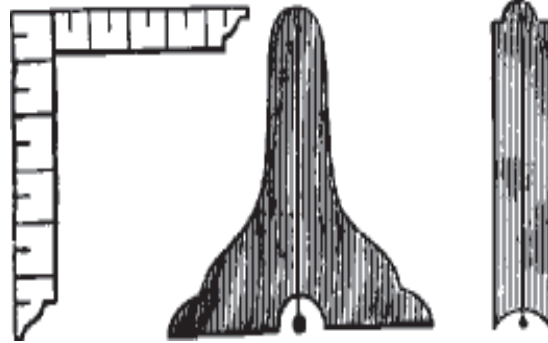


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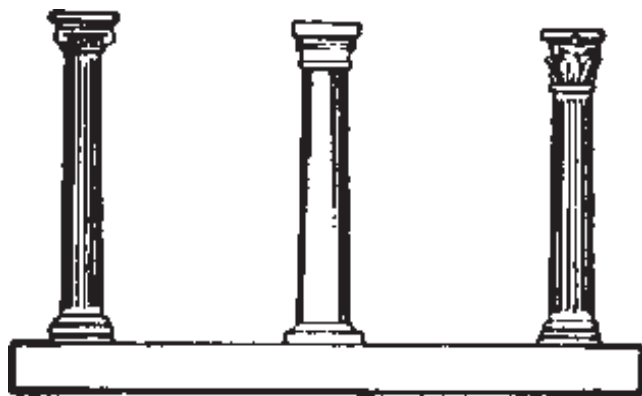
ENLIGHTENMENT

COURSE

FELLOW

CRAFT

DEGREE



IMPORTANT

To be given to the new brother
immediately following the
conferral of the degree.

FELLOW CRAFT DEGREE

Congratulations on being Passed to the degree of a Fellow Craft. As a new Fellow Craft you need to return to the lodge hall and walk through the process of your Passing with your mentor. You should be conducted to the several Stations and he should explain their significance. You also need to be instructed in the pass, token of the pass, grip, and word of the degree. Any questions you may have concerning the degree can be addressed at this time.

What are Your Rights as a Fellow Craft?

As Fellow Craft you have the right to sit in your lodge when it is opened on either the Fellow Craft or Entered Apprentice Degree. You may also visit another lodge opened on the Fellow Craft or Entered Apprentice Degree with permission of its Worshipful Master, provided that a brother is present who has sat in open lodge with you and will vouch for you.

What does the term a “Fellow Craft” mean?

In operative masonry, those just beginning to learn their craft were apprenticed to a master craftsman. They received no wages except for their food, clothing, and sleeping quarters. If they showed sufficient skill, they were entered, usually after about three years. After seven more years, if they displayed sufficient skill, were made Fellow Crafts. This meant they could work on their own. In speculative Masonry, after the Entered Apprentice has demonstrated the required knowledge and proficiency, he will be Passed to the Fellow Craft Degree.

What are the basic teachings of the Second Degree?

The Fellow Craft Degree symbolizes the prime years of manhood and your attendant responsibility during your life on earth. During these years, you acquire knowledge and apply this knowledge to the building of your character and to improving the society in which you live. In the Ritual of the degree you, as Fellow Craft, are urged to advance your education in the liberal arts and sciences.

The Preparation

The changes in dress from an Entered Apprentice to a Fellow Craft have been explained in the ceremony. Gaining admission into the lodge was similar to the First Degree, with the addition of a pass and token, which were given for you by your conductor. The Fellow Craft degree teaches that knowledge is freely given toward gaining the privileges of Freemasonry, and that by the aid of others you are able to advance.

The Reception

You were received into the lodge on the angle of the square, and were told that the square should be a rule and guide in all your future transactions with mankind. A square meal (complete), a square deal (fair), a square person (honest) are examples of this idea.

The Obligation

The Obligation is the focal point of every degree and its solemnity is crucial. Each Fellow Craft pledges obedience, assistance, and protection to each other, binding us by a tie that should last our Masonic lifetime. The penalties have the same significance as those invoked in the First Degree and are symbolic rather than physical.

The Emblems of a Fellow Craft

These include the plumb, square, and level; corn, wine, and oil; the pillars; the winding stairs; the liberal arts and sciences; and the letter "G." The symbols of this degree are as follows:

The Working Tools

The square is the symbol of morality, truthfulness, and honesty. The direction of the two sides of the square form an angle of 90 degrees or a right angle, so called because this is the angle that stones must have if they are to be used to build a stable and upright wall. When we part upon the square, we go in different directions, but in full knowledge that our courses in life will be going according to the angle of the square (in the right direction) until we meet again.

The level is a symbol of equality. The Fraternity recognizes equality as a natural fact despite the differences of talent, possession, opinion, race and creed. Each person is endowed with a worth and dignity that is spiritual and should not be subject to man-made distinctions.

The plumb is a symbol of uprightness of conduct. In Freemasonry it is associated with the plumb line which the Lord promised Amos that he would set in the midst of His people Israel, symbolizing the Supreme Being's standard of divine righteousness. The plumb or plumb line becomes a symbol of an upright life and the conscience by which each person must live.

The Jewels

The jewels of a Fellow Craft are not made of precious stones and metals; rather they are attributes of the character that all Masons endeavor to have. The attentive ear, instructive tongue, and the faithful breast remind the Fellow Craft that the time-honored method of instruction is by word of mouth. The secrets of Freemasonry are always deposited in the hearts of the faithful brethren. These jewels should signify the necessity to learn and utilize good Masonic instruction and to develop an understanding of the teachings of our Craft.

The Wages of a Fellow Craft

Fellow Crafts at the building of King Solomon's Temple were paid in wages consisting of corn, wine, and oil. In Speculative Masonry they are symbolic wages that are earned by the Fellow Craft who completes his task and comes to the Middle Chamber. Together these symbolize wealth in mental and spiritual worlds. Corn represents nourishment and the sustenance of life. It is also a symbol of plenty, and refers to the opportunity for doing good, the opportunity to work for the community, and the opportunity to perform service to mankind. Wine is symbolic of refreshment, health, spirituality, and peace. Oil represents joy, gladness, and happiness. Taken together corn, wine, and oil represent the reward of living a good life.

The Pillars

There were two pillars placed before the entrance to King Solomon's Temple, and these are symbolically represented within every lodge of Fellow Crafts. These pillars bear the names of Boaz and Jachin, symbolizing strength and establishment and by implication, power and control. These two pillars remind the Fellow Craft that power without control is anarchy, or that control without power is futility. A man must have both if his life is to be successful.

The Winding Staircase

The winding staircase represents the progress of an inquiring mind toiling and laboring toward intellectual cultivation and study. This is the road to knowledge. The winding stairs, by their very shape, are also symbols of courage and faith. They are also symbols of physical, mental, moral and spiritual progress.

The Symbolism of Numbers

The symbolism of numbers is first presented to the new Mason in the Middle Chamber Lecture.

The first three steps allude to the three great lights of Masonry, to the three degrees that every Master Mason's lodge confers, and to the three principal officers of the lodge. Study will reveal there are many other allusions to the number three.

The second group of five steps teaches the use of order in architecture and to the five human senses, of which three are most revered by Masons: Seeing, by seeing we see the sign; hearing, for by hearing we hear the word; and by feeling, by which we feel the grip whereby one Mason may know the other in the dark as well as in the light.

The final seven steps symbolize the liberal arts and sciences, the crowning glory of man, the full development of both mind and spirit, and the acquisition of courage and faith.

Admission to the Middle Chamber

The passage to the Middle Chamber represents man's journey from ignorance to enlightenment. His wages as a Fellow Craft are received in the Middle Chamber. These wages are symbolic of the knowledge that can only be gained by a closer relationship with his Creator.

The Letter "G"

The letter "G" is a symbol of geometry and also that of Deity. By the letter "G" we are reminded that our every act is done in the sight of the Supreme Being and that Divine Providence is over all our lives. To the operative craftsmen, geometry provided the principles of design and construction whereby he labored. It also portrays the order and harmony of parts found in the universe. The letter "G" is placed in the center of the Masonic emblems worn by U.S. Freemasons, but not by Masons in England or other nations of the British Commonwealth.

The Responsibilities of a Fellow Craft

These are to be found in the Obligation. You, as a Fellow Craft, should be familiar with these Obligations and those of an Entered Apprentice. Finally, as a Fellow Craft, you are reminded to acquire knowledge and apply that knowledge to your duties in life so that you can fill your place in society with satisfaction and honor.