



Nugget

The Wardens' Pillars

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An explanation of placement of the Pillars.

Summary

An explanation of placement of the two Pillars which stood at the porchway of King Solomon's Temple.

Keywords

Second-Degree, Pillars, Solomon, Temple, Wardens

The Wardens Pillars

In the earliest lodges the Wardens both sat in the West. The Senior Warden to the North of the Junior Warden. That changed in Lodges of the Premier Grand Lodge before the Union. Speculatively one might think this happened following the emergence of the Royal Arch as a separate order. The new arrangement shows the three shaping a square with the Master, the old form shows them in the form of compasses; there being a difference in old operative masonry between 'square' and 'round' masons. The Antients only placed the Junior Warden in the South after the Union of 1813.

The first pillar, Boaz, represents the temporal power, wielded by princes; and the second, Jachin, the spiritual power, wielded by priests. During the First Degree, the candidate has to fully explain the word of the degree to the Junior Warden; and in the Second-Degree it is to the Senior Warden; though this is not the case in all forms of ritual. We may therefore associate the Wardens with particular pillars, as befits their role in the Lodge.

Now comes the curiosity. Many biblical scholars place Boaz as being in the North. In our ritual we refer to Boaz as being the left-hand pillar at the porchway or entrance to King Solomon's Temple. The implication being that it is in the South and associated with the Junior Warden. It would seem that the ritual has been adjusted so that the details conveniently fit its form!

The ritual does not identify which pillar carried the terrestrial globe, and which the celestial, nor is there any help to be found in the Geneva Bible. Logically the terrestrial is associated with temporal power, and therefore the Junior Warden, with the celestial globe for the Senior Warden. In many Lodges, this symbolism is partly lost as the pillars are now depicted as being columns of the Doric and Corinthian orders.

##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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