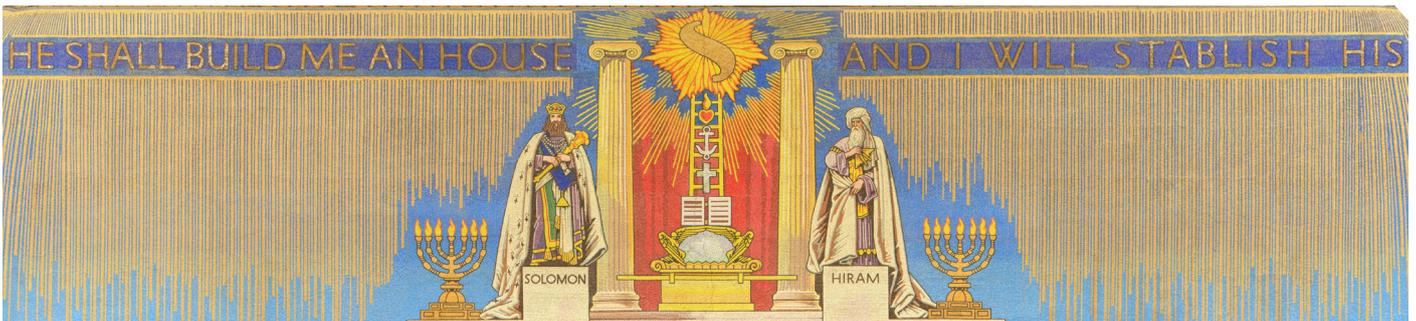




NUGGET

Reflections on the Third Degree

Summary: Some ideas to stimulate reflective practice on being raised to the degree of a Master Mason.



Solomon and Hiram depicted on the frieze of the Grand Temple in Freemasons Hall, London

Having gone through your raising, it is a good time to reflect a little upon this part of your Masonic Journey. Imagine Solomon's Temple, a building perfect in its superstructure and now complete. A place where pilgrims would come to be close to the 'Holy of Holies', the house of God.

Most of the visitors would have had to stay overnight. Fed and watered next morning, they would all be keen to see the new temple for themselves. To wonder at huge bowl full of water supported by twelve bullocks, with its ten smaller bowls, resting on small carts. To see the large sacrificial altar and gaze at the porchway with its two huge pillars. All cast in brass.

The Temple was aligned East to West and it is easy to imagine the effect of seeing the morning sun catch these brass objects, set in front of such a magnificent building. It is no wonder that people seeing this for the first time would be overcome by its splendour, leading to the exclamation you have heard.

All that remains is the 'Wailing Wall' and that is probably from the second or third Temple. The fact that there is now a Mosque on the same site, does not diminish its importance in any way as far as Christians or Jews are concerned. In a way it emphasises the fact that, although Masonry is closely aligned with the Bible, men with any other religious beliefs are welcomed just as warmly. All share the central allegory set around the building of Solomon's Temple.

Now is the time to further expand your Masonic knowledge and understanding though reading and discussion, by visiting other Lodges, attending your provincial meeting and enjoying a trip to Grand Lodge. You will experience different ritual, different ways of doing things and see how Freemasonry is constantly evolving. Above all you will meet and enjoy the company of other Masons, and open your mind to new horizons, so as to enrich your Masonic Journey even towards the next step; the Royal Arch!

Given that you now have a better understanding of our 'Three Grand Principles' and their importance in the practice of Freemasonry, you now know that a Sublime Degree comes with certain responsibilities to your fellow Masons and to your fellow man.





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.

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