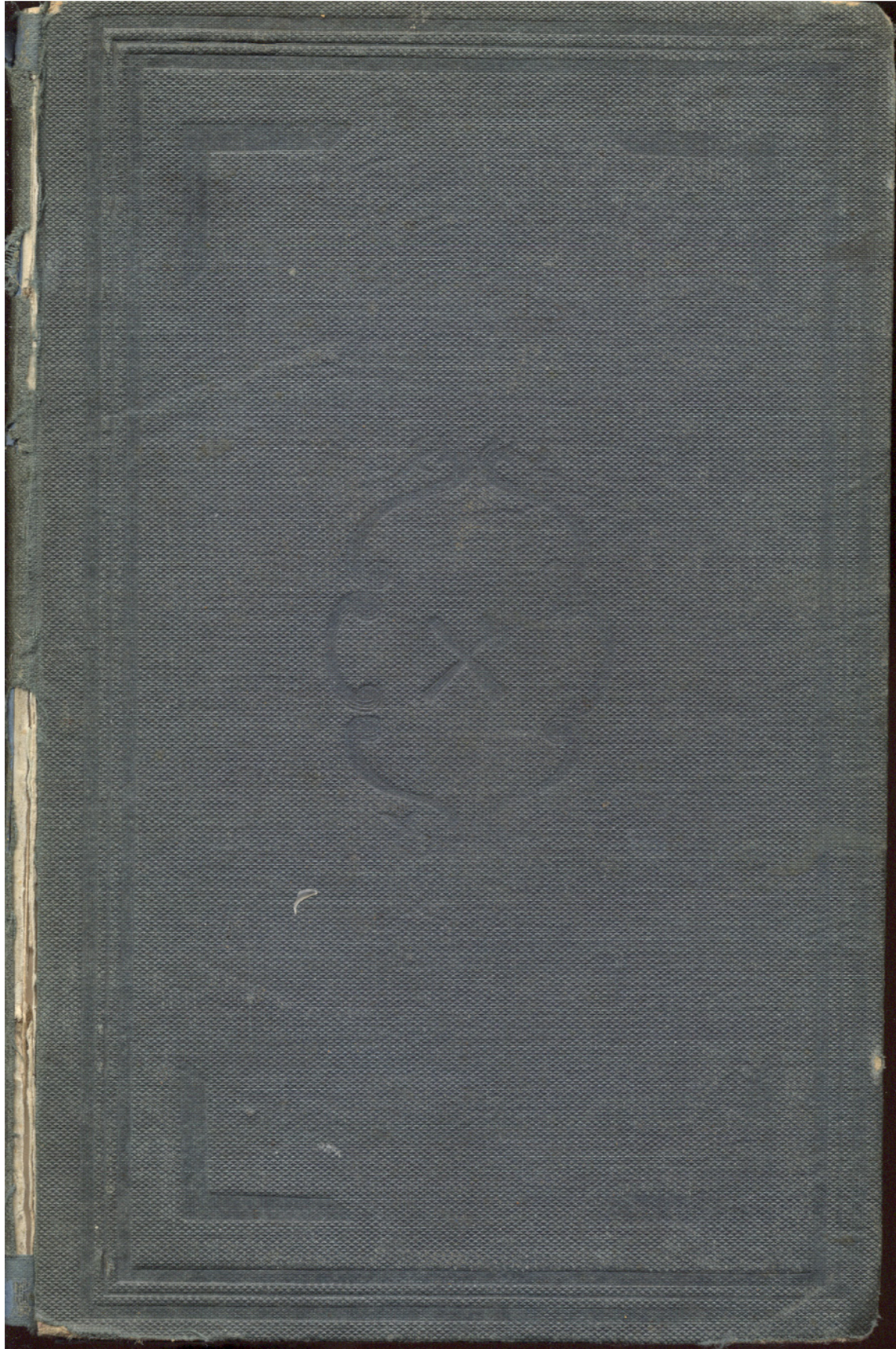
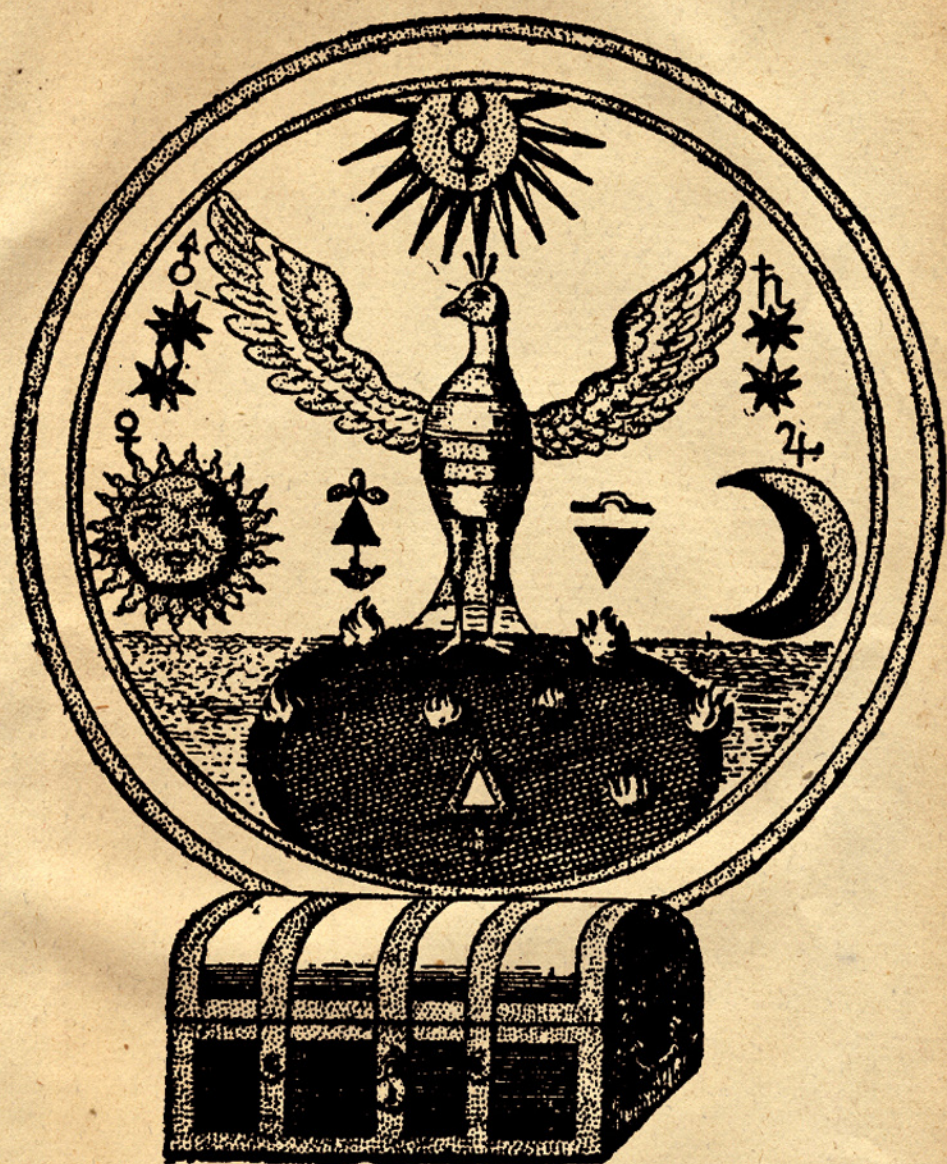




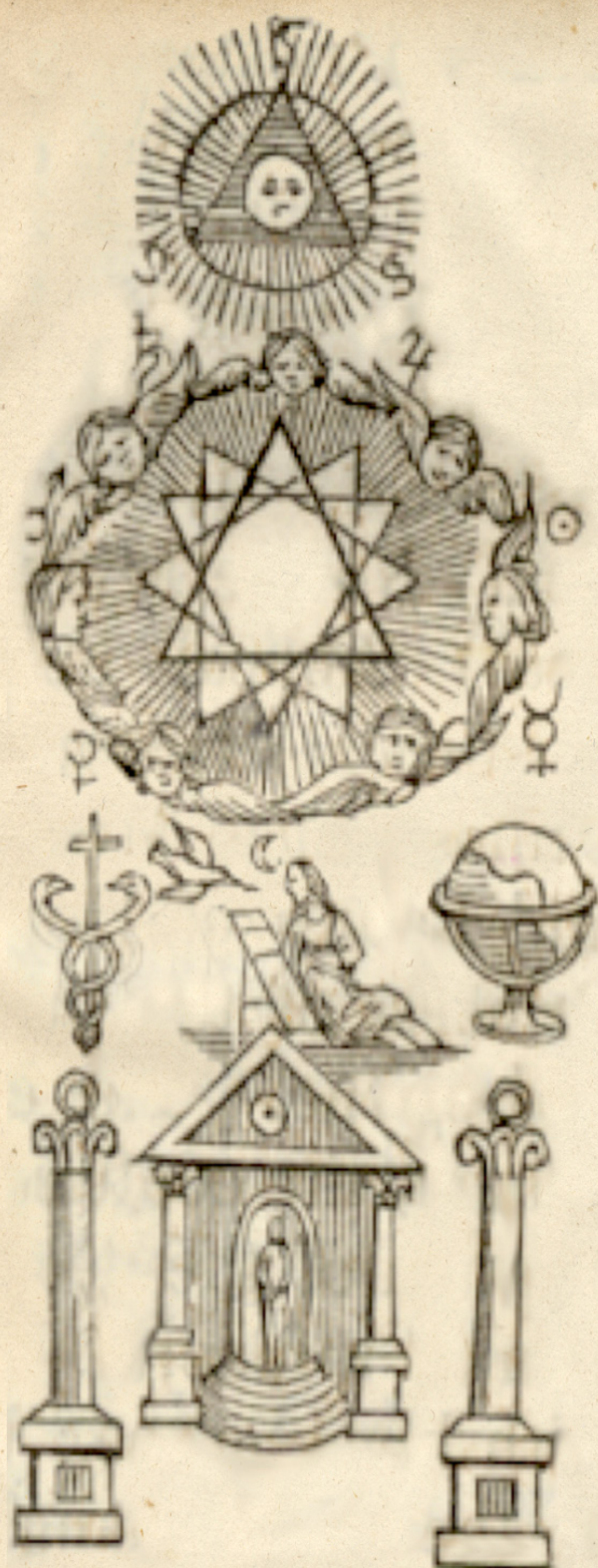
This compilation © Phoenix E-Books UK



23rd Degree.

The
RFV
of
Masonry.

Philosophical Lodge
of the
Knights
of the
FAGFF
or
SHN



23rd Degree
The Key of Masonry
Philosophical Lodge
of the
Knights of the Eagle,
or Sun

This grand Council must be Illuminated by only one Single Light, and is enlightened by one Divine Light; because there is but one Single Light that Shines amongst man, who have the happiness of going from darkness of Ignorance and of the vulgar prejudice, to follow the only Light that leads to the Celestial Truth.

The light that Shines in our Council, is composed of a glass globe filled with water, and the light is placed behind it, therefore renders the light more clear through the glass of reflection – this globe when lighted is placed in the South.

The Grand Master or Thrice Puissant is named Father Adam, is placed in the East, vested in a Robe of pale yellow, like the morning, his hat on – holding in his hand a Scepter on the top of which is a globe of gold, and the handle or Extremity of the Scepter, also gilded.

The reason that Adam Carries the globe above the Scepter in this council is, because he was constituted sovereign master of the world, and created Sovereign father of all men.

He carries a Sun to a Suspended gold chain round his neck, and on the reverse of Said Jewel is a globe. In this degree no aprons are worn.

There is only one warden, whose name is Brother Truth. He sits in the west opposite Father Adam, and is decorated with the Same Jewel and order as the Thrice Puissant Father Adam. He wears besides a large white watered ribbon, as a collar, with an Eye of gold embroidered or painted thereon above the gold chain and Sun.

The Number of the other officers are 7, and are Called by the names of the Cherubim, (viz.): Zaphxiel, Zabriel, Camael, Uriel, Michael, Zaphael & Gabriel.

These ought to be decorated in the Same manner as the Thrice Puissant Father Adam. If there are more than that number of Knights of the Sun, they go by the names of Sylphs, and are the preparers of the Council and assistants in all the ceremonies, or operations of the Grand Council. These wear the same jewel, to a ribbon of a fiery color to the 3rd buttonhole of their coats.

TO OPEN THE GRAND COUNCIL, THE MIGHTY FATHER ADAM SAYS:

Q: Brother Truth, what time is it on the Earth?

A: Mighty Father, it is midnight among the Cowans or Profane, but the Sun shines in its Meridian in this Lodge.

Then Father Adam proceeds and says:

“My dear children, profit of the favor of this austere Luminary, showing its light to us which will conduct us in the path of virtue, and to follow that Law, which ought Eternally to be engraved on our hearts, and which Law is the only that can conduct us, and by which we cannot fail to come to the knowledge of pure Truth.”

Then Father Adam makes the Sign, and puts his right hand on his left breast, on which all the brethren put up the first finger of their right hands above the height of their heads, the other fingers clenched, showing thereby, that there is but one God, who is the beginning of all Truth.

Then Father Adam says, "This Lodge is open."

When Father Adam says, "To Order, Brethren!", they all put their right hands on their hearts, and he puts up his first finger and so vice versa.

THE FORM OF A RECEPTION.

After the Lodge, or Council, is opened, the Candidate is introduced in an ante-chamber, where there are a number of Sylphs, each with a pair of Bellows, blowing a large pot with fire, which the Candidate sees, but they take no notice of him. After 2-3 minutes the Most Antient of the Sylphs goes to the Candidate and covers his face with a black crepe or veil (he must be without hat or sword). The Antient Sylph tells him that he must find the door of the Holy Sanctuary, which, when he has found it, he must knock six times on it with an open hand. After he has knocked, Brother Truth goes, and opens the door a little, and asks the Candidate the following questions, which he answers by the help of the Antient Sylph:

Q: What do you desire?

A: I desire to go out of darkness; to see the true light; and to know the Holy Truth in all its purity.

Q: What do you desire more?

A: To divest myself of Original Sin, and destroy the juvenile

prejudices of Error, to which all men are liable: namely, the desires of all worldly attachment and pride.

On which, Brother Truth goes to Father Adam and relates what the Candidate has told him, who then gives him orders to introduce him to true happiness.

Brother Truth then opens the door, takes the Candidate by the hand, and conducts him to the middle of the Lodge or Sanctuary, which is also covered with Black Cloth, when Father Adam addresses him:

“My son, seeing that by your labor in the Royal Art, you are now come to the desire of knowing the pure and holy truth, we shall lay it open to you, without any disguise or covering. But before we do this, consult your heart, and see in this moment, if you feel yourself disposed to obey Her (namely Truth) in all things that She commands? If you are at present disposed as I have desired, I am sure, She is ready in your heart, and you now must feel an Emotion that was unknown to you before? And if it is so, you must hope that She will not be long to manifest Herself to you? But have a care, not to defile this Sanctuary by a spirit of Curiosity; and take care not to increase the number of the vulgar and profane that have for a long time ill treated Her, TRUTH, until She was obliged to depart the Earth, and can now hardly trace any of Her footsteps. But She always appears in Her greatest Glory, without disguise, to the true, good, honest and virtuous Masons, that is to say, to the Zealous Extirpators of Superstitions and Lies. I hope my dear brother, that you will be one of Her intimate favorites – the proofs that you have given and exercised, assure me of

everything I have to expect from your Zeal: for as nothing can be more a Secret between us, I shall order Brother Truth, that he will Instruct you as to what you are to do to come to the centre of true happiness."

After this discourse of Father Adam, the Candidate is unveiled and then is shown the form of the Lodge or Council, without explaining any part thereof. Then Brother Truth proceeds:

"My dear Brother, by my mouth Holy Truth speaks to you – but before She manifests Herself to you, She requires from you Proofs by which She is to be Satisfied. In your Entrance into the Masonic Order She has appeared to you in many things, which you could not have comprehended without Her assistance! But now you have the happiness of arriving to this Brilliant day, nothing can be a Secret to you. Learn then the Moral use that is made of the 3 first parts of the Furniture, i.e., the Bible, Compass, and Square.

Bible

By the Bible you are to understand, that is the only Law you ought to follow. It is that, which Adam received at his creation, which the Almighty engraved on his heart. This Law is called Natural Law, and shows, there is not any other but one God. To adore him without any Subdivision or Interpretation.

Compass

The compass gives you the faculty of judging for yourself. That whatever God has created, is well, and that Sovereign author of everything existing in himself is neither good nor

evil. Because we understand by this expression, an action done, which is excellent in himself or itself, is relative, and submits to the human understanding/judgement. To know the price and value of the action, and that God with whom everything is possible, communicates nothing of his will, but such as his great goodness pleases, and everything in the universe is governed, as he has decreed it, with just being able to compare it to the attributes of the Divinity. I equally say that in himself there is no Evil, because he has made everything with exactness, and that everything exists according to his will, consequently, as it ought to be. The distance of good and evil with the Divinity, cannot be more justly and clearly compared, than that which a Circle formed with a compass, from the points reunited form an entire Circumference, and represents the Immensity of God who is the beginning of all things. For as the points form a Circumference by its reunion, which points when separated, is the beginning of all solids existing or possible; and when any point in particular equally approaches or equally separates from its point is only a faint resemblance of the distance between good and evil, which we compare by the points of a compass forming a circle, which Circle, when completed, is GOD.

Square.

By the Square, we discover, that GOD has made everything equal. In the same manner, as you are not able to dig a body in a quarry complete or perfect. Thus the Will of the Eternal in creating the world by a liberal act of his own will, foresaw every matter, that could possibly happen in consequence thereof; that is to say: that everything therein contained at the time of the Creation, was good.

You have also seen a Level, a Plumb, and a Rough Stone.

Level.

By the Level, you are to learn, to be right and sincere, and not to suffer yourself to be drawn away by the multitude of blind and ignorant people. To be always firm and steady to sustain the right of natural law, and the pure and real knowledge of that Truth, which it Teacheth.

Plumb and Rough Stone.

By the perpendicular and Rough Stone, you ought to understand, the prejudiced man made polished by reason, and put censure away by the Excellence of our master.

Tressel Board.

You have seen the Tressel Board to draw plans on: This represents to you the man, whose whole occupation is the art of thinking and employs reason, to that which is just and reasonable.

Cubic Stone.

You have seen the Cubic Stone? The moral of which and the sense you are to draw from it is, to rule your actions that they might be equally brought to the sovereign good.

2 Pillars.

The 2 pillars teacheth you, that all Masons ought to attach themselves firmly to become an ornament of the Order, as well as the Support; as the Pillars of Hercules formerly determined the end of the antient world.

Blazing Star.

You have seen the Blazing Star? The moral sense of which is, a True Mason perfecting himself in the Way of Truth that he may become like a Blazing Star, which shines equally during the thickest of darkness. That is to say, it is useful to those that he shines upon, and who are ready and desirous of profiting by its Light.

These first Instructions have conducted you to the knowledge of the Slaughter of Hiram Abiff, and the inquiries that were made to find him out. You have been informed of the words, signs and tokens, which were substituted to those we feared to have been surprised, but of which they afterwards learned that the traitorous villains had not been able to receive any knowledge of, and this ought to be an example and salutary advice to you, to be always on your guard, and well persuaded, that it is difficult to escape the snares that ignorance joined to conceited opinions lay everyday against us, to overcome us; and the most virtuous men are liable to fall, because their candor renders them unsuspecting, but in this case, you ought to be as firm as was our Respectable Father Hiram Abif, who chose rather to be massacred, than to give up what he had obtained. This will teach you, that as soon as Truth shall be fixed in your heart, you ought no more to consider, the resolution you should take. You must live and die to sustain good, never to expose ourselves to the conversation of Cowans, to be Circumspect even with those; who are our most Intimates in our mysteries and not deliver up ourselves to any; except those whose characters and behaviours have proved to be brothers that are worthy to come and appear in the Sacred Sanctuary, where Holy Truth delivers Her Oracles.

You have passed the Secret and Perfect Master, the 4th and 5th Degrees of Masonry? You have been decorated with an Ivory Key? A symbol of your discretion. You have received the first pronunciation of the Ineffable Name of the Great Architect of the Universe, and have been placed at the first Balustrade of the Sanctuary, and you have had rank among the Levites? After you knew the word **ZIZON**, which signifies a Balustrade of the Levites, where all those are placed, as well as yourself, to expect the knowledge of the most Sublime Mysteries.

In the degree of Perfect Master, they have shown you a grave, a coffin with rope, to raise and deposit the body in a sepulchre, made in the form of a pyramid, on the top of which pyramid was a triangle within which was the Sacred Name of the Eternal, and on the pavement were the two Columns of Jachin and Boaz laid across.

Ivory Key.

By the Ivory Key, you are to understand, that you cannot open your heart with safety, but at proper times.

Grave and Coffin.

By the corpse and grave is represented, the state of man, before he had known the happiness of our Order.

Rope.

The Rope to which the Coffin is tied, in order to raise it, is the Symbol of raising and uniting, as you have been raised from the grave of ignorance to the Celestial place, where Truth resides.

Intimate Secretary.

The pyramids represent the true Mason, that raises himself by degrees, until he reaches heaven. To adore the Sacred and Unalterable of the Eternal Supreme. This new degree leads you near Solomon and Honor; and after you redoubled your Zeal, you did gain new honours and favors, having nearly lost your life by your curiosity, which attachment in Masonry, gave you the good qualities of your heart, which found you grace, and led you to the degree of Intendant of the Building....

Indendant of the Building.

...where you saw a Blazing Star, a large Candlestick with 7 branches, with altars, vases of purification and a great Brazen Sea.

By the expression of purification you are to understand that you are to be cleansed of impiety and prejudice, before you can require more of the Sublime Knowledge in passing the other degrees, to be able to support the brilliant light or reason enlightened by truth, of which the Blazing Star is the figure.

Brazen Sea.

By the candlestick with 7 branches, you are to remember the mysterious number of the 7, who were named to succeed one, and from that time it was resolved, that 7 Knights of Masonry united together, were able to Initiate into Masonry, and show them the 7 Gifts of the Eternal; which we shall give you the perfect knowledge of, when you have been purified in the Brazen Sea.

Urn.

You have passed from the Secret to the Perfect Master, and from that to the Intimate Secretary, Provost and Judge and Intendant of the Buildings. In those degrees, they have shown you an Ebony Box suspended, a Key, a Balance, and an Inflamed Urn.

Ebony Box.

The Ebony Box shows you with what a scrupulous attention you are to keep the Secrets that have been confided in you, which you are to reserve in the closest of your heart, of which the box is an Emblem, and when you reflect on the black colour of the Box, it shows you to cover your Secrets with a thick veil in such a manner that Cowans cannot possibly have any knowledge thereof.

Key.

The Key demonstrates that you have already obtained a key to our knowledge and part of our mysteries, and if you behave with equity, fervor and zeal to your brothers: you will arrive shortly to the knowledge and meaning of our society – and this indicates the reason of the Balance.

Inflamed Urn.

You are to understand by the Inflamed Urn, that as soon as you come to the knowledge of the Royal and Sublime Art, you must by your behavior leave behind you in the minds of your Brethren, and even the vulgar, an high idea of your virtue, equally to the perfume of the Inflamed Urn.

Intimate Secretary.

In the degree of Intimate Secretary, you have seen and heard 2 kings, who were entering into their new alliance, and reciprocal promise, and of the perfection of their grand enterprise. They spoke with regret of the loss of Hiram Abif, our Excellent Master. You saw guards and a man overseen, and ready to be put to death for his curiosity of peeping. You also heard of a project of a place called the Vault to deposit the precious Treasury of Masonry, when the time should be fulfilled – and afterwards you became their Brother. The conversation of the 2 kings is the figure and report that our Laws must have with the natural law; which forms a perfect agreement with the conveniences and promises to those, who have the happiness to be contracted to you in the same manner and perfect alliance, they will afterwards come to the Centre of the True Knowledge.

The tears, and regret of the 2 Kings, are the Emblems of the regret you ought to have when you see or perceive a Brother depart from the road of virtue.

By the man you saw peeping, who was discovered, seized, and conducted to death: is an Emblem of those, who come to be initiated into our mysteries through a motive of Curiosity; and if so indiscreet as to divulge their obligations, we are bound to cause their death, and take vengeance on the treason by the destruction of the Traitor. Let us pray the Eternal to preserve our Order from such an evil. You have seen here of an example in the 9th Degree, to which you are come by your fervor, zeal, and constancy.

In that degree, you have remarked, that from all the favorites, that were at that time in the apartment of Solomon, only 9 were elected to revenge the death of Hiram Abif. This makes good, that a great many are Called but few are Chosen. To explain this enigma is that a great many of the profane have the happiness to divest themselves of that name, to see and obtain the entrance in our Sanctuary, but very few are constant, zealous, and fervent, to merit the happiness of coming to the height and knowledge of the Sublime Truth.

If you ask me, what are the requisite qualities that a Mason must be possessed of to come to the Centre of Truth? I answer you, that you must crush the head of the Serpent of Ignorance. You must shake off the yoke of infant prejudice, concerning the mysteries of the reigning religion, which worship has been imaginary, and only founded on the spirit of pride, which envies to command and be distinguished, to be at the head of the vulgar, in affecting an exterior purity, which characterises a false piety. Joined to a desire of acquiring that, which is not its own, and is always the subject of this exterior pride, and an unalterable source of many disorders which being joined to gluttonness is the daughter of Hypocrisy and employs every matter to satisfy carnal desire, and raise to these predominant passions altars, upon which he maintains without ceasing the light of iniquity, and sacrifices continually offerings to luxury, voluptuousness, hatred, envy, and perjury.

Behold my Brother, what you must fight against and destroy, before you can come to the knowledge of the true good and Sovereign happiness. Behold this monster under the figure of a Serpent that you must conquer – a serpent which we detest as an idol, which is adored by the idiot and vulgar, under the name of Religion.

In the Degree of Elected of 15, Illustrious Knights, Grand Knight Architect and Royal Arch, you have seen many things, which are only repetitions of what you have already examined. You will always find in those degrees, Initial Letters enclosed in different triangles or Deltas. You have also seen the planet Mercury, the chamber called Mount Gabaon, or the 3rd Heaven, the winding staircase, Ark of Alliance. The Tomb of Hiram Abif facing the ark and urn, the precious Treasure found by the 3 assiduous travellers and 3 zealous Brethren Masons. The punishment of the haughty Master Masons, in being buried under the antient ruins of Enoch, and finally you have seen the figure of Solomon with Hiram of Tyre, and Saint John the Baptist.

By the three J'. J'. J'. you know the third sacred name of the Eternal and Mount Gabaon, where you come to by 7 degrees, which compose a winding staircase.

The seven steps represent the seven principles and different degrees, to which you must come to attain the height of glory, represented by the mount, where they formerly sacrificed to the most high. When you arrive to that, you are to subdue yourself in your passions in not doing anything that is not prescribed by our laws.

By the planet Mercury you are taught continually to mistrust, shun and run from these, who by a false practice maintain commerce with people of a vicious life, who seem to despise the most sacred mysteries. That is, to depart from those who by the vulgar fear, or a bad understanding should be ready to deny the solemn engagements they have contracted among us.

When you come to the foot of our Ark, you are to apprehend that you are come to the Sanctum Sanctorum. You are not to return, but rather persist to sustain in the glory of our order, and the truth of our laws, principles and mysteries, in like manner as our Respectable Master Hiram Abif, who desired to have been buried there for his constancy and fidelity. We have also another example in the firmness of GALAAD the son of Sophine, chief of the Levites, under Surman the High Priest, in the History of Perfection or 14th Degree.

Learn in this Moment my dear Brother, what you are to understand by the figure of Solomon, Hiram of Tyre and John the Baptist.

The two first exert you by their Zeal in the Royal Art to follow the Sublime Road, of which Solomon was the Institutor and King Hiram the Supporter. A Title legitimately, due to that King, who protected the order, and contributed with all his might to the construction of the Temple, which Solomon built to the Honor of the Almighty.

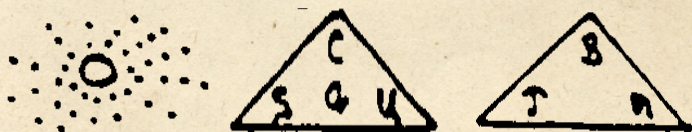
The Third or Saint John the Baptist, teacheth you, to preach marvelous of this Order, which is as much as to say: you are to make Secret Missions among men, which you believe to be in a state of entering the road of Truth that they might be able one day to see Her (virtue's) visage, uncovered.

Hiram Abif was the Symbol of Truth on Earth. Jubulum Akyrop was accursed by the Serpent of Ignorance, which to this day raises altars in the hearts of the profane and fearful, This profaneness backed up by a fanatic zeal becomes an instrument to the monasterial and religious reign, which

struck the first stroke in the heart of our dear father Hiram Abif; which is as much to say, undermined the foundation of the Celestial Temple which the Eternal himself had ordered to be raised to the Sublime Truth and his glory.

The First Stage of the World has been witness to what I have advanced – The Simple Natural Law, rendered our first Fathers the most uninterrupted happiness. They were in those times more virtuous. But as soon as the monster of Pride started up in the air, and disclosed herself to those unhappy mortals, she promised to them every sort of happiness, and stole on them by her soft and bewitching speeches that they must render to the Eternal Creator of all things, an adoration with more testimony, and more extensive, than they had done hitherto. This Hydra with her hundred heads at that time mislead and will continue to this day to do ... men, who are so weak as to submit to her empire, and this error will subsist until the moment that the True Elected shall appear and destroy her entirely.

The degree of Sublime Elected that you passed, gives you the knowledge of those things that conducts you to the true and solid good. This grand circle figured here, which represents the immensity of the Eternal Supreme, which has neither beginning or end.



The Triangle or Delta figured here is the mysterious figure of the Eternal. The 3 letters which you see: first the C at top, signifies grandeur of Masons. The S, Submission of the Same Order; and the U = Union, that ought to reign

among the Brethren, which altogether makes but one body, or Equal figure in all its parts. Thus is the Triangle called Equilateral. The Grand Letter G placed in the center of the Triangle, signifies the Grand Architect of the Universe, who is God, and in this Ineffable Name is found all the Divine attributes. This letter being placed in the middle of the Triangle, is for us to understand, that every true Mason must have it profoundly in his heart.

There is another triangle repeated, wherein is enclosed three letters of which you have had the explanation in the 6th Degree. This Triangle designs the connection of the Brethren in virtue, the solemn premise that they have made to love each other, to help, succour, and keep inviolable secret their mysteries of the perfection proposed in all their enterprises. It is said that in that degree you are Entered in the 3rd Heaven – that's to say, you have Entered in the place where Pure Truth resides, since She abandoned the Earth to monsters who persecuted Her.

The End of the Degree of Perfection is a preparation to come more clearly to the Knowledge of True Happiness in becoming a good Mason, enlightened by the Celestial Luminary of Truth. In renouncing voluntarily all adorations, but those that are made only to one God, the Creator of Heaven and Earth – great, good and merciful.

The Knights of the East, or Sword, Prince of Jerusalem, Knights of the East and West, are known to us in our days to be Masonry Renewed, and all of them lead us to the same end of Celestial Truth, which is to say finished.

The Knights of the Black and White Eagle, and the Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret, and Grand Commanders are the Chiefs of the Great Enterprise of the Order in general.”

Then Father ADAM says to the Candidate:

“My dear son, what you have heard from the mouth of Truth, is an abridgement of all the consequences which you have passed, in the different degrees you have gone through, in order to come to the knowledge of the Holy Truth contracting in your last engagements. Do you persist in your demand of coming to the Holy Truth, and that with a clear heart? Answer me.”

The Candidate answers – I Persist.

Then Father ADAM Says:

“Brother Truth, as the Brother Persists, approach with him to the Sanctuary in order that he might take a Solemn Obligation to follow our laws, principles and morals, to attach himself to us forever.”

Then the Candidate falls on his knees, and Father ADAM takes his hands between his own, and he repeats the following Obligation 3 times:

“I, A. B., promise in the face of God, and between the hands of my Sovereign, and in the presence of all the Brethren here present, never to take arms against my King directly or indirectly, in any conspiracy against him.

“I promise never to reveal any of the mysteries of the Sublime degree of the Knights of the Sun, which is now on the point of being entrusted to me, to any person or persons whatsoever, without being duly qualified to receive the same, and never to give my consent for anyone to be admitted into our mysteries, only after the most scrupulous circumspection and full knowledge of his life and conversation, and who has given at all times proofs of his zeal and fervent attachment for the Order and submission to the Tribunal of the Sovereign Princes of the Royal Secret.

“I promise never to confer this degree of Knight of the Sun, without having a permission in writing from the Grand Council of Princes of the Royal Secret, from the Grand Inspector, or his deputy by Patent, known by their Titles and authority.

“I promise and swear to redouble my zeal for all my Brethren Knights and Princes; and if I fail in this my Obligation, I consent for all my Brethren Knights and Princes that are present and absent, when they are convinced of my infidelity, to seize me, and thrust my tongue through with a red hot iron, to pluck out both my eyes, and deprive me of smelling and hearing; to cut off both my hands and expose me in that condition in the field, to be devoured by the ferocious animals; and if none can be found, I wish the lightning of Heaven might execute on me the same vengeance – O God! maintain me in Right, Justice, and Equity.

“Amen, Amen, Amen.”

After this obligation, Father ADAM raises the Candidate and kisses him once, on the forehead, the which being the seat of the soul. He then decorates him, with the collar and jewel of the Order, and gives him the following Sign, Token, and Word.

Sign.

The Sign is, to clasp your right hand on the left breast, which the other answers by putting up the first finger of the right hand (the others clenched) to the height above the head. This shows there is but one God, which is the true source of real Truth. Consequently, there can be but one and true religion, and the same which Adam received from God.

Passwords.

The first says, "STIBIUM". This signifies Prima Materia, or the principal co-operator of all things. The other answers, "ALBRACST", which signifies a king full of glory without blot.

Sacred Word.

This is ADONAI. A sacred word, which signifies Sovereign Creator of all things.

Token.

The Sign to know a Knight of the Sun, you ask him to give you his hands, which he will put together and put between yours. You kiss his forehead, and say ALPHA, which the other answers by saying OMEGA.

Then the Candidate goes round and gives the Sign, Token, and Word to everyone, which he brings back to Father ADAM. Then he sits down with the rest of the Brethren. Brother Truth gives the following explanation of the Philosophical Lodge.

THE PHILOSOPHICAL LODGE.

Sun.

The Sun represents the unity of the Eternal Supreme, the only grand word of Philosophy.

SSS.

The 3 Ss (SSS) signifies Stellato Sedet Solo, or the Residence of the Sovereign Master of all things.

3 Candlesticks.

The 3 Candlesticks show us the 3 degrees of Fire.

4 Triangles.

The 4 Triangles represent the Four Elements.

7 Planets.

The 7 Planets designate the 7 colors, that appear in their original state, from whence we have so many different artificial ones.

7 Cherubim.

The 7 Cherubim represent the 7 Metals: gold, silver, copper, iron, lead, tin, and quicksilver.

Conception in the Moon.

The Conception or woman rising in the Moon demonstrates the purity that matter must subsist of, in order to remain in its pure State, unmixed with any other body—from which must come a new king and a revolution in the fullness of time, filled with glory, whose name is albra=est.

Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit under the symbol of a dove, is the image of the Universal Spirit, that gives light to all, in the 3 states of Nature, and are the animal, the vegetable, and the mineral.

Entrance of the Temple.

The Entrance of the Temple is represented to you by a Body; because the grand work of Nature is complete, as gold potable and fixed.

Globe.

The Globe represents the matter in its original state. That is to say, complete.

Caduceus.

The Caduceus represents the double Mercury, that you must extract from the matter. That is to say the Mercury fixed, and from thence is extracted Gold and Silver.

Stibium.

The word Stibium is the password of the Philosophical Lodge, and signifies the antimony, from whence is taken an alkali, which we employ in our grand work.

The Father ADAM Explains the Moral Lodge.

The Sun.

The Sun represents the Divinity of the Eternal: for as there is but one Sun, to light and invigorate the Earth, there is but one God, to whom we ought to pay our greatest adoration.

SSS.

The 3 Ss (SSS) show you that Science adorned with Wisdom creates a Holy man.

3 Candlesticks.

The 3 Candlesticks are the Image of the Life of man considered by youth, manhood, and old age: and happy are those, that have been enlightened in those ages by the Light of Truth.

4 Triangles.

The 4 Triangles show us the 4 principal duties that create our tranquil life: 1st—Fraternal Love among men in general, and particularly among Brethren in the same degree with us; 2nd—in not having anything but for the use and advantage of our Brother; 3rd—Doubting of every matter that cannot be demonstrated to you clearly, by which an attempt might be insinuated to you as mysterious in matters of religion and thereby lead you away, from the Holy Truth.

7 Planets.

The 7 Planets represent the 7 principal passions of man.

7 Cherubim.

The 7 Cherubim are the Images of the delights of this Life, namely, by Seeing, Hearing, Tasting, Smelling, Feeling, Tranquility and Health.

Conception.

The Conception shows the purity of Matter, and that nothing can be impure to the Eyes of the Eternal Supreme.

Temple.

The Temple represents our body, which we are obliged to preserve by our natural feeling.

Figure of the Man and the Lamb.

The figure in the Entrance of the Temple, which bears a Lamb in his arms, teaches us to be attentive to our wants, as a Shepherd takes care of his sheep; to be charitable and never let slip the present opportunity of doing good, to labor honestly and to live in this day, as if it was to be our last.

Columns.

The Columns of **J** and **B** are the symbols of the Strength of our Souls, in bearing equally misfortunes, as well as success in life.

7 Steps.

The 7 Steps of the Temple, are the figures of the 7 Degrees which we must pass before we arrive to the knowledge of the True God.

Globe.

The Globe represents the world we inhabit.

LUX EX TENEBRIS.

The device of **LUX EX TENEBRIS** teacheth: When man is enlightened by reason he is able to penetrate the darkness and obscurity which ignorance and superstition spreads abroad.

River.

The River across the globe represents the utility of the passions, that are as necessary to man, in the course of his life, as water is requisite to the Earth, in order to replenish the plants thereof.

Cross.

The Cross surrounded by two Serpents, signifies this: That we must watch the vulgar prejudices; be prudent in giving our knowledge and Secrets in matters of Religion.

END OF THE MORAL EXPLANATION.

To Close the Council.

Father ADAM: Brother Truth, what progress have men made on Earth, to come to True Happiness?

Brother Truth: Men have always fallen on vulgar prejudices, that are full of nothing but fraud and falsehood; very few have struggled, and less have knocked at the door of the Holy Place, to attain the full light of real Truth, the pure Source of all perfection.

Father ADAM then makes the Sign on his heart, and all the Brethren make the answer by putting up the first finger of the right hand, and by 7 knocks they close the Council.

Explanation of the Physical Lodge in manner of Lecture.

Q: Are you a Knight of the Sun?

A: I have mounted the 7 Steps and Principal Degrees of Masonry. I have penetrated into the knowledge of the Earth, and among the antient Ruins of Enoch found the most grand and precious Treasure of the Masons. I have seen, contemplated, and admired the great, mysterious and formidable Name, engraved on the Delta. I have broken the Pillar of Beauty and thrown down the 2 Columns that supported it.

Q: Pray, tell me: what is that mysterious and formidable Name?

A: I cannot unfold the Sacred Characters in this manner, but the Substituted Characters in its place. (viz.:) The Word ADONAI.

Q: What do you understand by throwing down the Columns, that sustained the Pillar of Beauty?

A: For these two reasons: **FIRST**, when the Temple was destroyed by Nebucadnezar, I was one of them that helped to deface the Delta, on which was the Ineffable Name, and broke down the Pillar of Beauty, that it should not be profaned by Infidels. **SECONDLY**, I have deserved by my travels, bounty of the Great ADONAI the mysteries of Masonry in passing the 7 principal degrees.

Q: What signifies the 7 Planets?

A: They are the lights of the Celestial Globe, and their influence by which exists every matter formed by the concord of the 4 Elements, designated by the 4 Triangles, that are in regard to them as the 4 Greater Planets.

Q: What are the names of the 7 Planets?

A: Sun, Moon, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Mercury and Saturn.

Q: Which are the 4 Elements?

A: Air, Fire, Earth and Water.

Q: What influence have the 7 Planets upon the 4 Elements?

A: Three general matters, of which all bodies are composed: Life, Spirit and body—otherwise: Salt, Sulphur, and Mercury.

Q: What is the Life, or Salt?

A: The Life given by the Eternal Supreme, or by the Planets, the agents of Nature.

Q: What is the Spirit, or Sulphur?

A: A fixed matter subject to several productions.

Q: What is the Body, or Mercury?

A: Matter conducted, or ripened to its form, by the union of Salt and Sulphur or the agreement of the three governors of Nature.

Q: What are these three courses of Nature?

A: Animal, Vegetable and Mineral.

Q: What is the Animal?

A: We understand in this Life, all that is Divine and amiable.

Q: Which of the 4 Elements serves for its production?

A: All four. Among which, nevertheless, the air and fire are predominant – it is these that render the animal the perfection of the Three Governments, which man is Elevated to by the breath of the Divine Spirit, when he receives his Soul.

Q: What is the Vegetable?

A: All that seems attached to the Earth, and reigns on the surface of the Earth.

Q: Of what is it composed?

A: A generative fire, formed into a body, whilst it remains in the Earth, and is purified by its moisture and becomes vegetable, and receives life by air and water, whereby the Four Elements, though different, co-operate, jointly or separately.

Q: What is the mineral?

A: All that is generated and secreted IN the Earth.

Q: What do we understand by this name?

A: That which we call Metals, demi-Metals and minerals.

Q: What is it that composes Minerals?

A: The air, penetrating by the Celestial Influence into the Earth meets with a Body, which by its softness fixes, congeals, and renders the mineral matter more or less perfect.

Q: Which are the perfect Metals?

A: Gold and Silver.

Q: Which are the Imperfect Metals?

A: Copper, Tin, Iron, Lead and Quicksilver.

Q: How come we by the Knowledge of these things?

A: By frequent observations, and the experiments made in natural philosophy, which has brought to a certainty, that Nature gives a perfection to all things, if She has time to complete Her operations.

Q: Can art bring metal to perfection, as much as by Nature?

A: Yes, but you must have an exact knowledge of Nature, her operations, the Quintessence of the Elements, and the Fire of the Philosophers.

Q: What will assist you to bring forth this knowledge?

A: A matter brought to perfection and rendered an universal Medicine – this Matter is what the Philosophers have sought for under the name of the Philosopher's Stone.

Q: What does the Globe represent?

A: An information of philosophers, for the conduct of the art in this work.

Q: What signifies the words LUX EX TENEBRIS?

A: That is, the Depth of Darkness, that you ought to retire from, in order to gain the True Light.

Q: What signifies the Cross on the Globe?

A: The Cross is the health of the Elected.

Q: What represents the 3 Candlesticks?

A: The 3 Degrees of Fire, which the Artist gives, to procure the matter from which it proceeds.

Q: What signifies the word STIBIUM?

A: The password of the Philosophers, which signifies ANTIMONY or the first matter of all things.

Q: What signifies the 7 Degrees?

A: The different effectual degrees of Masonry, which you must pass to come to the Sublime Degree of the Knight of the Sun.

Q: What signifies the diverse attributes of those degrees?

- A: 1st, the Bible, or God's Law, which we ought to follow;
2nd, the Compass teaches us to do nothing unjust;
3rd, the Square conducts us equally to the same end;
4th, the Level demonstrates to us all that's just and equitable;
5th, the Perpendicular, to be right and subdue the veil of prejudging;
6th, the Tressel Board is the image of our reason, where the functions are combined to effect, compare, and think;
7th, the Rough Stone is a resemblance of our vices, that we ought to reform;
8th, the Cubic Stone is our passions, that we ought to surmount;
9th, the Columns represent strength in all things;
10th, the Flaming Star, teaches us that our hearts ought to be a clear Sun among those that are troubled with things of this Life;
11th, the Key teaches us to have a watchfulness to those who are contrary to reason;
12th, the Box teaches us to keep our Secrets inviolable;
13th, the Urn teaches us that we ought to be like a Delicious Perfume;
14th, the Brazen Sea, that we ought to purify and cleanse ourselves, and destroy vice;
15th, the Circles in the Triangle, demonstrate the Immensity of the Divinity, under the Symbol of Truth;
16th, the Poniard teaches the steps of the Elected: many are called but few are chosen, to the Sublime Knowledge of the True Light;

17th, the word ALBRA=EST signifies a king full of glory, and without any blot;

18th, ADONAI signifies the Sovereign Creator of all things;

19th, the 7 Cherubim are the symbols of the Delight of Life known by Seeing, Hearing, Tasting, Feeling, Smelling, Tranquility and Sanctity.

Q: What represents the Sun?

A: It is an Emblem of the Divinity, which might be regarded as the Image of God. This immense body represents (as I say) the Infinity of God wonderful well, as the only Source of Light and Good—the heat of the Sun produces the Rule of the Seasons; recruits nature, takes darkness from the winter; in order that the deliciousness of Spring might succeed.

END OF THE PHYSICAL LECTURE.

Another Lecture—In General.

Q: From whence come you?

A: From the Centre of the Earth.

Q: How have you come from thence?

A: By reflection and study of nature.

Q: Who has taught you this?

A: Men in general were blind, and lead others in their blindness.

Q: What do you understand by this blindness?

A: I do not understand to be privy to their mysteries, but I apprehend under the name of blindness those who cease to be ardent after they have been privy to the light of the Spirit of Reason.

Q: Who are those?

A: Those who the prejudices of superstition and fanaticism seduces and renders them slaves to ignorance.

Q: What do you understand by Fanaticism?

A: The Zeal of all particular Sects, which are Spread on the Earth in leading, to be persuaded of committing precisely the crimes of offering to fraud and falsehood.

Q: And do you desire to be raised from this darkness?

A: My desire is to come to the Centre of Celestial Truth, and to journey by the brilliant light of the Sun.

Q: What represents that Light?

A: It is the figure only of one god, to whom we ought to pay our adoration. The Sun being the emblem of God, we ought to regard it as the image of the divinity, for that immense body represents wonderful well the infinity of God, and is the only source of Light and of God. He invigorates and produces the Seasons, and replenishes nature entirely in taking the Horrors from winter and produces the delights of the Spring.

Q: What represents the triangle, with the Sun in the centre?

A: It represents the immensity of the Supreme.

Q: What signifies the three Ss (SSS)?

A: Sanctitas, Scientia, and Sapientia. That science accompanied with wisdom makes men Holy.

Q: What signifies the 3 candlesticks?

A: It represents the 3 courses of life, considered as youth, manhood, and old age.

Q: Has it any other meaning?

A: The Triple Light that shines among us, in order to take a man out of darkness and ignorance, into which they are plugged, and bring them to virtue, truth and holiness, a symbol of our perfection.

Q: What signifies 4 Triangles that are in the Great Circle?

A: It is an emblem of the four principal views of the Life of Tranquility: Fraternal Love for all mankind in general, more in particular for Brethren, who are certainly more attached to us, and who with Horror have seen the wretchedness of the vulgar. Secondly, to be cautious among us, of things, and not to demonstrate them clearly to any, who are not proper to receive them, and to be likewise

cautious in giving Credit by any matter however artfully it be disguised without a self-conviction in the heart. Thirdly, to cast from us, every matter wherein, we conceive that we may ever repent of doing, taking care of this moral precept, to do to everyone, as we would be done to, and Fourthly, we ought always to confide in the bounty of our Creator, and to pray without ceasing, that all our necessities might be relieved, as it seemeth best to him for our advantage; to wait for His blessings patiently in this Life; to be persuaded of His Sublime decrees; that whatever may fall contrary to our wishes, will be attended with good consequences, to take His chastizement patiently, and be assured that the end of everything as proposed by Him, is the best and certainly will lead us to Eternal Happiness hereafter.

Q: Teach us the 7 Planets which are enclosed in a Triangle which forms the Rays of the Exterior Circle, and is enclosed in the Grand Triangle?

A: The 7 Planets according to Philosophy represent the Seven principal passions in the life of man. These passions are very useful when they are used with moderation for which the Almighty gave them to us, but grow fatal and destroy the body when let a loose to, but it is our particular duty to subdue them.

Q: Explain these Passions?

A: 1st – The propagation of the species.

2nd – Ambition of requiring riches.

3rd – Ambition in acquiring glory, in the Arts and Sciences and among men in general.

4th – Superiority of Civil Life.

5th – Joys and Pleasure of Society.

6th – Amusement and gaiety of life, and

7th – Religion.

Q: Which is the greatest sin of all that man can commit, and render him odious to God and man?

A: Suicide and homicide.

Q: What signifies the 7 Cherubim, where their names were written on a Grand Circle, called the First Heaven?

A: They represent the corporal delights of this life, which the Eternal gave to man when he created him, and are Seeing, Hearing, Smelling, Tasting, Feeling, Tranquility and Thought.

Q: What signifies the figure in the Moon, that we regard as the Image or Emblem of the Conception?

A: The Purity of Nature which procures us Holiness of the body and that there is nothing imperfect in the eyes of the Supreme.

Q: What represents the figures of the Columns?

A: They are the Emblems of our Souls, which is the breath of life proceeding from the All-Puissant, which ought not to be soiled by the works of the body, but to be as firm as columns.

Q: What represents the figure in the porch, which carries a Lamb in his arms?

A: The Porch ornamented with the Columns of Jachin and Boaz, and ornamented and surmounted by the grand **J** represents our body, when we ought to have a particular care in watching our conversation, as it is a secret deposit, which we ought to confide in our Creator, and also to watch our need as the shepherd of his flock.

Q: What signifies the 2 letters **J** and **B** at the Porch?

A: They signify our entrance into the order of Masonry, also the firmness of Soul, which we ought to possess, from the moment of our initiation. This we ought to merit before we come to the Sublime Degree of knowing Holy Truth; and we ought to preserve and be firm in whatever situation we might be in, not knowing whether it may turn to our good or evil in the passage of this life.

Q: What signifies the large **J** in the Triangle on the Crown of the Portico?

A: That large **J** being the Initial of the mysterious name of the Great Architect of the Universe, whose greatness we always should have in our view, as the sure and only Source of our actions.

Q: What signifies the 7 Steps that leads to the Entry of the Portico?

A: They make the 7 Degrees, which are the principal we ought to endeavour to arrive to, in order to come to the knowledge of the Sovereign Good, which is the Real Knowledge of Truth.

Q: What represents the Terrestrial Globe?

A: The world which we inhabit, and wherein true Masonry is the principal ornament.

Q: What is the Explanation of the Great Word of ADONAI?

A: The word which God gave to Adam, for him to pray by – a word our common Father never pronounced without trembling.

Q: What signifies LUX EX TENEBRIS?

A: Man made Clear by Light of Reason, penetrates through obscurity of ignorance and superstition.

Q: What signifies the River across the Globe?

A: It represents the utility of our passions, which are necessary to man in the course of his life, as water is necessary to render the Earth fertile.

Q: What signifies the Cross encircled by two Serpents on the top of the Globe?

A: It represents to us not to respect the vulgar prejudices; to be prudent, and to know the Bottom of the heart in matters of Religion. To be always prepared, not to be of the Sentiments with Sots and Idiots, and lovers of the Mysteries of Religion: to avoid Such, and not holding any conversation with them.

Q: What represents the Book, with the word BIBLIA on it?

A: As the Bible is differently interpreted by different sects, who divide the different parts of the Earth, thus the True Sons of Light, or Children of Truth, ought to doubt of everything at present as mysteries or metaphysics: thus all the decisions of Theology and Philosophy teach, not to admit, that which is not demonstrated as clearly as 2 and 2 makes 4, or is equal to it. And on the whole, to adore GOD, and one GOD alone, to LOVE Him better than yourself, and to have a confidence in the Bounties, and promises of our Creator,
AMEN.

End of the General Philosophical Lecture.

