

# Short Stories from the Royal Arch, People and Objects

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*By John Cavanagh - 22 minutes*

John has prepared short accounts of notable personalities connected to the Royal Arch story from Moses to Ezra and Jehoakin to Zachariah. There are also short sections on the Ark of the Covenant, the Royal Arch colours and the Sacred Acacia.

These may be presented altogether or in any combination and by one or a number of presenters.

## 1. People

- a) Moses
- b) King Solomon
- c) King Cyrus
- d) Zerubbabel
- e) Joshua
- f) Haggai
- g) King Hiram of Tyre
- h) Hiram Abif (Elf and Safety)
- i) Nehemiah
- j) Ezra
- k) Jehoakin
- l) Boaz the Barley Farmer
- m) Jeremiah
- n) Tubal Cain
- o) Neduzaradan
- p) Nebuchadnezzar
- q) Zachariah
- r) Adoniram

## 2. Objects

- a) The Ark of the Covenant
- b) What are The Royal Arch Colours?
- c) The Sacred Acacia

## Moses

My Name is Moses, and I am an Israelite by birth. I lived in Egypt, and I was a Prince, but I had to flee to Saudi Arabia as I had murdered a man who had killed one of my Countrymen. I became a shepherd, and it was during this time that the Almighty spoke to me from a burning bush. I was afraid, but even more so when the Almighty told me to go and ask the King of Egypt to let Gods people go. The King of Egypt was the most powerful man on Earth. The Almighty told me to go to the twelve tribes and tell them that their God was to lead them out of Egypt. I said to the Almighty: "When I go to the children of Israel and say to them: The God of your ancestors has sent me to you", they will say: "But what is his name?" So what can I tell them? And for the first time since the dawn of time itself the Name of the True and Living God Most High was revealed. The Almighty said: "Tell them I am that I am has sent me to you".

God had appeared to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob but had never revealed his name. So I led the twelve tribes out of Egyptian bondage and into the wilderness on a journey to lead them to the Promised Land. It would be a long journey but with God on our side we were strong. We were no longer slaves, we were free at last.

## King Solomon

I am the son of King David, I am Solomon, and I greet you all well It was me, I built the Great Temple at Jerusalem at the request of my father. He himself had neither the money nor the manpower to build it. But I made the Kingdom into a strong Nation and work was begun. I am not only famed for my Temple, but also my great wisdom. You may ask why? Two women came before me, each claiming to be the mother of a baby. They both decided that I should choose to whom the child belonged I considered the situation and called for Captain of my Guard.

I raised the child aloft, told him to take out his sword, cut the child in two and give half each to the two women; surely that was the fairest option? One of the women screamed:

"Stop! Stop! Give the baby to her, she is the real Mother".

"She is not," I said, "You are!", for you would rather lose the child than see it hurt.

"You are the real mother" I handed the child back to this woman. It is from situations like this that the phrase "The Wisdom of Solomon" came into being.

My Temple was the most magnificent edifice ever built, and how pleasing it would have been, had it lasted until this day, when the Majesty of the Almighty might have been seen by the whole world Freemasonry is a fraternity of men, who strive for self-improvement, by building themselves up from rough ashlar to perfect stones, and how fitting it is, that our Organisation is based around the architecture of my perfect Temple.

### King Cyrus

The thing that I am remembered for most is that in the first year of my reign I was willing to let the people I had acquired in Babylon disperse, and even to assist them to return to their native lands with my written consent and support. I even encouraged the Jews to rebuild their Holy Temple to their God; He isn't my God I think that I am smarter than most, and I saw Babylon overcrowded with beggars and refuse in the streets and I saw an opportunity for these people to be better employed elsewhere; you see Babylon is full of peoples of other lands that my predecessors had captured and enslaved. I saw their mistakes and gave the returning peoples of many lands tasks to fulfil; thereby my empire would be more productive. But friendly territories in the western borders would be a safer proposition as a defence against the ever watchful jealousy of Egypt. Did their God inspire me to issue my famous proclamation, well that would be telling, but to the Jews I must have been inspired by God. It was a miracle, a prophecy come true, a dream realised. They now had the freedom to return to Jerusalem and to rebuild their Temple. How could I be any other than Gods servant doing His will?

### Zerubbabel

I am a Bodyguard of King Darius who ruled after King Cyrus. Two Companions and I were thinking what was the strongest: wine, the King, or women. We placed this question under the Kings pillow for him to find on awakening. This he did, and summoned us to the great hall. The King asked us each to discuss the answers for all of the Royal Court to hear, and he would decide on the wisest answer. My first companion spoke for wine: "Wine is the strongest, as it makes all men err; it makes the mind of the King and the beggar the same. It makes all men forget their friends and draw their swords against each other. This makes wine the strongest" The other spoke for the King: "Men only have power over animals, but the King has power over men. Men will kill for the King, and die for him. This makes the King the strongest". I spoke for women: "Kings are born of women, and so are the winemakers. Women have the power to make men forget their friends, and their family, and their Country. But of all of these, is not the truth the strongest. Truth endures and is strong forever; it chooses neither side and has no partiality, and everyone approves its deeds. Blessed be the God of truth. All the people shouted: "Great is truth, strongest of all" All: Truth, yes truth, we want truth. The King said to me: "Ask what you will and I shall give it to you". I asked that he fulfils King Cyrus's proclamation and returns all the exiles home, and helps them to rebuild the Temple. The King arose, and kissed me, and commanded this to be done. I sank to my knees, looked to the heavens and said: "Blessed are you who have given me wisdom; I give thanks O Lord of our ancestors "What is your name?" the King asked me I said: "My name is Zerubabul".

## Joshua

You called me Joshua, WRONG, WRONG, WRONG

You keep calling me Joshua when my name is Jeshua People therefore confuse me with the Joshua of Moses time and that's a long time ago.

But I suppose over time people do mispronounce names I'm the head of Ninth Priestly Order, and a Levite, therefore I do not have to fight or do a lot of work I am a great thinker.

The Levites were the religious men charged with doing the Lords work. They were really the thirteenth tribe of the Israelites.

I was the first High Priest of the reconstructed Temple at Jerusalem.

## Haggai

I am Haggai, and I was one of those captives who returned from Babylon and I began my ministries about sixteen years after the return. The Lord spoke to me and said:

“My People, why should you be living in well built houses, while my temple lies in ruins”.

The building of the second Temple had been stopped for fifteen years, and along with others we exhorted the people and roused them from their lethargy, and induced them to take advantage of the favourable opportunity that had arisen in the change of policy of the Persian Government.

I am remembered for my four prophecies delivered over three months to urge the people to rebuild the Temple. I was a strong supporter of the Officials of this time, specifically the Governor, and my colleague Jeshua.

## King Hiram of Tyre

I am King Hiram of Tyre. The city of Tyre grew from a satellite of Sidon into the most important of Phoenician cities, and became part of a large trading empire, a sort of early Cash and Carry. I allied myself with King Solomon of Israel, as he was the upcoming power of the region, and I had much love for his Father King David, but chiefly I saw it as a great business opportunity, a bit like the Dragons Den

Through my alliance with Solomon, I ensured myself access to the major trade routes to Egypt, Arabia and Mesopotamia. Solomon and I joined forces in starting a trade route over the Red Sea, connecting the Israelite harbour of Ezion-Geber with a land called Ophir. We both grew rich through this trade and I sent Solomon architects, workmen and cedar wood to build the First Temple in Jerusalem, not free though, but in exchange for goods such as olive oil and bushels of wheat.

Most importantly though I'm associated with masonry having sent my master craftsmen, Hiram Abif, to serve as the construction foreman in the building of the first Temple in Jerusalem. Some believe that we are the same person because we share a name and are both from Tyre. But this is not so, Hiram Abif should be recognised as the cunning man sent

by me, King Hiram, to help build the temple. And as for me, I am the finest builder's merchant and labour supplier of the Middle East.

### Hiram Abif Elf and Safety

(Elf enters, carrying a Health and Safety board, and wearing an Elfs hat)

Whoa whoa whoa, hold on a moment, we don't want any more accidents on this site

(Walks around the Lodge and places the Health and Safety board against the Senior Warden's pedestal, and then stands in silence)

Narrator: What's with the hat?

(pointing to the hat) Elf (pointing to board) and Safety Tut

Greetings to you all. Well what a job I've got; you see I'm a man skilled in bronze work, silver, gold, and iron, wood and textiles, fine linen in blue, purple, and crimson; there's no end to my talents. I'm an ancient master builder, although I turn up when I promise to, given a month or two either way due to the lack of transport.

My father has passed away and I care for my mother in the city of Tyre where we live. We are from the tribe of Naphtali, and I am loyal to my King Hiram. It was he who asked me to come to Jerusalem to assist with the building of this new Temple. I'm known in Masonic circles as the Principle Architect of King Solomon's Temple, but my special contribution was the two great pillars at the entrance, which were cast in clay banks in the plain of Jordan between Succoth and Zeredathah.

They say I'm filled with wisdom and understanding, but it seems to me that I've landed myself with one hell of a job, and I can only hope for such a bonus as befits the quality of my work. Anyway, I'll leave my hard hat here as I've a meeting in the Temple at noon, and with the quality of my workmanship, nothing is going to hit me on the head!

### Nehemiah

(Enters carrying a waiter's tray, and with a white cloth over his arm)

A drink kind Sir? A drink Sir? Perhaps later?

I am a waiter at the royal palace to the Persian King, Artaxerxes. I have heard that after the building of the temple by Zerubabul, the people were still persecuted by their enemies, and they were unable to rebuild the city walls. In times of worry and trouble my first impulse always is to pray, so I spent four months in prayer before making a request to the King to let me go to Jerusalem. The King, hearing of my concerns, immediately sent me with a suitable guard, and a royal letter giving me assistance and full powers as Governor, to rebuild the city walls. I suffered accusations of treasonous intentions against the King, who instructed the rebuilding to be stopped. But the builders with their trowel in hand and sword at their side finished the city walls in fifty-two days before the Kings command arrived. After returning back to Babylon I again travelled back to Jerusalem With increased powers from the King, I helped erected the city gates, repaired the houses of the city, and I took measures to increase the number of the inhabitants within the walls, so that they could adequately defend themselves. I then completed the repairs of the Temple and devoted

myself to rectifying many grave evils. After completing my tasks in Jerusalem I returned to my post with the King of Persia

A drink Sir?

Ezra

I am a priest and a skilled teacher in the Laws of Moses, and a trained teacher in the statutes and regulations of the law. By my own request, I was commissioned by the Persian King, Artaxerxes, to go to Jerusalem carrying rich gifts and offerings for the service of the Temple. My returning party comprised of nearly two thousand people, including priests, junior priests, and servants, and after a journey of nearly four months we reached the safety of Jerusalem. When there, I re-established the Law of Moses amongst the people. But the people still had a tendency to wander away from the words of God. I was appalled because of the people's sin and was deeply shaken, I tore my clothing and hair and went to the Temple and fell on my knees to the Lord in prayer. Whilst in Jerusalem, I was actively engaged with Nehemiah who was then the Civil Governor. I collected the ancient Sacred Books of his people and then prepared and circulated copies of the Holy Scriptures. I started up the services of religious groups outside the Temple called Synagogues. After all this hard work I returned again to Babylon to live the remainder of my days

Jehoakin

It was I who led you when we were led into captivity by the evil King Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon. I had reigned for three months when this took place. I am the son of Jehoakim. My father was killed by Nebuchadnezzar and I his son, Jeconiah, took his place and I changed my name to Jehoakin in honour of him. I became your King. I was 18 years old when we were taken into captivity and I was the last King of Judah.

When Nebuchadnezzar died, his son released me. I had spent 37 years in exile and was invited by him to sit at an honourable place around his table above the other Kings in exile. I never returned to Jerusalem. My life is a good illustration of the philosophy "During prosperity a man must never forget the possibility of misfortune and, in adversity, must not despair of prosperity's return". The black and white or lightness and darkness of the chequered pavement in your lodges serves as a graphic reminder of this.

Boaz the Barley Farmer

In the days that the Judges ruled, around three thousand BC, before Israel had a King, there was a great famine. There lived in Bethlehem, which was in Judah, a man named Elimelech, his wife Naomi, and two sons, and they moved to the land of Moab.

Things went well until Elimelech died, leaving his widow and two sons to fend for themselves. The boys both married local Moabitish women. After about ten years the boys also died, leaving Naomi in a foreign country with no husband or sons, and with two daughters-in-law to care for.

News came that the land of Judah had been blessed with a bumper harvest, and so Naomi decided to return home, taking her daughters-in-law with her. During the journey she decided that they would have better chances of re-marriage back with their own families in Moab, where the prospect of a rare mixed race wedding would be much reduced She said:

"Go home, my daughters, and may the Lord be as kind to you as you have been to me " She kissed them both and said goodbye. The two women were distraught, and begged to stay with Naomi. After much persuasion, one went home, but the other said:

"Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following thee, for wither thou goest I will go, and where you lodgest I will lodge, your people shall be my people, and your God my God, where you diest, I will die, and there I will be buried "

So they returned to Judah at the time of the barley harvest. To make ends meet the girl went into the fields and asked the supervisor if she could pick up the grain the workers had left on the ground. He gave her permission, and so she collected the grain which had been left. After gleaning all morning she rested under a tree to eat her meagre midday meal. The owner of the field returned and saw her, and discovered that she had been there since early dawn collecting what little she could. There seems to be no doubt that the owner was smitten with her. He heaped many privileges upon her, taking her to have lunch with his workers, and then having her work with the rest of his workforce, with instructions that whatever she wanted she could have. Extra bundles of corn were even prepared for her to take home

As it's not yet past the 9pm watershed I'm reluctant to relate the steamy details of their relationship, suffice to say you can read it later for yourselves in the book of Ruth, but it's very rarely read out in churches. No surprise then, that the owner of the field married the foreign girl.

They had a son whom they called Obed, who had a son called Jesse, who had eight sons, one of whom was called David. He became King of Israel, and had a son called Solomon who followed him as King Solomon built a famous Temple, of which magnificent structure there was nothing more remarkable, or that more particularly captured the attention, than the two great pillars which were placed at the porchway or entrance. That on the left was named after the great grandfather of David, a Prince, and a Ruler, in Israel.

Is that the end of the story? Well no, because Solomon had a son, who had a son, who had a son, who had a son, who had a son, and twenty five generations later came along a boy called Joseph, who loved a girl called Mary, and they lived in Nazareth They had a son called Jesus, Jesus of Nazareth, whom some say is the Son of God.

Is that the end of the story? Well no, because about two and a half thousand years after that land owner saw that girl sitting under that tree eating her lunch, a Masonic brotherhood was formed, and they adopted a word as a form of recognition. A word so highly prized that they never mentioned it by name, but always by letters or syllables. This word is used all over the world, even at this moment somewhere within our time zone it may be referred to in answer to the question, "Whence is this word derived?" - F T L H P A T P O E O K S T

It will be used in about five hours time in the maritime provinces of Canada, Newfoundland, Quebec, Nova Scotia, in the New England states of America, in Maine, New Brunswick, Philadelphia, Boston, New York, Washington, Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, Florida, the Islands of the Caribbean, in Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina

It will cross the Andes to Chile, it will cross the bible belt of America journeying the great states of Ohio, Minnesota, Colorado, through the great Masonic state of Utah to California. It will cross the great plains of Canada, calling at Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and will sweep across the Rocky mountains to British Columbia.

Never ceasing on its journey, as the earth turns on its axis, it starts across the mighty Pacific Ocean, calling at islands on its way until it reaches the east coast of Asia, having alighted in Brisbane in Australia, onto the famous cricket cities of Melbourne, Sydney, and Adelaide, and across the outback to Perth on the west coast. To Singapore, Malaysia, countries of the old British Empire across India, to Africa, Egypt, and the middle east, to Turkey, Poland, and then the Baltic states of Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania Through Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and the Benelux countries Having crossed southern Europe, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, and Spain, just twenty four hours after it started its journey it arrives back in the United Kingdom to begin its worldwide journey once again, never stopping.

In many languages the question is always asked, "Whence is this word derived?"

To find the real answer we must go back to that family in Nazareth and trace the twenty five generations back to Solomon, to David, to Jesse, to Obed, and to Obeds mother, the girl under the tree eating her meagre lunch, with her few grains of corn, and facing the land owner. She didn't know he was kind and considerate, thoughtful, generous, compassionate, benevolent, gentle and friendly. She didn't know he would give his name to the L H P A T P O E O K S T. She didn't know he would be remembered daily some three thousand years hence. She didn't even know that his name was B, O, A, Z, BO, AZ

### Jeremiah

I am thought of as one of the greater prophets, and was called to prophetic office during the reign of King Josiah, and I proclaimed his death as a national calamity. During the reign of Jehoakim, I was commanded to write my prophecies down and to read them to the people.

I received a message from God that Nebuchadnezzar was on his way to capture the city of Jerusalem and burn it with fire. This enraged the rulers of Jerusalem and I was cast into Prison for predicting this nonsense.

I was still in confinement when Nebuchadnezzar arrived. He released me and showed me great kindness allowing me to choose the place of my residence. I travelled to Egypt for the remainder of my life trying to turn the people back towards God.

### Tubal Cain

Good evening everybody; I am Tubal Cain, a metalworker of great fame I am the brother of Jabal and Jubal, who were the originators of several industries and arts. The name Cain has been translated in modern days to Smith; meaning worker. We are from an area southeast of the Black Sea and from many years before David and Solomon, in the days when primitive man used tools of stone or flint to work naturally occurring pieces of gold, silver, copper and iron into weapons, tools and ornaments for use in war or peace.

It was I who first utilized fire to liberate metals from their ores, and there came that magic moment, some thousands of years ago in Mesopotamia, when copper ores bearing tin were smelted. This first alloying of metals launched the Bronze Age, a great step forward in the ascent of man. This early metallurgy promoted the first explosion in international trade, as



bronze coinage formed a novel means of exchange, and the cradle of civilization in the Eastern Mediterranean area thus spread to Europe.

It is not surprising that nearly all the Working Tools presented to us in our Craft Degrees are essential tools in the fabrication of metals. One cannot imagine a tool engineer without the benefit of the pencil and the rule, and the square and the compasses

#### Neduzaradan

I am Neduzaradan the Captain of the Guard of the Army of King Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon I am his deputy and next in rank to the King.

He sent me to Jerusalem to capture the city and the people of stature and influence. I was commanded to show kindness to the prophet Jeremiah who had predicted our arrival much to the disgust of the Jewish leaders, who threw him in prison. I returned to Babylon with my captives and the treasures from the Temple, leaving the menial people behind to till the land. Five years passed and I was again sent back to Jerusalem to capture the rest of the great and the good. This time I carried some 745 people from Jerusalem back to Babylon.

#### Nebuchadnezzar

Good evening peoples of Jerusalem I'm the Great King Nebuchadnezzar and I do not greet you well; in fact I don't like you at all. The sooner you are taken in chains back to Babylon the better. So you've built this Temple to your God; he's not my God, so I shall show this Temple the contempt it deserves, and take from it whatever I want; try and stop me if you can. I have a vast army and miles of chains, and an overwhelming sense of hatred and jealousy to you all. You'll have many years to wait before I get involved in your story. Years of joy, years of tears, years of pain, years of horror, and then it gets really rough for you. For you never quite learnt from past mistakes. So I'm going to let you in on a little secret of my own, for as you go about your business, I've been making plans to visit you, along with my vast army. But this isn't going to be a social call for tea and biscuits. Such is not the case; I don't like this Temple and all it stands for. I suggest you consider its future. And as for you I am going to take all the great and the good back as slaves to Babylon and teach you about hard work and punishment, whilst leaving the rest of this inarticulate menial rabble to farm this dusty land. Well what happened, did I come? Well your great prophet Jeremiah foretold of my imminent arrival, and what happened to him? You made up some ridiculous charge, and threw him in jail.

#### Zachariah

Good Evening, you've probably never heard of me,  
My name is Zechariah, public relations and team building, and I'm here as a representative, I refer to him as the Big G ( pointing upwards ) it's a bit informal but we have been in conversation for quite a while, you know him as God Almighty.

He isn't very pleased with you lot. Not only have you been cheating him by only sacrificing old and ill animals and diseased crops but I've been sold down the river especially by you (Pointing to Z) you've taken all the glory and forgotten about me. Have you forgotten that it was I who encouraged the people to support you and build the Temple and I prophesised

that you would put the last stone in place. But the final stab in the back is that you've left me out of the historical records. Have you no shame? Thanks pal, I'll help you again.

But I will leave you with words which you might remember and very important words they are.

"He who faithfully performs his duty in a subordinate station (indicates himself), is as justly entitled to esteem and respect as he (Points to Z) who is entrusted with supreme authority?"

#### Adoniram

I am Adoniram, and I am in charge of the thirty thousand workmen employed producing timber for the building work. Ten thousand are sent each month to work as tree fellers.

No! Not three fellas, tree fellers You just can't get the staff these days.

The Timber is harvested far away in the forests of Lebanon and is floated down the coast to the port of Joppa. That was the easy part for the docks here at Joppa, or Jaffa as it's known today had very steep sides, and a vast number of men were employed to haul the timber up the banks. We didn't have fork lift trucks in those days; everything was done by hand with rope and donkeys. It was dragged up the banks for transportation to Jerusalem some thirty five miles away. The Cedar from Lebanon was a quality timber. We used it on the floor and the lower walls of the Temple, and constructed the roof from vast beams.

When we've hauled these logs to Jerusalem, we have to take back vast pots of olive oil and wheat, which Solomon is using to pay for the timber. This temple must be costing a fortune. Allow me to let you into a little secret: I don't really want to be involved with timber, I want to build this temple, and who knows one day if my dream may come true. Anyway I will go and see how my tree fellers are getting on.

#### The Ark of the Covenant

In the Jewish religion there are many sacred people and sacred places but very few sacred objects. The most sacred object was the Ark of the Covenant.

A wooden chest 4 feet long and 2 feet 6 inches wide, covered on top by a slab overlaid in gold with two cherubim, which were winged lions with human heads.

It contained the tablets of the Ten Commandments handed to Moses by God.

It travelled with the Israelites throughout the 40 years in the wilderness and was placed in the middle of the camp surrounded by a tent or tabernacle. It remained with the Israelites until King Solomon built the Temple at Jerusalem in 930BC to house it in the Holy of Holies. There it remained in darkness, visited but once a year by the High Priest on "Yom Kippur" the holiest day of the year.

In 587BC the Babylonians captured Jerusalem and destroyed the Temple. At that point the most sacred object of the Israelites disappears from history. When our Companions returned from captivity and the sojourners found the Holy of Holies whilst building the second Temple, the Ark was not there. Neither is it mentioned in the Sacred books of Ezra and Nehemiah.

So where did it go? Nobody knows!

The most likely answer is that the Babylonians melted it down for the gold when they destroyed the Temple, as they were not sensitive to historic items of the realms they captured.

But there are several legends as to its location. One legend has it that King Solomon's son, by the Queen of Sheba, stole the Ark and took it back to Ethiopia where it is claimed to rest today.

The book of Maccabees in the Apocrypha claims the prophet Jeremiah hid it along with the tent and the altar of incense in a cave, somewhere on the West Bank or the Dead Sea, the whereabouts known only to God.

### What are The Royal Arch Colours?

We hear each year at the Installation Convocation, the explanation of the robes of the Principals and the significance of the colours. But where do the colours come from?

For this we need to travel back some 3500 years to the time of our Grand Master Moses. The Book of Exodus tells the story of the time the Lord spoke to Moses and told him how the Jews were to live. He also taught them how to pray. He gave instruction in how a moving Temple to his glory was to be built and thus the tabernacle was formed.

The Lord gave Moses instruction in the colours to be used in the fabric of the Tabernacle. These colours were Red, Purple and Blue or Blue, Purple and Scarlet depending on which version of the Bible you read. These colours were said to represent the elements. Red for fire, Purple for the sea as the blood of shellfish dyes it and Blue for the sky. The Lord chose Bezaliel and Aholiab, other names in our ritual, to prepare and sew the cloth for the tabernacle. The Lord also gave instruction on what the High Priest should wear and the colour of this robe was to be blue. This shows why the colours for the robes of our Principals are so important and it also shows just how old some of our practices date from.

So when you wear those robes remember these robes represent one of the most Holy items of the Israelites and wear them with pride.

### The Sacred Acacia

The Acacia belongs to a large family of plants and the Acacia we know in Masonry still grows in Lebanon. To the Jewish people it is a sacred wood used to build the Arc of the Covenant and much of the furniture that adorned King Solomon's Temple.

We Masons have appropriated the Acacia as a symbol to teach divine truth for all ages to follow. The Acacia is a symbol of immortality of the soul. The Hebrew people planted a sprig of Acacia at the head of a grave of a departed friend. Many other peoples substituted the Acacia in place of other plants, as they believed it to be incorruptible and not liable to attack from animals or insects, implying the incorruptible nature of the soul. The sprig of Acacia to a Mason is meant to remind him by its evergreen and unchanging nature, of that better and spiritual part within us which is an emanation from The True And Living God Most High and can never die.