

TRUTH SERIES

VOLUME 8



NOT IN MY HOUSE!

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MINISTÉRIO SEARA ÁGAPE**

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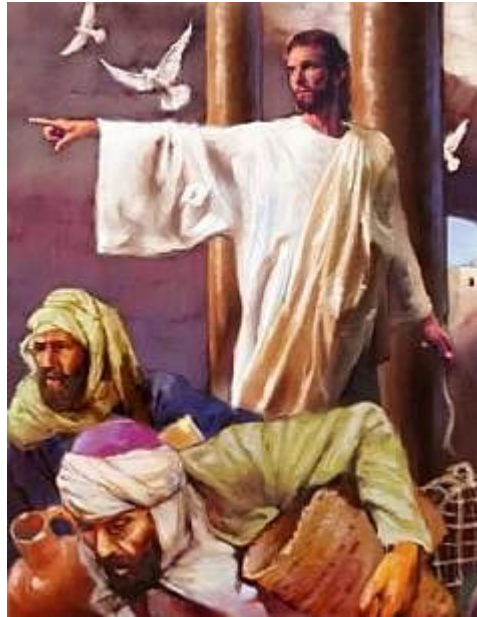
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Estudo Bíblico Evangélico

PASTOR TÂNIA CRISTINA GIACHETTI
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Thanks to God, the Holy One.



Dedicated to all those who wish to be saints.



“Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them, ‘It is written, My house shall be called a house of prayer’; but you are making it a den of robbers.” (Matt. 21: 12-13)



Notes:

- Words or phrases enclosed in brackets [] or parenthesis (), in *italics*, were placed by me, in most cases, to explain the biblical text, although some verses already contain them [not in italics].
- The version used here is the New Revised Standard Version, NRSV – 1989 (1995)
- NIV = New International Version (it will be used in brackets in some verses to make it easier for readers to understand).

This book was written around 2008-2009 after some experiences with the subject in question, under a very spiritual prism, when the teaching in the church of Christ was directed to a more vivid learning with the Word, with the intention of a deeper healing and when the Holy Spirit poured out certain gifts more evidently and powerfully, I could say, to warn us of Satan's subtleties and tell us God's secrets to us.

I confess that I have never been very attracted to certain topics discussed among evangelical people in particular; but because of personal experiences, especially with Freemasonry, both in secular professional life and within the church of Christ itself, I was practically forced to research the subject, even to know how to better defend myself against the subtle attacks of the enemy, even inside LAN houses, while researching about it. I witnessed things that are really difficult to describe in words, since not everyone has the gift of discernment of spirits to understand what I felt, nor to understand how the spiritual world acts and reacts to our prayers, actions and declarations of war against the darkness, especially when they are discovered and God incites us to reveal them to the brothers. Not everyone receives revelations in the same way.

In 2023, when reviewing certain pages of the site and the topics written there, I stopped at some of them to add new experiences, studies and revelations. This subject was one of them.

I am going to add here some important information, fruit of theological research, however, maintaining the initial focus that was given to the spiritual area, that is, to the invisible things that, unfortunately, many Christians today, are unaware of, underestimate or even doubt that they exist, because it depends on the gifts bestowed by God Himself, not just on human rational intelligence.

Of the five or six difficult experiences I've had, four of them have been inside the church by members and pastors, which has been disgusting to the Lord.

If you look for its meaning in the dictionary you will find: "Partially secret society whose main objective is to develop the principle of fraternity and philanthropy; association to promote humanitarianism and cosmopolitan spirit."

Despite describing its objective as that of developing the principle of fraternity, philanthropy, humanitarianism and the cosmopolitan spirit, in other words, a universal fraternity without prejudice, Freemasonry does not admit either women or blacks in most lodges. The explanation for the case of women is its origin in medieval masons, who carried stones for construction, and therefore, they were men, not women, and this persists until today, even with its speculative character, no longer operative. However, Continental or Liberal Freemasonry (exemplified by the Grand Orient of France) removed restrictions on women, as well as blacks and atheists. They have charitable social institutions, in which women participate; for this reason they form para-Masonic associations to assist the needy.

The places of meetings are called lodges. Temple is the name given to the building where the lodges are located, i.e., the building, the physical space, where Freemasons meet in lodges. Its members also claim that there is no discussion of religion and politics; this does not happen inside the lodge. 'Lodge' was the accommodation where medieval masons worked, building the churches and feudal castles of the Middle Ages. Discussion of politics within the stores does exist (according to some sources), in the most advanced degrees, not party politics, but equalitarian. These private Lodges are usually supervised at the regional level by a Grand Lodge or Grand Orient. There is no international, worldwide Grand Lodge that supervises all of Freemasonry.

Its name, Freemasonry, is derived from the French, “*maçon*”, or “*mason*”, in English, which means: *bricklayer, builder*. Its name, symbols and ceremonies are similar to ancient medieval guilds of stonemasons.

From 1717 onwards, Freemasonry ceased to have an operative character and started to have a speculative character because of the contesting Renaissance philosophers, who found in the guilds or masons’ lodges, a place to speak freely without interference from governments and religious leaders, and where thinkers questioned church dogmas. At first, the festivals they celebrated were solstice festivals, and soon the first Grand Lodge was created to celebrate the festivals and bring together all the masons’ lodges.

It ceased to have an operative character and started to have a speculative character because its members, the philosophers, no longer worked in stone, like the ancient slave masons of medieval times; now they were a stone in the building of the ideal society.



Image of the 1st English Lodge opened – Goose and Gridiron, where the Grand Lodge of London and Westminster, later called the Grand Lodge of England, was founded. Source: wikipedia.org.

The first lodge was opened in London in 1717. From there, the association spread among Anglo-Saxon and Germanic countries. There are three corporative grades: Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason. In Latin countries, Freemasonry turned to atheism and introduced a secret ceremony to its meetings. Freemasonry

introduced in France in 1725 instilled a clear anti-Catholic tendency to Spanish (1726), Portuguese (1727) and Italian (1742) lodges, so it was condemned by the church in 1738. In Brazil, Portuguese Freemasons founded the first Masonic lodge in 1815 and it came bringing a contribution to the movement of Independence. A month after the cry of Ipiranga, Dom Pedro I was elected grand master of the Great West. Gonçalves Ledo and José Bonifácio de Andrada e Silva struggled for the supremacy in this lodge. Defeated, José Bonifácio founded the Secret Society (Masonic) of the Noble Order of the Knights of the Holy Cross.

They may not even discuss politics within the lodge, but Freemasonry's participation in politics is undeniable, as it was in the Independence of Brazil, in the episode of Proclamation of the Brazilian Republic in November 15th, 1889, by Marshal Manuel Deodoro da Fonseca, and the Independence of the USA, promulgated on July 4th, 1776. George Washington, the first president of USA was a member of the Anglican Church and the Freemasonry. Originally apolitical, Freemasonry was radicalized in the late 18th century by the introduction of principles that emphasized themes of liberty, equality and fraternity.

Freemasonry and Enlightenment are from the same period. Enlightenment was an intellectual and philosophical movement that dominated in Europe during 18th century, 'The Age of Reason' or 'Age of Enlightenment'; it placed 'rational enlightenment' above faith and opposed religious influence on public life and abuses of state power, especially in the economy (the Enlightenment thinkers criticized the mercantilism of the monarchy). The Enlightenment included ideas of separation of church and state. Historians generally date the period of the Enlightenment between 1715 (the death of Louis XIV of France) and 1789 (the beginning of the French Revolution, on July 14th, 1789 with the Storming of the Bastille) or the end of that period around 1804, with the death of Immanuel Kant, a philosopher or with the beginning of the Napoleonic Wars (1804-1815). Old ideals of tradition and the hierarchy of monarchs, aristocrats and the Catholic Church were abruptly overthrown by the new principles of Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité (in English: liberty, equality and fraternity), the slogan of the French Revolution.

However, the Enlightenment spoke of equality among men, but in a way that served only the interests of the bourgeoisie. The radicalization of this and other ideals was not interesting to them. 'Bourgeoisie' refers to the middle class, typically with reference to its materialistic values or conventional attitudes, clearly perceptible. Explaining better: after the fall of the Roman Empire, the nobility demoted the population to the servile condition of rural workers. The rural aristocracy (the feudal lords) dominated over vassals and subjects and ensured their defense through military forces. The peasants were obliged to live on their lord's land and give him homage, labor, and a share of the produce, notionally in exchange for military protection. This system was called feudalism, where there was a strong network of obligations and dependencies between feudal lords and their vassals and subjects. The word 'bourgeoisie' originates from the Latin *burgus*, which means 'city', and which in the High Middle Ages (476–999 AD) designated a small fortification, a castle or a walled village (the burghs). The burghers lived in these burghs, in contrast to the inhabitants of the rural area. In the Middle Ages, the burghers held the right of citizenship, with various social, political and economic privileges. Gradually, they excluded the feudal nobility from their public functions and the bourgeois upper class began to form a new hereditary nobility, with a particular culture, economic means based on capital and a materialist view of the world. From the 13th century onwards, most of the rural servants were replaced by hired workers, but some feudal institutions (the fief itself) persisted in Europe until after the end of the

Ancien Régime (Old Regime), the political and social system of the Kingdom of France from 1500 to the French Revolution (1789).

Freemasons embraced Enlightenment ideals.

Even today, we see many masons interfering in various political positions and situations in all countries of the world.

After this explanation, we can see why the Freemasons only accept ‘good people’ in their brotherhood, that is, those who have a good nature; which is correct, honest, honorable, but obviously, which have financial status and respectability in society, giving great value to erudition, diplomas and social positions, because the elites of the Enlightenment and of the origins of Freemasonry were always present in the most socially important professions and, therefore, better paid, also occupying high government posts, giving excessive value to rationality, instead of faith, which they see as superstition. It is not just the good character of the person that counts, but the money, the ‘exterior’, that is, the bourgeois characteristic, which was valued in the past, the valuation of money, because both money and knowledge bring power.

Its fundamental symbols were borrowed from the art of building and give support to a psychic and spiritual fulfillment. According to some scholars, Freemasonry is eclectic in the sense of brotherly unity and mutual help, for it unites all men who are affiliated to it as ‘brothers,’ without concern for race or faith. Everything indicates that there was an initial link between the Roman Apostolic Catholic Church and Freemasonry, even between it and Judaism, more specifically to the Kabbalah (the mystical strand of Judaism). We can say that some Catholic priests were interested in the symbolism and mysticism inherent to it. In this book I will describe the symbols, as they are described and known by the Masons, and then the revelation that the Spirit of God gave me concerning this.

But, before describing the symbols, let’s follow our reasoning.

As I have already written, its members also claim that there is no discussion of religion inside the lodge and that are three corporative grades: Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason. Most Masonic ritual consist of degree ceremonies.

The candidate of these three degrees is progressively taught the meanings of the symbols of Freemasonry and entrusted with secret handshakes (according to his rank or grade), signs, and words to signify to other members that he has been initiated. These three degrees form Craft Freemasonry (or Blue Lodge), and members of any of these degrees are known as Freemasons. In each of these ceremonies, the candidate must first take on the new obligations of the degree, and is then entrusted with secret knowledge including passwords, signs and secret handshakes confined to his new rank.

The system of morality of Freemasonry, as it was said, is veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols. Most of the time (though not exclusively) its symbols are drawn from the tools of stonemasons – the square and compasses, the level and plumb rule, the trowel, the rough and smooth ashlar (ashlar – masonry made of large square-cut stones, typically used as a facing on walls of brick or stone), among others. To each of these tools moral lessons are attributed, which are taught through rituals and lectures. I said that there are signs that make them recognize each other, such as secret handshakes and words to signify to other members that someone has been initiated. “Boaz” is the apprentices’ password, “Jackin” is that of the companions, and “Tubalcaim” is for the masters. Only by knowing these words is it possible to attend some meetings and have access to information within Freemasonry. The fact that there are corporative grades – Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason – rituals and somewhat strange attire for each of them already points to a religious aspect allied to a great mysticism.

Other evidence that it has a religious character is that its members meet in temples where prayers are made to a deity, a Supreme Being (although every candidate must interpret this condition in his own way, since all religious discussion is commonly prohibited). They kneel before a sacred altar to take the sacred oath, they must be in subjection to the leader of the lodge, who is called worshipful master, and over whose head hangs the letter G, which symbolizes the Masonic concept of Godhead (later I'll comment more specifically on this). The sacred book on the altar is called "the book of the Law" (such as the Bible, the Quran, or other religious scripture). In a few cases, the candidate may be required to be of a specific religion. The form of Freemasonry most common in Scandinavia (known as the Swedish Rite), for example, accepts only Christians. At the other end of the spectrum, 'Liberal' or Continental Freemasonry, like that of the Grand Orient de France, does not require a declaration of belief in any deity and accepts atheists (the cause of the distinction from the rest of Freemasonry). One cannot join the lodge without swearing belief in the supreme being. The candidate is taught in the rituals about the immortality of their souls, that is, a system of salvation. There are rituals and oaths.

On principle (from the point of view of Christianity), the sects deny the Trinitarian concept of the God of the Bible (God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and the divinity of Jesus Christ, as happened with Arianism, a heretical view of Christ created by Arius (c. 250-336 AD), a Christian presbyter of Alexandria, in the early days of the Early Church and denied the Trinity and the divinity of Jesus, that is, He was the Son of God, but He was not equal to God the Father, therefore, He was not God. Arianism had a great influence on the Restoration Movement (Restorationism) of the 19th century, as it did on The Seventh-day Adventist Church (through Millerism and Ellen White's early semi-Arian ideas – her own husband claimed that Ellen's views did not support the Trinitarian creed. This only happened at the beginning of the 20th century) and with Mormonism (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) and Jehovah's Witnesses, whose heretical doctrines, mixed with the bible, make them, undeniably, sects and cannot be considered Protestant Christian denominations. The Adventist Church only adopted the Trinitarian theology in the beginning of the 20th century and from then on began to dialogue with other Protestant groups, finally gaining recognition as a Protestant church (before it was considered a sect, for denying the Trinity).

However, there are monotheistic religions, such as Islam and Judaism, that also do not accept the doctrine of the Trinity, that is, one God revealing himself in three distinct divine persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The position against the doctrine of the Trinity is called Antitrinitarianism. There are other groups 'nontrinitarian': Unitarianism (or Oneness), Unitarian Universalism (or UUism), and also some groups of Adventists (the Church of God of the Seventh Day); not to mention the Bible Students (the group from which Jehovah's Witnesses originated). Although the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) claims to believe in the Trinity, its view is different. For the Latter Day Saints, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are distinct beings. God the Father and His son, Jesus Christ, are separate beings with bodies of flesh and blood, while the Holy Spirit lacks such a physical body. And many of their rituals and symbols are borrowed from Freemasonry.

A 'sect' can be defined as: a doctrine or set of religious or philosophical beliefs that diverge from the hegemonic religious groups and are followed by many. The word 'sect' originally means 'follower', because in practice, it is generally a dissident group that seeks followers in order to strengthen itself and stop having a subordinate position in society. Therefore, it uses methods of 'conversion' and 'persuasion.'

As I wrote above, the candidates kneel before a sacred altar to take the sacred oath.

The bible forbids oaths: “Above all, my beloved, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your ‘Yes’ be yes and your ‘No’ be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.” (*Jam. 5: 12*).

Here I want to interrupt for a moment to share the impression I got from researching their main purpose in terms of concern for human affairs, doing good, etc., which is called Humanism, a trend that also came with the Enlightenment. Humanism is a point of view or system of thought attaching prime importance to human rather than divine or supernatural affairs. Humanist beliefs stress the potential value and goodness of human beings, emphasize common human needs, and seek solely rational ways of solving human problems.

Although each human being has his free will to think as he pleases and follow his path, when paying attention to the exposition that the speaker was making, I could notice at a certain point in the video that is really a very human point of view, not to say carnal, also present in many religions and sects, which sounds like a persuasion for us to be kind (good) or think they also are so kind (good) that we even want to be like them; however, they take God out of the focus and control of His own creation. I don’t know if you understand me. For them, **God is an energy** that governs the universe, and everything sums up in energy, even material, as is the human being, who starts to take control of it as he pleases. In more explicit words, it is not unlike many other philosophies and sects I have studied, a ‘brainwashing.’

The Supreme Being whom I have already mentioned is called ‘The Great Architect of the Universe’ (G.A.O.T.U., also Grand Architect of the Universe, or Supreme Architect of the Universe). As a designation it is used within Freemasonry to represent divinity in a neutral way (in whatever form, and by whatever name each member may individually believe in). It is also a Rosicrucian conception of God, as expressed by Max Heindel (He was a Danish American Christian occultist, astrologer and mystic), for any person to enter, no matter the religion. From this point of view, every deity can be a builder of the universe. Freemasons mention the names of several gods, but not the true God (the God of the Bible, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the tetragrammaton of the Jews, YHWH; for us Christians, ‘God the Father’, creator of all things and who sent His Son into the world to fulfill His plan of salvation with mankind). They deny original sin. They deny salvation through Jesus Christ. They believe that they will conquer it through their efforts and through the fulfillment of their mystical rituals. This, by itself, already shows that the belief is clearly against the bible, which says that man is saved, is justified by faith and not by works. Salvation comes through faith in Christ Jesus and His redemptive work.

- *Rom. 3: 20*: “For ‘no human being will be justified in his sight’ by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.”

- *Gal. 2: 16*: “yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law.”

- *Eph. 2: 8-9*: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast.”

- *Tit. 3: 5*: “... he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.”

Going a little further in our reasoning, a ‘religion’ (quotation mark; for we saw that Freemasonry has a religious aspect; it is not an innocent philosophy) that mixes all kinds of ‘gods’ and sees them as being creators of all things, the universe and the human

being, on an equal footing with the true God, contrary to what the bible proclaims [*Ex. 20: 1-3; Lev. 19: 1; Deut. 6: 4; Isa. 42: 8; Isa. 45: 11-12; 18; Isa. 46: 9; Isa. 45: 5-6*], just to gather members, be eclectic and not to hurt anyone, is already testifying his 'spiritual leadership.' It is a true 'Babylon' that corrupts minds. A PASTOR, with a capital letter, even a newly converted BELIEVER, who has the Holy Spirit within him, will he allow himself to be entangled by this, saying that this is innocent, that it is okay to mix it with true Christianity? "The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him [*in Jesus*] will be put to shame.'" (*Rom. 10: 11 cf. Isa. 28: 16; Rom. 9: 33*).

If they tolerate all people of different religions on the planet inside their temples, wouldn't they tolerate Satanists too? And even if, in essence, Freemasonry is not satanic, as the Catholic Church accused it of the 14th to 19th centuries; even if it is just a tolerant philosophy that places rationality above the true God, stripping Him of His identity and giving Him only the connotation of 'energy', wouldn't it absorb Satan's subtle, totally unbiblical teachings behind it all? If it denies the divinity of Jesus and His atoning sacrifice, what is it? They are concepts that bring a huge weight of darkness to the human mind, with pride, confusion and distortion of the truth and simplicity of the word of God. Words, doctrines, knowledge and philosophical concepts are not innocuous. Remember what I've written above: "most Grand Lodges require a candidate to declare a belief in a Supreme Being (every candidate must interpret this condition in his own way, for all religious discussion is commonly prohibited; although in a few cases, the candidate may be required to be of a specific religion)." The Supreme Being there is called "The Great Architect of the Universe," a god that unites all followers, we can say. This seems more like to what was called in the past 'Henotheism' (from the transliterated Greek hen theos, 'one god'), a religion that predominated in ancient Greece, where there was the worship of a single god without denying the existence of other divinities; the adherence to one particular god out of several. And is it worth it for a Christian to change the name of the true God for another (even if it is only during lectures and meetings), just to absorb rational and non-biblical knowledge or to make use of symbols to get closer to his idea of Divinity?

The bible says, "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved" (*Acts 4: 12*) and "Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him **the name that is above every name**, so that at **the name of Jesus** every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (*Phil. 2: 9-11*).

What do you think about this: is it just a harmless philosophy?

Unfortunately, as I said before, many people are persuaded, seduced, by humanitarian acts that end up mixing everything in their heads. Brotherhood attracts many people because they don't care about doctrines and philosophies. Worse, they don't care about the fear of God or a sincere and steadfast covenant with Him.

The concept of Freemasonry is that the bible is not the word of God. That's why all this confusion occurs.

Despite of the various modes of recognition – grips (handshakes), passwords and signs (hand gestures) that indicate one is a Freemason – and the rest of masonic ritual have all been shown openly several times over the years, Freemasons continue to act as if they were secret, and don't discuss them with outsiders because of tradition.

There are some similarities between them and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It shares symbols, signs, vocabulary and clothing with Freemasonry, including robes, aprons, handshakes, ritualistic raising of the arms, etc. However, they give different meanings to them. In the temples of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-

day Saints, members only participate in the ceremonies considered the most sacred in the church: the wedding (or ‘sealing ceremony’), baptisms for the dead, and an endowment ceremony. In Mormonism, the endowment ceremony is a ceremony to prepare members to become kings, queens, priests, and priestesses in the afterlife. As part of the ceremony, participants take part in a reenactment of the biblical creation and fall of Adam and Eve. The ceremony includes a symbolic washing and anointing and receiving a new name that they must not reveal to others, except for a certain part of the ceremony, in addition to receiving a temple garment, which Mormons must then wear under their clothing day and night throughout their lives. Participants learn symbolic gestures and passwords considered necessary to pass the angels guarding the way to heaven, and are instructed not to reveal them to others. The endowment ceremony also consists of a series of promises to God that participants make as a covenant of consecration to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. All members who choose to serve as missionaries or participate in a celestial temple marriage must first complete the endowment ceremony.

Historians such as Sydney E. Ahlstrom in 1982 have described Mormonism as a mixture of a sect, a mystery cult, a new religion and an American subculture all at the same time. More information in the topic of my website:

https://www.searaagape.com.br/rp_restauracionismo-mormons-tj.html

In the temples of Freemasonry, at the same time, congregate evangelicals, spiritualists, Muslims, Umbanda practitioners, Catholics, Buddhists, Mormons, among other religious groups, even Satanists, in the name of a divine entity known by the title of ‘Great Architect of the Universe’. Certainly, it is not the same God of the bible, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Umbanda is a Brazilian folk religion combining elements of macumba, Roman Catholicism, and the practices of indigenous peoples of South America. Macumba uses sorcery, ritual dance, and fetishes.

Anti-Masons say there are ‘blood oaths’ by which the initiate swears to keep secret the main parts of masonic ceremonies. No one is certain that they make similar pacts or oaths regarding the blood descendants of a Mason member.

I found a curiosity on the Abril magazine website, which I find interesting to put here. I’ll write in English it exactly as it’s written there in Portuguese:

<https://super.abril.com.br/mundo-estranho/como-e-um-ritual-de-iniciacao-na-maonaria/>

1. Ceremonies vary by Lodge and Rite, but there are a few key elements to most of them. First, the members of the Lodge must vote whether the candidate will be accepted. Whoever approves the entry must secretly deposit a white sphere in the urn. Those who oppose place a black sphere. Only with a “clean” urn (only with white balls) the ritual goes on – and immediately.

2. In an adjacent room, someone in the position of Deacon or First Warden prepares the candidate. He is blindfolded and has to have his left foot bare and his left knee, left chest and left arm uncovered. Tied around his neck (and sometimes around his left arm), a gallows, made of thick rope, symbolizes the bond he will create with the brotherhood.

3. In the Ceremonies Room, the Worshipful Master (who presides over the Lodge), the First and Second Wardens enact a memorized dialogue. Then, the person in charge of preparation knocks three times on the door and brings in the beginner. The Second Warden touches the tip of a compass to his chest and says that the physical pain will turn mental if he reveals the order’s secrets.

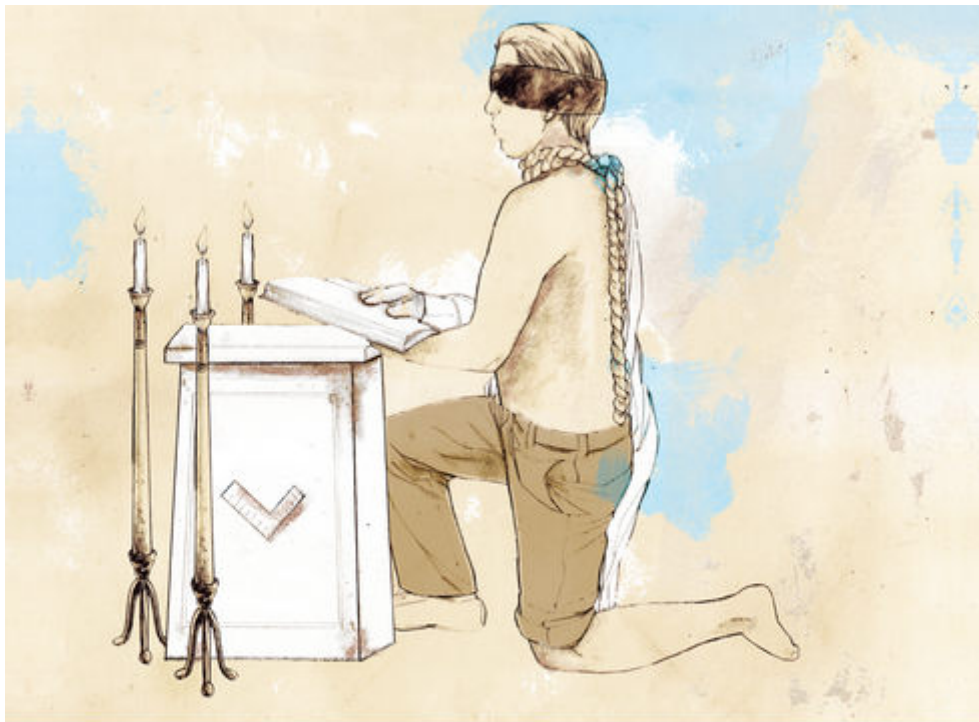
4. After a long exchange of speeches with the Worshipful Master and the Wardens, the initiate is led by the First Warden to walk around the room, or the altar, if there is one. The direction of the turns (if seen from above) is always clockwise, symbolizing

the movement of the Sun around the Earth (an inheritance of the belief in geocentrism). The number of turns and the words spoken by the Worshipful Master vary.

5. In front of the altar, the novice kneels with his left knee, forming a right angle with his right. With his left hand he holds the sacred book of the Lodge (and, in some cases, a square and compasses). Repeating the Master's words, he swears not to reveal the order's secrets, under penalty of having his throat cut, his tongue ripped out by the roots and his body buried at low tide (jeez!).

6. Colleagues form a circle around the candidate, still kneeling. The Master utters watchwords and, at a certain point in the speech, the assembled members clap their hands or stamp their right foot noisily on the ground. Only then is the blindfold removed from the candidate's eyes. The disorienting effect is a kind of "childbirth" in the light of Freemasonry.

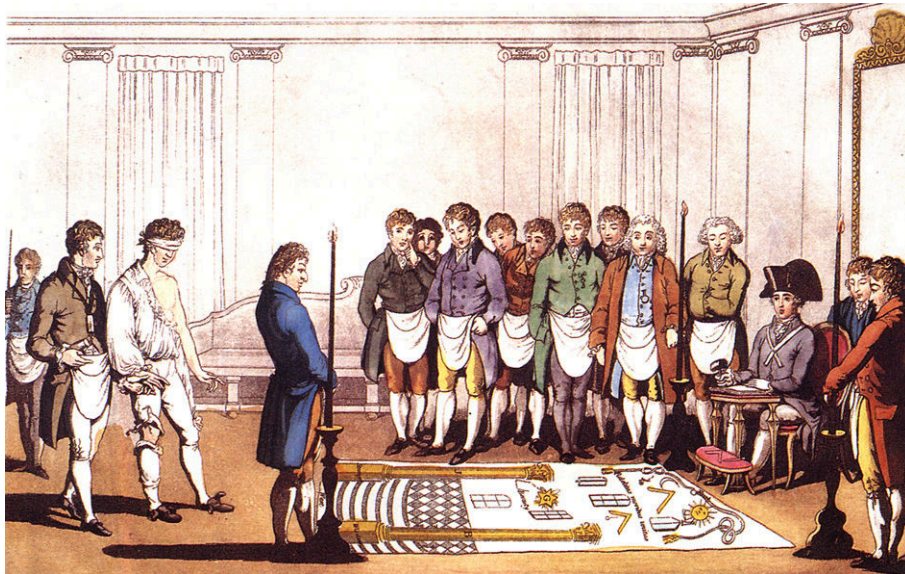
7. He is now an Apprentice and receives the tools of that grade from the Master (usually a mallet and ruler or square) and a white apron. He also hears some advice on what he should pursue and how he should act while serving in the Lodge, which includes a vow of silence. Finally, he learns the gestures and handshakes typical of this stage.



ILUSTRAS André Toma

<https://super.abril.com.br/mundo-estranho/como-e-um-ritual-de-iniciacao-na-maconaria/>

Below: Initiation of an Apprentice Mason around 1800. This engraving is based on Gabanon's on the same subject dated 1745 (A Masonic Initiation. Paris, 1745). The costumes of the participants are changed to English fashion in the early 19th century and the engraving is in colour, but is otherwise 1745. Source: wikipedia.org.



Coming back to our discussion regarding the religious characteristic of Freemasonry:

In one of the rituals, the initiated person enters and is asked, ‘What did you come for’ or ‘What do you want?’ And the person replies, ‘I am coming from darkness in search of light.’

During the ceremony of initiation, the candidate is required to take on an obligation, swearing on the religious book consecrated to his personal faith to do good as a Mason. In the course of three degrees, Masons will promise to keep the secrets of their degree from their brothers of lower degrees and outsiders, and to support a fellow Mason in distress.

In the rite of opening the chamber there is another dialogue, ‘Where are we and what are we here for?’ The other person answers, ‘In the center of the holiest place on earth, to see if we find in the ancient ruins of Enoch the resplendent delta of purest gold where the sublime name of G.A.O.T.U is engraved.’ Doesn’t it look like mystical formula?

The rituals are started at nightfall. The Worshipful Master asks, ‘Why do our works begin at this hour, brother Adoniram?’ The freemason symbolizing Adoniram replies, ‘to symbolize our ignorance regarding the true God and His attributes and express with truth our desire that urges us to come out of it.’ What type or degree of ignorance are they referring to? The bible assures us that a believer knows God, for in Jesus Christ God the Father is revealed to us (*Jn. 1: 18; Jn. 14: 9; Heb. 1: 1-3; Matt. 10: 32-33*) and that He reveals Himself to us through His word, for His word is truth (*Jn. 1: 1-2; Jn. 17: 17*). Would a believer or a pastor who is aware of his calling confess this? It is obvious that the more we walk with the Lord, the more experiences we will have with Him, therefore, the more we know Him. But what a strange statement! Humility? Peter felt really bad when he said, “I don’t know this man.”

Another comment:

Adoniram, mentioned in *1 Kin. 4: 6* and *1 Kin. 5: 14*, was the overseer in charge of the forced labor during the construction of Solomon’s temple. J. D. Douglas – The New Bible Dictionary, 2nd edition 1995, says that he is identified with Adoram, who held a similar position in the reign of David (*2 Sam. 20: 24*) and Rehoboam (*1 Kin. 12: 18; 2 Chr. 10: 18*). The rebellious people stoned him to death, precipitating the revolt of Jeroboam I, around 922 BC (a few years after Rehoboam’s reign began, in 931 BC).

But I found this identification a little strange too, because the reign years of three kings, David, Solomon and Rehoboam add up to 97 years.

Reign of David – 1010-970 BC – 40 years

Reign of Solomon – 970-931 BC – 40 years

Rehoboam (931-914 BC – 17 years old – *2 Chr. 12: 13*)

Jeroboam I (931-910 BC)

The dates above are given by the dictionary itself. Therefore, it is more likely that it is about the reign of Solomon, since Freemasonry makes use of symbols and characters of this king of Israel for its staging, meditations and work of inner perfection of salvation.

The allegorical ceremonies as a dramatization include explanatory lectures and revolve around the construction of the Temple of Solomon, and the artistry and death of the chief architect, Hiram-Abi (*2 Chr. 4: 16*; NIV = Hiram-Abi; NRSV = Hiram-abi; KJV = Hiram). Some expositors write his name as Hiram Abiff.

In the ritual of the 32nd degree – nine voices are heard: Confucius, Zarathustra, Sidarta Gautama (Budda), Moses, Hermes Trismegistus ('Hermes the Thrice-Greatest'), Plato, Jesus of Nazareth the Christ, Mohammed and finally 'the One of tomorrow', announcing a belief in the coming of their Messiah.

This way, Jesus stands among several enlightened beings.

They mix the names of several gods and 'prophets' under the figure of G.A.O.T.U, denying our God (The biblical God). For them, G.A.O.T.U is the only true god, above all gods of other religions.

In their oaths and vows the bible is placed on an equal footing with all books of other religions. For any follower of another religion, this is no problem. But for a true Christian would that be right?

So far you can see that what they teach is incompatible with what the bible teaches and with the symbols of faith of the Christian church. Have you seen their original symbols, how they draw them? What do they convey to your eyes and your soul? Something emanating from the light, from the Holy Spirit, or from the 'other One?' At best, the expression of a confused human mind, with poor artistic taste and a fertile imagination for terror and an attraction to ugly things, I'm sorry. I've seen enough of that.

For us Christians, God the Father is the Father of Jesus, and the children of God are those who by faith received Him, but in Freemasonry their god is the Father of all mankind, the great energy that created the Universe. God is energy. He has no identity. How many other beliefs say this? Even certain strands of Judaism! The known word Shekinah (Shekhinah, Shekî'nâ), considered as 'the glory of God' and often translated as 'brightness, presence of God dwelling among His people', is an example of this. It is a Kabbalistic concept, mystic, which considers this word as the female face of the Divine Presence. According to Kabbalah, Shekinah is a powerful cosmic energy, which dwells within the universe, vivifying it and being its soul or spirit. The writers of Targumim (plural of Targum, referring to works written in Aramaic, and compiled in Israel and Babylon, from the time of the Second Temple until the early Middle Ages) created the word Shekinah to indicate God Himself, removing the concept of God with a form and feelings, something that the traditional Judaism preached and didn't let be removed. This new standpoint, actually, brought an abstract concept of God, colder and distant (a simple 'cosmic energy', rather than a being with its own identity).

Freemasonry considers the Christian cult to be absolutist and the result of ignorance, from which only it can rid its followers.

Christianity recognizes Jesus Christ as the only savior and the only mediator between God and men (*1 Tim. 2: 5*), and Freemasonry places all saviors of religions on the same level, because for Freemasons salvation is conquered by themselves, by their own intellectual efforts.

Unfortunately, as I said before, many people are persuaded, seduced, by humanitarian acts that end up mixing everything in their heads. Brotherhood attracts many people because they don't care about doctrines and philosophies. Worse, they don't care about the fear of God or a sincere and steadfast covenant with Him. They haven't been given the right gifts of the Holy Spirit to perceive certain things, nor have they had enough experience with the spiritual world to know the implications of the vows and verbal declarations they utter right there.

Now, let's talk about its most well-known symbols. The explanation is just about their meaning. What we know is that to each of these tools moral lessons are attributed, which are taught through rituals and lectures. However, it is difficult to say how the Freemasons use them to work their own inner growth, that is, how their lectures minister to them.

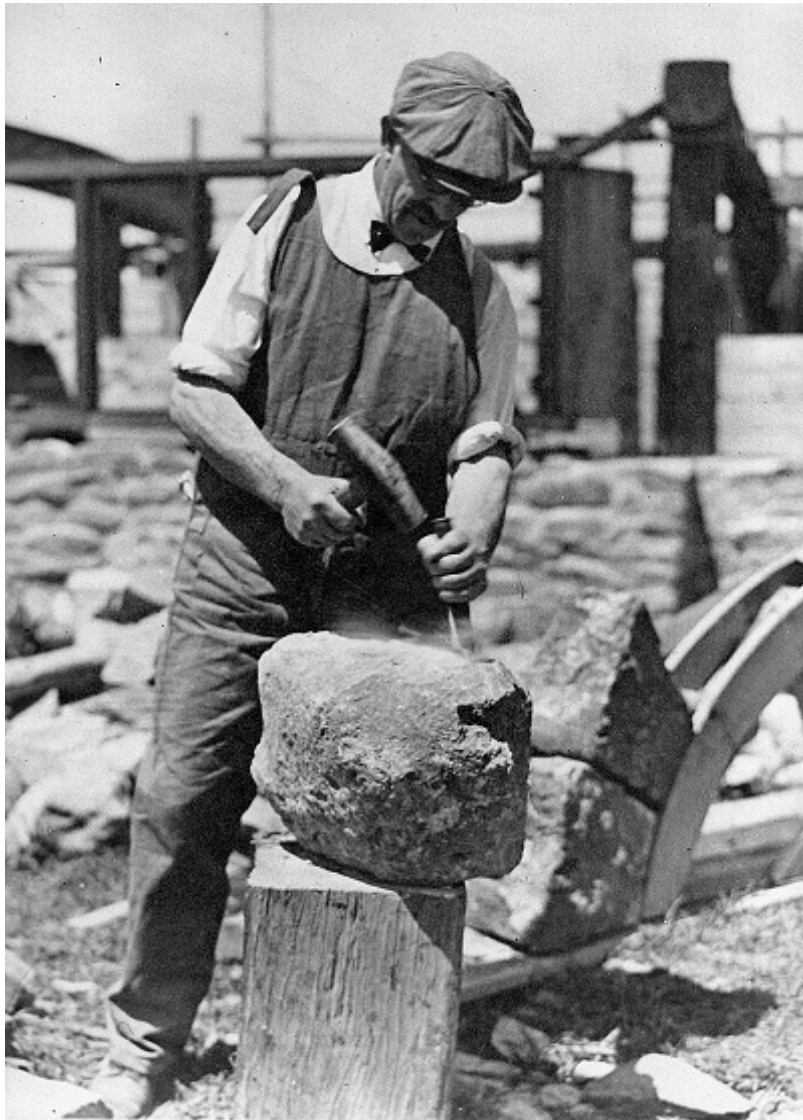


Image above: John Barr chiseling a stone – one of the main symbols of Freemasonry, showing the mason, the mallet, the chisel, the apron, the rough stone and its thinning. Taken by James Walter Chapman-Taylor (1878-1958) circa 1930. Source: wikipedia.org.

The symbols are:

1) The mallet and chisel (it chops the rough stone). The mallet is the tool to hew the stone or educating the crude and imperfect human personality to take it to purification. The mallet symbolizes will, energy, decision and the active aspect of consciousness necessary to succeed and overcome obstacles. Likewise, the chisel represents the intellect and suggests intelligent work. It is the tool of the Apprentice (the 1st degree of an Initiate).



A stone chisel, with tungsten carbide carving edge, for use with a mallet. Photo: Satrughna. Source: Wikipedia.org

Images below:

- An Egyptian wooden mallet dating from around 1550-1070 BC (Gift of Jerome F. Snyder). Source: Wikipedia.org.
- A set of new stonemason's mallets. Work of Reiner Flassig. Source: Wikipedia.org.



Actually, what they try to make by the use of intellect, God makes with us through His Spirit.

- *Isa. 29: 16*: “You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay? Shall the thing made say of its maker, ‘He did not make me’; or the thing formed say of the one who formed it, ‘He has no understanding?’”

- *Jer. 18: 6*: “‘Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done?’ says the Lord. ‘Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.’”

- *Lk. 20: 17-18*: “But he looked at them and said, ‘What then does this text mean: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’ Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls?” He was referring to Himself.

- *Phil. 2: 12-13*: “Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”

- *Jn. 15: 5*: “I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.”

- *Pv 3: 11-12*: “My child, do not despise the Lord’s discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the Lord reproves the one he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.”

- *1 Pe 5: 10*: “And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.”

Every day the Lord perfects us through His Spirit. He shows us where we need to improve and we do it together with Him, but not on our own willpower.

2) The Compass and the Square. The compass enlaced with the square symbolizes for them the macrocosm (the universe). The Masons also use the bible to signify the wisdom that enlightens and directs both the universe and man (In this case, the initiated). As a symbolic instrument for them, the compass and square are emblems of measurement and justice. The compass became the symbol of the creative activities of a builder and it is linked to time and spirit; the square, to space and the matter. The degrees of the compass opening symbolize the possibilities and degrees of knowledge (45°, 60° and 90°). By limiting the overture of the compass to a maximum of 90 degrees, man is spiritually limited, concerning to God’s revelation (knowledge). Here, I put what I could deduce from the spiritual experiences I had in some places. When they are present somewhere, the Holy Spirit immediately reveals to us because we feel the limitation of the activities pertinent to His move and to the revealed knowledge of the Word, that is, God’s revelation is withheld, the worship in God’s house becomes difficult. In a way, this doctrine ends up tying the person himself, making that the time he has to do things does not yield, besides limiting his physical and material movement on earth. When they think they are winning, in fact they are becoming increasingly entwined in the lies of Satan, preventing them from seeing God’s plan for them.

In many English-speaking countries, the Square and Compasses are depicted with the letter ‘G’ in the center. The letter has multiple meanings, representing different words depending on the context in which it is discussed: God or Geometry, and is to remind Masons that Geometry and Freemasonry are synonymous terms described as being the ‘noblest of sciences’, and the basis upon which the superstructure of Freemasonry and everything in existence in the entire universe is erected. In this context, it can also mean the Great Architect of the Universe (a non-denominational

reference to God). However, as we will see later, the letter can also have other meanings.



The compasses and the square – miguelalmario – Own work. Source: Wikipedia.org.

Second, nowhere in the Bible God limited man in terms of knowing Him. A believer advances in the knowledge of God every day. The bible says:

- “Let us know and continue to know the Lord” (*Hos 6: 3 a*).
- “No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.” (*Jer. 31: 34*).
- “I want their [*those in Laodicea*] hearts to be encouraged and united in love, so that they may have all the riches of assured understanding and have the knowledge of God’s mystery, that is, Christ himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” (*Col. 2: 2-3*).
- “And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.” (*Phil. 1: 9-11*).
- “But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and all of you have knowledge. I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and you know that no lie comes from the truth. Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; everyone who confesses the Son has the Father also.” (*1 Jn. 2: 20-23*).
- “To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit” (*1 Cor. 12: 8*). To some children, God gives a greater measure of His knowledge, namely, the gift of the word of

knowledge, which brings with it God's revelation of what it contains. And none of that is limited by Him, neither to the one who received the gift nor to those who receive divine revelation from him.

3) Black and white checkered floor: The black and white squares are the symbol of the diversity of the globe and of the races, united by Freemasonry and the opposition of different opposites, good and evil, spirit and body, light and darkness, positive and negative. It is necessary that a faithful believer knows how to make the contrast between light and darkness by himself. It is the intimacy with the Holy Spirit that gives us discernment.



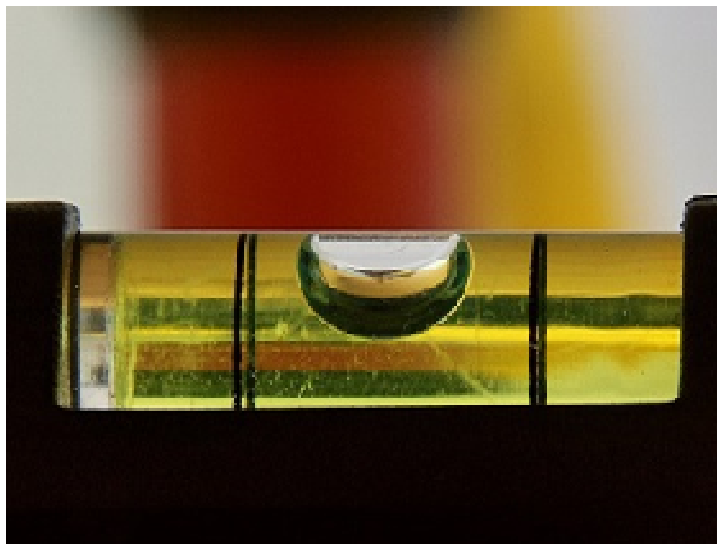
4) Level: For them, it represents equality among men, those who participate in their secret society, their fraternity through their doctrine. Why, then, the prejudice against Christian doctrine and worship, considering it absolutist? *The Word of God* is what levels us and balances us with ourselves, with our fellow men and with God. The love of the true God unites people.

- *Matt. 23: 8-12*: “But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

- *Deut. 10: 17-18*: “For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing.”

- *Acts 10: 34-35*: “Then Peter began to speak to them: ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality (*cf. 1 Pet. 1: 17*), but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.’”

- *Rom. 2: 11*: “For God shows no partiality.”



A spirit level, bubble level, or simply a level, used nowadays. Photo: aTaron – Wikipedia.org

5) Plumb bob: symbol of justice and rectitude. But divine justice and righteousness are only in one true God, the God of the Bible, who fulfilled this in the person of His Son, Jesus. God's righteousness is different from man's.

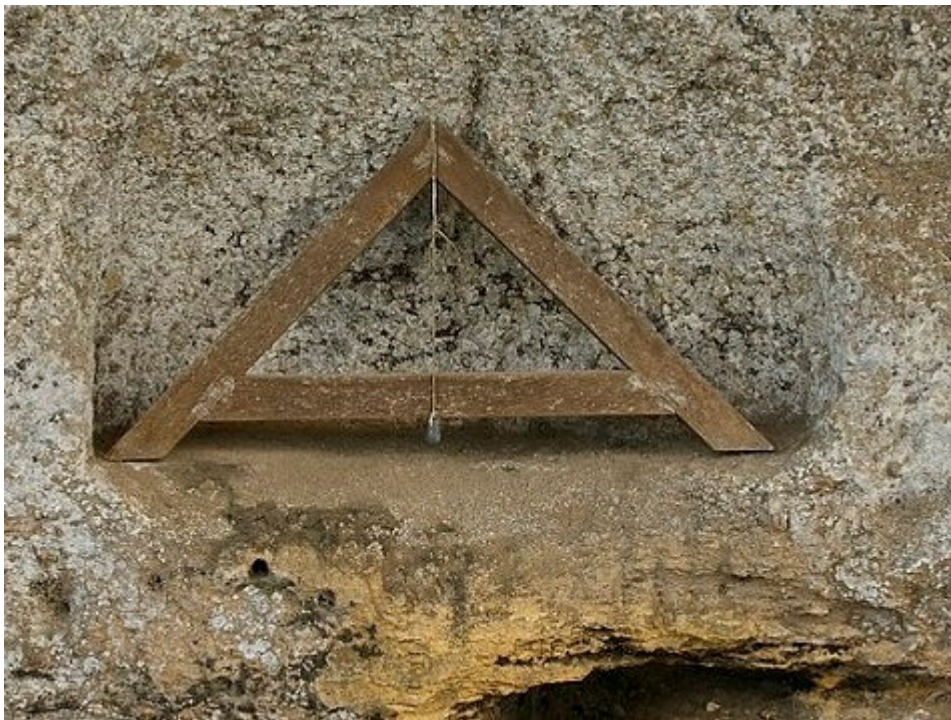
God's justice is His righteous way of justifying the unrighteous. In the Old Testament, the word justice was commonly used to refer to rectitude, the rectitude which God required of His people in following His law, that is, the straight and faithful obedience to His word. When we are under the love and justice of God in the person of Jesus we are spared and protected from evil. *Justice*, as understood in the NT, *is the union of men with God again, made through the cross, bringing us Salvation (Phil. 3: 9-11)*. Justice is linked to the trial or judgment that, at principle, is prerogative of God (*Isa. 33: 22*).

A plumb bob, plumb bob level, or plummet, is a weight, usually with a pointed tip on the bottom, suspended from a string and used as a vertical reference line, or plumb-line.

The Perpendicular, or plumb, and the level are equipment used to check the inclination of planes in relation to the vertical and horizontal, respectively. They represent, as well the two previous utensils, the masculine (plumb) and the feminine (level). The perpendicular is formed by a vaulted frame from which a plumb line descends to the base. The level is represented by an upward facing triangle from which a plumb line, or perpendicular, descends. The level is formed by a square from which a vertex prime thread descends. The Perpendicular is representative of the Second Warden. The plummet, which has both the perpendicular of the plumb and the horizontal, is representative of the First Warden who carries with him the attributions of both. The two instruments and the two Wardens symbolically serve for the correct use of Cubic Stones in the construction of symbolic temples, which are the people themselves. The level is also seen as a symbol of equality between people.

Images below:

- A plumb bob suspended on a string. Photo: Jim Thomas – wikipedia.org.
- A plumb line found in a cave in La Roque Saint-Christophe, Dordogne, Northern France. Photo: Jebulon – wikipedia.org



6) The ruler. In Freemasonry, the ruler symbolizes the units of measurement and improvement. The apprentice uses a smooth ruler, but when moving to the companion

grade, he uses a demarcated ruler called the ‘24-inch ruler’, each inch symbolizing a time of day. It is also a symbol of rightness. It represents the good management of time, which should be divided among self-knowledge, meditation, study and rest. When we are the Lord’s, He is who helps us to manage all this, without the control of our ego. His straight words keep us on the path of rectitude:

- *Phil. 2: 13*: “for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”

- *Prov. 8: 6-9*: “Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right; for my mouth will utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them. They are all straight to one who understands and right to those who find knowledge.”

For us, the rule can also be a symbol of the limit to spiritual space given by God to man and to his physical and emotional movement on earth. This means that, through mystical and worldly knowledge, the enemy caused in the minds of the unsuspecting, a distortion of what limit is, preventing the word of God from being released and their minds from being free from mediocrity.



The ‘24-inch ruler’ of the Fellowcraft

7) The luminous delta and three dots: delta (Δ) is the fourth letter of the Greek alphabet. In fact, when written in capital letters is a triangle. It is the emblem of the Tri-Unity. For freemasons, the triangle is usually surrounded by brightness and centered by the letter G, and means the ‘triple divine force’ that manifests itself as will, love and cosmic intelligence. It is sometimes depicted by three dots placed in a triangle, ∴. Actually, what they call ‘will’ corresponds to the will and authority of God the Father; Jesus represents love in its full manifestation, and the transcendental intelligence, in fact, is the Holy Spirit with all His anointing poured on us and empowering us to any work.

• *Isa. 11: 2*: “The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might [*NIV, power*], the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.”

• *Isa. 61: 1-3*: “The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.”

• *Lk. 4: 18-19*: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”



For some, the letter **G** comes from *gnosis*, in Greek, *knowledge*. For others, it refers to the seventh letter of the Masonic alphabet called *gimel* (in Hebrew, the 3rd letter, which means ‘camel’) and *gamma* in Greek. It usually means: God, Geometry, Generation, Glory, Great and Grand.

gimel

ג

lowercase letter gamma

γ

capital gamma

Γ

It is not the false knowledge, science, grandeur and brilliance that Satan wants for himself that brings light to our spirit, but the truth of Christ in us. Whoever clings to idolatry can see that the promises and revelation of God stay fastened to the lies of the occultism and mysticism of the darkness.

Three dots (∴) is a symbol used in Freemasonry for abbreviations, signatures, and symbolic representation and is used only for Masonic abbreviations. The symbol has been used since its beginnings in 1764. Others say in 1774, but this is less likely. In mathematical notation it symbolizes ‘therefore’. In Christian religious texts it represents the Trinity. Generally the symbol is used by Master Masons, a practice from the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

The three dots placed in a triangle ∴ is a symbol with several interpretations: past, present and future; wisdom, strength and beauty; birth, life and death; liberty, equality and fraternity; body, soul, and spirit; The Trinity. As a symbol of mastery, the three dots

can represent, the Entered Apprentice (left dot), Fellow Craft (right dot) and the Master Mason (the dot above and centered).

8) Apron: The Masonic apron has been developed from the apron worn by operative masons in the Middle Ages, from the skin of an animal, most probably a sheep. It was large enough to cover the wearer from chest to ankles, and a leathern thong passed round the neck prevented its fall. Also, it was tied round the waist by another leathern thong. The use of this rough apron continued for many centuries; the woven apron used by modern masons came into use in the eighteenth century. From 1731 onwards the apron assumed a new shape, usually kneel length, with softer fabrics, silk, satin, velvet, linen, and chamois-leather (a type of soft pliable leather now made from sheepskin or lambskin), of a triangular form or in a semi-circular line.

The only difference is that their apron is tied at the waist, not across the chest, as was the high priest's breastpiece (NIV) or breastplate (KJV):

• *Ex. 28: 29:*

“And Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart, when he goeth in unto the holy place, for a memorial before the LORD continually.” (KJV)

“Whenever Aaron enters the Holy Place, he will bear the names of the sons of Israel over his heart on the breastpiece of decision as a continuing memorial before the LORD.” (NIV)

It is the most important part in Freemasonry, which is essential to work. It is the only badge that gives Mason the right to enter temples and attend meetings, and it marks his membership of the Fraternity. Some say that it symbolizes the ‘bond of friendship’, that it, a symbol of the fraternal virtues. The white apron, unadorned, of the 1st grade, indicates the purity of the soul, which is supposed to have been attained in this grade. However, its shape and color vary according to the rites and grades. Most of them agree that the apron is an emblem of historical institutional age.



Entered Apprentice Freemason apron. Photo: Chelm261 – wikipedia.org

The celestial blue of the apron is associated with spiritual dedication, devotion, balance, loyalty and wisdom. Others explain it as follows: Blue (the true Masonic color) is derived from the blue vault of heaven; it is suggestive of infinity and universality, and in Masonry denotes, “universal brotherhood and benevolence.” Originally the blue color of masonic garments was of a very pale blue, and was changed to light sky blue by the King Edward VI and changed again around 1745 to the current darker hue.

In the bible, one of the colors of the high priest’s garments was blue, corresponding to the Sapphire stone. This color was much used in the bible concerning the tabernacle, the priests and the throne of God. Why the blue was chosen from among all the colors? Because blue resembles the color of the sea and the sea looks like the color of the sky and the sky resembles the color of the throne of God, according to the interpretation of Ancient times. Therefore, Ezekiel had the vision of God’s throne as a sapphire, whose color is blue (*Ezek. 1: 26-28*), as well as Moses (*Ex. 24: 9-10*).



Master Mason apron. Photo: Chelm261 – wikipedia.org

9) Gloves: for them is a mark of distinction and purity. After his admission, the Apprentice receives two pairs of white gloves, of which one is for him and the other, the woman he loves. The white glove received on the day of his initiation aims to recall the commitments made by the Mason.

It’s interesting to notice that we Christians received from Jesus the wedding ring when we surrender to Him at the time of our conversion and it is this commitment of fidelity to His call that makes our hands pure, clean and prosperous.



Amazon

10) Spiral Staircase or winding staircase: shows the difficult trajectory of the Fellowcraft (2nd grade). With its spiral steps it represents the difficulty in climbing, learning and improving himself, showing that evolution is not developed in a steady and straight way. It has its ups and downs. His persistence in search of light will be the reward, because he will reach the top of the stairs. Back to the Gospel: Jesus always said that the gate would be narrow and there are few who find it, for easy is the road and wide is the gate that leads to destruction:

- *Matt. 7: 13-14:* “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

- *Lk. 13: 22-30:* “Jesus went through one town and village after another, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, ‘Lord, will only a few be saved?’ He said to them, ‘Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able. When once the owner of the house has got up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then in reply he will say to you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’ But he will say, ‘I do not know where you come from; go away from me, all you evildoers!’ There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrown out. Then people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God. Indeed, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

- *Phil. 2: 13:* “for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”

- *1 Pet. 5: 10:* “And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.”

It is not we who have to work out our sanctification, nor our salvation, even because our concept of perfection and rightness is completely distorted and flawed. It is the Holy Spirit who performs everything in us, provided that we have the seal of the Lamb’s blood on our foreheads and be willing to surrender completely to His will.

Hence, all religions are seeking salvation in the wrong way, i.e., the way the devil wants, in the self-effort so that the glory is the person's (and, logically, his too), not of Jesus Christ. Our salvation comes not by works but by faith:

• *Rom. 10: 8-13*: “But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, ‘No one who believes in him will be put to shame.’ For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”



To the left of the figure, one can notice the columns (similar to those in Solomon's temple), symbolizing Greek architectural orders, in particular three: Doric, Ionic and Corinthian. The set of these three Greek columns form 'The three small Lights.' The column of Doric Order, more robust and with right angles, represents **strength** and the First Warden; the Corinthian Order, adorned with acanthus leaves, represents **beauty** and the Second Warden; and the column of the Ionic Order, where it is adorned with volutes, represents **wisdom** and the Worshipful Master. The volute is a spiral and parchment-shaped form of ornament that forms the basis of the Ionic Order, found on the capital of the Ionic column. It was later incorporated into the columns of Corinthian Order and Composite Order. On the floors of the stairs are the words: hearing, seeing, feeling, smelling and tasting. Then on the steps above come the following words: grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, geometry, music and astronomy.

11) Jacob's ladder:

- *Gen. 28: 12-13*: “And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, ‘I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring.’”

The mystical ladder they say is the ladder seen by Jacob symbolizes the cycles of involution and evolution of life, in its perpetual ebb and flow, through births and deaths, unfolding into hierarchies of beings, powers, worlds, kingdoms, lives and races. The ladder with this meaning consists of fourteen steps and correspond to the virtues necessary for the improvement of each one. The most important are: faith, hope and charity (love), symbolized there by the Cross, the Anchor and the Chalice or Goblet (the bible says ‘cup’). The bible says there are no other lives, only this one; therefore, only one chance of salvation. Besides, the man speaks of love, but remains self-centered and incapable of taking a single step like Jesus. Without the love of God there is no spiritual evolution:

- *Heb. 9: 22-28*: “Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. Thus it was necessary for the sketches of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves need better sacrifices than these. For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, *he has appeared once for all at the end of the age* to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed *for mortals to die once*, and after that the judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.”

- *Jn. 15: 13*: “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

- *1 Cor. 13: 1-3*: “If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal [*by some, considered an ancient stringed instrument; by others, an ancient instrument consisting of two half globes (like music plates) that strike each other*]. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.”

- *2 Cor. 6: 12-18*: “There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return – I speak as to children – open wide your hearts also. Do not be mismatched [*NIV: yoked together*] with unbelievers. For what partnership is there between righteousness and lawlessness? Or what fellowship is there between light and darkness? What agreement does Christ have with Belial? Or what does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, ‘I will live in them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be your father, and you shall be my sons and daughters’, says the Lord Almighty.”

Can you mix the sanctity and purity of Jesus with all this confusion you've seen so far?



This was already written before Freemasonry existed:

- *1 Cor. 13: 13*: “And now *faith, hope, and love* abide, these three; and the greatest of these is *love*.”

- *Rom. 10: 8-11*: “But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart’ (that is, the word of *faith* that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, ‘No one who believes in him will be put to shame.’”

Of which faith is Paul talking about? Of eternal life and salvation won on the cross of Calvary by Jesus, not by any founder of any sect, nor the devil.

Hope is *the anchor of the soul*, meaning that it binds us in the ways of the Lord, making us persevere until our abode in heaven:

- *Heb. 6: 17-20*: “In the same way, when God desired to show even more clearly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it by an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God would prove false, we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us. We have this *hope*, a sure and steadfast *anchor of the soul*, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.” (*cf. Gen. 14: 18-20*).

Cup of salvation, the New Covenant:

- *Matt. 26: 27-28*: “Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.’” Could there be greater love than to lay down one’s own life for one’s friends? (*Jn. 15: 13*).

- *1 The. 5: 8-10*: “But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a *helmet the hope of salvation*. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.”

12) Sword: used in Masonic ceremonies, generally symbolizing the power and authority, and as an emblem to dissipate the darkness of ignorance. At meetings of ritual banquets, is the name given to the knife. But the bible says that the true sword is God’s word:

- *Eph. 6: 17*: “Take the helmet of salvation, and *the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God*.”

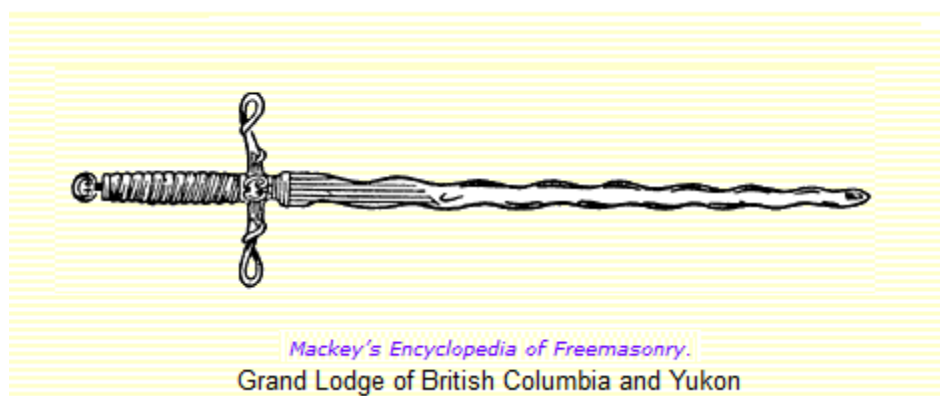
- *Heb. 4: 12-13*: “Indeed, *the word of God* is living and active, sharper than *any two-edged sword*, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.”

- *2 Cor. 10: 3-6*: “Indeed, we live as human beings, but we do not wage war according to human standards; for the weapons of our warfare are not merely human, but they have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ. We are ready to punish every disobedience when your obedience is complete.”

- *1 Cor. 2: 4-5*: “My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power.” The power used by the apostle was the pure word of God, the sword, not human speech with an air of wisdom and knowledge, neither the strength of mental power (carnal) which is developed by the followers of many sects.

- *Ps. 149: 6-9*: “Let the high praises of God be in their throats [*referring to the saints of the Lord*] and *two-edged swords* in their hands, to execute vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples, to bind their kings with fetters and their nobles with chains of iron, to execute on them the judgment decreed. This is glory for all his faithful ones. Praise the Lord!”

13) Flaming sword (fiery sword): the one with the wavy blade, like tongue of fire. Up to a recent period, the tiler’s sword (a person who lays tiles, or a roof tiler), as they call the doorkeeper of a Masonic lodge, who prevents outsiders from entering, was wavy in shape, in allusion to the flaming sword which was placed at the east of the garden of Eden, which turned every way to keep the way of the tree of life. It was without a scabbard, because the tiler’s sword should ever be drawn and ready to defend his post. It seems that today it was replaced by a normal sword. It is also used by the Master Mason as a symbol of creative power.



The Word of God says:

- *Gen. 3: 24* : “He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and *a sword flaming* and turning to guard the way to the tree of life.”

- *Rev. 2: 12-17*: “And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has *the sharp two-edged sword*: ‘I know where you are living, where Satan’s throne is. Yet you are holding fast to my name, and you did not deny your faith in me even in the days of Antipas my witness [*a martyr*], my faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan lives. But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold to the teaching of Balaam [*Assyrian fortune teller sent for by the*

king of Moab to curse Israel], who taught Balak [*the king of Moab*] to put a stumbling block before the people of Israel, so that they would eat food sacrificed to idols and practice fornication. So you also have some who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans [*a group of Christians in the Church in Pergamum that tried to get commitment to paganism, eating food sacrificed to idols and commit prostitution or sexual laxity in the Church*]. Repent then. If not, I will come to you soon and make war against them *with the sword of my mouth*. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give a white stone, and on the white stone is written a new name that no one knows except the one who receives it.”

- *Rev. 19: 15*: “From his mouth comes *a sharp sword* with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron; he will tread the wine press of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.”

Since the dawn of Creation, God appeared to man with great power, brightness and glory. The bible always describes thunder, lightning, fire, as symbols of judgment and authority of the Most High. It is also written that God created the world for the manifestation of the glory of His power, wisdom and eternal goodness through His will.

- *Gen. 1: 3*: “Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.”

Therefore, the essential divine activity originates from the word of God (“*God said*”), which is a product of His will. For us, the practical learning is that the word of God can be a factor in *the creation of good* or in *the destruction of evil*, in order to *protect* what He decided to love and preserve. *This is the flaming sword* the devil insists to use. He cannot create, he doesn’t protect or defend anything; rather, he steals and kills and destroys:

- *Jn. 10: 10*: “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

What comes out of the enemy’s mouth does not create anything good, nor praises the Creator, only blasphemes against the Holy One:

- *Dan. 7: 8*: “I was considering the horns, when another horn appeared, a little one coming up among them; to make room for it, three of the earlier horns were plucked up by the roots. There were eyes like human eyes in this horn, *and a mouth speaking arrogantly*.”

- *Rev. 13: 5-6*: “The beast was given *a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words*, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months [*three years and a half*]. It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven.”

14) The temple: symbol of Masonic construction, referring to the construction of its inner temple and, together with the brothers, the building a universal temple. They use Solomon’s temple as a model, with some stairs to go up to it and the two pillars (*Jachin and Boaz*), whose names may be the first words of the oracle that gave power to the Davidic dynasty: “*YHWH will establish your throne forever*” (*establish = Jachin or Jakin – Yakhin – the right side – to the south*) and “*in the strength of YHWH the king shall rejoice*” (*Boaz – be’ōz = strength – the left one – North – 1 Kin. 7: 21; 2 Chr. 3: 15-17 cf. Jer. 52: 21*), as well as the pomegranates that crowned the pillars, being replaced by balls in the most advanced grade of initiation. On the side of column B (Boaz) are the Apprentices, on the side of column Y (Yachin) are the Companions and between the columns are the Mason Masters and the altar of oaths, with the three great lights (strength, beauty and wisdom, as mentioned in item 10 – the winding staircase). The location of apprentices and companions can be reversed, depending on the adopted

rite. The columns of Masonic temples are made of bronze, topped with pomegranates, lilies and chains. Boaz is the apprentices' password and that of the companions is Jachin or Jakin or Yachin. As for the masters, it is Tubalcaim. Knowing these words can they attend some meetings and have access to information within Freemasonry. For Masons, pomegranates signify prosperity and solidarity of the Masonic family.

The columns of Solomon's Temple were loose and did not support the ceiling of the Portico, but were in front of it as part of the furniture, not the building of the temple. *Jachin or Jakin – Yachin* – as we saw above means: “YHWH will establish your throne forever”, and *Boaz* (*be'ōz* – the left one), “in the strength of YHWH the king shall rejoice.” This means that only the Lord can establish us, firm us, and His joy is our strength. The right side or right hand in the bible is a symbol of blessing, might, privilege, honor, power, authority (with that faith in Him, He establishes our throne). The pomegranates were mentioned in Song of Solomon (*Song 4: 13*), when the lover says (NRSV), “Your channel is an orchard of pomegranates with all choicest fruits, henna with nard.” [KJV: Thy plants are an orchard of pomegranates, with pleasant fruits; camphire [referring to *Lawsonia inermis*, the scientific name of henna tree], with spikenard; NIV: Your plants are an orchard of pomegranates with choice fruits, with henna and nard]. It means that what springs up in our lives should be like an orchard of pomegranates. The pomegranate fruit is very well known and popular in the East and it becomes syrup, juice and astringent remedy. This means that our attitudes and our words should serve as a remedy for diseased hearts. Thus, they were placed over the columns of the temple. What sustains us as Christians (columns, pillars) in our attitudes and words of healing to others is the strength – *be'ōz*, *Boaz* – of the Lord and the *faith* in that He will establish us – *Yachim, Jachin*.



15) The five-pointed blazing star or pentagram – for the Pythagoreans (Pythagoras was a Greek philosopher and mathematician who lived in the sixth century BC), the five-pointed blazing star is the symbol of the sacred number ‘five’, within which is the letter G (gnosis in Greek, knowledge). As we saw before, the letter G is also the seventh letter of the Masonic alphabet. It’s called gimel (camel, in Hebrew), the 3rd letter, and gamma in Greek. The Masonic meaning is: Geometry, Generation, Glory, Great and Grand.

gimel

λ

lowercase letter gamma

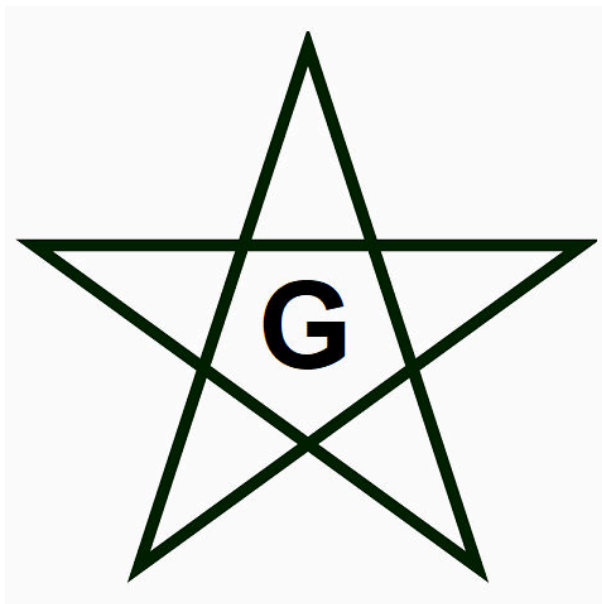
γ

capital gamma

Γ

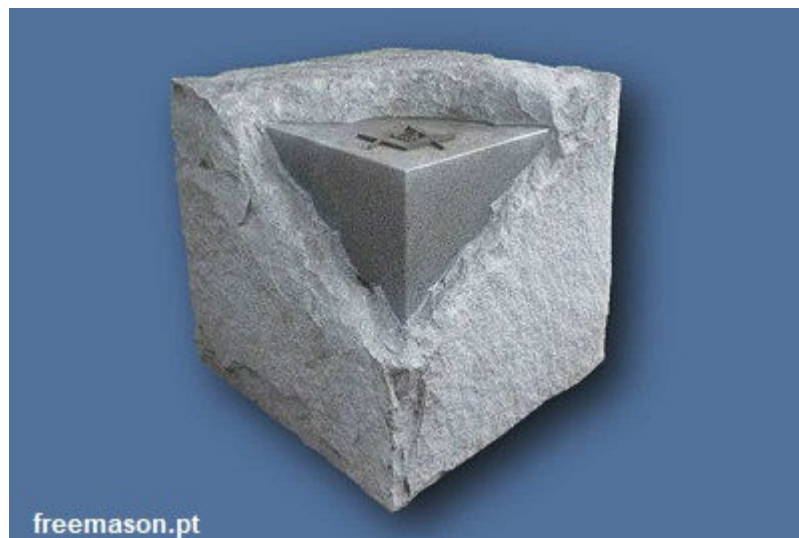
Pentagram is the representation of a man standing with his legs apart and arms outstretched (The Vitruvian Man by Leonardo da Vinci *): it indicates the human being and his need for ascension. For Christian Freemasons, who call it ‘the Star of the East or the Star of Initiation’, it is the star that symbolized the birth of Jesus, and the symbol of the Perfect Man, of full Humanity between Father and Son. It represents man in his five aspects: physical, emotional, mental, intuitive and spiritual. It is the man with open arms, but without virility, because he has dominated passions and emotions. In Freemasonry and its temples, the star is present and has influence over men, leading them to great things. Originally a symbol of the Roman goddess Venus, it was associated with several deities and worshiped by different cultures. It is one of the most used pagan symbols in ceremonial magic because it represents the five elements found within a man, and which constitute the microcosm, which are fire, earth, air, water and ether (this being a substance related to the spirit), being used as a talisman. Originally, the five-pointed star can be found on pottery shards that are over 4,000 years old. In the temples of Freemasonry, the stars distributed irregularly on the ceiling symbolize the Universality of Freemasonry across all continents, and they, as ‘social builders’, must distribute the light of their knowledge to those who are still blind and deprived of the knowledge of Truth.

(*) The Vitruvian Man by Leonardo da Vinci is a famous drawing from 1490, based on the work of the Roman architect Vitruvius from the 1st century BC, and which depicts the proportions of human body, fitted within a square and a circle. The design is considered a symbol of the basic symmetry of the human body and, by extension, the universe as a whole.



As written on a few pages ago in relation to ‘G’, it is not false knowledge, science, grandeur and brilliance that Satan wants for himself that brings light to our spirit, but the truth of Christ in us. Whoever clings to idolatry can see that the promises and revelation of God stay fastened to the lies of the occultism and mysticism of darkness.

16) Rough and smooth stones (the rough and smooth ashlar):



Inside the Masonic temple there are some stones symbolizing the work of a mason: the Rough Stone and the Polished Stone. The Rough Stone is the Apprentice's work object, the symbol of the imperfections of the spirit that Masons must seek to correct. Using the basic tools, the Apprentice will rough the rough stone, removing the edges and imperfections until leaving it in a cubic format for use in the construction of the building. This is the most basic job. The Apprentice is like the rough stone, whose vices, which hinder the construction of a fairer society, will be removed, chiseled. Afterwards, the master checks that the stone is really cubic and is passed to a Fellowcraft who will polish it. The Fellowcraft's job is to receive the cubic stone and refine the work, polishing it and making it perfect for use in the building. The ready and

polished stone is a representation of the Master Mason, perfected and ready both to be used in the construction of the building and to assist the Apprentices and Fellowcrafts in their journeys.

The rough stone of Freemasons corresponds to the raw material of the hermetists, who follow Hermeticism. Hermeticism, also called Hermetism, is a doctrine connected to Gnosticism and arose in Egypt in the first century, assigned to the god Thoth, linking the Eastern doctrines to Neo-Platonism. It is a secret teaching that mixes philosophy and alchemy (a chemistry sought through a secret formula to turn metals into gold). Gnosticism is a philosophical-religious doctrine which arose at the beginning of our era and diversified into many sects, seeking to reconcile all religions and explain to them their deepest meaning through gnosis (Greek: knowledge). Gnosticism is related to Kabbalah, Neo-Platonism and Eastern religions. Gnosis teaches esoteric and perfect knowledge of deity and that is transmitted by tradition and through rites of initiation.

Neoplatonism is the set of doctrines and schools of Platonic inspiration (Plato was a Greek philosopher from the 5th century BC – 429-347 BC) that developed from the 3rd to the 6th century (232-529). It addresses the spiritual and cosmological aspects of Platonic thought, synthesizing Platonism with Egyptian and Jewish theology, including influencing some Christians, such as Augustine of Hippo, and Jews in medieval times, such as Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon, also known as Maimonides or Rambam, the most influential Jewish scholar of the Middle Ages (12th century) who organized the 613 Jewish ordinances (Mitzvot).

Thoth (in classical Greek: Θóθ – Thóth; also known as Djeuti in Egyptian: Dhwtj) was the Egyptian god of speech and scholarship, knowledge, wisdom, writing, music, moon and magic. He usually depicted with the head of an ibis or baboon, animals consecrated to him. He was called Mercury by the Romans, and Hermes by the Greeks. Thoth was revered in Hermopolis Magna and was called by the Greeks Hermes Trismegistus (Hermes three times Great, Hermes Thrice Great).

So, the rough stone symbolizes the crude personality of the Apprentice, whose edges he trims, and that is up to him to discipline, educate and subordinate to his will.

It is a pity that the person wants to subordinate to himself, instead of submitting to the dominion of the Holy Spirit!

- *Rom. 7: 15-25*: “I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self [*spirit*], but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members [*flesh*]. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.”

- *Rom. 8: 1-4*: “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

- *1 Cor. 9: 23-27*: “I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings. Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one. So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; but I punish my body and enslave it [*to the Holy Spirit*], so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified”

- *Gal. 5: 22-26*: “By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and *self-control*. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.”

17) Pointed cubic stone: since ancient times the perfect cube symbolizes angelic beings, harmonious emotional configuration, the human portion, on which a pyramid, symbol of divinity, overlaps it. The cubic stone for Freemasons is a symbol of moral elevation, corresponds to the philosopher’s stone of spiritual construction, which constitutes the great work or individual improvement, which leads to a superior state. The philosopher’s stone is a mythical substance supposed to change any metal into gold or silver and, according to some, to cure all diseases and prolong life indefinitely. Its discovery was the supreme object of alchemy.



The pointed cubic stone is considered as a higher stage than the six-sided smooth stone (ashlar), which was the rough chiseled stone. The smooth stone corresponds to the end of the Apprentice’s work when taking the first step as a Fellowcraft. In turn, the pointed cubic stone symbolizes the end of the work, the crowning of the efforts, the conquest of the objective and the accomplishment of the work of the Fellowcraft at the end of its progression. Thus, the cubic stone would represent the opening to the divine, the meeting point between the manifested and the unmanifested, between man and God.

18) Trowel: is adopted by Freemasonry as a symbolic instrument with which it is applied the human mortar intended to carry out the unity, just as the mason cements the various stones to form a whole that is the building.

The trowel can be considered as an emblem of tolerance and indulgence, the symbol of brotherly love that suggests the union of all Masons, as the only cement that covers the entire building of the temple. Passing the trowel means forgetting the injuries or injustices, forgiving an offense, disguising a resentment and excusing a fault. In operative masonry, the apprentice was in charge of preparing the raw materials, so he only needed the mallet and the chisel. These materials then passed into the hands of companions or workers who placed them conveniently, using the plumb line, the level and the square. Finally, the master checked the accuracy with which the work was done, giving the last coat and spreading with the trowel the cement that definitively unites all the materials. Therefore, the trowel is considered an instrument of the master mason (source: Wikipedia).



Each Mason is a building, at the same time a brick that is part of a larger building that is their brotherhood. This idea came first from the mind of God:

- *1 Cor. 3: 4-9*: “For when one says, ‘I belong to Paul’, and another, ‘I belong to Apollos’, are you not merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, *God’s building*.”

- *1 Cor. 3: 16-17*: “Do you not know that *you are God’s temple* and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy that person. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple.”

- *Eph. 2: 19-22*: “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens [*Gentiles in the flesh*], but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure [*the Church*] is joined together and grows into a

holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.”

- *Eph. 4: 14-16*: “The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people’s trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.”

- *Rom. 15: 20-21*: “Thus I make it my ambition to proclaim the good news, not where Christ has already been named, so that I do not *build on someone else’s foundation*, but as it is written, ‘Those who have never been told of him shall see, and those who have never heard of him shall understand.’”

19) There is also the **coffin of Hiram**, the architect of Solomon’s temple. It is covered by a funeral cloth, adorned with fringes of silver and decorated with a *Latin cross or crux imissa* (†). Six human skulls are seen, each accompanied by two crossed tibias (although only one skull is showed in their pictures). The head of the coffin carrying a triangle ornate with the letter **G** is oriented toward the West. The feet of the coffin contain the presence of the compass and square and are turned to the East. In some traditions, the West is the direction of the country of the dead. The Latin cross is a symbol of sacrifice and the branch of acacia wood, placed in the middle of the coffin, recalls the legend of Hiram, considered the Master founder of Freemasonry. The tibias (in Latin, Tibiae) draw a *crux decussata or cross of Saint Andrew* (X), for the Freemasons, a symbol of life and perfection. The myth of Hiram was created in the eighteenth century. According to the legend, the work in the temple of Jerusalem ended, but the companions of Hiram didn’t know the secrets of their master’s skill. So they beat him with a stroke of a ruler in the throat, of an iron square in the left side of his chest and a stroke of gavel (mallet) on the forehead, and this latter killed him. They hid the master’s body and buried him at night on the edge of a forest, sticking on the grave a branch of acacia. Likewise, beginners have to die physically (throat), sentimentally (left breast) and mentally (forehead), being reborn to a new level of personal integrity. Figuratively the three killers are: 1) ignorance, 2) hypocrisy or fanaticism, 3) greed or envy. The three oppose the qualities of Hiram: knowledge, tolerance and disinterest (generosity). Acacia (or cassia) is a plant dedicated in ceremonies, grades and spirit of Freemasonry as a symbol of innocence, initiation and immortality of the soul.

After the experiences and revelations I have received from the Lord, I think the best interpretation for Christians masons is:

- The **coffin** and **skull** symbolize death due to the covenants that are made there, preventing the physical and spiritual life. Six is man’s number, as 666 is the beast’s (*Rev. 13: 18*). God is not conniving with the human wickedness because they don’t bring eternal life.

- **Hiram**: is the symbol of our ability, generated by the presence of the Holy Spirit in us with His gifts. His name means *dedication, consecration*. To whom are you truly devoted, to God or the devil? He is stealing your gifts and abilities given by the Holy Spirit, and demanding your consecration to him.

•• **Stroke of a ruler in the throat:** means the limit to the creative word of God (Jesus was silent with all the pain He suffered on the cross so that we could have the right and the freedom of expression). The ruler, as we said, besides rightness, to us is the symbol of the limit to the spiritual space given by God to man and to his physical and emotional move on earth. This means that the enemy caused in the minds of the unsuspecting, a distortion of what limit is, preventing the word of God from being released. Everything was distorted in the mind of man, and the gospel has become something restrictive and prohibitive, full of human doctrines and rules preventing the free work of God. But the word of God is not chained (*2 Tim. 2: 9b*).

•• **Square of iron in the left chest of Hiram:** means, in fact, the limit to love and justice of God (as was the spear that wounded the body of Jesus on His side). The compass, as we have seen, is linked to time and spirit. By limiting the opening of the compass to a maximum of 90 degrees, man is spiritually limited with regard to God's revelation (knowledge). The square is linked to space and matter. By limiting the opening of the square, man is limited in his action and in material blessings. The devil is tying you up, holding back your time, your spiritual, emotional and material blessings.

•• **Gavel (mallet) on the forehead and that killed Hiram** (Like the crown of thorns on Jesus' head): it means restricting our freedom of thought. However, the bible says we have the mind of Christ, so nothing can stop us from thinking as He thinks. The mallet and chisel mean that who sculpts and shapes us is Jesus, not men or the devil.

•• **The Acacia** – Master Masons use acacia as an identification sign; for them, it represents security, clarity, innocence and purity. It is initially a symbol of true Initiation into a new life, resurrection into a future life.



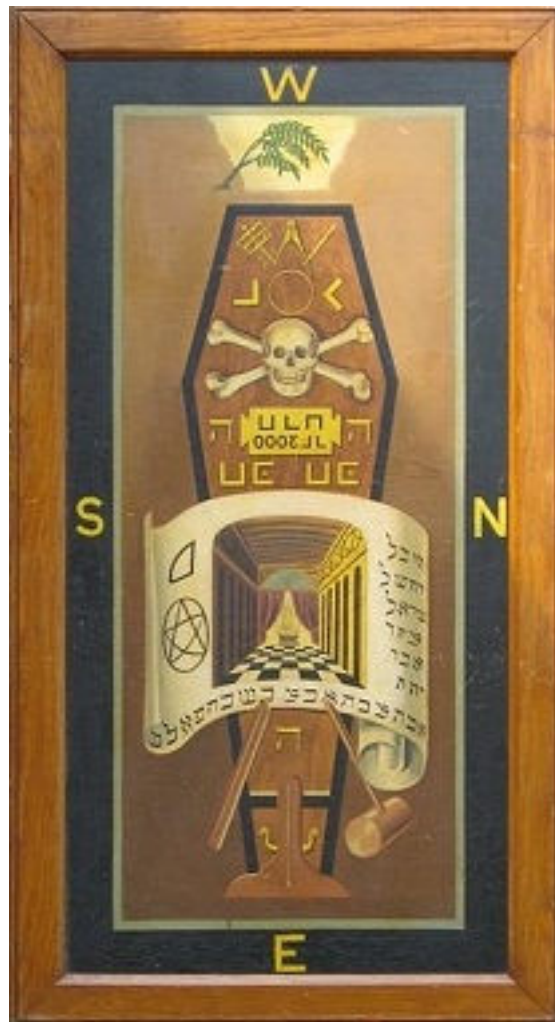
Acacia is a tree of many species. It was the tree that supplied the wood to the Hebrew people, the sacred and fragrant wood of Shittim, and was largely employed in the construction of the Tabernacle. Shittim was also a place of idolatry and immorality in front of Jericho, on the plains of Moab, to the east of the River Jordan. There is a prophecy in *Jl. 3: 18*: “In that day the mountains shall drip sweet wine, the hills shall flow with milk, and all the stream beds of Judah shall flow with water; a fountain shall come forth from the house of the Lord and water the Wadi Shittim (‘Valley of the

Acacia’).” This means that after sincere repentance, the people that were depraved before will receive the life-giving water on the Lord’s Day. The word ‘acacia’ (Shittah – Strong #7848) appears 28 times in the OT, often related to the Tabernacle: *Ex. 25: 5; 10; 13; 23; 28; Ex. 26: 15; 26; 32; 37; Ex. 27: 1; 6; Ex. 30: 1; 5; Ex. 35: 7; 24; Ex. 36: 20; 31; 36; Ex. 37: 1; 4; 10; 15; 25; 28; Ex 38: 1; 6; Deut. 10: 3; Isa. 41: 19.*

Acacia is a small tree or shrub of the Fabaceae family, subfamily Mimosoideae, genus *Acacia*. It’s a tree of the genus of tropical and subtropical legumes, having composite and small leaves and bunches of small yellow or white flowers. Depending on the climate, species can be widely used as ornamental plants.

Acacia farnesiana is a species of tree of the genus *Acacia*, within the Fabaceae family, known as yellow acacia. This is used by the Freemasons (image above). Another flower they use is the forget-me-not (*Myosotis alpestris*).

Acacia means potential and nobility. Thus, the branch of acacia on the tomb of Hiram means the potential and the nobility being killed and buried. The enemy tries to limit your potential and your nobility as a child of God and wants those features for him.



Photograph of a Third-Degree tracing board dating from c.1876. Photo: Jack1956 – wikipedia.org

The picture above is a tracing board that illustrates some features of what we commented on Hiram's coffin. This is the coffin of a Master Mason. In the funeral ceremony, they walk around the coffin, take the acacia branch from the coffin, bring it to their nose and then place it back.

Tracing boards are painted or printed illustrations depicting the various emblems and symbols of Freemasonry. They can be used as teaching aids during the lectures that follow each of the three degrees, when an experienced member explains the various concepts of Freemasonry to new members. In the early days of Freemasonry, the symbols and emblems were drawn in charcoal (1776–1820) or in chalk on the floor of the lodge room, and erased after every meeting. The symbols were characteristic of Operative Masonry. The fact that the artist or engraver created the symbols demonstrated a power of the mind to be materialized in drawing, that is, the development of an idea. In the 18th and 19th centuries, drawing boards helped to teach apprentices the philosophies of the craft. As lodges began to meet in their own buildings, these designs were embroidered on cloths that were unrolled at the beginning of the session and gathered up at the close. Later, these embroideries were replaced by fixed frames, the modern tracing boards. The paintings became a symbolic piece of art that signified the Master Architect's (the 'Supreme Architect') plan for the universe and for the building of Solomon's Temple in each member of the fraternity. Tracing boards, which later evolved into easel boards (like those of architects) inform the philosophies, teachings, and rituals of ancient and modern Freemasonry. To this day, they inspire Masons in their quest to build their own spiritual temple and to meticulously and faithfully apply each lesson to their daily lives.

In the pictures bellow are some examples of tracing boards.



- Entered Apprentice symbols of the Craft – Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon (Boards sold by Dominion Regalia, Ontario, throughout the twentieth century).



• Fellowcraft King's Solomon's temple – Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon (Boards sold by Dominion Regalia, Ontario, throughout the twentieth century).

20) Eagle: For the Freemasonry, the eagle represents courage, intelligence, wit and victory. The Freemasonry eagle is depicted with two heads, unlike the Roman eagle.

For us Christians, the eagle symbolizes *spirituality, renewal, majesty and ability to see far and be free*. The eagle experiences a process of physical renewal, very similar to the renewing work of the Holy Spirit in us. It is a bird that has the most longevity, coming to live seventy years. However, around forty years old, if it wants to continue living, it has to go through a renewal process. It begins to feel that its feathers are getting older; its beak is no longer as sharp and strong as before, that its claws are already weakening, and then it decides to take a drastic action. This process begins with the disruption of its routine activities as its flights, its hunting and adventures. So it flies high to the cliffs. There, alone and isolated, it begins by itself, the renovation work, traumatic, and that requires much courage, but finally will give it back the power and grandeur that seemed to be lost. The eagle begins to pluck its feathers with its beak, one by one, until it is fully plucked and disfigured. After that, realizing its beak is weak,

powerless and full of scabs, it rubs it hard on the rock until it is raw. Finally, are the claws; it does the same process it did with the beak, hitting its nails with violence upon the rock repeatedly until that callous and aged layer is ripped out and stays also raw. However, after this process of self-flagellation, new, beautiful and bright feathers begin to emerge. A new beak grows, claws begin to sprout with all force and it is completely renewed and revitalized. It gets a new look and descends from the heights to continue its existence. The eagle symbolizes he who managed to discover the greatest secret of life and went through the process of inner renewal by overcoming the 'self' and, finally, getting rid of the carnal yokes and burdens that prevent someone from achieving true spirituality and communion with God. The eagle does not stop having its normal life as any animal, for it lives on hunting, but knows 'to go up' when it's necessary to stay above the small things. We should do the same.



Elo 7

Roman Eagle and Masonic Eagle with two heads

John, the evangelist and writer of Revelation, when he was exiled in the Island of Patmos, already old, received revelations from the throne of God, seeing the faces of cherubim as animals, like Ezekiel, one of them being the eagle. Both writers saw the same symbolic image in relation to angels (*Rev. 4: 5-8; Ezek. 1: 4-14*).

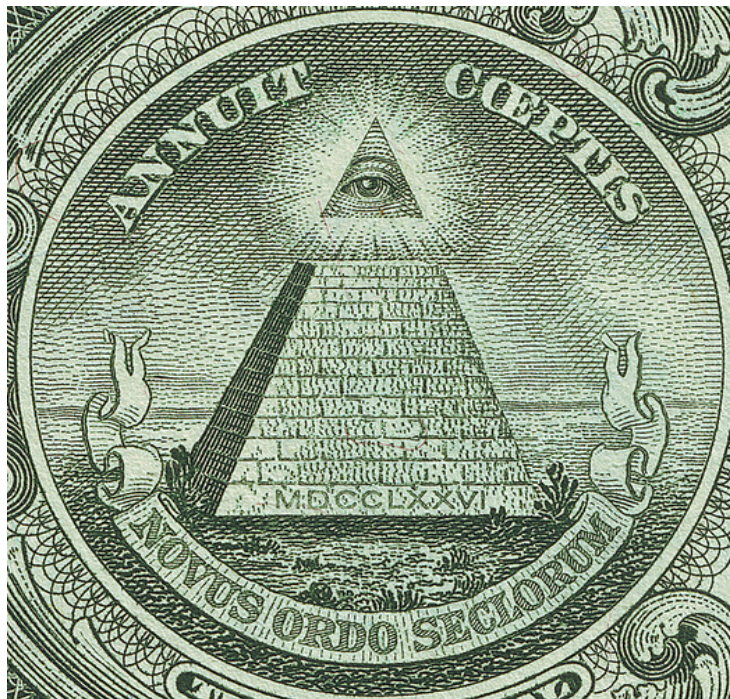
21) Goat: the goat (male animal), the bull and the ram/lamb were the animals most revered in various ages of humanity, for being owners of extraordinary fertility and adorned with horns, because the horns have always represented strength, vitality, wisdom and connection of the animal with cosmic energies. In the bible, the horn is related to power (*Dan. 7: 7-8; Dan. 7: 17-28; Dan. 8: 1-27; Rev. 13: 1; Rev. 13: 11*), and the animals described above, to the sacrifices made since the time of Moses. Regarding the goat, we can see the biblical references in the book of Leviticus. *Lev. 4: 22-26*: As sin offering for unintentional sins of a leader (Prince); *Lev. 16: 5-10*: two goats as sin offering for the sins of the Israelite community on the Day of Atonement. One goat was offered as sacrifice to the Lord and the other was sent into the desert as a scapegoat ('the goat of removal' or 'Azazel'), on whose head the high priest laid his hands and confessed over it all the sins of the Israelites; *Lv 16: 15-22*: the blood of the goat that was slaughtered for the sins of the congregation was sprinkled on the Mercy Seat over the Ark of the Covenant.

Freemasons are often referred to as 'goats.' Although there is no evidence that goats (male animal) are present at their meetings, it is more likely that this animal is linked to them because of the 'Order of the Templars', who were condemned to death at the stake in the Middle Ages by the Catholic church as scapegoats, under the accusation of the French king Philip IV or Philip the Fair (1307) of which they idolized the goat; for him, a figure of Satan. 'Templars' was a military and religious order composed by knights and founded in Jerusalem in 1118 by the French nobleman Hugues de Payens (1070-1136), with the aim of protecting pilgrims who went to the Holy Land, and suppressed by the Pope in 1312. However, they were not Freemasons. They were unfairly accused of worshipping a pagan idol with a beard, which many confuse with Baphomet. It is a completely false accusation, even because his image was created much later by the Frenchman Éliphas Lévi (1810-1875), considered one of the greatest occultists of the 19th century. It was used against Freemasons and Catholics by Léo Taxil. Léo Taxil is the pseudonym of the atheist French writer and journalist, Marie Joseph Gabriel Antoine Jogand Pagès (1854–1907), responsible for having deceived some of the Catholic leaders of France, including Pope Leo XIII, with a false confession about the Freemasonry of worship of a goat-headed idol, defined as Baphomet, which became known as the 'Taxil Hoax.'

22) The Eye of Providence: The Eye of Providence (or the All-Seeing Eye of God) is a figure that depicts an eye, often enclosed in a triangle (a pyramid) and surrounded by rays of light or glory, meant to represent divine providence whereby the eye of God watches over humanity.

The Great Seal of the United States of America visible on the dollar bill represents a pyramid whose top is illuminated by the Eye of Providence and is considered a symbol of the Illuminati, the eye symbolizing the omniscient elite controlling the people. At the top of the symbol is written 'Annuit Coeptis' ('He has helped what we started'), and underneath it, the words 'Novus Ordo Seclorum' ('New Secular Order'), indicating that the new regime is independent of the church. On the base, the year of the founding of the Illuminati, 1776, is written in Roman numerals. Illuminati (plural of the Latin word 'illuminatus', 'illuminated') is the name given to members of a secret society founded

in 1776 in Bavaria by the German Adam Weishaupt (1748-1830), a professor of canon law and philosophy. The Illuminati joined the Freemasons a few times. Like Freemasonry, whose first lodge was opened in London in 1717, the sect also has three grades of initiation; so some of their symbols are confused, as is the case of the all-seeing eye.



Pyramid with the all-seeing eye on the back side of the US 1-Dollar bill –
Benutzer: Verwüstung – wikipedia.org

The ‘Eye of Providence’ is not a new symbol, but it has existed in various forms in various ages of mankind, like ‘The eye of Horus’ or ‘Udjat’ (in the Egyptian language, ‘wedjat’ or ‘wadjet’), related to Horus, the god of the pharaohs and his mythological history linked to Seth and Osiris. The amulet represented the union of the human eye with the view of the falcon, a symbolic animal of Horus. The eye of Horus symbolized protection (it was used to ward off the evil eye), royal power and good health and was one of the most used amulets in Egypt in all ages. The eye of Horus is used by Freemasonry, the Illuminati and even seen on US dollar bank notes (‘the all-seeing eye’ or ‘the eye of providence’ as the representation of the eye of God watching humanity; the omniscience and omnipresence of Divinity as conceived by each initiate). The eye of Horus remains a protective amulet against evils for various religions and sects of Gnostic, magical and esoteric content.

The Hamsa, a Jewish amulet, is often presented with the ‘all-seeing eye’ drawn in the center of the hand.

second of the three principal officers of a lodge, and is the Master's principal deputy. And the third of the principal officers is the Junior Warden (or Second Warden). Each of them is given a jewel.

The picture above shows the jewels.

As you can see throughout the study, all symbols carry a high degree of mysticism and paganism mixing concepts from Eastern religions such as Taoism (*yin / yang*), Greek and Egyptian religious influences, and even of Judaism itself distorted by Kabbalah. Search the internet for the image of all these symbols, as they are designed by Freemasonry and judge for yourself whether they transmit light and innocence.

Which is the child of God who calls himself pastor, knowing all this, agree to go on by this crooked way and still say it's harmless?

What kind of 'anointing' (quotation mark) do you take home with you when you leave such a meeting? I had experience with the wives and children of Masons in this regard: they said that the house became a real mess, there was only discord after the relative got involved in it. A woman to whom I gave an evangelical book of help and consolation came later to thank me, after reading it, for her husband broke away from the sect and turned to Jesus and her house was restored, as well as her marriage (I don't remember if the husband read it too).

How many spiritual walls God gave me to see between the pulpit and the 'sheep', inside a church whose leadership was Masons' (the whole family there was a freemason), preventing the word of God from flowing freely! Interestingly, four missionaries from various churches saw the same thing. And I was literally kicked out when I spoke to one of the leaders. He said, "We don't want your work here!" Because a deacon, known to everyone, was a Freemason, and he was making the sign of the compass and the square the entire service so that everything would go wrong! And the leadership knew! "What can we do, huh?" What a pity! And the poor sheep went out thirsty and thin, just as they went in. There was no life there.

How many attempts to prevent the preaching of the word of God from coming out of my mouth during a deliverance service in a certain church where I was invited to preach! How many attempts by the auxiliary pastor who was there to sabotage the praise! And when he came down the side stairs in a last, desperate attempt to snatch the microphone from my hand, I heard the Holy Spirit say to me, "That's not my son!" Then I understood the strong prophetic word that He had given me during the week to warn someone. I just didn't know who I was supposed to hand it to. It was for him; a strong word, very strong, of God's displeasure but there was no time for me to speak personally. The Lord knows those who belong to Him. The war was such that that same week, after I had denounced it from the pulpit, seven things broke in my house. Retaliation from the enemy.

In my secular job, then, three years in a medical insurance clinic, wholly run by Masons! Only the Lord knows what was done there to favor a certain group, denying examinations of the poorest patients insured. Even worse was the spiritual warfare I faced inside that place, with them aware that I was the only evangelical doctor there and that patients were very ministered during the consultation, not just treated from a medical point of view. They came out very different from how they entered my room. It bothered them. The human and spiritual persecution for three years was very strong. But what I suffer inside that place was glory to Jesus, for so many people had their minds opened to the truth of His word, both believers and non-believers. At the same time that there was a lot of struggle, I had huge spiritual experiences with the power of God,

especially His physical, emotional and spiritual healing power, in a profession where we don't have so much freedom to talk about Jesus during a medical appointment. For scientists, a company does not seem to be the right place for this. But it is precisely there where the people most need of God's favor and mercy. This was not the only company or hospital where I encountered Freemasonry, and there is a great force against the light and presence of the true God.

For some people, when we're talking about Freemasonry, initially they think of something good, in order to do good to others, or just a philosophy in which nothing embarrasses or opposes the gospel. Rather, it is something of utmost spiritual importance for the vows made there, the esoteric and mystical practices and the covenant with money as a way to handle the power. You remember the ideals of the Enlightenment: the elite controlling the people.

What we can perceive is that the images contained in the symbols are in some way a visual 'vehicle' for the 'moral lessons' to be learned by its members to achieve spiritual perfection. Not only that, the staging in rituals are also a method of recording the subtle learnings of mysticism in memory, for they are people whose minds favor this; and to strengthen the power of the mind to achieve spiritual goals, which reflects the same pride and arrogance of Lucifer, trying to compete with God.

Wasn't there wealth in the reign of Solomon? But he got it after he had pleased God, asking Him for wisdom to govern His people. Have you noticed the tremendous confusion that Satan has caused in all ages of humanity, removing from human being his simple view of God and His word? That's why Paul said:

- *2 Cor. 11: 12-15*: "And what I do I will also continue to do, in order to deny an opportunity to those who want an opportunity to be recognized as our equals in what they boast about. For such boasters are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is not strange if his ministers also disguise themselves as ministers of righteousness. Their end will match their deeds."

Freemasonry, Pythagoreanism, Gnosticism, Hermetism, Platonism, Kabbalah and other eastern philosophies: they were all broken by the blood of Jesus on the cross; there, He broke the curse of idolatry, witchcraft, false doctrine and false teaching, lies, fallacies and deceits of darkness. None of this leads to salvation or to the improvement of the soul.

Spiritually speaking, the leader of Freemasonry is Satan himself (as you could notice), not any Principality. Therefore, some ministries do not progress and the most ignorant members do not understand why they leave a church service with a 'ton of weight on the head', without feeling the move of the Holy Spirit. It is because the filthiness of sin is so great and so abhorrent to God that He does not participate in something like this:

- *Isa. 45: 19*: "I did not speak in secret, *in a land of darkness*; I did not say to the offspring of Jacob, 'Seek me in chaos.' I the Lord speak the truth, I declare what is right."

There is an intruder sitting on the throne that belongs to Him.

When an intercessor or a true prophet of God denounces those things within the congregation he often suffers because of the hypocrisy of a leader who also professes the same ideology. Although the Freemasons speak too much of generosity, it is clear the spiritual barrier of avarice and retention. It's like a stone wall to be broken. We feel a bond that seems unbreakable and something extremely repugnant to God. It's also necessary to mention the hereditary curses resulting from this type of sinful attitude in the life of the ancestors of a child of God. What kind of legacy did they leave to him?

Hence, the sacrifice of Jesus came to break all this. Doesn't the bible say that He became a curse for us (*Gal. 3: 13*)? What is the use of releasing forgiveness for your ancestors, but continuing the same practice? What is the use of asking forgiveness to Jesus and remain in His House dividing your soul with the darkness? And what's worse, submitting to an authority who professes such abominations! Think, repent and decide on which side you will stay, once and for all. God needs warriors and holy priests.

The excuse of some brothers in Christ that they don't need to inform themselves about these things because they are cleansed in the blood of Jesus is similar to the attitude of an ostrich, hiding its head in the ground to avoid seeing what it doesn't want to see. The lack of spiritual knowledge inside the Church due to laziness in studying or lack of interest in doing God's work as it should be done only brings weakness, defeat and lack of authority over the darkness. Revival has become indispensable.

Sources of research:

- Wikipedia.org
- Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon
- Blog do Rito Escocês (Scottish Rite)

Epilogue

Let's remember what is written in *Matt. 16: 18-19*: “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

A church that sanctifies itself has strength and spiritual revival, with authority over the enemy.

If you are aware of this evil work of the devil in the House of God, do not be passive, but take a stand as a warrior fighting against it, so that it may be eliminated from among your brothers.

It is written: “Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins” (*Jam. 5: 13-20*).

Be holy and free in the name of Jesus.