

Ancient Masonry Master Mason

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Ancient Masonry
Part VIII. Master Mason.
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The Master Mason's lodge represents the sanctum sanctorum of King Solomon's Temple. That is, it is the in most, or spiritual plane of the cosmic edifice. Such a lodge, it is said, is composed of three Master Masons; the Master, the Senior Warden, and the Junior Warden; typifying in the constitution of man the ego, the divine soul, and the spiritual body. It will thus be recognized that the Master Mason's lodge typifies existence in the spiritual world.

In the spiritual world the ego and divine soul function in a spiritual body; and the other four factors of man's constitution have been lost. At the death of the physical body both the material form and the etheric form gradually disintegrate. The soul then lives upon the astral plane and functions in an astral body. After its cycle of existence on the astral plane--undergoing first, if gross or materially minded, a period of purification in the lower astral regions corresponding to the purgatory of Roman Catholicism--occurs the second death, in which the astral body, and such of the animal soul as has not been transmuted into divine soul, disintegrate; permitting the soul to live unfettered in the spiritual body on the spiritual plane.

The candidate for this degree is prepared by being stripped naked and then furnished with a pair of drawers reaching just above the hips. His drawer legs are both rolled above his knees, and his shirt is slipped down about his body, partly covered by his drawers, the sleeves and collar dangling behind over his waistband. His eyes are bandaged and cable-tow is wound three times around his body.

Both feet and both arms are left bare to indicate that both the understanding and the ability to work are unimpaired on the astral plane and on the spiritual plane. The shirt, symbolizing the astral body, though largely discarded, still clings to the candidate. This indicates that while yet in a physical body he may travel on the spiritual plane in the spiritual body, but that there must also be a connection with the astral body, that through it the connection with the physical may not be entirely severed. That is, a portion of the astral body must be used to preserve communication between the spiritual and the physical.

The woolen drawers are no longer red; for the animal part of man has been lost; yet the presence of this woolen underwear still serves to draw the attention to the importance of creative energy even on the spiritual plane. The candidate is blindfolded; for he is first represented as so newly arrived from the astral plane as to be unable to see things spiritual. Yet he has lost two thirds of his clothing to indicate the loss of his outer forms. The cable-tow is wound around him, in the region ruled by the sign Libra, three times. Taurus is an earthy sign, and more typical of earthly love; but Libra, the day sign of Venus, typifies the more spiritualized live; such a love as triples the bond between soul and ego.

The candidate desiring to enter the Master's lodge must knock three times; signifying his desire to enter the third, or spiritual plane. The pass word is Tubal-Cain.

Now Cain, according to the Bible, was a murderer; hence symbolizes Mars in its destructive aspect. But Tubal-Cain was an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron; was versed in the constructive use of iron, or Mars, and of brass, which is two metals in union. Cain thus represents the sex sign Scorpio in its aspect as pictured by the deadly scorpion; while Tubal-Cain represents the sign in its aspect as pictured by the eagle. And as the eagle is the highest flyer among the birds, so Tubal-Cain is the symbol of that complete regenerate marriage by which, according to the doctrine of the Ancient Masons, spiritual realms may be contacted.

Now as the candidate is permitted to enter, the two extreme points of a compass are pressed against his naked right and left breasts, indicating the subjugation laws, as signified by the compass, that govern regenerate union. He is then led around the room three times in the direction that the sun travels, and as he passes the Junior Warden, the Senior Warden, and the Master, they give him each during the first time around one rap, during the second time around two raps, and during the third time around three raps. This is to indicate that each of his three higher components, spiritual body, divine soul, and ego, have had an influence over him during his progress on the physical plane, on the astral plane, and on the spiritual plane.

While he thus travels about the room the Master reads the Bible the first Seven verses of the twelfth chapter of Ecclesiastes--

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the veil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have not pleasure in them; while the sun, or moon, or the stars be no darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain; in the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong man shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease, because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened, and the doors shall be shut in the street; when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of music shall be brought low. Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall all be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshoppers shall be a burden, and desire shall fail; because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets; or over the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken at the fountain, or the wheel at the cistern. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God, who gave it."

This whole passage is an exhortation to the candidate to prepare to abide in the spiritual world, pointing out the transitory and unsatisfactory nature of all things below the plane of spirit. The number 12 is the number of sacrifice, and the number indicating the end of the cycle of life, the completion of the zodiacal wheel. This 12th. Chapter then, quite consistently, warns that the physical must inevitable end and that there should be a sacrifice of the lower nature. The vital forces symbolized by the sun and moon, as well as the intellectual powers, symbolized by the stars, should be sacrificed to higher things in youth before the years of sterility approach, while the natural forces are undimmed by the clouds of emotional storm. The grinders, of course, are the planets which move over the zodiac as millers in this mill of the gods; and when their power to vivify man's body ceases the windows of his soul are darkened, and the doors of his speech closes, the vibrations cease their harmony, their music, and he passes as a bird might fly, in his astral body, to the astral plane.

In the astral world the memory pictures of his good deeds and his bad deeds are with him, and he that has been guilty of wrongdoing must atone, hence the fears, and the elements of destruction symbolized by grasshoppers. But the good deeds shall be a joy. Such are symbolized by the almond tree, which like Aaron's staff that budded, is a symbol of creative

power.

The pitcher is the desire body that forms the astral raiment, and the silver cord is the magnetic thread connecting the spiritual and astral bodies. The golden bowl is the vital forces animating the candidate, which becomes broken at the fountain from which they spring, and the wheel is the birth-chart which is broken at the cistern of emotional expression. Then does the physical return to the physical and the spiritual return to the spiritual.

This all recalls to the candidate the inevitableness of death, and admonishes him to prepare while yet in the flesh, through purification and the sacrifice of his lower nature, for life on the higher plane; also suggesting that such preparation is quite as necessary for one who before death expects to travel on spiritual planes.

Next, the candidate is led to the west, representing the material plane; and is instructed how to approach the east, the place of light, representing the spiritual plane, by advancing upon three upright regular steps, to the third step in Masonry, his foot forming a square, his body erect. This is accomplished by first stepping off with the left foot and bringing the heel of the right foot into it--signifying the understanding of generation; and then stepping off with the right foot and bringing the heel of the left into it--signifying the understanding of regeneration; and finally stepping off with the left foot and bringing up the other so that the heels are together with the feet at right angles--signifying the understanding of spiritual union. That is, these three steps indicate that the candidate has mastered the knowledge of generation, regeneration, and the great work.

He then kneels before the altar on both naked knees and raises both hands to heaven with the arms bent. This is called the hailing sign. The kneeling position, both knees being bent, signifies obedience upon the part of both to the admonitions of the higher self, and the uplifted bent arms that they join in work upon the higher planes. In this degree both points of the compass are shown above the square, indicating that, through obedience to the spiritual laws governing generation and regeneration, the candidate has freed himself from the limitations imposed upon him by his physical and astral bodies. At this juncture, as in other degrees, the bandage is removed from his eyes--signifying here that he perceives clearly the things of the spiritual plane.

The sign of a Master Mason is given by raising both arms as in the hailing sign, letting them fall, and saying--"Is there no help for the widow's son?"

The widow's son is the divine soul of man, who has long been separated from his Father in Heaven, the ego, and dependent upon mother nature. The two hands represent the two divine souls of one ego, and the bent arms signify their desire for reunion. The hands falling to the region of Scorpio, as well as the spoken sentence, indicate the despair of reaching spiritual heights through more physical means. The due guard of the degree shows where the hope lies. It is made by drawing the right hand palm down from left to right across the abdomen in the region ruled by the sign Libra, and letting it fall to the side. Libra, as well as Scorpio, is a sex sign, but being an airy sign it symbolizes unselfish love and spiritual union.

The pass-grip of a Master Mason is given by pressing the thumb of the right hand between the joints of the second and third fingers where they join the hand. The pressure is between the finger ruled in palmistry by Saturn, symbolizing the earth, and the Sun, symbolizing spirit. It thus tokens the desire to transmute and refine. Its name is Tubal-Cain, signifying regeneration accomplished; and the word is given in three syllables--Tu-Bal-Cain--to denote that the work has been accomplished on all three planes.

The apron, in this degree, is worn with the triangle down over the square. This indicates that spiritual energies have completely permeated the creative forces, and that the ego has become fully incarnated in the physical form of man.

The working tools of a Master Mason embrace all the implements of masonry; but particular attention is given to the trowel. The trowel in form is a triangle surmounted by a plumb, representing the higher trinity of man's constitution--ego, divine soul, and spiritual body--receiving and utilizing the divine fire of creative energy. Its significance is that of another symbol, the trine in the center of which is the Hebrew letter, Jod. It is an implement used in joining stones to form a single structure, and is thus symbolical of creative energy used to bind together in consciousness the various experiences of life that build the temple of man.

In the Master's degree, however, which has to do with the spiritual plane, the trowel has an added significance. It signifies the use of creative energies to bind together permanently twin souls. This inseparable union, which according to the ancient doctrine insures their joint immortality, takes place on the boundary of the sixth and seventh states of the spiritual world. Henceforth the two divine souls occupy but one spiritual body. These two and the one body they occupy form the triangle of the trowel, and the ego which is common to both is signified by the handle. The triangle, in this aspect thus represents the Lost Word recovered, as elaborated in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Grand Master, Hiram Abiff.

This tradition informs us that at the building of Solomon's Temple there were present three Grand Masters- King Solomon, as instigator of the work, is symbolical of the sun in the sky and the ego of man's constitution. Hiram, King of Type, furnished the wood--or mental experiences, or perceptions. He typifies the spiritual body of man, the planet Mercury in the finished macrocosmic structure, and, and the most earthy of the three, the angles where the rays of sun and moon meet. Hiram Abiff was the widow's son, employed by King Solomon because he was a cunning artificer, a skillful worker in all kinds of metals, stones, timber, and cloth, and engraving upon them. He , of course, symbolizes the divine soul. Thus the ego instigates the work, the body furnishes the materials, or experiences, and the soul truly builds them into a fitting temple.

"It was the usual custom of the Grand Master, Hiram Abiff, every day at high twelve when the craft from labor to refreshment, to enter into the sanctorum, or holy of holies, and offer up his adoration to the ever living God and draw out his plane and designs on his trestle board for the craft to pursue their labor". The craft are the celestial bodies that are more readily seen at night; for as midday is the period of maximum sunshine the heavenly bodies are then more difficult to see, and may be said to be at refreshment.

Now if we turn for a moment to the Kabala, we find that the holy of holies, called by them the Shekinah, is the place where the devoted retire for communion with higher powers. This Shekinah on earth, by them, also represents a spiritual union of man and women, a union represented in the sky by the union of sun and moon, that is the new moon. And as our narrative relates to the Temple of the sun, his holies of holies, his own sign, the sanctum sanctorum of the sun, is the sign ruled by it, Leo. Our story starts, then at noon, with a new moon in the first degree of the sign Leo. Hiram Abiff, symbolizing the divine soul of man, is represented by the moon.

Fifteen--this is the number of Satan and of black magic--Fellow Craft conspired to extort the Master's word from Hiram Abiff, and in case of refusal to kill him. Twelve--representing the twelve zodiacal signs--represented and confessed; but three -- representing the three visible angles, the M.C. , Desc. , and Asc. , carried out the crime.

The names of the three ruffians that committed the crime are Jubela, Jubele, and Jubelum. Now in the Bible Jubal is mentioned as the father of all such as handles the harp and organ. This refers unmistakably to the sign Leo, which rules pleasures and entertainment of all kind. Hence we start the story at the beginning of the sign Leo. In the same passage, but not of significance in this story, the three other signs that each rule one of the four quadrants of the heavens are mentioned also. Thus Jabel was the father of such as swell in tents and have cattle. This refers to Taurus. Tubal-Cain is an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron. This denotes, as previously mentioned, the sign Scorpio. And Enoch, the perfect man, is the Man of the zodiac, Aquarius.

Jubel, it is quite clear, is the sign of the sun. The designation of the three ruffians is shown by the suffix. The meaning of the letters used as suffixes to Jabel may be had by referring to the Hermetic System of Names and Numbers. The letter A corresponds to the planet Mercury, and to the attributes of will. The letter G corresponds to the planet Mars, and to the attribute of destruction. The letter U corresponds to the planet Venus, and to pliability. The letter M corresponds to the zodiacal sign Aries, signifying transition through death to birth in a new life.

The sun and moon are conjoined in the midheaven in the first degree of the sun's home sign, Leo, and evidently, in some manner, the Master's Word, which the villains try to obtain, refers to this most spiritual union.

Jubela, so the story goes, was stationed at the southern gate of the temple, or at the Midheaven. He grabs the Grand Master and handles him roughly demanding that he give the pass-word. Hiram replies that if he will wait until the temple is completed and the Grand Lodge assembles at Jerusalem, and he is found worthy, it will be given to him. Now the "a" as a suffix to Jubel signifies will, in this case the will to obtain the knowledge that confers immortality. The moon is with the sun, the soul has not yet separated from its divine ego, nor from its counterpart, but there is the will for conscious immortality. But it is only through experiences with external life that the spiritual form of man can be constructed, and only when this form has been completed that the permanent union of the divine counterparts can take place, which constitutes the Master's Word as applied to the spiritual plane.

Not receiving the word, Jubela strikes the master's a blow across the throat with a twenty-four inch gauge. The twenty-four inch gauge represents the twenty-four hours of the day, hence the diurnal cycle of the sun. The throat is ruled by Venus, the planet of love. Hence the blow on the throat signifies the rupture of the ties of love by time--the separation of the twin souls at the time of their involutory descent from the spiritual world to gain experiences. In the more personal sense, it signifies the effects of time to alienate the affections of the husband and wife when the sacred rites of love are violated.

The Master rapidly retreats toward the west gate, the Descendant, which is guarded by Jubele. Thus the Moon as it separates from the sun is carried by the diurnal rotation of the earth directly to the western horizon, or Descendant. And the soul, in its involutory descent before its first material incarnation, is rapidly carried down to the place where it enters the physical realms. So too, the man or woman who violates the sanctity of love tends to sink quickly into gross materialism.

Jubelo, representing the destructive tendency of Mars, the destructive tendencies of unions--for the western horizon in astrology is the place partnerships and unions, as well as of strife--gives the Master a blow across the breast with a square. This square, while symbol of inharmonious union, also represents the first quarter of the moon as it separates from the sun, which is a destructive astrological aspect. It typifies the soul joined, at last, to a material body. In a more personal sense it indicates inharmonious relations which injure the

aspirations, these being symbolized by the breasts.

The Master then goes to the east gate which is guarded by Jubelum. This signifies that the moon, separating from the sun the while, is carried by the diurnal motion of the earth from the western horizon, where it sinks, to the eastern horizon, where it rises. In relation to the progress of the soul, the period during which the moon is beneath the horizon, and invisible, represents its evolution through the various material forms of life below that of man. The east gate, where the moon rises into view, symbolizes the state where the soul rises from the purely material and incarnates in the intellectual being called man. Applied to humanity at large this indicates the desire for more knowledge.

Jubelum strikes the Master upon the forehead with a gavel, whereupon the Master falls dead. This signifies that the moon has arrived at her second quarter, receives the maximum force of the sun's rays, and is at the furthest point from her heavenly spouse. After this time, according to astrology, vital and magnetic forces begin to decrease, or die. This signifies that the soul, arriving at the state of manhood in its evolutionary ascent, is tempted by, and becomes a slave to, his sensations. The pure unsullied intuitions of the soul as to proper conduct are slain by the use of reason and an unbending will (the gavel). As applied to humanity at large this signifies that having departed from the true source of light, yet seeking knowledge, it often falls into one of two destructive extremes; dissipation, or the complete annihilation of the finer feelings and sentiments through the use of an unbending will. Either deadens the soul to things spiritual.

Now the Grand Master having been killed, he is carried out the east gate and buried with rubbish at low twelve. We have three thoughts here. The moon at full passes above the horizon. Twilight obscures it, and as it is waning, instead of growing brighter it grows dimmer, is covered with rubbish. This burial is at low twelve, because at midnight the sun having reached the lowest point in its daily cycle, the moon has reached the highest point overhead, and exactly at low twelve descends toward the horizon, descends into the grave. In the soul's progress its first efforts to discern lead it to become buried in the various theories of materialists and the innumerable uncritical phantasies of the mystic, as well as in the dust of prejudice. As applied to humanity at large, it represents man and woman seeking light, but blinded by false teachings and covered with the rubbish of illusory doctrines.

The Grand Master is carried at low twelve in a westerly direction, and there buried in a grave on the brow of Mount Moria; the ruffians hurrying, as the Master already begins to smell. That is, the moon after midnight of its full does travel to the west to sink in her grave below the western horizon. The reference to the smell signifies that she has begun to decrease in light, or decompose.

Mount Moria is the region of sacrifice. But it should be remembered that Abraham was finally commanded by the Lord (Law) not to sacrifice his son, not to sacrifice the human qualities as is done in asceticism; but to sacrifice only the Ram, or creative energies, on the altar of his devotion. The soul all too often, Slain by false reasoning and covered with dogmatic debris, sinks into the west of Materialism, and sacrifice its spirituality on the mountain of material ambition. This spiritual decay is perceived as selfish thoughts. As applied to mankind as a whole, man and women may be misled by false doctrines and fall into destructive practices or into morbid asceticism, thus to be buried on the mountain of sensual desire or in the tomb of vain and foolish sacrifices. The vibrations of sensualism and those of asceticism are alike offensive odors to the spiritual senses.

The Grand Master is buried in a grave six feet due east and west, and six feet perpendicular. The grave is marked by a sprig of cassia. This grave, or lowest point in the daily journey of the moon, is the nadir. The grave is as long, therefore, as from the eastern horizon to the

western horizon. That is, the moon is invisible while in six mundane houses, or feet. It is buried as deep as from the midheaven to the nadir. That I, six mundane houses, or feet, deep. And it is marked by a sprig of cassia because cassia, always being green, symbolizes immortality. It thus promises a resurrection.

This resurrection of the human soul is symbolized in the heavens by the moon being raised by the diurnal rotation of the earth on its axis from the nadir through six houses to the midheaven. All above the horizon symbolizes the spiritual realm, and all below the horizon symbolizes the physical realm. Therefore, the six houses, or feet, east and west symbolize the boundary between the spiritual and physical planes. This boundary marks the region of struggle that precedes the incarnation of the ego in the physical form, which takes place when the seventh state of manhood, or adeptship, is reached. Applied to humanity at large the six feet east and west typify the material horizon, and the struggle to obtain the physical necessities of life and at the same time encourage the spiritual nature. The six feet perpendicular represent the six states of the soul world which the soul must traverse before it can be permanently united to its missing mate. Applied to humanity as a whole it represents the antagonism between the sexes, their misunderstandings of one another, and the temptation to yield to the dictates of the senses. This significance of the number six was given in Lesson No. 9.

The sprig of cassia, in each case offers the hope of redemption through the rejuvenating action of the creative principle. Fire was then used as a symbol of the sun, and finally the wood that fed the fire was also considered a creative symbol, Cassia, being ever verdant, adds the thought of perpetual youth and life to that of the creative principle.

After the murder of Hiram Abiff the three ruffians try to get a passage to Ethiopia; but they only get as far as Joppa, symbolizing the astral realm. Ethiopia is the land of darkness lying to the south of Jerusalem. While the sun is in Leo and the moon making this symbolic cycle, the sun moves southward, and the points where it rises, culminates, and sets--the three ruffians--also travel southward. These ruffians are discovered by a wayfaring man--the sign Pisces, which rules the feet of man and is the sign of imprisonment--for the full moon, when the sun is in Leo takes place in Aquarius, and the moon immediately passes into Pisces.

The soul also, in its pilgrimage, may try to escape from the penalty of its folly by seeking oblivion in death, but only reaches the astral realm, where it is imprisoned and must give an accounting in full to the ego, its King Solomon, for its crime. And mankind may seek a like oblivion for itself in the doctrines of materialism, but the absurdities of such a course are quickly revealed by those psychic investigations ruled by the sign Pisces, and it must finally be brought before the throne of spiritual enlightenment.

Hiram Abiff was discovered missing at low soul when as usual King Solomon came up to the temple. He found all in confusion, no plans having been laid out on the trestle board for the craft to follow. At full moon, which is the period we have been considering, the moon sinks below the horizon, and is discovered missing and the sun--Solomon--rises in full sight, at 6 A.M. The light of the planets wanes and becomes confused, owing to daylight. The soul of man, reaching the sixth state of manhood, or cosmic consciousness, realizes it is separated from the ego, and that until they become again united its work is not directed from the spiritual plane, the work is not properly laid out. Applied to humanity, man and woman having arrived at a state of antagonism are able to form no efficient plans because of lack of cooperation.

Twelve Fellow Craft Masons--the twelve zodiacal signs--are sent to hunt for Hiram. Three, taking westerly course; that is, setting, get news from the wayfaring man, Pisces. Finally one of them sitting down to rest on the brow of Mount Moria -- the horizon--discovers the sprig

of cassia, at the point of union of night and day. This promises the coming resurrection, for the moon will rise again, as will the soul that sinks into the grave. At this point, also, are discovered the three assassins, or visible angles. The three Fellow Craft that discover the assassins, represent the three zodiacal signs through which the moon moves from full to last quarter. They report the discovery of King Solomon--the Sun--who sends another to look; that is, the sun during the moon's journey around the cycle has moved forward a sign, so the moon to reach it must, in addition to the twelve, move also through this sign.

When the body is uncovered an offensive smell arises--the moon is still decreasing, or decomposing, in light. A search is made for the Master's Word, but nothing is found except a faint resemblance to the letter G marked on the left breast. The letter G found on the body is not recognized as a key to the Master's Word; for being on the left breast it signifies generation impelled by material motives. Yet while not the Word itself, the discerning will not fail to note that it is the key to the word. The three signs by which the body is discovered, represent the explorations of the soul on all three planes. Applied to humanity at large it signifies material, mental, and spiritual effort.

The master, finding the Word lost, repeats three times the Master's sign and the words--"O Lord, my God, is there no help for the widow's son?" Unless the word, to which Generation is the lost key, be recovered, there is little help on any of the three planes for the soul, nor as applied to humanity is there much hope of greatly improving the condition of the world.

Twelve Fellow Craft--zodiacal signs--are summoned to go with Solomon--the sun to raise Hiram Abiff--the Moon. They form a circle around the grave--the zodiacal signs form a circle--and the Master offers up a lengthy prayer the purport of which is a plea for immortality. The Master then directs that the body be raised by the E.A. grip, Boas; but the skin cleaves from the flesh and it can not be thus raised. Immortality can not be attained by the application of mere physical methods; for the body is not the man, no more so than the skin is the whole body. It is next proposed to raise the body with the F.C. grip, Jachin; but it can not be done because the flesh cleaves from the bone. The soul is not assured of immortality when it can work on the astral plane; for the astral body is not the whole man, no more so than the flesh is the whole body.

Finding the grip of the two lower degrees inadequate, the Master raises the candidate for the Master's degree--who represents Hiram Abiff--with the Master Mason's grip, upon the five points of fellowship, uttering in his ear the Word Mah-Hah-Bone, used as a substitute for the lost Master's Word.

This Master's grip is called the Lion's grip, because it is typical of the sun's action in the sign Leo where it exercises its most virile power. It is made in shaking hands by sticking the finger nails of each of the fingers into the joint of the other's wrist where it joins the hand. The five fingers of one hand represent woman, and the five fingers of the other hand represent man. As all portions ruled by the various planets thus come in contact, it represents complete fusion, soul infiltration of soul. Such is the powerful influence of the Sun in Leo by which the Moon is again united to it; denoting the eternal union of twin souls by which their united immortality becomes assured. It is called Mah-Hah-Bone, because the word, signifying marrow in the bone, denotes a more complete fusion than that of the physical, symbolized by the skin, or of the astral, symbolized by the flesh, or even of spiritual bodies, symbolized by the bone. It refers to the complete and permanent soul union between natural counterparts, soul of soul, heart of hearts.

The raising of the five points of fellowship is accomplished by taking the candidate--who represents Hiram Abiff--by the Master's grip and lifting him by bracing the right foot against him. When raised, the Master's right foot is inside his right foot, the inside of the Master's

knee is against his, the Master's breast against his breast, and their left hands are on each other's backs, each putting the mouth to the ear of the other, in which position alone the Master's word may be given.

In this manner the fullness of the reunion between sun and moon is designated. Being together, both receive the five points, that is, the same aspects from the other five planets. The three attempts at raising account for the three signs through which the moon passes from its last quarter to reach new moon, which is its union with the sun. By this time the sun, having started at the first of Leo, has reached the 28th. degree of the sign. According to the Hermetic System of Names and Numbers 2 plus 8 equals 10, which is the number of man and woman, that is, the union of two 5's or the five points of fellowship.

The soul, also, having taken its cyclic pilgrimage from spirit into matter and from matter back to spirit again, not only arrives at its original state of exaltation in the spiritual world, but the ego, having gained wisdom and love through its soul's experiences, has passed to still higher spheres, and the soul uniting with its is raised to this region. Applied to humanity as a whole, through the reestablishment of harmonious relations between man and woman, and their united efforts, the misery that has resulted from their strife is banished, and they become efficient agents for building up a better world.

The union of foot to foot represents mutual understanding; which is essential to united effort. It further refers to united effort in spiritual science and psychical research, because these are ruled by the sign Pisces.

The union of knee to knee typifies the value of mutual service. In this manner cooperation yields the best results. It also indicates that there is united effort in regard to material attainment, for this is ruled by the sign Capricorn.

Breast to breast signifies that if best results are to be obtained there must be unity of aspiration. It also indicates that the magnetism of each should nourish and sustain the other, and that there should be unity in the home, for these things are ruled by the sign Cancer.

The left hand to the back of the other shows that each should work in a physical way to strengthen and support the other. Each should support by his mental endeavors ruled by Gemini, the ambitions, ruled by Leo, of the other.

Lastly, there should be complete and mutual exchange of confidences between husband and wife, such as is denoted by mouth to ear. And the lips should offer encouragement to the other, and both should fulfill their financial obligations. these being ruled by Taurus.

It will now be seen that the whole tragedy of Hiram Abiff, and his later resurrection, are meant to symbolize the soul's separation from its divine counterpart, its separate journey through the cycle of involution and evolution, and its final attainment of an immortal life through reunion with its lost mate.

In Egyptian tradition Osiris is dismembered, but the fourteen pieces--representing the fourteen days from full moon to new moon--are collected and reunited by Isis. The ashes of Hiram, however, are represented as having been buried under the sanctorum sanctorum, and a monument having been erected over them figuring a virgin weeping over a broken column, with a book before her, in her right hand a sprig of cassia, in her left hand an urn; Time standing behind her, with his hands infolded in the ringlets of her hair.

The virgin is Isis weeping over the slain Osiris, her lost mate, signified by the broken column. That immortality be assured, as suggested by the cassia, it becomes has not yet

occurred, for the urn, symbol of affection, is still empty. Hair is ruled by the planet Venus, and until the reunion takes place here affections bind her to the realms where time is master. Applied to humanity at large this ensemble signifies the destruction of the better impulses of the soul through the abuse of the creative energies. The involution of the soul into matter and its evolution back to spirit, is symbolized astrologically by the Sun's journey through the zodiac, as related in Lesson No. 10. But the separation of the two halves of the divine soul and their subsequent reunion after the pilgrimage of zodiacal cycles is symbolized astrologically by the separation of the sun and moon, and their ultimate reunion. It may be thought that the Ancient Masons were somewhat arbitrary in enacting the scene with the sun in Leo, but not so in fact; for in practical magic, at which they were adepts, operations of an electric and repellent natures are more successful if initiated at noon of the day of the first new moon after the sun enters Leo. On the other hand, as any astrologer readily understands, operations of an attractive and magnetic natures are more successful if initiated at midnight of the day of the first full moon after the sun enters Capricorn.

As Isis of Egypt searched for the fourteen fragments of Osiris, and as the moon decreases for fourteen days between full moon and new moon, so we need not be surprised to find it related that Hiram Abiff remained fourteen days in his grave before being resurrected.

In the individual horoscope the tragedy of Hiram corresponds to the revolution of psychic forces within the astral body of man from month to month and from year to year. It is the magical cycle of the soul as measured from one transit of the moon over the radical place of the sun to another such transit; and this is the exact measure of psychic power received by the individual from month to month. It has a most important practical application, for soul powers are found to have their periods of ebb and flood, there being times when it is possible, and there being times when it is not possible, to establish the essential conditions necessary for the successful practice of high magic. This phase of the matter is explained in detail in Lesson No. 93.

The Brotherhood of Light
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Serial No. 13, Branch Letter -- H
Course IV. Branch of Science -- Ancient Masonry
Part VII. Master Mason

Examination Questions.

1. What is meant by the blow on the breast of Hiram Abiff with the square?
2. Astrologically who were Jubela, Jubelo, and Jubelum?
3. What is the symbolism of the trowel?
4. What is symbolized by the compass pressed against both breasts?
5. Why do the three Master Masons constitute a Master Mason's lodge?
6. What does the tragedy of Hiram represent in the individual horoscope?
7. Why is the Master's grip called the Lion's grip, and what does it symbolize?
8. What is symbolized by the sprig of cassia, and why?

9. Why is the Master carried out the east gate and buried with rubbish until low twelve?
10. What is meant by the blow on the throat of Hiram Abiff with the 24 inch gauge?
11. Who are the 15 Fellow Craft that conspired to kill Hiram Abiff, and what significance has the number 15 ?
12. What is symbolized by the silver cord, the golden bowl, and the wheel at the cistern?
13. Why are both feet and both arms bare and the shirt largely removed from the candidate in the Master's degree?
14. What is symbolized by the weeping virgin, the broken column, and Time with his hands in the ringlets of the virgin's hair?
15. What is symbolized by the three F.C. Masons who first get news of Hiram's whereabouts?
16. Why is the grave six feet due east and west, and six feet perpendicular?
17. What is meant by the blow on the forehead of Hiram Abiff with a gavel?
18. Where were sun and moon located at the beginning of the tragedy of Hiram Abiff?
19. What is symbolized by each of the three Grand Masters present at the building of Solomon's Temple?
20. What is symbolized by Tubal-Cain?
21. What is symbolized by foot to foot, knee to knee, and breast to breast?
22. Why was it discovered that Hiram Abiff was missing at low six?
23. What is meant by Mount Moria, and by the offensive odor?
24. Why is Tubal-Cain syllabeled in three portions?
25. What is symbolized by Cain?
26. What is represented by Ethiopia by Joppa, and by the wayfaring man?
27. Who is the widow's son?