

NUMBERS. ANGLES SHAPES

THE TWO LARGEST FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WORLD ARE MASONRY AND THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR. THEY RUN PARALLEL TO EACH OTHER, SIGNIFYING THAT THEY HAVE SIMILAR DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS. THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR IS THE LARGEST ORGANIZATION WITH WOMEN AND MEN AS MEMBERS.

IN ALL EASTERN STAR WORK NUMBERS ARE USED TO CONVEY CERTAIN IDEAS. THREE, FIVE, AND SEVEN ARE USED MANY TIMES. THESE NUMBERS HAVE SINCE EARLY MAN BEEN GIVEN MANY DIFFERENT VALUES, DIFFERING SIGNIFICANCES, AND SYMBOLIC INTERPRETATIONS. SEVERAL IDEAS ABOUT THE SYMBOLISM OF CERTAIN NUMBERS HAVE BEEN FOUND AMONG DIFFERENT PEOPLES TO BE SIMILAR -- AND EVEN IN SOME INSTANCES - THE SAME.

IN THE OPENING CEREMONY, THE WORTHY MATRON ASKS THE DUTIES OF THE VARIOUS OFFICERS. ^{at each} EACH OFFICER RESPONDS WITH THE THREE DUTIES TO BE PERFORMED BY THAT OFFICER, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE ~~WORTHY MATRON~~ ^{Worthy Matron} AND THE SECRETARY ^{who} WHO HAVE FIVE DUTIES EACH.

THE EQUILATERAL TRIANGLE, WITH THE POINT UPWARD, HAS BEEN A SACRED SYMBOL FOR AGES. FROM ANCIENT EGYPTIAN HISTORY THE TRIANGLE CAME TO BE REGARDED AS THE SYMBOL OF THE SUN - WHICH IN TURN CAME TO BE CONSIDERED AS THE VISIBLE SYMBOL OF THE INVISIBLE MASTER - IN THE FORM OF A PYRAMID WITH THE ONE POINT UPWARD TO THE SKY. THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR USES THE FIVE-POINTED STAR WITH THE SINGLE POINT DOWN - SIGNIFYING THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM POINTING TO THE EARTH.

THE NUMBER THREE IS ALSO SIGNIFICANT OF THE STAR - THREE WORDS IN EACH PASS - THREE DISTINCT MOTIONS IN EACH SIGN - THREE SEPARATE MOVEMENTS IN THE GRIP OF THE ORDER - THREE MOVEMENTS IN OPENING THE BOOK AT THE ALTAR - THREE GOVERNING BODIES - GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER, GRAND CHAPTER, SUBORDINATE CHAPTER. OUR ORDER IS DEDICATED TO THREE VIRTUES - CHARITY - TRUTH- AND LOVING KINDNESS.

THE NUMBER FIVE ALLUDES TO THE VIRTUES OF THE FIVE HEROINES OF OUR ORDER - FIVE POINTS TO THE STAR - FIVE EMBLEMATIC COLORS - FIVE EMBLEMS - FIVE SIGNS - FIVE RAPS AT THE DOOR OF

THE CHAPTER ROOM - FIVE LETTERS IN THE CABALISTIC WORD - FIVE WORDS IN THE CABALISTIC MOTTO - FIVE LESSONS TO TAKE TO HEART AND BECOME PART OF THE WAY OF LIFE - FIVE DEGREES OF RELATIONSHIP OF WOMEN TO MASTER MASONS - AND THE FIVE-SIDED FIGURE, THE PENTAGON, WAS THE SIGNET OF KING SOLOMON.

THE NUMBER SEVEN HAS MUCH ANCIENT AS WELL AS MODERN SYMBOLISM. IN SIX DAYS, GOD CREATED THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH - AND RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY. THERE ARE SEVEN VOWS IN OUR OBLIGATION - ORIGINALLY SEVEN ELECTIVE OFFICERS IN A CHAPTER UNTIL THE ASSOCIATE PATRON WAS ADDED.

THE STAR WITHIN THE CIRCLE REPRESENTS DEITY IN THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE. THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBER, THUS SURROUNDED AND PROTECTED FROM EVIL, SHOULD EXEMPLIFY IN HER/HIS LIFE THE TEACHINGS OF OUR ORDER - CHARITY, TRUTH, AND LOVING KINDNESS. THE CIRCLE IS ALSO ASSOCIATED WITH ETERNITY AND ETERNAL LIFE SINCE THE CIRCLE HAS NEITHER BEGINNING NOR END. THE PRAYER CIRCLE OF OUR INITIATION SIGNIFIES THE UNBROKEN CIRCLE OF FRIENDSHIP AND LOVE BETWEEN THE MEMBERS OF THE CHAPTER AND BETWEEN THE MEMBERS OF OUR ORDER.

THE JEWELS OF THE OFFICERS EMPLOY THE FIVE-POINTED STAR, THE EQUILATERAL TRIANGLE, THE PENTAGON, AND THE CIRCLE, AS WELL AS THE EMBLEMS OF EACH OFFICE.

THE FOUR DIRECTIONS - EAST, WEST, SOUTH, AND NORTH -- REPRESENT THE SQUARE WITHIN THE CHAPTER ROOM. THE OFFICERS MARCH IN TO OPEN THE CHAPTER AND FORM AN OPEN SQUARE BEFORE THE WORTHY MATRON IS ESCORTED TO THE EAST. SQUARE CORNERS ARE USED IN PRESENTING, ESCORTING, AND CONDUCTING MEMBERS. TRIANGLES ARE USED IN MANY WAYS DURING A CHAPTER MEETING - THE CHAPLAIN AND THE CONDUCTRESS FORM A TRIANGLE WITH THE OPEN BIBLE ON THE ALTAR IN OPENING CEREMONY -- DURING BALLOTING A TRIANGLE IS FORMED AT THE POINT BETWEEN RUTH AND ESTHER BY MEMBERS IN LINE TO BALLOT AT THE ALTAR - ESTHER IS THE POINT OF THE TRIANGLE WITH ADAH AND ELFCIA.

THE SYMBOLIC NUMBERS, ANGLES, SHAPES, ET CETERA MEAN NOTHING TO US UNLESS WE REMEMBER OUR SOLEMN OBLIGATION AT THE ALTAR, THE VIRTUES TAUGHT IN THE LESSONS OF OUR FIVE HEROINES OF OUR STAR, AND THE ACCEPTANCE AND PRACTICE OF KEEPING WITHIN THE WALLS OF OUR CHAPTER ROOM OUR CHAPTER BUSINESS AND OUR

DISAGREEMENTS. OUR ORDER FORMS A CHAIN AROUND THE WORLD - THE
SUN NEVER SETS UPON THE DOMAIN OF THE EASTERN STAR.

FOR OURS IS AN ORDER THAT SHALL STAND,

A LIGHT ON A NATION'S HILL;

A VOICE FORBIDDING ALL THAT IS ILL,

A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION TO THE LAND,

ITS STRENGTH NOT BRICK, NOR STONE, NOR WOOD,

BUT JUSTICE, LOVE, AND BROTHERHOOD.