



## Nugget

### The Right Hand Pillar

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Jachin the man and Jachin the pillar.

**Abstract**

This nugget delves into the story behind Jachin the man and Jachin the pillar, and their association with King Solomon's Temple.

**Keywords:**

Second-Degree, Jachin, pillar, King Solomon, Temple



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## The Right Hand Pillar - Jachin, putting two and two together to make six

It's the name that is important, not the man. The Old Testament (in the Books of Kings and Chronicles) tells us that it was King Solomon who named the two great pillars at the entrance to the Temple in Jerusalem Boaz and Jachin.

However, what the Old Testament does not tell us is the name of the priest who officiated at the ceremony of dedication of the Temple. King Solomon's High Priest was Zadok, whose name lives on today in the anthem by Handel. It has been sung at every British coronation since that of King George II in 1727; *'Zadok the Priest and Nathan the Prophet anointed Solomon King, and all the people rejoiced'*. But Zadok did not dedicate the Temple, and neither did Jachin.

The Old Testament records that it was King Solomon himself who undertook that task. How Jachin got in on the act is a warning to all of us not to confuse masonic legend with either history or Scripture.

Some time in the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century, when masonic rituals were beginning to assume their modern form, someone noticed that one of the great pillars was called Jachin, and also that someone called Jachin was a member of an order of priests established by King David, the father of King Solomon. Putting two and two together, the priest Jachin was assumed to have had something to do with the pillar, as an important functionary at the dedication ceremony. But this was incorrect! King Solomon had decided on the names of the pillars long before the dedication of the Temple, and, while Jachin the priest may have witnessed or assisted at the ceremony, the pillar was not named in his honour.

So, what does the name Jachin mean, and why does it still feature in our ritual?

'Jachin' is a compound word derived from two Hebrew sources. The first is the noun 'Ja', meaning 'God' (an alternative for the word 'EL'). The second is the verb 'kun' meaning 'to be established' (in the sense of 'prepared' or 'fixed and certain'). It is often used in Scripture as a figure of speech to denote the establishment of a throne or a royal house or family, or sometimes to indicate a person of a solid and dependable character. The whole name thus means 'God has established', with overtones of moral steadfastness, and of a righteous, true and honest person.

King Solomon built the Temple out of physical materials: stone, wood and metal, but we are to build our own Temples out of our moral conduct and behaviour. We are, if you like, to be our own 'living stones'. If we attempt to apply the principles symbolised by the words 'Boaz' and 'Jachin', our lives and relationships will be characterised by stability, and by righteous and benevolent conduct. And if we can apply those principles not only to our own lives, but collectively, within the workings of our moral and beneficent order, we can all contribute to the creation of a more stable society and nation. This is yet another important moral lesson that is conveyed through the symbolism and allegories of Freemasonry.

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##END##



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## 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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