

WiaM Grand Secretary of Mississippi Emblem

The Grand Secretary of Mississippi Emblem break down from the top to the bottom. With this essay, I didn't spend much time with the numbers and symbols commonly known to Freemasons. Instead, I wanted to look at the other takes on the Emblem. So, the Lattice, Chain work, 3-5-7, or the 3° I left out. Now with Freemasonry, like Philology, it is filled with isms and schisms, but it's the love of wisdom that speaks through everything; Like Pythagoras showed us how mathematics is the language of the universe. The golden ratio, the Fibonacci sequence in nature we see it in hurricanes, sea shells, and our milky way galaxy. Then outside of nature we see it in the works of the Parthenon to the Last Supper or the Vitruvian man by Leonardo Da Vinci.

Starting with the Globe, we are shown in the degree of Fellow Craft two pillars adorned with globes, one to symbolic of terrestrial the other celestial. This pillar shows the celestial bodies, and it has the Northern and Southern Cross constellations. The Northern Cross has the 19th brightest of the stars in our galaxy Deneb. The name Deneb is derived from the Arabic word "dhaneb" meaning tail. This constellation has many stories from Greek God Helios, or in the Japanese and Chinese the stories of two separated lovers that only meet once a year. To the Christian Mason, every year right before Christmas around the Winter Solstice the constellation sits upright on the horizon. It is visible for the most part throughout the year, it also rises in the east at sunset. Now with the Southern Cross "Crux" is not visible above 20° longitude in the Northern Hemisphere, and it is circumpolar south of 34°S this means it never set below the horizon. The Maori called this Te Punga "the anchor" which was used in their navigation of the

ocean; which is fitting as we use the anchor as a symbol as well. The Incas called it Chakana “the star” which was found craved into stone in Machu Picchu, Peru. This constellation is also on the National flags of the Counties of Australia and Brazil. Now the great Pythagoras once quoted, “Each celestial body, in fact each and every atom, produces a particular sound on account of its movement, its rhythm or vibration. All these sounds and vibrations form a universal harmony, in which each element, while having its own function and character, contributes to the whole. “

The Lotus flower is an old and significant symbol in many religions from East with Buddhism, Hinduism, Ancient Egyptians, and Taoism. The West is more familiar with use in the Abrahamic religions, but also had influences to the Greek/Roman pantheons. As it grows from a bud underwater in a murky pond, it rises up to the light that blooms to the beautiful flower. The lotus is linked to humans as we come into a world of suffering, and learn to overcome difficult times. It is the metaphysical link to the unique blooming cycle, and that of the human life. As we are taught about the stages of our lives, and the purity and beauty we bring until we travel to the land no traveler born has return. The number of the petal falls into the what was said about symbolism and meaning of numbers. “Be like the lotus: trust in the light, grow through the dirt, believe in new beginnings.” (Buddhist Quote)

The hollow pillar with the books alludes to the archives deposited within, and the books are with the 3 blue, 5 red, 7 brown alludes to the stair case. The knowledge held within in this pillar so how we many not know this, but as speculative masons we are philosophers. The love and pursuit of wisdom is a driving factor in Freemasonry. As we see in King Solomon, the pinnacle of wisdom, reason, and faith. As freemasons, we attempt to emulate him and two other great men though wisdom, beauty, and strength. Aristotle put it best, “Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.”

Fire and water with the 3 stages of the life cycles of each shows us two things. One the number 3 that was mention above, but balance. As fire is form of light, and we all know about the great and lesser lights. That being said it is also the fire that burns inside every one of our hearts to better ourselves, and use that light to help guide others in darkness. It is also see as protection from the unseen or darkness. “And I will be to her a wall of fire all around. Declares the LORD, and I will be the glory in her midst” (Zechariah 2:5). Then we have water that is soft, but formless. The water can either flow smoothly, or it can crash apron the rocks. “Water is the softest thing, yet it can penetrate Mountains and Earth. This shows clearly the principle of softness overcoming hardness.”, form Lao Tzu. Water is also the bringer of life; if we go back right after we stop being hunter gathers we formed cites. Those cities where always made near rivers. The Nile in Egypt, the Amazon with their tribes, the Trgris and Euphrates with the Mesopotamians, the Mississippi River with the mound builders, the Tiber with Rome, the Thames in London, the Ganges in India, and it goes on. However, the two balance each other hard to soft, hot to cold, and with to act or to go with the flow.

Now the most notable symbol of our fraternity the Square and Compass. This simple yet complex symbol is loaded with symbolism. The square is representing lead a base metal which tarnish or corrode. In Alchemy, this lead was undesirable metal. This square is also at a true 90° with the units of 3-4-5 according to the Pythagorean theory. The compass is meant to represent gold which is a notable metal. Noble metals do not corrode, and resists chemical actions this was what Alchemist strove to produce. The one leg above the square looks like the fellow craft degree, but is an old Master Mason symbol used only in Mississippi to my knowledge. It goes back to the grand lodge of Mississippi in Natchez. This can be seen at the cemetery in Natchez from the gate to the grave stones. I had the chance to speak with our Grand Secretary in private

place for instruction for the meaning of this symbol. Just like on What is a Mason “Contemplate that you are the Compasses”, Jared Stanley. Now the last thing about the compass is that it is open to 47° . Now as our sun moves from the Tropic of Cancer to the Tropic of Capricorn the point at which the sun sets is at 23.5° . This shows the sun never passes nor goes beyond those points. Thus, how we keep our lives in due bound never going beyond our moral compass. So, with the two 23.5° points added together we have 47° in total, once again bring balance to both celestial with terrestrial or body with spirit.

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