



## Nugget

### An ear of corn near to a fall of water

**Index**

An ear of Corn near a fall of water; explained as an allegory of a seed.

**Summary**

An ear of Corn near a fall of water is explained first by reference to a password, then as an allegory of growth.

**Keywords**

Second-Degree, Password, Ephraimites, Gileadites, Corn, Allegory

## An ear of corn near to a fall of water

On the surface there is a straightforward explanation for the password of the degree. In the Geneva Bible, in the story of the aftermath of the battle when the Ephraimites were defeated by the Gileadites (Judges:12). The word is given two meanings, an ear of corn and a fall of water. Both words can be taken to symbolise plenty.

A further explanation is an allegory of a seed. The seed fell onto fertile soil. It lay there until the season was right, then it germinated. Being on fertile soil it grew in the warmth of day and ripened under the beneficial light of the sun. The seed represents our candidate, who asked to join Freemasonry, when the conditions were right for him. In the first degree he grew and in due course he matured in wisdom, under the superintendence of the Junior Warden, who marks the sun at its meridian.

So, when he enters the building and is challenged by the Junior Warden, he gives the pass-grip and password. By association with the ripened corn, he is stating that he has successfully completed the first stage of his development and is ready to progress upwards to the next stage.

He then starts his ascent of the winding staircase, where his attention turns to the development of his mind.

---

##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>**

---

**Acknowledgement:**

UGLE gratefully acknowledges Dickon Sandbach as the author of this document, which is an extract from 'Interval Talks', and for his permission to publish it in this form.

**Disclaimer:**

Every reasonable effort has been made to contact known copyright holders, but if there are any errors or omissions, The United Grand Lodge of England will be pleased to insert the appropriate acknowledgment.

The views or interpretations contained in this article are those of the author. UGLE recognises there are many different interpretations of ritual, symbolism and history.

**Copyright:**

All rights reserved. No part of this paper may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission from The United Grand Lodge of England in writing.

---