



Nugget

Five steps

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The five steps taken in the Second-Degree.

Summary

The five steps taken in the Second-Degree and their association with the five noble orders of architecture.

Keywords

Second-Degree, Tuscan, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian, Composite

Five steps

During the Second-Degree ceremony, we ascend five steps, which are associated with the five noble orders of architecture.

The Tuscan is said to represent a sturdy labourer dressed in homely apparel. There is beauty associated with its simplicity. The Doric represents a full-grown man, similar to the Tuscan, but with some ornamentation. It is considered grand and noble and considered suitable for more warlike buildings; implying the attribute of discipline. These orders are considered lacking in grace and elegance, the want of which led to the creation of the Ionic order, formed after the model of a beautiful young woman. Creativity continued, and the Corinthian order was invented, and is known as the richest of the orders. The inspiration was the tomb of a young lady, with a basket of toys left beside it covered with a stone. Plants grew up around it, covering it with leaves. From this we might infer the attribute of sympathy. Masonry then held forth her torch and illumined the whole circle of arts and sciences, resulting in the fifth order, the Composite. It is so-called as it has elements of the other four. It is chiefly used in structures where strength, elegance and beauty are all to be displayed.

Thus, our progression up the five steps of the winding staircase, which we climb before taking our obligation, represents our progress.

[Take position in front of Worshipful Masters pedestal, facing South, so that the five steps can be taken; take a step as each order is mentioned].

- The Tuscan represents us when we first enter the masonry, simple but strong.
- The Doric reflects the development in ourselves as we begin to improve and refine our behaviour, through self-discipline.
- The Ionic reflects the further progress we make, adding grace and elegance to our character; the feminine side.
- The Corinthian reflects the growth of sympathy and charity in our character.
- And the Composite represents the perfection achieved, where all of these characteristics are brought together.

The completed buildings were then decorated, furnished, beautified and adorned with many masonic emblems, none of which shone with greater splendour than brotherly love, relief and truth.

In this sense, the five noble orders represent the development of our characters, as we are guided by the precepts of Masonry, emblematically depicted by these five important steps.

##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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