

The Entered Apprentice Degree



And GOD said, "Let There Be Light," and there was Light.
(Genesis 1:3)

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The Opening of the Lodge is Representative of the Masonic Mind

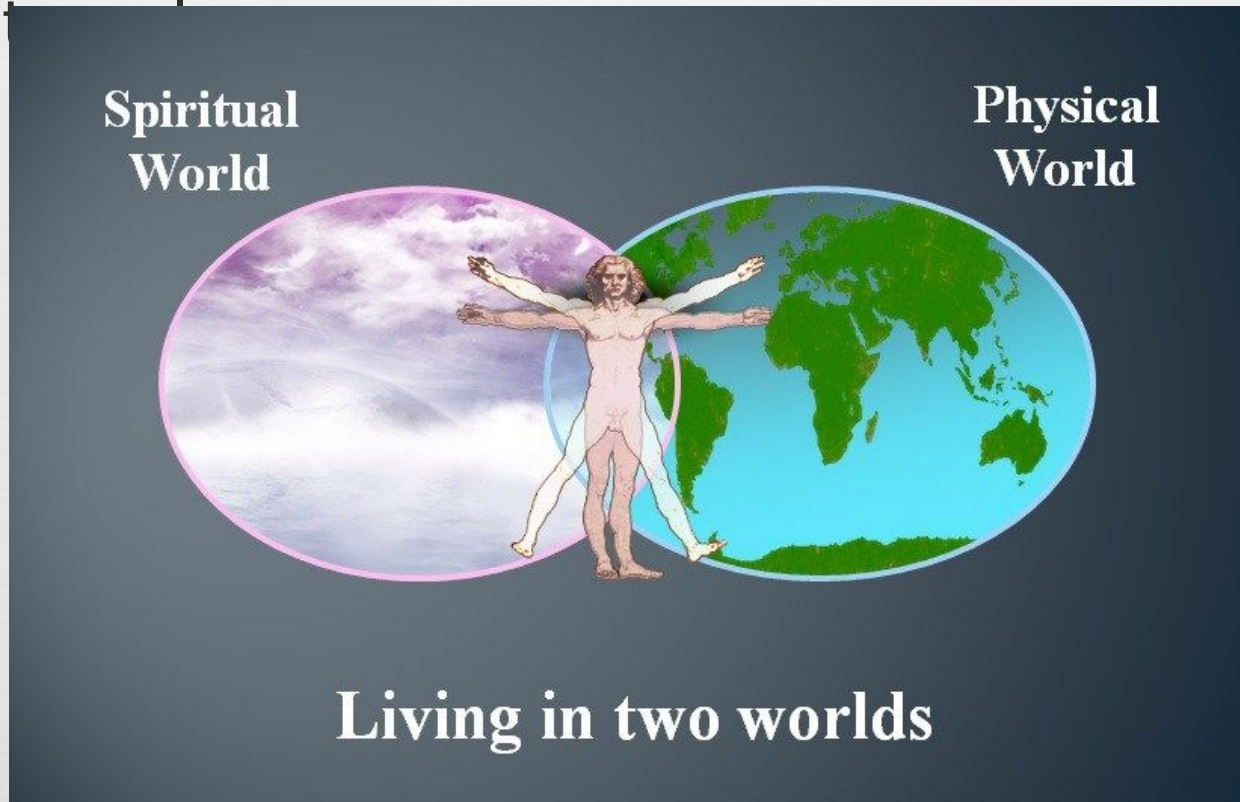


- ▮ The knock of the Master's Gavel to call the lodge to attention, and the repeat of those knocks by the Wardens, represents the Master-Principle calling you to attention, and to control your actions (Psyche represented by the Senior Warden), and to keep down the impulses of his lower nature (Intellect, represented by the Junior Warden).
- ▮ The Senior Deacon, carrying messages and commands of the Master to the Senior Warden, is the link between Spirit and Psyche.
- ▮ The Junior Deacon, carrying the messages and commands of the Master from the Senior to the Junior Warden, is the link between Psyche and the Mind.
- ▮ The Tyler is the outer sense, the link with the outside world, and keeps out unwanted influences.

The Candidate



- Two kinds of qualifications, internal and external



The Candidate: Internal Qualifications



Must come of his own free will and accord.

Must be uninfluenced by mercenary motives.

“Whosoever seeks a knowledge of our mystic rites, must first be prepared for the ordeal in his heart: he must not only be endowed with the necessary moral qualifications which would fit him for admission into a society which is founded on the purest principles of virtue and religion, but he must come, too, uninfluenced by the persuasions of friends.”

The External Qualifications: Moral, Physical, Intellectual, and Political



Moral: A Mason is obliged by his tenure to obey the moral law: and if he rightly understands the art, he will never be a stupid atheist nor an irreligious libertine.”

Physical: Must be a Man, of mature and discreet age, of able body.

Mental: It is necessary that there should be first laid a foundation of profane learning, on which the superstructure of Masonic wisdom is to be erected.

Political: Candidate must be “free born”.

The Ritual.

Entered Apprentice Degree

- There are three aspects to our ritual: physical, mental, and spiritual.
- The Entered Apprentice Degree is dealing with the Physical.
- Two series of seven distinct acts: The first seven are in a State of Darkness, the second Seven in a State of Light.

The Lodge is Tyled



- The candidates disrobing is symbolic of the mental unclothing required of him.
- Seeking admission into the Lodge by knocking symbolizes that he was met with opposition and cannot gain admission without a guide.
- The door symbolizes an obstructive element (within himself)
- We erect and “tyle” our own door, and block our own light, and eventually, on seeking to turn to the Light, find ourselves confronted by darkness and opposition of our own creation.

In whom do you put your trust?



- We ask this question while the candidate is on his knees, whom do you trust in times of danger and uncertainty?
- Candidate answers and arises to a higher state of awareness, and is told to follow your guide.

Esoteric Meaning of the One Hundred and 33rd Scripture



- ▮ What a pleasure to be in the presence of a body of men united together in mind and spirit of purpose.
- ▮ Aaron, the elder brother of Moses, and his sons were appointed by God to be the High Priest and ministers of God for the children of Israel (Exodus 28:1)
- ▮ God directed that an “oil of holy ointment” (Exodus 30:23-25) be made consisting of measured amounts of myrrh, sweet cinnamon, sweet calmus, cassia and olive oil.
- ▮ This oil to be poured on Aaron as a blessing or consecration prior to their entry as priests into the tabernacle, containing all the holy vessels and the Ark of the Covenant, to minister and pray unto the Lord. (Exodus 30:30)
- ▮ The Dew of Hermon refers to Mount Hermon which was known to have copious amounts of humidity, even in the driest of weather, which formed on the tents so profusely that it appeared as though it had rained the whole night.

Dew of Hermon and Aarons Beard



Circumambulation



- ▮ Symbolic representation of the Candidate's own life journey in the world outside, prior to his Initiation into the world within.
- ▮ The knocks at the Warden Stations represents more obstacles which he overcomes. The Wardens further represents awakening other aspects of himself through his journey, his psyche and intellect.
- ▮ The completion around the Lodge at this point symbolizes his darkened wanderings since his birth in this world.

Obligation



- Along with obvious Constitutional and Fraternal Secrecy meaning, the obligation is more to be imposed on the Candidate himself, rather than for the Fraternity.

Restoration to Light



- The Candidate has thus spent the entire Degree in a State of Darkness. When the Master says let there be light, a spiritual consciousness is regained.
- His sudden vision is symbolic of the birth of a child, struggling to adjust there eyes to an new environment. It is an experience only the Candidate understands, solemn between him and God.

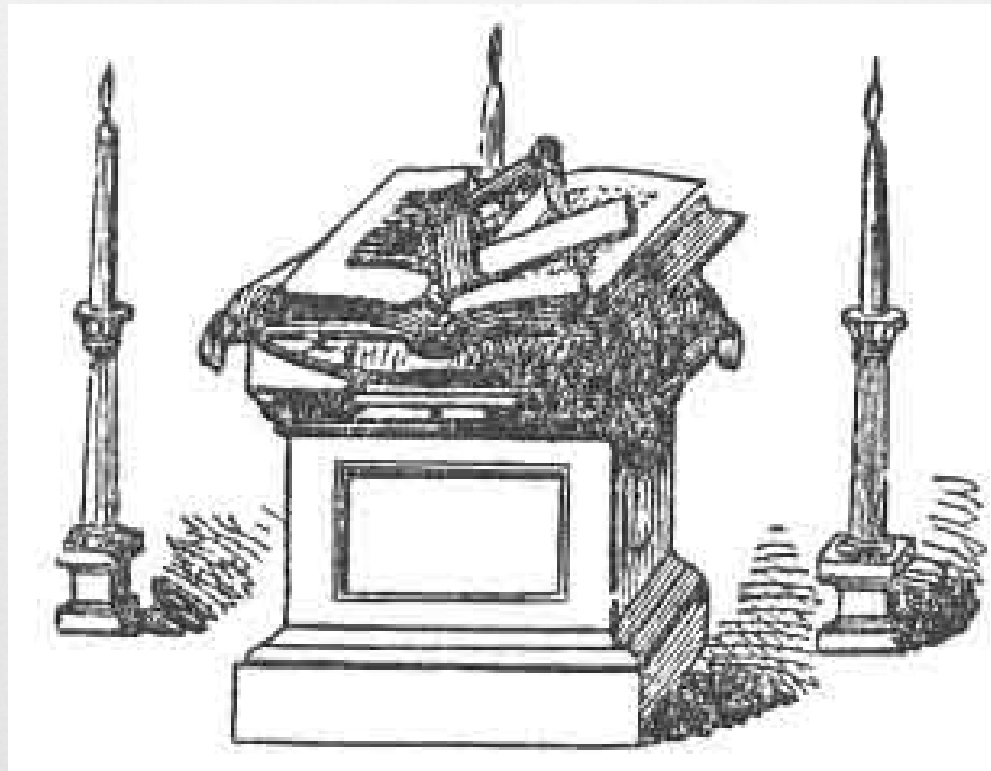


The Lights of Masonry



- ▮ Three Great Lights: Volume of Sacred Law, The Square, and The Compasses.
- ▮ V.S.L.: Represents the creator, whose “law” is the basis for everything in existence.
- ▮ Compasses: Resting upon the V.S.L. represent the Cosmic (or Divine) Principle issuing from the Creator into manifestation. Also represents the Candidates Spirit.
- ▮ Square: Represents cosmic matter in which Divine Principle takes form. It also represents the candidates material being, or lesser form.

The Lights Of Masonry



The Three Lesser Lights of Masonry



- ☐ Sun: symbolizes our spiritual consciousness.
- ☐ Moon: a symbol for our intellectual faculties.
- ☐ Master: represents our will power, or the Master Principle in ourselves.
- ☐ Indicates to the Candidate the three great Cosmic Principles underlying the Universe are present in himself. The Universe is the Macrocosm, he himself is the Microcosm and, in him reside three lights, enabling him to co-operate in working towards a perfect Universe.

The Apron



- ▮ A Triangle superimposed over a rectangle, or in the Entered Apprentice case, the Triangle or flap remains in the upright position.
- ▮ The Triangle is the primitive and universal emblem of what is Spiritual.
- ▮ The Rectangle is that of what is Material.
- ▮ Together the Apron is a representative of Man himself.
- ▮ The Triangle superimposed over the rectangle signifies a spiritual portion of Man dominance of his material portion.
- ▮ For the Entered Apprentice, the upward triangle, which is also a symbol of Alchemy and fire, represents that 'Divine Wisdom' has not yet completely penetrated the gross matter of our bodies.

The Apron



- More Ancient than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle, more honorable than the Star and Garter, or any other order that can be conferred upon you at this or any future period, by any King, Prince, Potentate, or any other person except it be a Mason.

Order of the Golden Fleece



- Founded by Philip, Duke of Burgundy, in 1429

Order of the Star



- Founded by John II of France, in the middle of the Fourteenth Century.

Order of the Garter



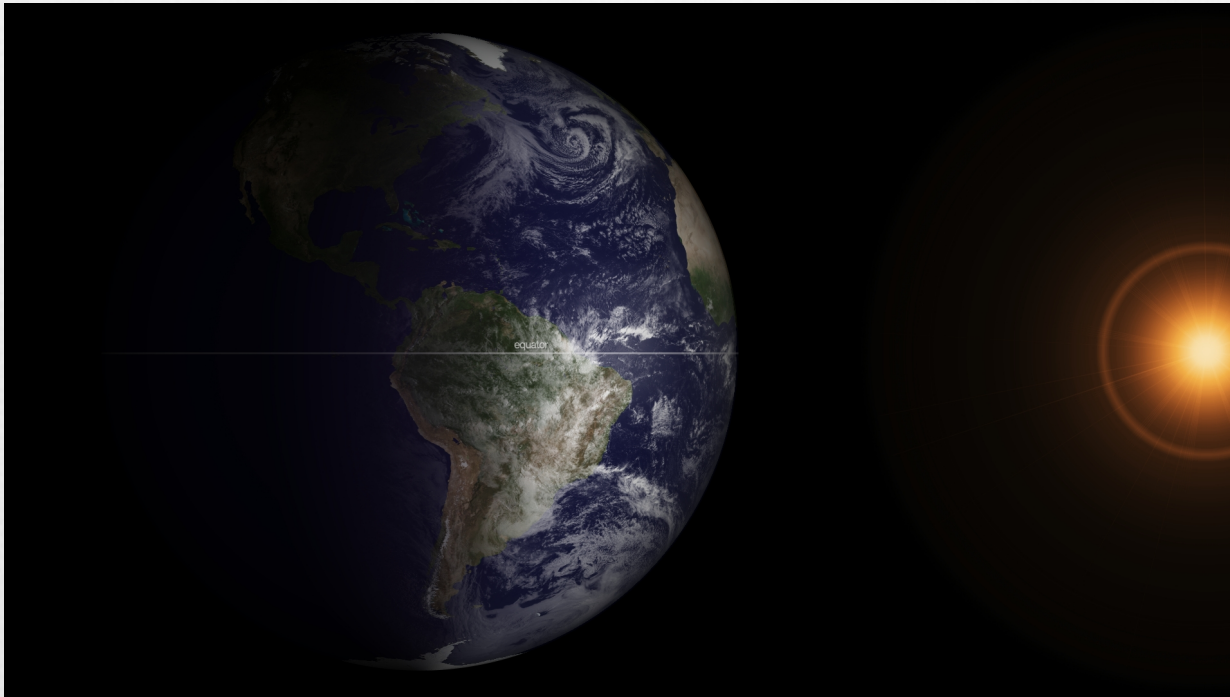
- Founded by Edward III of England in 1349 for himself and twenty-five Knights of the Garter.

Roman Eagle



- Rome's symbol and ensign of power and might a hundred years before Christ.

The North East Corner



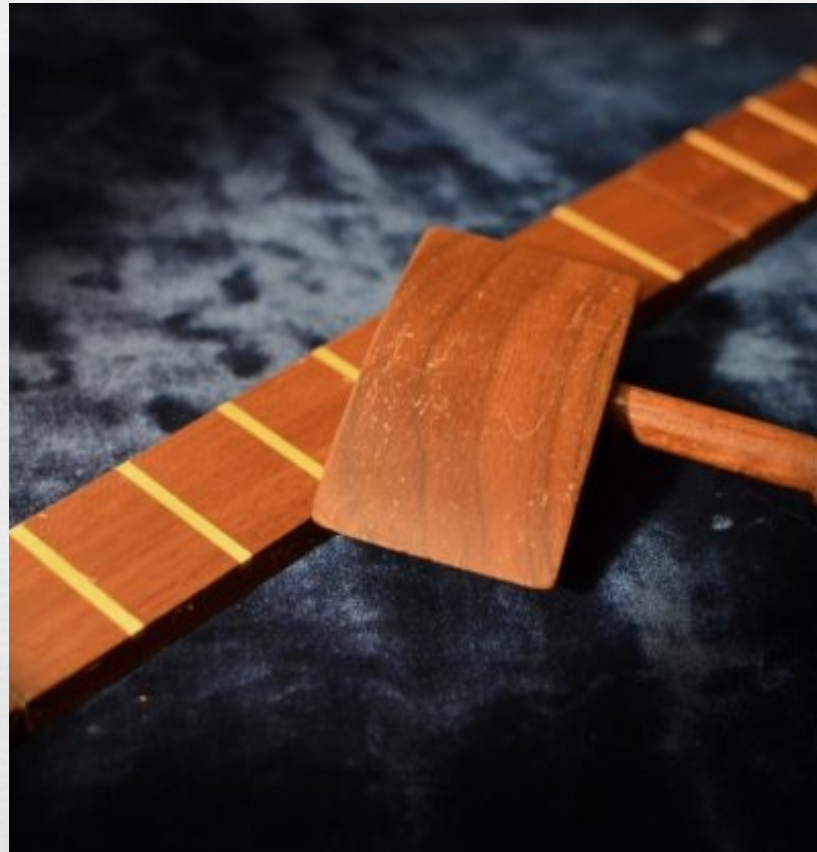
- The meeting place of darkness and light. Synonymous with Spring Equinox. Traditionally where the cornerstone of a building is laid.
- Represents the Candidates own condition, he can advance further East towards Light, or relapse into darkness in the North.

The Working Tools



- ▮ 24 Inch Gauge: Teaches to divide your time, eight hours for the service of God and a distressed worthy brother, eight hours for your vocation (work), and eight hours for refreshment and sleep.
- ▮ The Common Gavel: used by the EA to break the corners off of a rough stone to better craft them to the builders purpose.
- ▮ As an EA, you will use the working tools to remove these rough edges and shape your character so as to “divest your heart and conscience of all the vices and superfluities (excesses) of life. In the same breath, finding time to dedicate to God, work and refreshment.

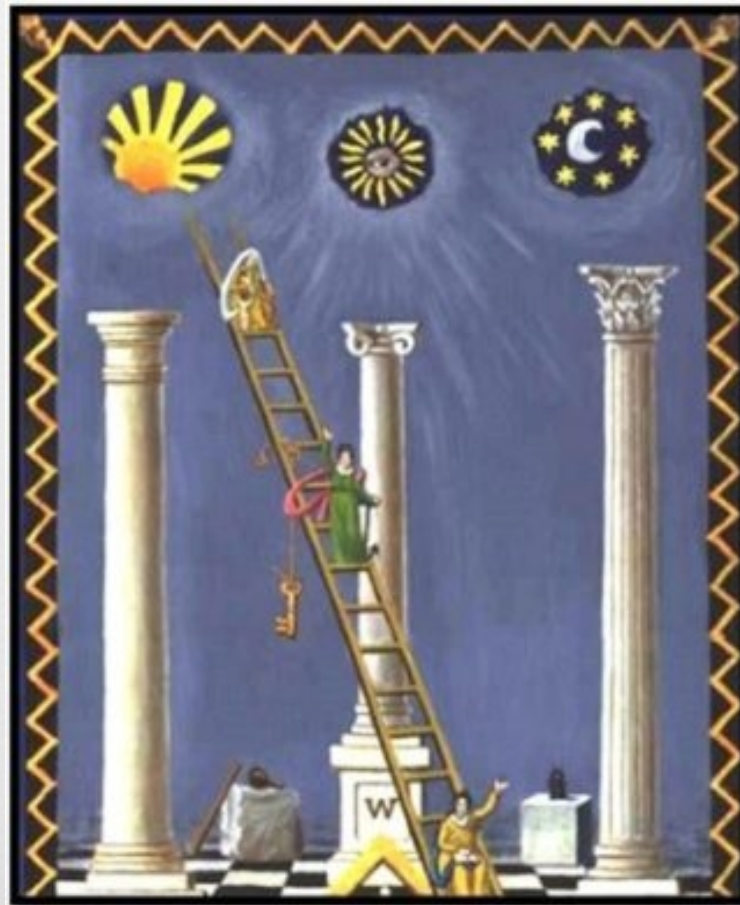
The Working Tools



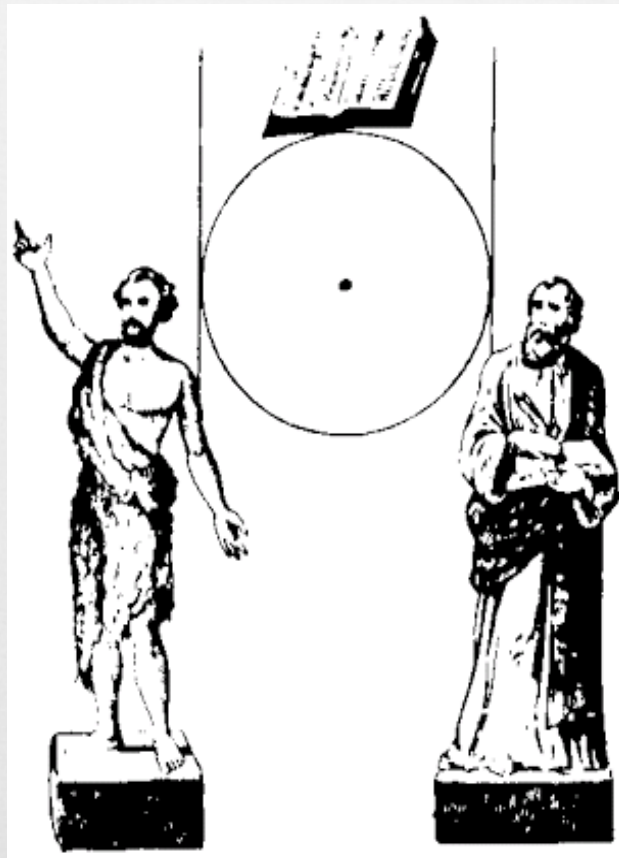
Jewels of The Lodge



Covering of the Lodge



Dedication of the Lodge



Ornaments of The Lodge



The Lodge



- The Lodge is also a representation of our own being.
- The West side of the lodge represents the rational mind, material oriented common sense.
- The East side represents man's spirituality, which is initially under-developed and seldom active.
- The South, being midway between West and East, is where rational understanding and spiritual intuition meet, and where intellectuality can attain its 'meridian'.
- The North is the physical sense, the lowest perception, a place of darkness and ignorance.

Conclusion



□ The Entered Apprentice Degree is the introduction of the properly prepared Candidate into a heightened state of awareness. In order for the initiate to be made fit to be used as material for the building of King Solomon's Temple, lessons and awakening of dormant senses must take place. The charge in itself is an communication from his spiritual common gavel to let go of those self imposed obstacles the once blind initiate maintained while traveling through the various stations of the world in darkness. With proper teaching, meditation, and support from the brothers, it is possible his spiritual being will overcome his lesser material being. When this happens, he may find his role in the Great Architect of the Universe plans through faith in God, harmonious labor, charity, and dedication to the Craft.

FIN



- ▮ Albert Pike Morals and Dogma
- ▮ MWPHGL Ritual
- ▮ Mackey's Jurisprudence of Freemasonry
- ▮ www.tulsasr.org
- ▮ Tetraktys.co.uk
- ▮ The Masonic Trowel
- ▮ Thelaudablepursuit.com
- ▮ Google Images