

Short Talk # 1

The Triple Tau and Triangle



The Triple Tau and the Triangle are common insignias for Royal Arch Masons. We find them on our aprons, rings, lapel pins and other items. How many of you companions, could do more than simply identify the two emblems? We will explain what the Triple Tau and the Triangle are as symbols and show how they remind you of your connection to the Ancient Truths of Life.

Lets' begin with the Triple Tau. If you need a picture, simply look down upon your Royal Arch apron. A version of the Scottish Rite ritual describes the Triple Tau as the "compound character known as the Triple Tau as one of Royal Arch Masonry's emblems". Calling it a "compound character" helps to explain it better.

A Triple Tau is literally three Taus, the Tau being the 19th letter of the Greek alphabet. The Tau is not our English letter "T". The Triple Tau of Royal Arch Masonry actually consists of 3 T's linked in the center and joined at their base.

Now that we see it as it really is, in parts, this mystical character may be signified in a few different ways. First, the names of Hiram of Tyre, and Hiram Abif, appears in the Phoenician language with the same letters "H" and "T" as they do in English. Therefore, the Triple Tau takes on the interpretation of the initial letters of Hiram Abif's name, similar to a Mark Master Mark.

Secondly, it also signifies T. H. "*Templum Hierosloym*", the Temple of Jerusalem, and when used as the Royal Arch symbol, some jurisdictions teach that the wear acknowledges himself as a servant of the true God; who established His worship, and to whose service that glorious Temple was erected.

Third, Christians in ancient Greece or Rome, used a "Tau Cross". So the basis of a Triple Tau in early church history would mean the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. This Royal Arch symbol therefore aptly recalls to our minds our constant duty to worship the Great Elohim; the Most High; the Everlasting; the Almighty God.

A triangle is a simple shape in Geometry that has taken on great spiritual significance and symbolism. Royal Arch Masons use an Equilateral Triangle. The Scottish Rite ritual teaches that the "equilateral triangle was much revered by ancient nations as containing the greatest and most abstruse mysteries". As a symbol of God, it denotes a Triune God.

The first book of the Bible supports multiple facets of the same God. In Genesis 1, verse 26 it reads "Then God said "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness". The equilateral triangle shows equality with its three angles of the same degrees. In one way, it represents Deity by its' equality or perfection of design and proportion.

The Triangle is a symbol of divine union and an emblem of the mysterious Triune, equally representing the attributes of Deity and his Triune being. The One True God is known by His attributes:

- Omnipotent (All Powerful)
- Omnipresence (Eternal)
- Omniscience (All Knowing)

What do you see when you look at the Royal Arch symbols of the Triple Tau and Triangle?