

**ADDRESS TO THE COMPANIONS
INSTALLATION AS PROVINCIAL GRAND SUPERINTENDENT**

ON THE 22ND FEBRUARY 2012

Companions,

It is a great honour to be installed as the Provincial Grand Superintendent in the Holy Royal Arch. I must begin by thanking the Most Excellent Pro First Grand Principal for installing me and I am equally anxious to thank all those Excellent Companions who are representing Supreme Grand Chapter for the part they have played in ensuring that this ceremony is so impressive and such a success.

Since I became a member of the Royal Arch, I have derived immense pleasure and satisfaction in my own Chapter. The aims and objectives of the Order are ones that I strongly support and my participation in Royal Arch has enabled me to meet new and genuine friends who have become an important part of my life. With this in mind, I have no hesitation in saying to all those Companions who are here — please encourage more brethren in our Lodges to become members of it, My personal experience has taught me that they will find it to be very rewarding.

Most of us decide to join a particular Chapter, because we are impressed by the “manner of man” in it. From the moment I joined my Chapter, I felt that I was both welcome and involved. Thankfully, no-one realised that I suffered from delusions of adequacy. No-one talked down to me as if I had forgotten my “gym kit”. They all had principles, but if you didn’t like them — they had others.

I have always believed that you cannot be a responsible member of society unless you are prepared to play a part in “shaping it”. As members of the Royal Arch, and as Freemasons, we are in a position to do just that. And shape it for the better!!

Anyone today can so easily stay on the touchline, become armchair critics or “hand wringers”. The Royal Arch, with its ideals, the bonding, and the vision we share, makes clear that we are prepared to accept the responsibilities of involvement and leadership.

Vision is all well and good, but Vision without commitment is “Hallucination”.

Those Excellent Companions I will shortly invest with Provincial Honours as well as those who are to be promoted, have already shown their commitment to the Order. This is an important day for you and I congratulate you on your preferment. I also encourage you as leaders of the Royal Arch in this Province to do all that you can to seize the moment and ensure that it continues to thrive in the future.

The past is history, the present is a challenge and tomorrow is an opportunity! So, in the words of one of my great mentors, Excellent Companion the Reverend Canon Geoffrey Kershaw — in one of his more amusing graces he gave before a meal — “Let us not be like porridge — grey, stiff and difficult to stir, let us be like cornflakes: fresh, crisp and ready to serve!”

Companions, I look forward, with the help of the True and Living God Most High, to sharing a bright future with you throughout our wonderful Royal Arch Province.