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## **Building Boaz**

*Uncommon Catechism for  
Uncommon Masonic Education*

Volume 2

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(Author of "**Building Hiram** - *Uncommon Catechism for Uncommon Masonic Education* Volume 1", "**Provoking Success**" and "**Emotional Awareness Made Easy.**")

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## Catechism Primer

**cat·e·chism** (kăt'ĭ-kĭz'ĭm) *n.*

**I:** What is "Catechism?"

**R:** A word whose first recorded use was in 1502, rooted in French by way of Latin and originating in Late Greek with the following meaning: *to teach by word of mouth.*

**I:** What is its use?

**R:** It is primarily oral instruction.

**I:** What else?

**R:** It is a book or manual of basic instruction giving a brief summary of the basic principles of a subject, usually by means of rote, formulaic statement or repetition in question and answer form.

**I:** What's more?

**R:** A close questioning or examination, as of a political figure, student or a person wishing to show their proficiency of a topic or subject.

**I:** What's further?

**R:** A body of Work expressing fundamental principles or beliefs, *especially when accepted uncritically.*

**I:** How may it be so presented?

**R:** As a series of searching **I**nquiries and **R**esponses on any targeted subject of interest.

**I:** What is its purpose?

**R:** To share Light with those so interested.

**I:** What is a Catechist?

**R:** One who **I**nquires during a Catechism.

**I:** What is a Catechumen?

**R:** One who **R**esponds during a Catechism.

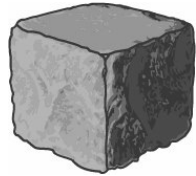
## Table of Contents

Preface.....	iv
Catechism Primer.....	v
Introduction.....	8
I. The Contented Container.....	14
The Contented Container Catechism ....	16
II. The Threshing-Floor.....	27
The Threshing-Floor Catechism.....	29
III. The Temple Mount.....	40
The Temple Mount Catechism.....	42
IV. The Flanked Circle .....	55
The Flanked Circle Catechism .....	57
V. The Secret Realm.....	69
The Secret Realm Catechism .....	71
VI. The Purpose .....	82
The Purpose Catechism.....	84
VII. The Winnowing.....	98
The Winnowing Catechism .....	100
VIII. The Broached Ladder .....	111
The Broached Ladder Catechism.....	113
IX. The Perfect Points.....	123
The Perfect Points Catechism .....	125
X. The Fifth Perfect Point.....	139
The Fifth Perfect Point Catechism .....	141
XI. The Wilderness Reflection .....	151
The Wilderness Reflection Catechism .	153
XII. The Roughing Work .....	166
The Roughing Work Catechism .....	167
Boaz .....	178
Resources and Footnotes .....	179

## Introduction

*Upon the left we do so Enter & Obligate ourselves to Divest all manner of Vice & Superfluity and to Build Boaz. – Dr. John S. Nagy*

Even before completing my first volume of this *Uncommon Catechism* series, it became clear to me that the structure of the first three Degrees was communicating something far more profound than I could glean even after cursory investigation. The Symbols and the focus of each Degree emphasize a different aspect of a Mason's development and each is sequenced to maximize the Integrity of the Work.



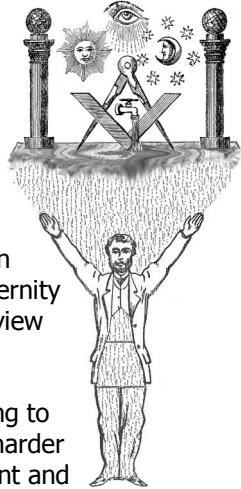
The emphasis of this book is upon the *Entered Apprentice Degree*. Without a doubt, the focuses at play within this Degree are that of the *Temple Foundation* and *Preparing the Stone*<sup>1</sup> that will eventually be Raised, Positioned and Cemented into that *House not made by hand*.<sup>2</sup> For the benefit of this Temple Work to be long lasting, Masons must have both a Strong Foundation and a Properly Prepared Stone with a Strengthened Inner Core.

These two aspects, Strength and Proper Preparation, are critical in the Work of all Masons. They both Establish the Temples Built and guard Masons well against what may impede them in their Travels. Too many Temples fail or Travels cease due to flawed Foundations or yielding Stones – *preventable failures all*.

## I. The Contented Container

*Freemasonry: A systemic Moral Science, beautiful and peculiar, allegorically veiled, symbolically illustrated, and endlessly questing for Divine Truth. – Dr. John S. Nagy*

**Summary:** Many differing definitions describe Masonry. Some definitions dominate though and have over the years been memorized and repeated by Mason and non-mason alike. Clearly the ones offered which remain and retain a hold on those within the Fraternity are perhaps most worthy of review and reflection.



Masonry is not an easy thing to describe and sometimes even harder to understand. It's both Content and Container, each of which fails to explain fully alone what the two provide together as One. Sharing the interconnections between these two doesn't often include the Synergy that arises as a result of the two Working as One or the impact that this Unity has upon the Masons that support it. Depending upon what Jurisdiction you Enter as an Apprentice<sup>†</sup> Mason, the definition or description of Masonry

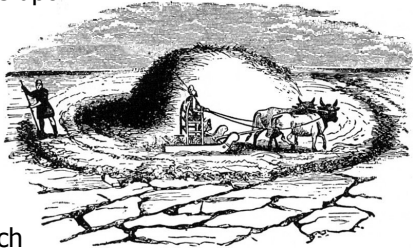
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<sup>†</sup> From a Latin root word meaning, "to take; to hold; to seize." An Apprentice is one "taken to learn."

## II. The Threshing-Floor

*A House Built upon sand shall neither stand well nor stand long.*<sup>11</sup> — Dr. John S. Nagy

**Summary:** King Solomon's choice of location to Build his Temple upon has many overlaying references that have much significance to Masons.



Examining its rich history reveals *Strong criteria* for its selection. Masons would do well to understand the connections this Temple location has for any other Building they may conceive, design and eventually Build.

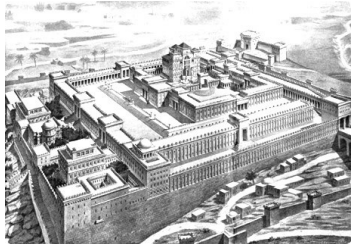
Far too many Masons have grown up in cultures that do not give full credence to the rich metaphors that allow for instant understanding of the Masonic symbols before them. The Threshing-floor is one such metaphor of a special location for activity that all Masons should be prepared to engage in very early in their Masonic Journey.

On the Threshing-floor, the fruit of the harvest is laid out before them. Further Work is done to separate the grain heads from the chaff that nurtured it to maturity. Winnowing efforts are put forth in this activity, forcing movement of the chaff away from the desired grain.

### III. The Temple Mount

*The worldview of a man is Built upon the clarity and understanding of his words and other supporting Symbols. – Dr. John S. Nagy*

**Summary:** In the beginning of thought are the words you chose to use and those words become your Rule and Guide. Without a firm



understanding of the words you use, the Foundation of your very thoughts erodes. What you thought would support you crumbles as caked dirt to the slightest stresses. Clarity is your bellwether and your safeguard against such weakening.

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As cemented Ashlars in a wall, a series of interconnections, based upon personal values as symbolized by words, support the whole of your choices. With every word chosen, you Build an ever growing structure of consciousness that guides you through life.

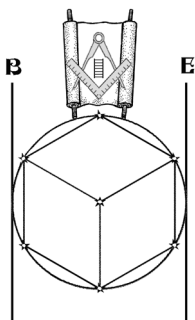
To differentiate between simple word pairs like "right and wrong" and "good and bad" is a simple task. The distinctions are apparent. To do the same though with word pairs like "Responsibility & Accountability", "Rule & Law", "Morality & Ethics", "Choice & Decision" and "Faith & Belief" is less apparent. It requires clarity of thought that few people take time to develop at length in any one



## IV. The Flanked Circle

*Implied in the flanked circle is an inner world of outward understanding. – Dr. John S. Nagy*

**Summary:** The Point within the Circle flanked by two lines and tangential with the Volume of Sacred Law above it is a symbol replete with many veils. Entered Apprentices should become well familiar with that which is implied by the First Degree focus before they Pass to their next Degree.



Ritual does its best to both touch upon and prescribe the Work that Entered Apprentice Masons should know and do. As newly Entered Masons review and reflect upon the individual parts of Masonry, the entire whole becomes clearer. One such part is the Point within the Circle, flanked by two lines and tangential with the Volume of Sacred Law. It is in itself a whole that represents many interconnected principles and philosophies that can best be well understood through Work.

On the surface, this whole represents a path. It also represents underlying principles and meaning that, when understood, make for better choices while Traveling along that path. Lastly, it conveys a rich history of connections that help convey the value of such a path.

Masons who study the path, the principles and meaning and the history behind this flanked circle

prepare themselves well for what is to come. They obtain a fuller understanding that furthers the inner Strength development needed to Properly Pass to the next degree.

If you want to obtain this too, first consider what the point within the circle means for you. What does it remind you of in your initiation? Consider next the two parallel lines. What do they remind you of other than what you were told they were symbolic of during your first entry into the Lodge. Review what you remember. What was it that you first saw when you were first able? Do your first sights remind you of both what was before you and what you were a part of? Review the Lecture in your mind's eye. Review the two Saints talked about within it. How significant are they to your understanding of what you are both coming from and moving toward?

As you Perpend your experience and reflect upon its significance, what meanings do you first avail yourself of? As the Volume of Sacred Law states, should you take the time to do the Work, your efforts, the investment in yourself, will come back to you abundantly. There could not be any better investment you can make than what you invest in yourself. The investment in understanding a simply laid out symbol involving two lines, a circle, a dot and a Holy Book is one such investment that works as a map for those who can read it.

What follows is a Catechism designed to share Light that assists you in this Work as an Entered Apprentice Mason.



**R:** Because without the development of the Inner aspect, an Entered Apprentice Mason's Desires and Passions would remain unrul'd and misdirected.

**I:** What Holy Saint represents the Left Side?

**R:** Saint John the Baptist.

**I:** Why Saint John the Baptist?

**R:** He was known for his heart-driven zeal.

**I:** What's more?

**R:** He foretold the coming of Light.

**I:** What's further?

**R:** He was known for immersing those who desired Initiation into the Light.

**I:** What else?

**R:** His day of celebration occurs close to when the sun's highest point in the North is reached.

**I:** What day is his celebration?

**R:** June 24<sup>th</sup>.

**I:** Why then?

**R:** It is when the sun is near its brightest and when the world is most revealed and immersed in Light.

**I:** How is this inculcated in Ritual?

**R:** As the Obligating Candidate faces East at the Altar, on bended knee, his left side faces the line of Brothers to the North, symbolizing Saint John the Baptist.

**I:** Saint John the Baptist symbolizes what to Entered Apprentice Masons?

**R:** Immersion into Light that is most evident, obvious and revealed.



- I:** What's more?  
**R:** Inner Strength and their *Temporal* nature.  
**I:** What Pillar denotes Saint John the Baptist?  
**R:** The Pillar on the left-hand side of the porch of King Solomon's Temple.

### **Ministry**

- I:** Why is the Outer aspect of Masons important to develop?  
**R:** Because without the development of the Outer aspect, a Mason's ability to Rule and Subdue his world will not manifest.
- I:** What Holy Saint represents the Right Side?  
**R:** Saint John the Evangelist.
- I:** Why Saint John the Evangelist?  
**R:** He was known for his Passion for Light.
- I:** What's more?  
**R:** He was known for sharing the Light further with those who were so initiated.
- I:** What's further?  
**R:** He continued to carry the Light to those who desired it.
- I:** What else?  
**R:** His day of celebration occurs close to when the sun's lowest point in the South is reached.
- I:** What day is his celebration?  
**R:** December 27<sup>th</sup>.
- I:** Why then?  
**R:** It is when the sun is near its dulllest and when the world is least revealed and immersed in Light.
- I:** How is this inculcated in Ritual?  
**R:** As the Obligating Candidate faces East at the



Altar, on bended knee, his Right side faces the line of Brothers to the South, symbolizing Saint John the Evangelist.

- I:** Saint John the Evangelist symbolizes what to Entered Apprentice Masons?
- R:** Their *Spiritual* nature and also Light<sup>35</sup> that is least obvious and hidden.
- I:** What are other words Masons use for "hidden?"
- R:** Concealed, buried and veiled.
- I:** What Pillar denotes Saint John the Evangelist?
- R:** The Pillar on the Right-hand side of the porch of King Solomon's Temple.

### **Pillars**

- I:** In fanciful Masonic lore, what modern symbol uses these two Pillars to denote currency?
- R:** The original two stroke dollar sign used in the United States of America.
- I:** How so?
- R:** The two Pillars represent those that were originally depicted as the "Pillars of Hercules."
- I:** What ancient landmark does the Phrase "Pillar's of Hercules" apply toward?
- R:** It was the phrase that was applied in Antiquity to the promontories that flank the entrance to the Strait of Gibraltar.
- I:** What did these two Pillars denote?
- R:** Strength.
- I:** What did Pillars represent to ancient man?
- R:** Strength and firmness; the Phallus and the creative and generative energy of Deity.<sup>36</sup>
- I:** What significance do two Pillars have in the Volume of Sacred Law?

- R:** A Pillar of Smoke or Cloud by day and one of Fire by night preceded the Israelites in their forty year wilderness journey.<sup>37</sup>
- I:** Where were they finally placed symbolically?
- R:** Symbols of the two Pillars were placed upon the porch of King Solomon's Temple.
- I:** Were these Pillars unique?
- R:** Not in the respect of having two Pillars placed upon the porches of temples.
- I:** Where else were Pillars placed upon porches of temples?
- R:** The Temple of Bel at Noffer, a city also known as "Nipper", "Niffer", and "Calneh", is among many others that followed its design.
- I:** Whom was it Built by?
- R:** King Ur-Gur.
- I:** When did he reign?
- R:** During a period between 2900-2700 before the Common Era.
- I:** How many years later did Abraham leave Ur to search for the Promised Land of Canaan?
- R:** It was about 800 to 900 years after King Ur-Gur reigned.
- I:** What other Temples used two Pillars in their design and preceded that of King Solomon's Temple?
- R:** There previously existed several temples with twin Pillars of near similar design and placement located in Tyre and at many locations throughout the surrounding area.
- I:** To whom were these Temples built?
- R:** The temples were built for *Baal*, a general title



and honorific reference use to denote lord", "master" and "lord of heaven" and for Melqart, also known as "Heracles" or "Hercules."

- I:** What eventually occurred to the general title and honorific reference "Baal."
- R:** Due to conflicts during Biblical times, the word "Baal" eventually came to mean or imply "false god" to the followers of Yahweh.

### **Ownership**

- I:** What more do Pillars represent?
- R:** Boundaries denoting ownership and sovereignty in the form of rule and self-governance.
- I:** Explain this.
- R:** Pillars were used as Landmarks to denote the boundaries between properties such as countries and *privately owned* properties.
- I:** How so?
- R:** Pillars were placed upon property boundaries to denote where one's property ended and where another's started.
- I:** What's more?
- R:** They were placed in front of the entrances to separate that which was "of the temple" and that which was "not of the temple."
- I:** What archaic word denotes the latter?
- R:** The word "profane."
- I:** What does it mean?
- R:** It literally means "before the temple" and hence "not of the temple."
- I:** When did this practice of setting up Pillars to denote boundaries first Establish itself?
- R:** Records show that it was already in practice as



far back as 4000 B.C.E. in Babylonia.

- I:** Between 1763 and 1767, what famous North American boundary line was established by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon?
- R:** The "Mason and Dixon line."
- I:** How was it rendered?
- R:** By stone markers every mile and Pillars every five miles.
- I:** What was its purpose?
- R:** To separate Pennsylvania from Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.
- I:** For what is this 316 mile boundary famous?
- R:** It was referred to during the Missouri Compromise as part of the dividing line between Southern "slave" States and Northern "free" States, although Delaware was an exception to this.
- I:** What dividing line must Entered Apprentice Masons be aware of?
- R:** The Boundary denoted by the Circumscribed circle surrounding the point within it, to which all Passions must be kept within Due Bounds.
- I:** What's more?
- R:** The Jurisdictional entrance requirements of all Masonic Candidates within the Masonic Order they join.
- I:** What's further?
- R:** What they promise to keep concealed and never revealed unless done so within lawful bounds.

### **Dwelling Place**

- I:** What else do Pillars symbolize?
- R:** The high places Deity was supposed to inhabit.
- I:** What's more?

- R:** Pillars were also considered by those of Faith to be the abodes of the gods; the Israelites were no different in this consideration.
- I:** What does the Volume of Sacred Law say about this?
- R:** That Mount Horeb is called "the Mountain of God."<sup>38</sup>
- I:** What other name is Mount Horeb known by?
- R:** Mount Sinai.
- I:** What more does Scripture say?
- R:** The Syrians called the gods of Israel "gods of the hills."<sup>39</sup>
- I:** What's further does Scripture say?
- R:** A certain hill is referred to as one in which God desires to dwell.<sup>40</sup>
- I:** What's else does Scripture say?
- R:** Then there shall be a place which the Lord your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; There shall you bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows, which you vow unto the Lord.<sup>41</sup>
- I:** What place was this that is referred to in the Volume of Sacred Law?
- R:** Mount Moriah.

### **Covenants**

- I:** What story in the Volume of Sacred Law is considered by Rabbinical Tradition to tell of the first Pillar erected upon this Mountain?
- R:** The story of Jacob.
- I:** What is Jacob known for?

- R:** His dream upon the *Freestones* of Moriah.
- I:** What did Jacob say after he awoke?
- R:** *Surely Jehovah is in this place; and I knew not. This is none other than the House of God, and this is the gate to Heaven.*
- I:** What did Jacob then do?
- R:** He set up a Pillar to God and changed the name of the place to "Bethal."
- I:** What did he then say?
- R:** *This stone which I have set for a Pillar shall be God's House.*
- I:** What's more?
- R:** Later on, as witness to a covenant between himself and Laban, Jacob set up a Pillar and said, "Jehovah watch between me and thee when we are absent on from another."
- I:** What was Laban's response?
- R:** "This Pillar be witness" to the covenant.
- I:** What did Jacob further do?
- R:** He erected a second Pillar at Bethal to commemorate that fact that God had again appeared to him with a promise of Great Blessings to be conferred.
- I:** What do these two Pillars signify for Masons?
- R:** The first Pillar is acknowledgement that there is a place to which the Lord exists.
- I:** What of the other Pillars?
- R:** One Pillar acknowledges that God bears witness to the Covenants we make and the other acknowledges the promise made to Jacob of the Great Blessings to be conferred.
- I:** Whom might Entered Apprentice Masons infer to be the first Bethal Pillar?

- R:** Saint John the Baptist.
- I:** Whom might Entered Apprentice Masons infer to be the second Bethal Pillar?
- R:** Saint John the Evangelist.
- I:** What else do these Pillars infer?
- R:** The beginning and ending, also known as the "Alpha and the Omega" which flank the circle.
- I:** When erected with a ball or globe atop, what do Pillars denote?
- R:** Human-beings *of great importance*.

### **Keepsakes**

- I:** What else have Pillars represented in the past?
- R:** They symbolized the presence and protection of the Divine.
- I:** What ancient practice was acted out to destroy the gods of others?
- R:** The wholesale destruction of any Pillar erected to any other god than one's own.
- I:** Who placed two Pillars upon some of their coins?
- R:** The Spanish did beginning in the 16th Century. Some of their coins made reference to the land beyond the "Pillars of Hercules" with a scrolled motto "plus ultra" meaning "more beyond."<sup>††</sup>
- I:** What is significant about this time?
- R:** This was concurrent with the time modern Speculative Masonry was coming into being.
- I:** Why is the symbol of a Scroll significant?

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<sup>††</sup> **I:** What were the only coins accepted to pay Temple taxes in Jerusalem between 127 BCE and 19 BCE?

**R:** Tyrian silver coinage called "shekels of Tyre." This was the reason for the money-changers.

- R:** A Scroll denotes the records of which the Strength of the Pillars is intended to preserve against any fire and flood.<sup>42</sup>
- I:** What famous Jewish Historian wrote of Adam's offspring Seth creating two different Pillars to protect ancient Knowledge from such harm?
- R:** Josephus.
- I:** What book was this account written within?
- R:** The book entitled "Antiquities of the Jews."
- I:** Was the practice of using Pillars to safeguard knowledge unique to the Jewish race?
- R:** No. Legend has it that among the Egyptians, Thoth and Hermes are said to have erected two Pillars to preserve for future generations the Wisdom of the past.
- I:** What's more?
- R:** Druids also have a similar legend in which they say Gandelon constructed such Pillars for similar purpose.
- I:** What do Pillars and Scrolls imply to Entered Apprentice Masons?
- R:** What Light is entrusted to them as newly Entered Pillars within Masonry.
- I:** What's more?
- R:** That the Pillar they are should always be a safe depository for what is entrusted to them.

### Revelations

- I:** How do I know this to be so?
- R:** Have you been flanked by Brothers upon your Obligating moment?
- I:** Yes, I have.
- R:** Are you the point within the circle, Circumscribed



to keep your Passions within Due Bounds?

**I:** Yes, I am that which is Circumscribed.

**R:** Are you of the belief that a Supreme Being exists and that Great Blessings have been bestowed by this Supreme Being?

**I:** I say "Yes" to both these assertions.

**R:** Are you of the Temple or not?

**I:** I am of the Temple without a doubt whatsoever.

**R:** Have you a question for me?<sup>§§</sup>

**I:** What were you then at your Obligation?

**R:** I was the point within the circle, flanked to my left and right by Alpha and Omega and in their presence before me was the Volume of Sacred Law I was so obligated upon and am so still.

**I:** Then you were so entrusted by your Brothers?

**R:** I was and as a Sacred scroll is entrusted within my Pillar, I am still so entrusted.

**I:** Then you indeed do know all this is so and your Pillar has been well Established.

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<sup>§§</sup> **I:** Is the United States currency dollar sign symbolic of the scrolled Pillars of Hercules, alluding to the precursors of the two Pillars upon the porch of King Solomon's Temple?

**R:** No. The dollar sign is a result of many evolved artistic renderings of the Spanish "peso," written as the abbreviation "Ps," and transformed over the years by English-speaking people in the United States coming in contact with Spaniards within the same regions.

## V. The Secret Realm

*In secrecy is both security and danger; take care in them and they shall take care in you.*

– Dr. John S. Nagy

**Summary:** What remains unsaid, unknown and unrevealed is often that which is most important to know. Entered Apprentice Masons are entrusted with the first of many things that should ultimately transform their lives for the better.



Understanding fully the basis of Secrecy is crucial to the Work that must be done along the Masonic path.

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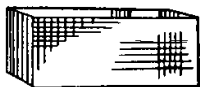
Secrecy is not a discipline thrust upon Masons as a burden to suffer. It is *required* to provide a multitude of benefits for those Masons who practice it fully. Trust, bonding, and protection are but a few. The interconnecting overlay of these and other benefits is the usual focus of Secrecy and Masons are not at fault for not seeing beyond them.

In Ritual, the honoring of information shared in confidence between Brothers is the usual focus that most Masons imagine when first discussing the importance of keeping Secrets. Ritual affirms this and without further reflection or purposefully directed scrutiny, many Brothers come away not thinking otherwise. This is because the most obvious

## VI. The Purpose

*Stones fit well together when their hearts are Right and they are in Unity and Harmony with those surrounding them. — Dr. John S. Nagy*

**Summary:** Without a doubt, an important focus of the first Masonic Degree is the Work Masons must do to Perfect their Resources. The Material must be Properly Prepared before any Building is to commence.



Masonry is not just the Art of Building with Stone, it also entails the Preparation of the Building material prior to its placement upon any Foundation.

The Preparation of the Stone entails removal of what is not needed by the Builder. Along with this Preparation is one action that is not so obvious: *the Strengthening of the Stone itself*. This means Working on the very core or heart of the Stone. This is to assure that wherever it is placed within that *House not made by hand*, the Stone will have the necessary Inner Strength to endure all manner of stress that House may place upon it.

The core or heart of the Stone is the focus of this Work. Ritual points this out in many ways, through many symbols and on many levels. It tells Masons that it is of the utmost importance that they both know their hearts and Subdue them accordingly. The vital importance of these actions is critical in all issues related to Building.



## VII. The Wincwing

*Wincnow away your chaff so that which shall  
nurture you may do so unhindered.*

– Dr. John S. Nagy

**Summary:** What troubles people most often is not what life hands them but what they take on that is unnecessary. Ridding one's self of these non-essentials frees up resources that may then be applied in more fruitful directions.



For ages religions have had a strong hold upon the culture in Europe. Theology influenced most everything including the literature of the time. One such influence was that of the Seven Deadly Sins. Collectively they were well known by all social classes.

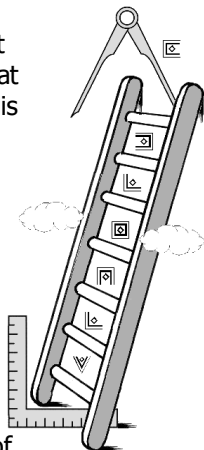
The modern sense of these seven sins were inspired by the Latin works of the 4th century monk Evagrius Ponticus. In 590 C.E., Pope Gregory revised Ponticus' list, which was subsequently immortalized by Dante's epic poem "The Divine Comedy."

As with happens with all words, this list of seven sins underwent a progressive semantic shift in their associated definitions and meanings. This required further refining and redefining to capture the original intent of the list. The religious influence though was forever present at its roots.

## VIII. The Broached Ladder

*Heaven and Earth are connected. Strive to understand and Strengthen this connection in all that you do. – Dr. John S. Nagy*

Summary: Jacob's dream on Mount Moriah denotes a critical concept that benefits Masons who embrace it. His dream showed the connection between Heaven and Earth. Those who endeavor to Strengthen this connection reinforce that which is Above with that which is Below. The connection and its Strength impact everything that Masons do.



Early Ritual had symbols within it designed to help focus Entered Apprentices upon issues of critical importance in their development as Masons. One such symbol was Jacob's Ladder and another was the Broached Thurnell. Along with other common Masonic symbols, these symbols were first introduced to Masons during the Entered Apprentice Degree. The intimate connection implied between these two symbols is important to understand for the Work of an Entered Apprentice Mason to be fully realized.

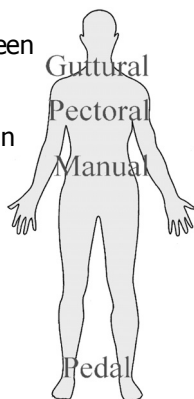
Masons, who pass to Fellow Craft not doing the critical Work required of them while as an Entered Apprentice Mason, do not Establish the necessary Strength needed to do future Masonic Work. This

## IX. The Perfect Points

*To prevent Stone degeneration due to natural stressing, annealing is necessary to bring Desired Strength to the material.*

– Dr. John S. Nagy

**Summary:** The association between the Perfect Points of Entrance and the Four Cardinal Virtues did not always exist in Ritual. The inclusion of these Virtues within the Entered Apprentice Ritual helps point Masons toward Work that must be done for those persons Entered to Properly Pass to Fellow Craft.




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The Perfect Points of Entrance used by most Ritual today evolved from earlier Points not directly associated with the Cardinal Virtues. Reviewing what is currently available to newly Entered Masons, it becomes apparent that this "virtual" association was added to help guide those newly Entered toward Work that was much needed for them to Pass successfully toward Fellow Craft.

Upon first examination, the interconnections between these Virtues and the Perfect Points might appear to have no basis. The specific words and locations those words represent do not immediately call to mind those most virtuous of ideals. It becomes clear though upon further review and reflection that each word and its location do indeed point to related

## X. The Fifth Perfect Point

*Hearts which grow callously cold when present to true value weaken those who hold them.*

*– Dr. John S. Nagy*

**Summary:** Two very important elements lay at the core of the three Theological Virtues which gives them their power. Without these critical keys, no Candidate allowed to Enter the Westgate will ever fully appreciate what Masonry has to offer.

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To Properly progress in Masonry, a core of Strength must be Established. This is initially done by focusing Masonic Work upon those Hinge Virtues initially shared and associated with Entrance Points. Although these Cardinal Virtues are used to start the process of Establishing Strength, there are three Virtues that help Perfect it. These other Virtues focus on what is Theological in nature.

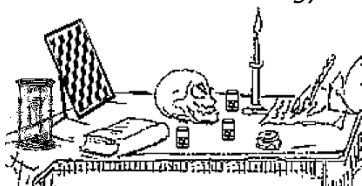
Of all the aspects you might consider to be involved with the Theological Virtues, you will find that there are two common threads which tie them firmly together. Furthermore, without the presence of these important threads, all three would become pail farces of their true potential. Any Strength that might be bestowed upon you by their practice is

## XI. The Wilderness Reflection

*Reflect well upon your Stone for that which you see is the Foundation of your Kingdom.*

*– Dr. John S. Nagy*

**Summary:** To look deeply within that which constitutes the makeup of your person is to put



forth an effort to see and seed the possibility of knowing the very essence of being. Of all the actions that Masons can take, sincere and searching self-reflection has the deepest impact. It permeates everything thereafter done.

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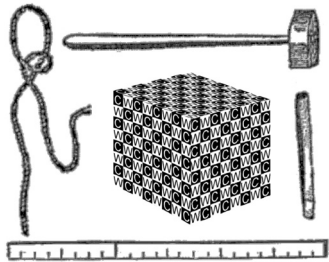
The journey within is often depicted in literature as one that takes place without. Many religious, spiritual and inspirational figures throughout history started their inward journeys by taking such actions. Moses lead his entire tribe through the wilderness for forty years; Buddha sat for over forty days under a Bodhi tree; Jesus traveled into the wilderness and remained there forty days; Muhammad retreated to a cave for meditation and reflection and received his first revelation at age forty. All had revelations that transformed their lives forever.

It is clear from each of these activities that they all received something special not found by normal day-to-day interactions and activities within a cultured world. They each made effort to separate themselves from what is known and then engaged in what needed

## XII. The Roughing Work

*Pass not beyond Work incomplete; pass now on future toil. Complete the Work before you now or future Work will spoil. – Dr. John S. Nagy*

**Summary:** The transformation of the Rough Ashlar into the Perfect Ashlar requires specific Work. The Work is not just to affect the outward appearance. It is also designed to affect the inner structure as well. Knowing what to do is not enough. Both aspects must be Worked fully. The eventual placement of the Stone within the *House not made by hand* and the support such House needs requires this.




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No better Work effort in all of Masonry can ever match what is ordered upon Masons within the Entered Apprentice Degree. Those who recognize what is ordained know it is **Good Orderly Direction** and very valuable in living richer lives.

Knowing what to do and doing it are two distinct aspects of Work. Sadly, the actions such Illuminations call for are seldom acted upon. Knowledge of Work is not the same as Working knowledge and fires are too often quenched once Light is shown and known. It is difficult Work; rarely is it completed.