



## *Provincial Grand Chapter of Warwickshire*

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### *Significance of the Scripture Readings in the Exaltation*

**Q.** What is the significance of the Scriptural texts read by the Second and Third Principals when the candidate is lowered into the vault?

**A.** As it is the Third Principal which reads the first text, I'll start with him. The first part of his reading is from Proverbs chapter 2:, verses 1 to 9. The reference is to the highest gift of wisdom, storing up knowledge of God. One Biblical commentator puts it as a living relationship of faithfulness and trust with the source of wisdom; he compares the verses read with the book of Hosea chapter 4 verse 1 which calls upon the Children of Israel to hear the word of the Lord and chapter 6 verse 6 which calls upon them to return to the Lord. The second part, beginning 'Happy is the man . . .' is from Proverbs chapter 3, verses 13 to 20; these deal with the happiness of the wise.

The compilers of the ritual probably chose these verses in order to impress upon the candidate the necessity of seeking wisdom with a receptive and expectant attitude, an attentiveness of sense and reason and an active search. This should help him achieve a life free from failure, from fear and from panic. By seeking wisdom, he would also find righteousness.

The text read by the Second Principal comes from Haggai chapter 2 verses 1 to 9; these verses give an encouraging message to those engaged in the re-building of the Temple, exhorting the people to realize that though the Temple they are now seeing before them appears as nothing compared to the memories of the former Temple, yet must they recognize the presence of God in their midst. It is emphasized that the new age is like that of the exodus of the Children of Israel from their Egyptian bondage; God is again in the midst of His people and they need therefore have no fear.

The ritual compilers were obviously anxious to ensure that the candidate was fully aware of the importance of realizing the Omni-presence of God.

*E. Comp. Harry Mendoza*