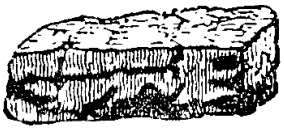
The Mystery Religions of the Ancients

http://www.GnosticStudies.org/Mysteries

Part 4 – Freemasonry and its Symbolism

The Origins of Freemasonry

- Elias Ashmole (The Rejuvenation of the Ancient Mysteries through Architectural Symbolism)
- The First 3 Degrees of Freemasonry (The Royal Art)
- Roots and Customs of Masonic Tradition



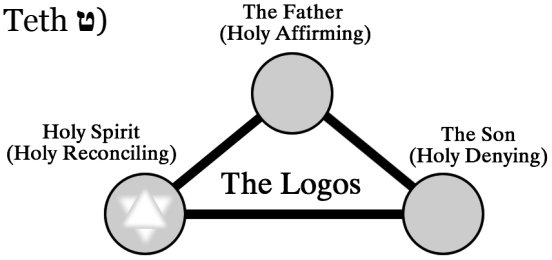
ROUGH ASHLER

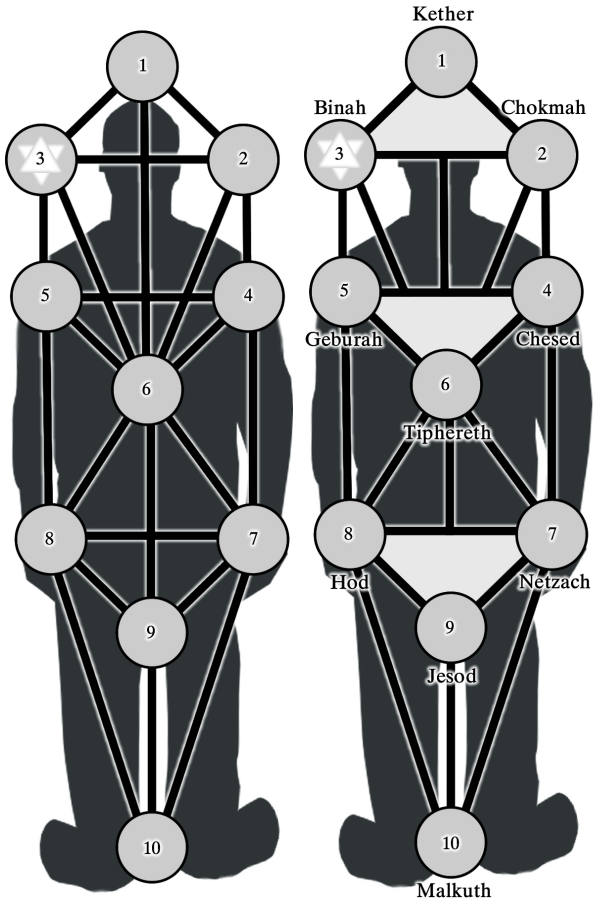


PERFECT ASHLER

The Symbolism of Freemasonry

- The Legend of the Three Traitors of Hiram Abiff
- An Exoteric (or Mesoteric) Interpretation of the Legend (The Risen, Raised or Elevated Sun)
- The Building of the Temple of Solomon – Part 1 (The 3 Primary Forces and the Holy Spirit)
- The Building of the Temple of Solomon – Part 2 (The Church or House of God, the Soul)
- Symbolism in the Masonic Lodge (The Lodge of Saints John)
- Initiation and the Cubic Stone (Arcanum 9: Jesod and Teth ט)
- Additional Symbolism in the Masonic Legend (The Three Traitors or Rebels and the Destructive Expression or Misuse of the 3 Primary Forces)
- Generation vs. Regeneration





	1st Logos: Positive or Affirming (Kether)	2nd Logos: Negative or Denying (Chokmah)	3rd Logos: Neutral or Reconciling (Binah)
Manifestation in the Human Being	Intellect and the Mental Body	Emotion and the Astral Body	Action and the Causal Body
Misuse of the Force	The Rebel of Nature	The Rebel of Science	The Rebel of Truth
Destructive Expression	Subjective Reasoning	Desire	Ill-Will
Destructive Justification	Law and Order	Prejudices and Beliefs	Brutal Instincts, Violence, Fear
Constructive Expression	Objective Reasoning	Love, Compassion, Virtue	Conscious Willpower
Constructive Justification	Justice	Equality	The Creation of Order

The Origins, Roots and Customs of Freemasonry

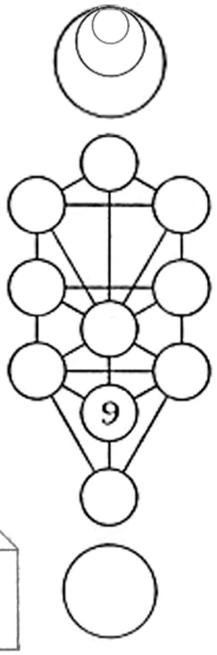
Freemasonry rests upon three fundamental degrees, summarizing the triple study which must occupy the mason: *where he comes from* (the study of God); *what he is* (the study of himself and his perfection), and *where he is going* (the study of his transformation). It honors as its great teachers Zoroaster, Pythagoras, Plato, and many others, and has adopted their teachings and, in some of its degrees, it even gives a brief summary of their doctrines.



These great teachers were all initiated into the Mysteries, and all their doctrines were fundamentally the same. In Masonry, the celestial quintessence is designed, created or manufactured through the *blazing five-pointed star*, called the *central fire of nature* by the philosophers, and also symbolized by the letter 'G', which means (among other things) *generation of bodies*.

Masonic Ritual serves as a living monument to the Great Mystery Schools of the past. The Degrees of Masonry are one-act plays often staged with costume, scenery, special effects, and the full rigging of any production. Their purpose is to examine different philosophies, ancient religions, and systems of ethics. Theatre is the oldest known means of teaching, especially of teaching abstract ideas. This is because Theatre allows the candidate to receive valuable information in their 'Three Brains' (the Intellectual, Emotional and Motor-Instinctive-Sexual Brains, which form part of the esoteric anatomy of the soul).

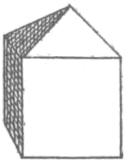
The Rock or Stone and the Foundation of Initiation



This symbol of the Rock or Stone has often been misunderstood and misrepresented.

> "And I tell you, you are Peter (*Petros*), and **on this rock (*petra*) I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it**. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."
>
> – Matthew 16: 18-19

> "Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: **he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock**..."
>
> – Luke 6:47



The Rock with which we build the Church (or House of God), the Cornerstone of the Temple, the authentic Cubic Stone, has 9 corners and looks like a cube with a pyramid on top. The number nine has deep esoteric significance. In Kabalah it is the 9th Sephiroth "Jesod" (the Ninth Sphere) which is translated as "Foundation" and corresponds to the 9th Hebrew letter: Teth ט.



In Gnostic Kabalah, the number 9 represents *initiation, solitude, and suffering*. The hieroglyphic for Teth ט is as follows: "A sage leaning on his staff, and holding a lamp in front of himself; he is completely enveloped in his cloak. His inscription is THE HERMIT OR THE CAPUCHIN (a Monk), because of the hood of his oriental cloak; but his true name is PRUDENCE..." Prudence is the ability to choose the appropriate actions at a given time; meaning to choose the best thing to do in a given situation. So the number 9 is the number of Initiation. We must understand that INITIATION is life itself, intensely lived, with rectitude and with love. In our present state we are the Raw or Brute Stone, but once we have refined ourselves, chiseled away our defects, our passions and our vices, then we are the Perfect Stone. Then our Psyche is clean and pure, allowing the Divine to inhabit its House.