



Nugget

Journey across the Tracing Board

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The Candidate journeys across the Tracing Board.

Summary

The Candidate is taken on a symbolic journey across the Tracing Board.

Keywords

First-Degree, Tracing-Board, Darkness, Light

Journey across the Tracing Board



During the initiation ceremony the Candidate begins his journey in darkness. Emblematically starting at the bottom of the Tracing Board, where he stepped onto the mosaic flooring. Crossing this, he travelled in the North, which represents a place of darkness. He proceeded from West to East in search of knowledge. Arriving in the East, he was brought into the Light of Freemasonry.

First-Degree Tracing Board by John Harris c, 1825

Courtesy of the Library and Museum of Freemasonry

From the foundation given by the Volume of the Sacred Law and guided by the aid of the Three Great Lights he was enabled to start his ascent desiring to satisfy that most human need, proximity to the Great Architect of the Universe, as represented by the Blazing Star. Jacob's ladder, which is initially beyond the visible symbols, is a powerful allegory of the steps he must take, should he wish to leave behind the monochrome pattern of his physical existence with its stark contrasts.

He trusts that he will penetrate a veil, sometimes illustrated by cloud. Thereby he hopes to walk beneath that covering of a Freemason's Lodge, which is described as a Celestial Canopy of divers colours, even the Heavens. His journey emblematically takes him to the centre, where will be able to discover the Blazing Star within his own being.

##END##

Recommended use of Nuggets

Nuggets offer a short, simple and readily absorbed means of progressing Masonic knowledge and an easy way to introduce learning to Lodges and Chapters. It is hoped that they will become a regular feature of Lodge and Chapter meetings as well as a source for private-study.

Nuggets can be included as an item in the summons and read at most Lodge/Chapter meetings. They can be:

- Read by either a new or an experienced Mason with the minimum of preparation and practice; *though ideally, they need to be read a few times beforehand.*
- Themed with the meeting or activity.
- Used to initiate a discussion within a Lodge/Chapter, LOI/COI, or group.
- Read at home and shared as a topic for a future discussion.
- Used as a focus for an unplanned, informal discussion.

For further nuggets and other learning materials visit 'Solomon' at <http://solomon.ugle.org.uk>

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