discussions during [Steps 5](#) and [6](#).
- An ideal point to mention it again is when a Master Mason is presented with his Grand Lodge Certificate.
- There are four reasons to become a Royal Arch Mason:
  - First, because of the indissoluble link between the Craft and Royal Arch as the two component parts of pure Ancient Freemasonry, exemplified by the fact that the Grand Master and Pro Grand Master automatically head both orders.
  - Secondly, to complete the journey of a man from the practical principles taught in the Craft to the spiritual aspect of our nature, as explored in the Royal Arch.
  - The third reason is the ceremony of Exaltation itself, which is one of the most beautiful, colourful and thought provoking in Freemasonry and in which the genuine secrets, that were lost and substituted during the Master Masons' degree, are revealed.
  - Fourthly, for the companionship and enjoyment that comes from meeting a wider circle and from the increase in Masonic experience and knowledge. Joining the Royal Arch should increase one's enjoyment of Freemasonry.
- No pressure should be applied to coerce a Master Mason to join the Royal Arch or any other Order.
- The decision and timing must be his and he should not feel that he is a second class Freemason if he chooses to delay joining or not to join at all.
- The Royal Arch may enhance his membership and enjoyment of the Craft but it is not essential to it.
- The Royal Arch Representative acts as the link between the Royal Arch and the Lodge. His role is to raise the profile of the Royal Arch, to act as a source of information about the Royal Arch and to foster relations with Royal Arch Chapters.