

# Provincial Priory of Somerset



## A'Beuceant

*This explanation is to be delivered as part of the Toast to the Candidate by a Senior Knight of the Preceptory, especially so if he is the proposer.*

*It should be regarded as a guide and variations are permitted; and should only be read as a last resort.)*

This is a rousing and impassioned salute. There are many varied opinions as to its origins but the most plausible is that the word is derived from the ancient French language meaning 'to the black and white'. Legend has it that the Grand Master of the Templars rode into battle on a black and white 'piebald' horse using the words 'A'Beuceant' as a rallying call for the Knights in the field.

This stirring rallying cry, 'A'Beuceant', alerted the Knights in battle that their standard, half white and half black, was being carried into warfare and when summoned all the Knights must rally to it and honour its presence. It was a symbol of utter dedication – a call to fight to the death – never to retreat and never to surrender. It confirmed the Knights' commitment to their cause – to serve their cause to the uttermost, never to dishonour or bring disgrace upon the Order as symbolised by the Banner and to defend each other to the last drop of our blood.

Today when we shout 'A'Beuceant' and look at the black and white Banner we are confirming our dedication to the Order and to the Christian Faith.

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