

# Scottish Rite University Symposium

July 23, 2013

# “Masonic Ritual & Symbolism”

*Tonight we will:*

Speculate

Reflect

Discover

A Common Question

What is Freemasonry?

# Mackey's Classic Definition:

“Freemasonry is a system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols.”

# What did Mackey mean that Freemasonry is “veiled in allegory”?

## What is an “allegory”?

American Heritage Dictionary® defines allegory as:

1. The representation of abstract ideas or principles by characters, figures, or events in narrative, dramatic, or pictorial form. A story, picture, or play employing such representation. John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* and Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* are allegories.
2. A symbolic representation: *The blindfolded figure with scales is an allegory of justice.*

What are some of the  
Truths that Freemasonry  
claims to teach?

Why is TRUTH  
so important  
to Freemasons?

Why does Freemasonry use  
symbols and ritual to teach her  
profound Truths?

Why use symbols?

Why use ritual?

Why does Freemasonry need  
to veil her Truths?

Should these Truths be veiled?

If so, why?

What is the benefit?

If not, why?

What is the detriment?



# Compare and Contrast

Manner of Reception in the various Degrees

Length of the Circumambulation

Approaching the Altar (Due & Ancient Form)

Positions at the Altar (Due & Ancient Form)

Contents of the Obligations

Working Tools

Charges to the Candidate

# Some of the symbols of the Lodge. How do they give moral instruction?

- Holy Bible
- Square
- Compasses
- Sun
- Moon
- Worshipful Master
- Mosaic Pavement
- Indented Tessel
- Blazing Star
- Hoodwink
- Cable Tow
- 24 inch gauge
- Common gavel
- Lambskin Apron
- The Trowel
- Plumb
- Level
- Square
- Brazen Pillars
- Winding Stairway
- The Letter 'G'
- Rough Ashlar
- Perfect Ashlar
- Tresselboard
- Wardens' Columns
- Deacons' Rods
- Master's Gavel
- Tiler's Sword
- Northeast Corner
- Temple Rubbish

# The Entered Apprentice

- Is represented by the Rough Ashlar.
- Is ready to receive instruction.
- Wears his Apron with the bib turned up.

# The Fellow Craft

- Is represented by the Perfect Ashlar.
- Is ready to begin studying for himself.
- Wears his Apron with the bib and corner turned up.
  - Now he has his own tools. What are they?
  - Can he assist the Entered Apprentices?
  - Who does he more closely resemble, an Entered Apprentice or a Master Mason?

# The Master Mason

- Is represented by the Trestle Board.
- Is ready to become a leader of the Craft, and draw designs that will help to improve moral and Masonic edifices.
- Wears his Apron with the bib turned down.

As Scottish Rite Masons, we  
have taken many Obligations.  
We might say that we are  
“Thoroughly Obligated”!

What then is required of us?

# Freemasonry is called a Progressive Science

When did your interest in it first begin?

Who was your first mentor?

- He was probably assigned to you.
- With experience, we choose our own mentors.

How are you a part of the Mystic Tie?