Sharing the Work: The Revised Symbolical Lecture

Comp 1: Companions, the symbols of R.A. Masonry and the rites and ceremonies at present in use amongst us have been adopted to impress on our hearts those exalted principles of morality which we, as Companions in this Order, are bound to practise. They also typify that spirit of fraternal union which gives energy and permanency to Freemasonry, enabling it to survive the wreck of mighty empires and resist the destroying hand of time.

The Jewel you wear incorporates the Seal of Solomon enclosed within the circle which has such importance in this Order. You must always wear this Jewel in your Craft Lodge as a visible sign of the indissoluble link between Royal Arch and Craft Masonry.

The principal colours of the Royal Arch are blue and crimson, the traditional colours of two of the veils of King Solomon's Temple. These colours appear on your apron and sash, where the indented pattern is an emblem of regal dignity and power.

Comp 2: The form of a Royal Arch Chapter, when properly arranged, approaches as nearly as circumstances will permit that of a catenarian arch. Thus we preserve a memorial of the vaulted shrine in which the Sacred Name was deposited.

In R.A. Masonry we acknowledge six lights. The three lesser represent the light of the Law and the Prophets, alluding to the Patriarchal, Mosaical and Prophetic dispensations. The three greater allude to the Sacred Name itself and also refer to the Supreme Being's powers of creation, preservation and annihilation.

Comp 3: The ensigns on the staves (points to them) are the distinctive bearings of the twelve tribes of Israel and the four principal banners (indicates them) represent the leading standards of the four divisions of their army. They display a man to personify intelligence and understanding, a lion to represent strength and power, an ox to denote patience and assiduity, and an eagle to indicate the promptness and celerity with which the will and pleasure of the Great I AM must ever be executed.
Comp 4: The bearings on the sceptres denote the regal, prophetical and sacerdotal or priestly offices each of which is conferred in a peculiar manner accompanied by the communication of particular secrets. As a Master Mason you are already aware that the VSL, square and compasses are regarded as the three great lights of Freemasonry.

Comp 5: The sword and trowel commemorate the valour of those who rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem after the return from Babylon, each with the trowel in his hand and the sword by his side as ever ready to defend the City and Holy Sanctuary against the enemies who at that time surrounded them. So should you be ever ready to uphold and defend the principles of the Craft and of the Holy Royal Arch.

Comp 6: The pick, crowbar and shovel may be considered as the working tools of the Degree, and symbolise that fearsome day when the graves will give up their dead and we shall meet our tremendous but merciful judge, and may dare to hope that the spirit will be raised to immortal life and everlasting bliss.