

Raising vs Exaltation

In Freemasonry, the terms "Raising" and "Exaltation" refer to different ceremonial processes, representing progression through different degrees and orders:

Raising (Master Mason Degree):

- This is the third and final degree in Craft Freemasonry.
- It signifies a Brother's journey to becoming a Master Mason and achieving a foundational understanding of Masonic principles.
- The ritual involves symbolic lessons related to Hiram Abiff, the legendary architect of King Solomon's Temple, and the loss and recovery of important knowledge.

Exaltation (Holy Royal Arch Degree):

- This is the ceremony by which a Master Mason becomes a Royal Arch Mason.
- The Holy Royal Arch is considered a separate order from Craft Freemasonry, but a natural progression for a Master Mason to complete their Masonic journey.
- It completes the journey started in Craft Freemasonry, particularly by developing the spiritual aspects introduced in the Master Mason degree.
- The ceremony is based on the biblical story of the return from Babylonian captivity and the rebuilding of the Second Temple in Jerusalem.
- It imparts further moral and ethical lessons, and focuses on the search for truth and spiritual enlightenment.
- The symbolism of the Royal Arch ceremony is rich and often connected to themes of life, death, and rebirth, and the pursuit of a closer relationship with God.

In summary:

Feature	Raising (Master Mason)	Exaltation (Holy Royal Arch)
Masonic Order	Craft Freemasonry	Holy Royal Arch (appendant/concordant body)
Signifies	Becoming a Master Mason, achieving foundational knowledge	Completing Masonic journey, exploring spiritual aspects
Ritual Focus	Hiram Abiff, loss and recovery of knowledge	Rebuilding of the Temple, search for truth and spirituality

## Raising vs Exaltation

Relationship	Master Mason is a prerequisite for Exaltation	Exaltation builds upon the Master Mason degree
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Think of it this way:

- Raising is like completing your foundational education.
- Exaltation is like pursuing a higher degree, delving into more advanced philosophical and spiritual concepts.

Both ceremonies are significant in a Mason's journey, but they represent distinct phases and objectives

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines it as: "1. an act of exalting ; the state of being exalted 2. an excessively intensified sense of well being, power or importance 3. an increase in degree of intensity."

Mackey's Lexicon of Freemasonry defines Exalted as follows: "A candidate is said to be exalted, when he receives the Degree of the Holy Royal Arch. Exalted means, elevated or lifted up, and is applicable both to a particular ceremony of the Degree, and to the fact this degree, in the rite in which it is practiced, constitutes the summit of ancient masonry"