



Provincial Grand Chapter of Cumberland & Westmorland

Masonic Hall, Station Road, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 6BT

R or H Sign – Saluting the Pedestal

In November 1972 the Pro First Grand Principal expressed his concern at the misuse of the Reverential or Hailing Sign and pointed out that because of its origins as explained in the Mystical Lecture, it should never be directed to any individual, but always to the Pedestal on which the Sacred Word was found.

Some years later, in November 1985, the President of the Committee for General Purposes found it necessary to remind Grand Chapter of that statement and yet we still have members of private Chapters misusing the sign.

Companions were again reminded that in accordance with Royal Arch Regulation No 4 of the Supreme Grand Chapter Regulations there are no salutes to any Companion in Royal Arch Masonry.

At the Regular Convocation held on November 10th 2004 a recommendation that the Reverential or Hailing Sign should no longer be given before addressing the Principals for the first time was approved by Supreme Grand Chapter.

From that date it is a mandatory requirement that the Reverential or Hailing Sign is only given when opening or closing a Chapter, or by Companions who arrive after the Chapter is opened or leave before the Chapter is closed.

Also, for the comfort of the Companions - It is permissible and recommended that the R or H Sign is fully discharged after the 4th 'agree' in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

At other moments during the meeting when a Companion feels it appropriate to acknowledge the Principals (such as when rising to speak), a 'court bow' will suffice.

Chapter DCs are requested to remind their members of this requirement.