

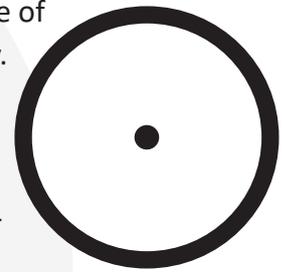


## NUGGET

### A Point within a Circle – Origins

**Summary:** The possible origins of the 'point within a circle' from antiquity, through the 'dark ages' into operative masonry and then into Speculative Freemasonry.

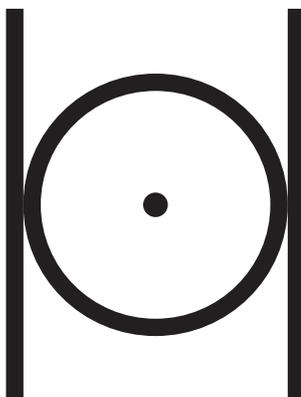
The point within a circle is particularly important, not only for its antiquity, but because of the bond it makes between the old Operative Craft and modern Speculative Masonry. No man can say when, where or how the symbol began, however, it has appeared in various guises for thousands of years. From the earliest dawn of history, a simple closed figure has been man's symbol for the deity; the circle for some cultures, and the triangle for others. The closed figure represents the conception of Him who has neither beginning or ending.



It should be noted that the Lesser Lights in Masonry (the sun, the moon, and the Master) form a triangle in that orientation which expresses Wisdom, Strength and Beauty.

In some Jurisdictions a Lodge closes with the Brethren forming a circle about the Altar, which thus becomes the point, or focus of the Supreme Blessing upon the Brethren. In ancient belief systems, the point represents the sun and the circle the universe. Ancient Egyptian, and Ancient Indian interpretation makes the point the male principle, and the circle the female, thus representing the Creator as occupying both genders, and therefore from whom light and life was born.

The two parallel lines are thought by some to represent St. John the Baptist, and St. John the Evangelist, the 'two eminent Christian Patrons of Masonry'. This however is without foundation as both St. Johns lived well after King Solomon was ruler and therefore after the completion of the Temple.

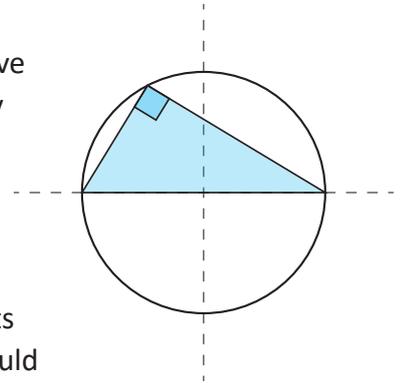


The two lines are sometimes thought to have been added as a representation of a Lodge at its most solemn moment, the point being the brother at the Altar, the circle the Holy of Holies, and the two lines the Brethren waiting to help bring the initiate to light.

On ancient Egyptian monuments, the lines were actually outstretched serpents. The meaning was the Alpha and Omega, the omnipotent God, surrounded by his creation, and bounded by his limitless wisdom and power.



This symbol however, is genuinely recognised to be one of the secrets of operative Masons. In Europe during the Dark Ages, from 700 to 1300 AD, the art of Geometry was lost; but the knowledge of how to make a perfect square within a circle was retained. By applying certain geometric rules to the point and circle, the Master could draw perfect squares or rectangles of any size, using only the simplest of tools. This superior knowledge, held by the general craftsmen, ensured that the Lodge Masters were held in the highest esteem, and they kept their secrets tightly guarded. By not erring from these geometric secrets, perfect squares could be created every time.





### **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 and any reference to ritual will be from Emulation unless otherwise specified.

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

### **Acknowledgement:**

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