

## Sacred Ground

The area bounded by the 12 banners in the Chapter is known as sacred ground. It can only be approached by the use of the seven steps as per the ritual to reach the pedestal for veiling, unveiling or disarranging the Word or during the Pedestal Lecture in the Holy Royal Arch Degree.

During the Symbolical Lecture in the Holy Royal Arch Degree the Second Principal, Haggai, is not allowed to enter within this area as the use of the seven steps is not part of the lecture, if this lecture is read a past First Principal can be utilized to point out the relevant parts of the lecture outside of the banners.

Lecturers while giving the Pedestal Lecture in the Holy Royal Arch Degree approach the pedestal from the East, the Principal Sojourner does not have to approach the altar, the candidates are guided by the Lecturer, this frees up a lot of space for the candidates to use. The approach to Sacred Ground must be done by using seven steps giving the Reverential Sign at the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> steps.

When retiring from Sacred Ground use the same procedure with the Reverential Sign given on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> steps.

When giving the Reverential Sign or the Sign of Fidelity, it is not given by raising the thumb as in a craft lodge, there are no right angles in Royal Arch Masonry.

Rt. Ex. Comp. George Fairbairn  
Grand Third Principal  
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Ref:

Book of the Work, Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada in the Province of Ontario