

# Petition for the Cryptic Degrees

To the Illustrious Master, Officers and Companions of  
\_\_\_\_\_ Council of Royal & Select Master Masons:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, having regularly received the several Degrees from Entered Apprentice to that of Royal Arch Mason, inclusive, in duly constituted Masonic Bodies, (or have petition a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the Degrees) and being desirous of making further progress in Masonry, do hereby offer myself as a candidate for the Degrees conferred in your Council, and promise, if admitted, to conform to all of your requirements.

**Applicant's full name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Place and date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**My place of Residence is:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City, State & Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Occupation:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Place of Business:** \_\_\_\_\_

Received the Degree of Master Mason in the month of \_\_\_\_\_ A.D. \_\_\_\_\_,  
in \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge, A.F. & A.M.,  
under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of \_\_\_\_\_.

Member of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge, A.F. & A.M., in the  
City/Town of \_\_\_\_\_ in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Member of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter  
(or, I have petitioned \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter of Royal Arch Masons,  
under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of \_\_\_\_\_ for the Capitular Degrees.)

I have \_\_\_\_\_ applied for the Degrees in \_\_\_\_\_ Council.

*Signed:* \_\_\_\_\_  
FIRST NAME MIDDLE NAME LAST NAME

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a member of \_\_\_\_\_

Council, aforesaid, am acquainted with \_\_\_\_\_,  
that I know him to be a Regular Royal Arch Mason in good standing, (or that he has petitioned a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the degrees) and believe that he is worthy of the honor which he solicits.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SPONSOR'S SIGNATURE



## **Council of Royal & Select Master Masons (Cryptic Degrees)**

### **Royal Master:**

Chronologically this Degree precedes the degree of Master Mason. Its central figures are our three ancient Grand Masters and a Fellowcraft in search of and making demand for that reward which would elevate him to the rank of Master Mason. This Degree is preparatory to and intimately connected with that of Select Master, both of which are essential to clearly understand all the preceding degrees.

### **Select Master:**

This Degree was originally known as a “Council of Select Masters of 27”. It explains why King Solomon selected twenty-four true, tried and trusty Craftsmen with the Three Grand Masters, making twenty-seven and no more, to complete a vital section of the Temple. It is the link which binds the Master Mason Degree to the Royal Arch. It rationally accounts for the concealment and preservation of those essential secrets which were buried in darkness for a period of four hundred and seventy years and which were brought to light at the building of the Second Temple.

### **Super Excellent Master:**

The impressive drama of this Degree is one of the most forceful ever taught. It deals with the siege and destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. and with the resultant captivity of the Hebrew people into Babylonia. It teaches with beautiful symbolism the virtues of Faith, Friendship and Fidelity.

The Council Degrees are often referred to as “The Three Little Jewels” and are to many the most appealing in all Masonry.

Here is completed the Circle of Perfection of Ancient Craft Masonry but to the followers of Christ there is a definite need and desire for application of these impressive lessons and beautiful ceremonies to the Christian believer and his way of life.