

What is a Mason Essay Contest

When I look at the symbol provided I am instantly struck by the layers of Masonic symbolism. I'll do my best to provide my insight and forgive me if I err; I'm still within my first year of the Fraternity.

Let's first start with the pillar, as it has the center of the illustration.

The base of this pillar shows the Square and Compasses for the Fellow-craft Degree. This is the degree, or state, that we as Masons spend most of our lives in. We use the working tools from this degree, and all degrees, to perfect our ashlar before we end our Noble Labor.

Above the base are (3) Shelves upon which are books. This is symbolic of Jacobs Ladder and our tenets of Faith, Hope, and Charity. If we are using our Working Tools and living those tenets then, with knowledge (the books), we can ascend to the Celestial Lodge in the Heavens. Also on those shelves are (3) Blue books, (5) Red books, and (7) Brown books. Symbolic of the 3-5-7 steps in our Winding Staircase lecture. Again, symbolic of the importance of the Fellow-craft Degree. You'll also find (5) Leaves around the globe, (7) circles above the book case, and (3) loops below the leaves that resemble the collars of our lodge officers. The insight from those numbers are many, but I'll again point back to the Winding Staircase Lecture.

On either side of the pillar fire and water are illustrated. This has many meanings as well; duality of the soul, terrestrial and celestial work, or even our passions and how we are to subdue them. This could also represent our soul or immortality. As fire burns and destroys, water is seen as giving life. Fire is also understood as knowledge, enlightenment. Water is adaptive, conforms to its container. I see balance being the principle idea.

We work daily to subdue our passions and improve ourselves in Masonry. We are inculcated to be diligent, temperate, and to conform to the laws of the land we live in. No matter the situation, we are to be thoughtful and contemplative and balanced in our words, actions, and thoughts.

The symbol, in my view, is emblematic of our Tressleboard. This can be seen as the road map in our lives. We seek knowledge and, through use of our Working Tools, pursue Faith, Hope, and Charity in our works. The reward for this labor is entry into that house not made with hands.

Thank you, Brother, for sharing this symbol with your community. It caused me to really look deep into my Masonic experience and think about what I've learned so far. I'm a better man and a better Mason for it.

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