



The Rite Word

From the Venerable Master

“People only hear what they understand”

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



Last month in talking about things near and dear to being a Mason, those often being knowledge, research, wisdom and truth, I made mention of something I came across some twenty years ago called ‘Cultural Literacy’.

I was visiting a friend’s house back then, I was, as is often my habit, I take a look at their domicile to get a better understanding of who they are, how they perceive themselves and what interests them. This is often the architecture of their home, the décor, artwork and books. In this case a large thick book on their coffee table caught my eye, *The Dictionary of Cultural Literacy* in bold across the front.

It wasn’t the title so much that I found interesting, don’t get me wrong. I have loved dictionaries since I was a kid, in my ongoing endeavor to get to the bedrock of understanding, would often look words up just to see where they came from, but in this case it was the subtitle ‘*What Every American Needs to Know*’.

What would this be? What every American needs to know, some magic knowledge or insight, and why just Americans? I started thumbing through the book and indeed it was a dictionary, organized into chapters by topics (Mythology, Idioms, Philosophy, Art, History Science, Medicine, Technology etc.) and entries on these topics (Janus, to see Eye to Eye, Idealism, Counter-

point, Churchill, Osmosis, Immunity, Universal Time etc.)

I found it interesting and unusual as each topic was only a few sentences long, not an explanation or etymology but just a quick definition. After reading for a few minutes and thinking I might pick up a copy one day, I started reading the introduction and preface by the author titled “*The Theory behind the Dictionary*”.

It described how he and his colleagues were contracted to conduct some intelligence tests of different groups of people. What they found is that often intelligence or by extension knowledge is based not on how smart one is but how experienced they are or where and how they were raised. This they found is to a great extent cultural. So to be literate in a given society is a question of the culture, or one’s Cultural Literacy.

Well this was all very exciting and interesting but what really was amazing to me was that they had this collection of items in their dictionary that they considered what one needed to know to be literate in our American Society. Having read this, and thinking myself to be relatively well read, I went back to thumbing through the pages, only to be amazed as to how much I **didn’t** know. This was a watershed moment for me to become aware of how much there is to learn in life and our society. It created a new awareness and willingness to listen in my conversations with family, friends and people in life, especially when I don’t understand or agree with them. True literacy depends on knowledge of specific formation that is taking for granted in public discord.

In conclusion, I find this more than just a book report,

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2021 Honor Roll

- Bro. Neofito Santos 32°
- Ill. Richard Fisher 33°
- Ill. Durward Ayre 33°
- Bro. Lewis Bisconer 32°
- Bro. Estil Johnson 32°
- Bro. Dennis Griffin 32°
- Hon. Bennie Cooper 32°
- Bro. Art Pasquinelli 32°

Make an annual Donation to the San Jose Scottish Rite Bodies in the amount of \$100 or more and have your name included on the "Honor Roll" Your gift allows the San Jose Bodies to provide the quality events that you deserve.

Donations

Bro. Art Pasquinelli 32°

From the Secretary

We have been very busy working on remodeling the bathrooms. Ill, Ken, Hon Duenas, Bro. Pasquinelli, Angela and Monica have been working very hard in doing all the demo work. Now we have some construction folks in putting everything back together. We will have all new tile floors, partitions, fixtures etc, Which I am sure will greatly improve our building for years to come. Special thanks to Bro. Vasalescu, who assisted us with drawings and knowledge so that we could be sure we are complying with the ADA regulations.



We can't wait to be able to welcome everyone back, so that you can all see the improvements we have accomplished over the last year.

We are now down to only 86 brothers who have not

Called From Labor

No Deaths Reported this month

"Soft and safe to thee,
my Brother, be thy resting place"



yet paid their dues for 2021. Notices were recently sent. Please take care of this as soon as possible, or contact me if you need assistance. I am already getting ready to submit the information to Supreme regarding our 2022 dues. They will go up a couple of bucks with the increase in per capita..

Finally, Please remember to update your secretary when you move, or go on the Supreme website and update your address yourself. That way you will continue to get information in a timely manner.

2021 - Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master	Bro. Mark Burger, 32°	831-373-1094
Senior Warden	Hon. Brandon Duenas, 32° KCCH	408-763-7696
Junior Warden	Bro. Naresh Rampershad 32°	408-660-0121
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Sean Patrick 32°	505-400-5805
Captain of the Host	Bro. Art Pasquinelli, 32°	408-483-9361

2021 - Chapter of Rose Croix

Wise Master	Hon. Martin Maxey, 32° KCCH	831-402-4903
Senior Warden	Bro. Timothy Lynch 32°	408-386-2746
Junior Warden	Ill. Randy Downey 33°	408-674-8341
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Laurentiu Murgu, 32°	408-755-0079
Guardian of the Temple	Bro. Alan Worley 32°	650-281-1574

2021- Council of Kadosh

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1st Lt Commander	Ill. Jack Harris 33°	408-858-9054
2nd Lt Commander	Bro. Toby Vanderbeek 32°	650-722-1669
Marshal of Ceremonies	Bro. David Kampschafer 32°	408-568-0978
Lt of the Guard	Bro. Peter Cardilla 32°	831-214-9012

2021 San Jose Consistory

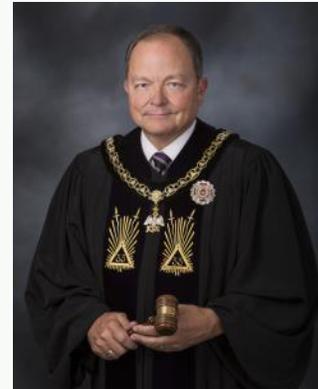
Master of Kadosh	Bro. John Absalon, 32°	909-660-9983
Prior	Hon. John Unger 32° KCCH	408-489-8128
Preceptor	Bro. Ion Vasilescu, 32°	408-371-7172
Marshal of Ceremonies	Ill. Richard Fisher, 33°	408-779-4088
Captain of the Guard	Hon. Wolfgang Lochner, 32° KCCH	408-505-1822

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Asst. to the Personal Rep.	Ill. H. Bud Ramsey, 33°	408-838-3730
General Secretary	Hon. Gregg Hall, 32° KCCH	408-656-2459
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Director (exp 2021)	Hon. Brandon Duenas 32°KCCH	408-763-7696
Venerable Master	Bro. Mark Burger, 32°	831-373-1094
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Commander	Ill. Charles Cowden, 33°	831-685-3416
Master of Kadosh	Bro. John Absalon, 32°	909-660-9983
Asst. to the Personal Rep.	Ill. H. Bud Ramsey, 33°	408-838-3730



Ill. James Cole 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander
Supreme Council A.A.S.R.
Washington, D.C.



Ill. Frank Loui, 33° P.G.M.
Sovereign Grand Inspector
General in California,
Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite
Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A.

The Bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of San Jose, in the Orient of California, acknowledge and yield all allegiance to the Supreme Council (Mother Council of the World) of the Inspectors General, Knights Commander of the House of the Temple of Solomon of the Thirty Third Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of freemasonry for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America.

From the Wise Master

The treasure hidden in the first book of Genesis is something that most Masons are not well versed in. Having spoken to many Rabbis and studied under some in Messianic Judaism I learned that the Torah and Hasidic traditions differ from some translations of the bible.



We in masonry use the first Line: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said let there be light". "And there was Light. And God saw that the light was good".

To the Torah scholar the second "and" is actually the Hebrew letters ALEPH & TAV: (et): The first and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet. . In a sentence this word (et) can mean "and." When speaking of the beginning of something (et) can represent the end So to the Torah scholar this reads. In the beginning God created the Heavens and the earth, the beginning, the end. The earth was without form and void.....

To the Zohar scholar there is the suggestion that the beginning creates; this is where Ein Sof (the unfathomable spirit of God) comes from. To some of the Zohar scholars the spirit of God did not become embodied until the light was created. Notice that it is the spirit of God that is the light that moves on the face of the waters. It is important to see that God did say the light was good. There was still unity in creation.

I know this sounds confusing. But God having created the beginning and the end leads us to the second item in the creation; the one item that causes the end: Separation or disunity.

Let's look at Genesis 1:6-8. God created the separation of the waters and the firmament. And the firmament was called heaven. Here, God created a place separate from creation. God knew the fate of all that was to come and the disunity that was to befall God's earthly creation. We speak of unity when we use Psalm 133 as the perambulation in the first degree. The question remains: Have we ever achieved this unity?

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From the Commander of Kadosh

The word Kadosh is Hebrew and means "consecrated or dedicated." Its members are dedicated to the discovery of philosophic truths and the chivalric virtues taught in the 19th through the 30th degrees.



From Darkness to Light

As I said in the March message from the Council, my thought is to further discuss our Masonic initiation through these monthly articles. Based on my now 59 years of Masonic experience, observation and study I have come to the conclusion that I agree with Brother Walter Leslie Wilmshurst's 1924 assessment of the Masonic initiation. Some 97 years later his message to the Craft rings true to me and is worthy of our consideration.

Brother Wilmshurst in his own words: "it may be a surprise to some members of our Craft to be told that our ceremonial rites, as at present performed, do not constitute or confer real initiation at all, in the original sense of admitting a man to the solemn mysteries of the human soul, and to practical experience in divine science." He opines the use of the words initiation and mysteries have become so popularized and debased that they are used in familiarizing one with the methods of relatively mundane subjects such as how the stock market operates or any other subject which one might not be acquainted.

Here are my thoughts on my own initiation back in the day. I received the three degrees of the Blue or Symbolic Lodge in just 90 days. I was a 90-day wonder! No, not really, as that was a common experience shared by most Masons of that era. Although I have no empirical evidence before me for support, I am confident this is still the case today. There are some exceptions to this assertion and I can cite several examples here in our own jurisdiction. I can honestly say that when asked about the "initiation" by friends, Brothers and my wife I had to say I had little understanding of my experience but it was interesting. In reflection, I had no sense of being brought from the darkness to light in the true sense of what I have learned of the Masonic initiation from our ancient Masters and Masonic scholars.

However, over the years I have come to understand that the Craft degrees do provide an idea, a guide and a feel for what an initiation should be. And that for the most part we are left to pursue our enlightenment through our own self - study, study with Brothers of a like mind and endeavoring to practice the lessons of Masonry taught in the Lodge in our daily lives in all our relationships with mankind. Thus, realizing to some extent that our lives have been transformed in some divine sense. The alternative being that we accept the name of Mason and remain unchanged by the initiatic process.

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From the Master of Kadosh

I hope everyone is doing well and in good health. On the second Tuesday of the month of March 2021, I visited the SJSR temple to sign some paper work, and then I saw Bro. Jeff Toone who asked me when was the last time I visited. I told him that it has been quite some time since I was there for our stated meeting early last year of 2020. He then gave me an impromptu tour of our building and all I can say is WOW!, everything looks way better in person compared to seeing pictures of the recent renovations, or by hearing it being discussed on the meetings. From the lodge room, yes, you read it right, an actual ROOM, stage area, event hall, dining area, kitchen, main hall, to the children's clinic, everything looks outstanding for a lack of better word. The leadership of our valley is truly remarkable when it comes to getting things done, and done above and beyond. The true highlight, in my opinion, is the slick and crisp look and feel of our newly renovated member's lounge, which includes a barber shop, games, lounging area, and a decent fitness section. The renovations are still on-going, so it might be even better by the time we are again allowed to hold our Stated meetings and Reunions. I can't wait!



The Eye in the sands. As I've mentioned from my last article, I am fascinated with ancient wonders of our world, sites that leaves you with more questions than answers. About 20 years ago, I was astounded by reading books about ancient civilizations, their culture, their rise and fall. These include subjects from ancient Egypt, Greece, and Mesopotamia to name a few. Since I have nowhere to go during the lockdown, I've started to revisit some of topics that intrigued me. I've read some books, several articles online, and watched a few documentaries about our ancient past. I keep an open mind when I look inside the rabbit hole, with that being said, I've dabbled partially on the works of Graham Hancock, a British author, who talks about ancient civilizations and the cataclysms that wiped them out.

One of the ancient sites that I've recently looked into is called The Richat Structure, a mystery waiting to be uncovered beneath the sands. Join me as we take a glimpse at this ancient wonder.

Nowadays, when you ask someone to think of an ancient place that is truly enigmatic, almost no one would mention about the deserts of the Sahara since we've been taught in school that it is a barren wasteland with endless nothingness, and yet in 1965, Astronauts from NASA's Gemini 4 mission reported seeing a strange structure/land formation in the Sahara that sticks out like a sore thumb. The Richat Structure, also known as the "Eye of the Sahara" or "Eye of the Desert" which is located in the Adrar Plateau, near Ouadane, west-central Mauritania, northwest Africa, south of Morocco, bordered by the Atlantic ocean, Senegal, Mali, and Algeria. It is an Islamic country which speaks both Arabic and French. It has a land mass in the middle and two concentric circles surrounding it. The massive basin

where the Richat Structure is located measures about 30 miles (48km) in diameter. The diameter of the outer circle is approximately around 14.6 miles (23.5km). History buffs might catch the similarity of the dimensions of the structure coincidentally matching the dimensions mentioned by Plato in his Critias and Timaeus dialogues as the dimensions of the lost city of Atlantis, which is 127 Stadia, of which when compared to today's modern measurement standards comes out to 14.6 miles or 23.5 kilometers. (1 stadia= 607 feet, $127 \times 607 = 77,089$ feet).

In Plato's own words: *"There were alternate zones of sea and land, larger and smaller, encircling one another, there were two of land, and three of water, each having its circumference equidistant every way from the center."*

I suggest that if you are reading this, do a quick Google image search of "The Richat Structure" to see the similarities coincide with one another. All of Plato's information regarding the city was found from the detailed accounts of his ancestor named Solon of Athens who have lived 200 years before him, died around 560 BC.

Solon was a merchant, a statesman, and a poet. In his interest of the history of ancient human civilization and culture, he traveled to Sais, a city in Egypt, at that time, Egypt had the longest historical documents available known to man. An old high priest told him the story about the mighty empire of Atlantis, catastrophes and war through hieroglyphs etched onto the walls of the temple. According to the inscriptions, Egypt was once a colony of Atlantis. Unfortunately, the temple of Sais no longer exist today as it has been consumed by the Nile river, due to it being constructed at a swamp area of the Nile delta, rising water levels was the culprit. However, Solon's detailed notes about the empire were found and published by Plato six generations later after his death. This is how the mythical legend is still known to this day. Plato was a reputable statesman and a philosopher, and wouldn't have risked jeopardizing his status by inventing a myth. Anyone at that time could've gone to Egypt and confirm the information. In his words: "Honor and truth is held higher than life."

Plato's description included elephants roaming the land which is backed by evidence of ancient wall art found in caves in Mauritania depicting details of the elephants along side with the skeletal remains that were found nearby.

Artifacts were also found in and around the Richat structure ranging from arrow heads, axe heads, pottery, copper and gold jewelry, ancient fishing equipment, and precision-cut stone spheres. White, red, and black stones has also been found with evidence of manipulation.

"The mountains of the island of Atlantis was celebrate for their number and size and beauty"

"The surrounding mountains of the city flowed with rivers"

"This part of the island looked toward the south and was sheltered from the north" -Plato

Twenty-Seventh Degree — Knight of the Sun or Prince Adept Continued from last month

Sachiel's Lesson

A brother in an orange robe enters and identifies himself as Sachiel, whose specialty is the mystery of numbers. Sachiel makes the distinction between the mystical character of numbers and the superstition of numerology. For example, the Holy Bible says that a man shall leave his father and his mother and cleave unto his wife, and that they together shall be one flesh. Here, two are mystically one. See Matthew 19:4-6.

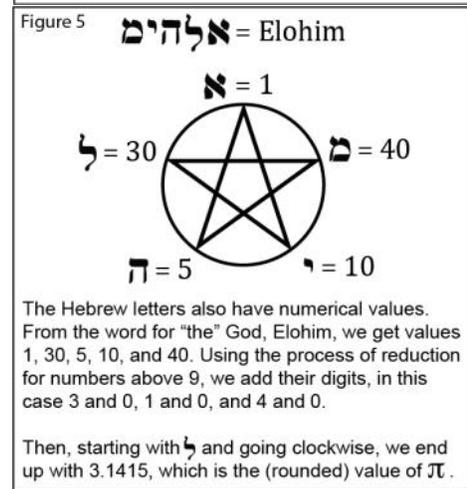
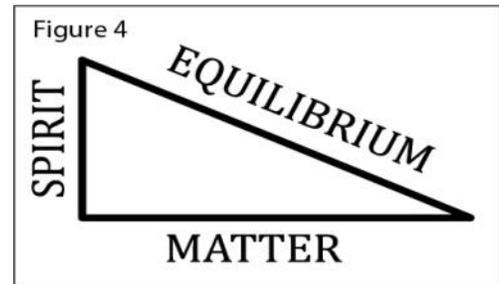
Sachiel goes on to say that Pythagoras knew that numbers describe reality. Numbers can describe simple mass and quantity. But they also have mystic properties. Either way numbers are essential symbols. Also, there is a difference between a number and a numeral. The number is the abstract concept while the numeral is the symbol of that concept. Different cultures have represented numbers with different symbols. At this point, Sachiel displays the number three, as it is written in various languages. He notes that some languages have unique numerals to write their numbers, whereas others use a letter of the alphabet to represent a number. The ancient Romans, Greeks, and Hebrews used a letter from their alphabet. The Romans used three letter Is, III; the Greeks used the letter Gamma Γ, while the Hebrews used the letter Gimel ג.

Today, their modern counterparts, the Italians, Greeks, and Israelis use what we call "Arabic numerals": 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. But the Israelis correctly call them "Indian numerals", because they did their homework and learned that this ten-digit system was developed in India by around 700 CE. More importantly, it includes "zero" as a number and placeholder, which enables the Base-10 numbering system we use every day. The Europeans became familiar these numerals in the tenth century through contact with the Arabic speakers from North Africa.

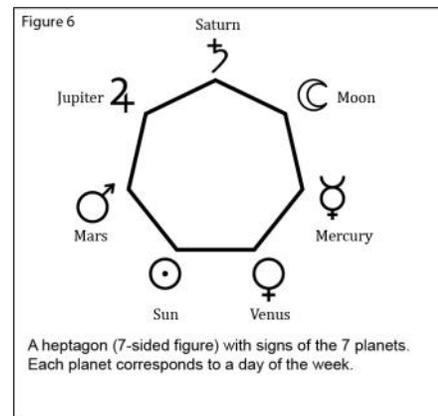
Sachiel continues, discussing how the numerical value of the letters for "ladder" as in Jacob's ladder, is the same as the numerical value of the letters in "Sinai", where Moses received instruction from God. He goes on to mention the four cardinal virtues: temperance, fortitude, prudence, and justice; the three theological virtues: faith, hope, and charity; four plus three is seven, as in the seven liberal arts and sciences: grammar, logic, rhetoric, arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy. The number four represents the physical world, while the number three represents the spiritual world. Sachiel sits down before a banner showing sign of the planet Jupiter ♃.

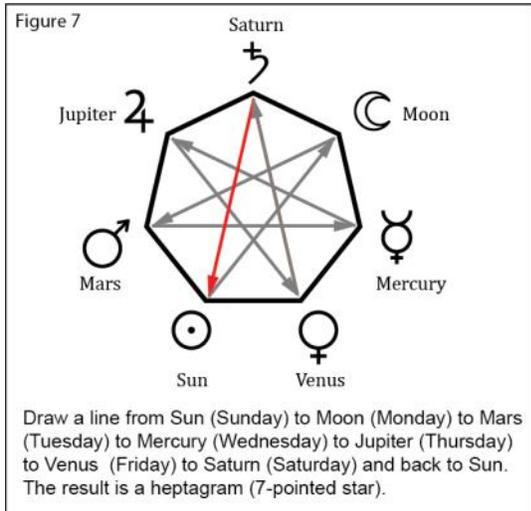
Zamael's Lesson

Next we hear from a brother in a yellow robe named Zamael whose specialty is the synthesis of geometry and numbers. He urges us to carefully follow what he is about to say, because understanding the union of numbers and geometry requires your utmost attention.



Zamael again names Pythagoras as the most mystical of the ancient mathematicians. What we know as the Pythagorean theorem was originally the 47th problem of Euclid, that we first saw in the 20th degree. It describes a right (90 degree) triangle of 3 units tall, 4 units wide, and hypotenuse of 5 unit. The square of the height ($3 \times 3 = 9$) and width ($4 \times 4 = 16$) equals the square of the hypotenuse ($5 \times 5 = 25$) where $9 + 16 = 25$. The Scottish Rite uses the height to represent the Spirit, the width to represent Matter and the hypotenuse to represent Equilibrium.





Zamael states the numeric values of the Hebrew letters for chalk, charcoal, and clay. Upon examination, we find they have the same value as the name Solomon. Then, Zamael displays a hexagon, a figure of seven equal sides, with the signs of the seven planets, one at each point. Each planet corresponds to a day of the week in the Greek and Roman systems: Sun’s day, Moon’s day, Mars’s day, Mercury’s day, Jupiter’s day, Venus’s day, and Saturn’s day.

Figure 8

CHALK =	כ	ל	ק	=	213
	40	+ 8	+ 80	=	128
CHARCOAL =	ב	ח	ל	=	6
	6			=	6
AND =	ו			=	28
	9	+ 10	+ 9	=	28
CLAY =	ב	ל	א		
	5	+ 40	+ 30	+ 300	= 375
SOLOMON =	ל	מ	ל	ו	ש

In Hebrew letters:

- The words “chalk, charcoal, and clay” have a combined numeric value of 375.
- The name “Solomon” has a combined numeric value of 375.

Lastly, Zamael discusses the Hebrew letter and number system, using three terms we learned about in the Entered Apprentice degree: chalk, charcoal, and clay. Because the Hebrew language uses its letters to represent numbers, each of these words has a numerical value, totaling 375. Note that the letters that make up the name Solomon also have a numerical value, totaling 375. Zamael sits down before a banner showing sign of the planet Mars ♂

Michael’s Lesson

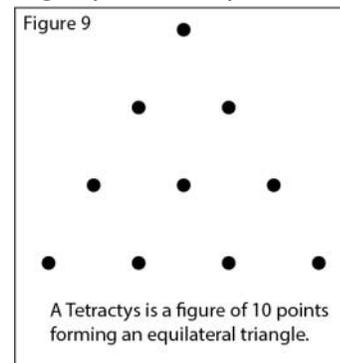
Now we hear from a brother in a green robe named Michael whose specialty is the mystery of the Pythagorean Tetractys (pronounced teh·TRAKT·iss). A Tetractys is figure of ten points arranged as an equilateral triangle.

The word “tetra” means four in Greek. The first four numbers symbolize the “musica universalis” and the Cosmos as a unity or monad. Two is the dyad or power. Three is the triad or harmony. Four is the tetrad or kosmos.

Musica universalis, also called music of the spheres or harmony of the spheres, is an ancient philosophical concept that regards proportions in the movements of celestial bodies: Sun, Moon, and planets, as a form of music with a resonance that is harmonic, mathematical, or religious. This resonance is not in the audible range of humans, so you cannot hear it.

As it is used here, the word kosmos (or cosmos) views the universe as a complex and orderly system, the opposite of chaos. Modern astronomy defines the universe as all of space and time, including planets, stars, galaxies, and all other forms of matter and energy. The Big Bang theory is the prevailing explanation of how it all started.

The Pythagoreans addressed this prayer to the Tetractys: “Bless us, divine number, thou who generated gods and men! O holy, holy Tetractys, thou that containest the root and source of the eternally flowing creation! For the divine number begins with the profound, pure unity until it comes to the holy four; then it begets the mother of all, the all-comprising, all-bounding, the first-born, the never-swerving, the never-tiring holy ten, the keyholder of all.”

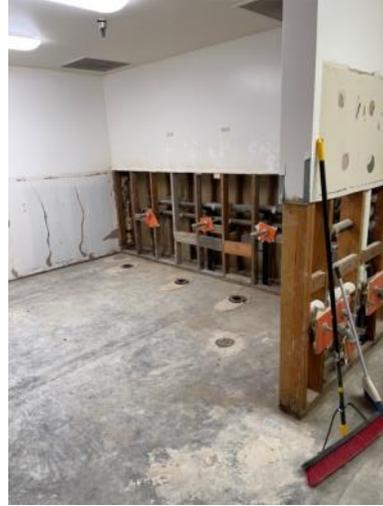
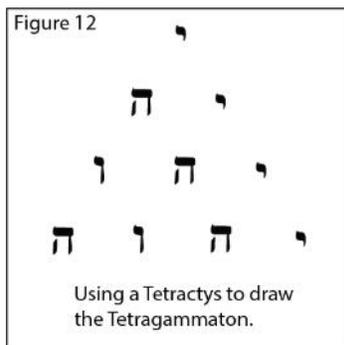
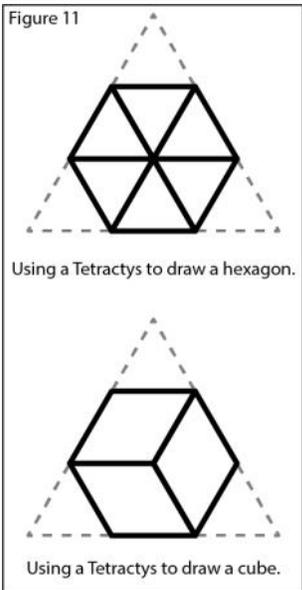
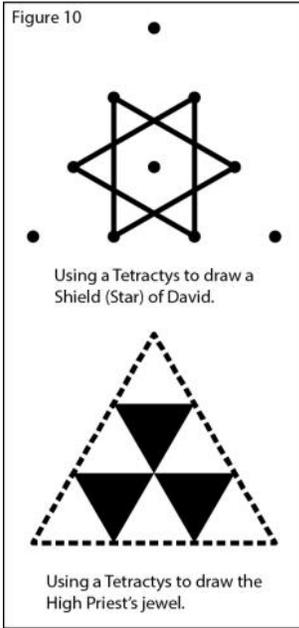


The Tetractys symbolizes the four classical elements—fire, air, water, and earth.

The Tetractys also represents the organization of space:

- First row represents zero dimensions—a point
- Second row represents one dimension—a line of two points
- Third row represents two dimensions—a plane or surface defined by three points
- Fourth row represents three dimensions—a tetrahedron or solid defined by four points

Michael sits down before a banner showing sign of the Sun ☉.



Bathroom remodel in progress



Continued next month

David Wood

This month we proudly highlight Rishab! He is smart, sweet, and hardworking. His family heard about Scottish Rite for a little over a year. His speech comprehension and conversation skills were limited and as a result he shied away from interacting with his peers. His interaction with his teachers in class was also impacted because of that.



Per parent, “Rishab loves working with his speech therapist, Ms. Alisha. He looks forward to his session and over the course of this year he has made tremendous progress.” He initially worked on his articulation and has been working on his comprehension and social skills.

He is a much more interactive kid in class and is able to advocate for himself frequently now. Mom commented, “he is interacting more with his peers, though, with the pandemic there is limited scope for doing so. We are so happy that he got the opportunity to work with Ms. Alisha and that has made such a huge difference for him and his confidence in his interactions with others.”

His mother used to always be present in his distance learning class as well as other therapies. Lately Rishab has become much more independent asking questions in class when he does not understand and his parents say that “this has made a huge difference for us.”

His parents are “very thankful to Ms. Alisha and Scottish Rite for this amazing year where Rishab has come so far. Alisha has been great since she makes the sessions fun and interesting and has been able to uniquely engage Rishab. Mostly we are thankful for the amazing progress that he has made over the past year.

His family has had a positive experience. They feel “we are able to discuss our concerns and questions openly and we receive tips and suggestions of how to carry the therapy into our daily life with Rishab.

From the Venerable Master Continued

this is an example of understanding the *context* in which we acquire what we consider knowledge, do our research, perhaps gain wisdom and seek truth. Perhaps in considering this, we can set the stage to learn more from others, from their experiences and from their opinions - an opportunity to contrast with our own and to experience growth and connection with others in our great society. Something I try to remember to this day. A form of tolerance perhaps.

As a foot note, the book did not contain an entry for Knowledge, Research, Wisdom or Truth. Though it did have an entry for Savior-Faire – to know how to act. I would also point out that the definition of Connoisseur is ‘One Who Knows’ that being though, of a specific topic or culture.

As always, I like to finish with a quote.

“Seek first to understand then to be understood”

~ Stephen R. Covey

Mark Burger

From the Commander Continued

It is my belief and sincere wish that our earnest Brothers, withersoever dispersed, have accepted the lessons in our degrees (1-32). Brother Wilmshurst so eloquently sets forth the charge: diligently pursue the path of light and process of spiritual self-development by your own actions by following the light given in the ceremonial formalities of our degrees. "These lessons put to practice can direct us to a most valuable key for unlocking central truth and discovering the hidden secrets and mysteries of our own being."

In some small measure I hope this message has advanced our search for philosophic truth. More to follow.

The officers of the Council look forward to sharing with you the observation of Maundy Thursday and Night of Remembrance on Wednesday, March 31 and "sitting with you in lodge" for our April Stated Meeting. Kalo Mena!



From Wise Master Continued

Reading through all of the creation in Genesis, Torah scholars have always pointed to the fact that it is only in verse 1:6-8 that God does not say it was good. Throughout the remaining 8 creations all were said to be good by God.

We will be having a virtual celebration of Maundy Thursday on Wednesday March 31st. This is an observance of the trial and crucifixion of Jesus. The meaning of how we as individuals fit into the end created by God can be found in this historical story.



From the Master of Kadosh Continued

When looking at recent high definition satellite images, it is apparent that there are mountains at the north side of the Richat Structure, and as well as an opening on the southern part of it, resembling a waterway/water outlet. It also shows that there is evidence of rivers that flowed down these mountains in the past. With that being said, it is not hard to imagine that it was once lush and green, able to support animal and perhaps human life.

"... in a single day and night of misfortune, the island of Atlantis disappeared into the depths of the sea."

"Atlantis, when sunk by the earthquake, became an impassible barrier of MUD to voyagers sailing from hence to any part of the ocean"

"Atlantis is part of the Atlantic which is now no longer accessible by ship"- Plato

According to Plato's account, there was a major catastrophe that occurred that led to the fall of the great city, perhaps a massive Tsunami. This evidence suggests that Atlantis was land-locked instead of being swept under the ocean as many historians believe. When looking at high definition satellite imagery, the whole region has striations of land going from east to west towards the Atlantic ocean. It appears that massive amounts of water smashed the region, drastically changing the landscape. One fun fact that we have today is that the sands of the Sahara originated from the sea. There are photographic evidence of people finding sea shells, fish bones, and countless non-fossilized whale bones all throughout Mauritania.

The cataclysmic event is believed to have had happened around 11,600 years ago, coincidentally the same time as the Younger Dryas event or also known as the Clovis hypothesis. Geologists found evidence of a major cataclysmic event in geological history, it is called Meltwater pulse 1B. There was a massive rise in sea level as the North American and North European ice sheets crumbled and collapsed into the ocean. I believe that we really need to reconsider our attitude toward these stories from the past that the academics too quickly dismiss. It is arrogant for the modern world to say that we know everything about what happened in the past, when in reality, overwhelming evidence keeps popping up everyday, one example is Gobekli Tepe.

I keep an open mind when I do my research. Whether or not these events truly happened, I do not know, I just look at the evidence. Nothing is definite. I'll leave you with a quote from an Anglican bishop and philosopher from the 1600's.

"If a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?"- Dr. George Berkeley



III. Roger Bibb 33° Class

TBD in 2021



ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY,
SOUTHERN JURISDICTION, U. S. A.

Petition for Degrees

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Years as M.M.: ____ Blue Lodge Name _____ No. _____

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Future Scottish Rite and Masonic Events

Tuesday April 13th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 6:00 pm

Lodge of Perfection Opens

Tuesday May 11th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 6:00 pm

Lodge of Perfection Opens

Tuesday June 8th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 6:00 pm

Lodge of Perfection Opens