



# NUGGET

## Reflections on the Second Degree

**Summary:** Some ideas to stimulate reflective practice on being passed to a Fellow Craft

Having gone through your passing, now might be a good time to reflect a little. As you remember, the steps inside the entrance to the Temple were in sets.

- The first three representing the three Great Lights, the Volume of the Sacred Law, Square and Compasses.
- The next five, alluding to the five senses of man, reminding us to exercise due control.
- The final seven are explained in the ritual and via the tracing-board, as the seven liberal arts and sciences:
  - Grammar so that you can express yourself properly.
  - Logic in order for you to distinguish good from bad.
  - Rhetoric because it beautifies our language.
  - Arithmetic so that a Mason can be calculative in his actions.
  - Geometry is the whole science used in the construction of the Temple.
  - Music, so that when you shift from labour to refreshment, you are able to appreciate the beauty of life.
  - Astronomy because it helps you to know the day and the night, when to begin work and when to stop, but most of all to know the total area of the jurisdiction of the Great Architect of the Universe.

That is the generally recognised description, but there is a more down to earth explanation:

The first book on English Grammar was published in 1586. Fortunately, the invading Normans ignored our language and it progressed freely and naturally; as it does today. Absorbing foreign and technical words, changing the meanings of many words from their meanings of years ago. Unlike many, ours is a living language and ignores Logic in its construction and spelling.

Logic though, is important in making decisions, not necessarily good from bad, more often right from wrong; it effortlessly cuts through myths.

Rhetoric is the skill of effective expression.

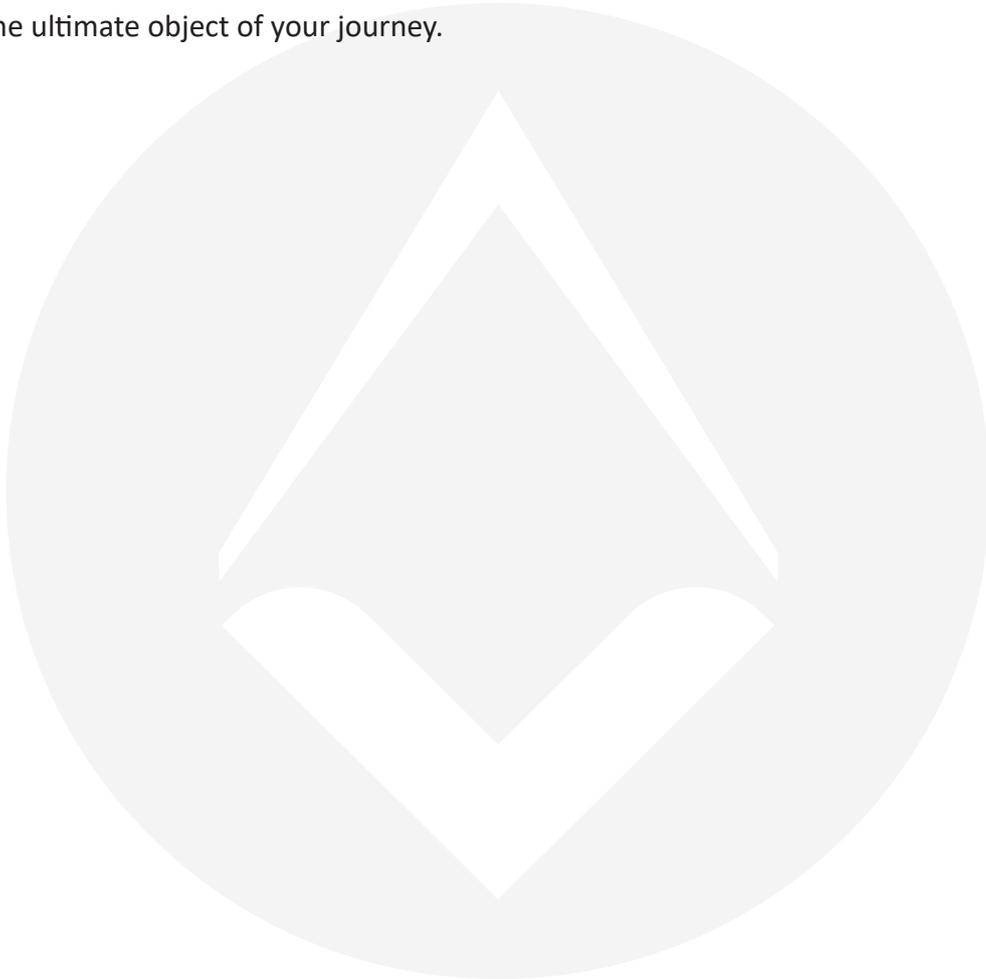
Music teaches timing, a pause in speech gives greater weight to a word; rhythm and harmony are essential in Music and life.



Rhetoric blends with Music and can make ordinary words fly and sing; especially in the hands of writers such as Shakespeare and orators such as Winston Churchill.

Likewise, Arithmetic combines with Geometry to enable its subdivision, Architecture, to create style and build, from a plan, the desired object.

Astronomy, which originally included Astrology, is for dreamers. The night sky presents us with an unending array of stars set in darkness, hinting at the possibility of what is 'unseen', and what lays beyond; the Supreme Architect. Allegorically reinforced through your ascent of the Winding-Staircase, moving ever-upwards, unable to see the ultimate object of your journey.





### **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.

\*Note: All biblical passages are taken from the Authorized King James version unless otherwise specified.

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

### **Acknowledgement:**

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