

ARIZONA MASONRY

Artificial Intelligence & Freemasonry

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ARIZONA MASONRY

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Masonic Year 2022-2023

Front page image: "Freemasons performing the third degree of Freemasonry", as perceived by Artificial Intelligence image generator artssy.co

TOGETHER WE BUILD



Freemasonry is a worldwide fraternity and we certainly have a very diverse membership in Arizona and we should welcome and celebrate our diversity. This concept is first introduced to the newly made mason in the Entered Apprentice degree during an explanation of “Brotherly Love”, one of our three principle tenets. It reads in part, “Masonry unites men of every country, sect, and opinion and causes true friendship to exist among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance. For me, this is one of the most enjoyable benefits of being a Mason and one of the most important to foster in our Lodges as well as in life.

The Motto or Slogan this year is “Together We Build”. I believe this is of vital importance to our Fraternity, our Communities and our Country. Coming together and working with each other in the best interest of whatever endeavor we undertake builds and produces a far better outcome. One that should and will create a greater sense of Pride in our accomplishments through our shared efforts.

....Jim Baker, Grand Master of Arizona Free & Accepted Masons.

The Future of Freemasonry

Dear Brethren,

I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. As the Grand Master of Freemasons in Arizona, it is my distinct honor and privilege to address you today regarding the state of Freemasonry in our jurisdiction and around the world.

Freemasonry has a rich and storied history, spanning centuries and uniting men across the globe in a quest for personal growth, moral enlightenment, and the betterment of our communities. Today, we stand as the inheritors of this grand tradition, and it is our responsibility to preserve, foster, and build upon the legacy left to us by our forebears.

In recent times, Freemasonry has faced many challenges, including a decline in membership and public misconceptions about our fraternity. It is essential that we, as the torchbearers of this noble order, work tirelessly to address these issues and ensure the continued growth and success of our beloved institution.

First and foremost, we must continue to emphasize the core values of Freemasonry: brotherly love, relief, and truth. These principles have been the bedrock of our fraternity since its inception and are more relevant than ever in today's world. By living these values and demonstrating their impact, we can show the world that Freemasonry is an organization with timeless teachings and an unwavering commitment to building a better society.

Moreover, we must strive to be more open and transparent about our practices and goals. By demystifying our craft and engaging with our communities, we can dispel misconceptions and generate greater interest in our fraternity. This includes leveraging modern technology, such as social media, to share the positive impact

Freemasonry has on our lives and the lives of those around us.

Additionally, we must make it a priority to foster a spirit of inclusivity and diversity within our lodges. Freemasonry has long been a beacon of tolerance and acceptance, and we must continue to uphold these values by welcoming men from all walks of life into our ranks. By doing so, we will strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and ensure that our fraternity remains a vibrant and dynamic force for good in the world.

Lastly, we must not forget the importance of investing in the future of Freemasonry through our charitable works and youth programs. By supporting the development of our future leaders, we will ensure that the legacy of our fraternity endures for generations to come.

Brethren, the state of Freemasonry today is a testament to the dedication and passion of men like you. It is our duty to carry the torch of brotherhood forward and continue to build upon the foundation laid by those who came before us. Let us work together to strengthen our bonds, live our values, and make a positive impact on the world around us.

May the Great Architect of the Universe continue to bless and guide us on our journey.



Fraternally yours,

Jim K. Baker

Grand Master of
Freemasons in Arizona
2022-2023

This article was written entirely by ChatGPT, an Artificial Intelligence conversation tool by OpenAI.com

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“A group of Freemasons meeting in a sacred place” as perceived by artificial intelligence image generator artssy.co

What does Artificial Intelligence think of Freemasonry?

It seems like the headlines these days are filled with stories about how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is going to put us all out of work. AI art generators will steal the market from artists, AI writing will put the writers out of work. AI will take over marketing and speech writing and record keeping and creative pursuits. Basically, the sky is falling – again. Back when televisions were first introduced, they said it was going to kill the radio. It didn’t – but radio changed. When Netflix came out – they said it was going to kill TV. It didn’t – but TV changed. These “New Technologies” that people feel threatened by are what we call “Disruptors”. The new technology “disrupts” business as usual. And maybe that’s a good thing.

This idea of “Artificial Intelligence” has been along for a long time. The term was actually coined at a summer conference at Dartmouth College in 1955. But even before that, in 1942, author Isaac Asimov wrote the novel “Runaround”. In that book, he introduced the 3 laws of robotics that would govern the “ethics” of robots. How is this relevant to Freemasonry you say? Robots probably aren’t invading our lodges anytime soon. And I don’t see Artificial Intelligence making us humans “obsolete” in our lodge.

Artificial Intelligence & Freemasonry (cont'd)

The more immediate effect Artificial Intelligence is likely to have upon Freemasonry is - what it thinks about us.

In October of last year, I began investigating AI through an image generator. I signed up for a subscription to "Artssy.co" which promised to spit out images based on text input by humans. It took some trial and error to type in text and get an image that was close to what I was looking for. I started trying to generate "esoteric" images. They were weird and creepy. Then I started to input more "Complex" instructions. For example, look at the image on the cover of this magazine. I asked AI to give me an image of "Freemasons performing the third degree". At first glance, it looks like an Abraham Lincoln convention. It gets some details right, 2 men at an altar. It gets some wrong, they are both wearing hats. From this one image, we can see that whatever "Concept" AI has of Freemasonry, it isn't complete. I tried being more generic and I asked AI to give me an image of "a group of freemasons meeting in a sacred place". It returned the image at the beginning of this article - 5 men gathered around an altar. Apparently, it thinks most of us are bald!

In November of last year (2022), ChatGPT was introduced and received a lot of media attention. GPT stands for "Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer). This new "AI" was actually based on software created in 2020 by OpenAI. The "AI" takes human input and spits out "Answers" based on it's past experience. Output might include writing a paper, creating an image or answering a question. And it's that last one that is



"Esoteric man whispering secrets" as envisioned by Artssy.co for the January Copper Post article "Whispering Wise Counsel".

going to affect us first. Those questions posed to AI are surely going to include some inquiries about Freemasonry. Curious about Freemasonry? Ask Artificial Intelligence. Want to know more about the degrees? Ask AI. Is Freemasonry part of the Illuminati? AI will probably know.

I decided to have a conversation with AI and see what it thinks about Freemasonry. More than just answering questions, it is supposed to spit out complex thoughts and summaries. First I asked it a basic question "What is Freemasonry?". It replied "**Freemasonry is based on a system of moral and allegorical teachings, often expressed in symbolic terms, that are intended to promote personal growth, ethical behavior, and social responsibility.**" Overall, a great response. I dug deeper. I asked "Is Freemasonry a religion?"

Artificial Intelligence & Freemasonry (cont'd)



“Worshipful Master of a fraternal brotherhood” as envisioned by AI image generator Artssy.co

AI replied **“No, Freemasonry is not a religion... While Freemasonry requires its members to believe in a Supreme Being, it does not promote any particular religion or religious doctrine”**. Hmm, so far so good. I tried “Do Freemasons kill people?” AI responded **“Freemasonry is often associated with secrecy and conspiracy theories, which has fueled many unfounded rumors and accusations about its activities”**. I went a step further and asked “What is the Morgan Affair?” AI replied with a truthful account of what happened including the comments that **“no concrete evidence was ever found”** and **“the Morgan Affair damaged the reputation of Freemasonry”**. I decided to ask the granddaddy of questions that would surely be our undoing. “Are Freemasons also the Illuminati?”

Brace yourselves. AI responded with **“No, Freemasons and the Illuminati are not the same thing, there is no evidence to suggest that they are related in any way”**. Good news for us.

Based on my initial interaction, it seems as though AI has a positive image of Freemasonry. Anyone seeking information on Freemasonry through AI is likely to get real answers about who we are, rather than conspiratorial nonsense. But will that change? That all depends on where AI get’s further “education” and who has control. What if someone in charge had a bad experience with a Freemason, could they go so far as to sabotage that AI “Perception”? Like anything else, technology is only as good as what we tell it to do. For the moment, we should be aware that AI knows a lot about us and people are going to ask it for information. But no matter what AI spits out, the first step will always be when a Seeker reaches out to a Mason to find out how to join. So the best representation of Freemasonry, remains Freemasons. We should ever remember to improve ourselves and smooth our Ashlar.

Fraternally,

Bo Buchanan

Grand Editor

Arizona F. & A.M., 2022-23



100 Year Celebration: The George Washington Masonic National Memorial

In February, the officers of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, Arizona travelled to Washington D.C. for the 100th Anniversary celebration of the laying of the cornerstone for the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.



On Saturday, February 18th the Grand Lodge opened at the Memorial in the lodge room of Alexandria Washington Lodge No. 22.



On Sunday, February 19th the Grand Lodge officers laid a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Arlington National Cemetery.



On Monday, February 20th the Grand Lodge participated in a parade in Alexandria, VA which led to the Memorial and the re-enactment of the cornerstone laying.

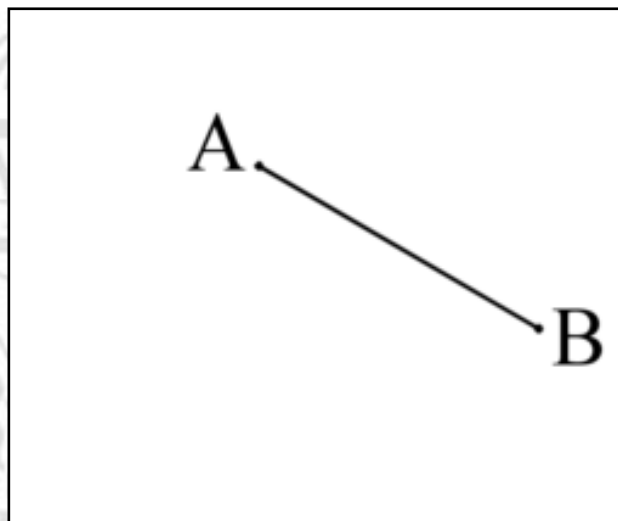


Later in the day on Monday, Grand Masters from the United States and around the world gathered for a photo on the memorial steps.

The Pythagorean Tetraktys

Part two: The Line

In the last issue of Arizona Masons Magazine, we began a four-part series on the Tetraktys of the Pythagoreans (a model illustrating the organization of space through the emanations of the Grand Geometer: from a point, to a line, to a superficies and, finally, to a solid) and its significance, in both the geometrical (operative) and metaphysical (speculative) senses. We began by examining the point, which issues from the first, or top tier of the great Tetraktys, and noted how this position (for it is more of a place than a thing) symbolizes God, the Monad and the individual Mason. In this installment, we will move on to the second ‘Tetraktyan’ emanation: the line.



The Line

In the domain of geometry, a line is described as a one-dimensional, so-called ‘primitive object’ having no width or depth – it is simply defined by length. Technically, a line is infinite and has no curvature; however, in the context of the Tetraktys, we are specifically dealing with a line segment connecting two points, therefore representing the Dyad.

“Number rules the universe”

....Pythagoras

It is important to note that the Pythagorean worldview is holistic and integrated in terms of quantity and quality. Numbers are not merely quantitative counting integers – they also retain the numinous, qualitative element. Yes, one could say something like “Jane has two apples in her basket,” in reference to the quantity two, but the

number two also denotes a particular dyadic quality.

In the Pythagorean tradition, the Dyad was symbolically used to convey the concept of “twoness” or “otherness”.

In the Pythagorean tradition, the Dyad was symbolically used to convey the concept of “twoness” or “otherness.” Whereas the point represented God, the Monad, the Pythagoreans associated the Dyad with matter and the general concept of duality. This would apply to all manner of binary opposites, such as:

- ◆ light/darkness
- ◆ active/passive
- ◆ positive/negative
- ◆ abstract/concrete
- ◆ objective/subjective
- ◆ general/particular
- ◆ order/chaos

Tetraktys: The Line (cont'd)

The Operative and Speculative Denominations

The quantity/quality dynamic is mirrored by the operative and speculative denominations of the Craft. Whereas the stonemason operatively utilizes the working tools in the building of a physical temple according to the quantitative measurements of a given design; the Freemason speculatively applies these implements in the building of a Metaphysical Temple according to (and, to some degree, shaping) the quality of his character. It would be more accurate to say that the work of the Freemason is holistic and integrated – like the Pythagoreans – in that it contains both the abstract and the concrete.

Freemasons labor in their own sort of quarries, raising and squaring good men who will, through the application of the working tools, be fitted as living stones for “that house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens.”

Freemasons labor in their own sort of quarries, raising and squaring good men who will, through the application of the working tools, be fitted as living stones for “that house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens.” This is a project – perhaps the central project of the Craft – that necessarily unites the quantitative and the qualitative; the abstract and the concrete; the operative and the speculative; and all manner of dyadic opposites.



In Part 3 of this series, we will move on to the third tier of the Tetraktys, consisting of three points, and examine its operative and speculative implications while showing how the Triad synthesizes the binary oppositions of the Dyad...

Fraternally,

Jaime Paul Lamb



Worshipful Master, Ascension Lodge No. 89
Author of “Approaching the Middle Chamber”

Oration at the George Washington Masonic Memorial by Grand Orator Antonio Lugo

Most Worshipful Grand Masters, Right Worshipful Brethren, Very Worshipful Brethren, Worshipful Brethren, Officers, all brethren, and, distinguished Masonic family members from all jurisdictions alike.....

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!”

Psalm 133 instructs us as brothers of such a distinctive and heavenly craft we are operating under the special instruction from our ancestors from the ineffable. To perform acts of benevolence and moral rectitude, as these measures reflect the lessons found in our Volumes of Sacred Laws among all men.

May we, gathered here today as Freemasons, working in this one-of-a-kind quarry and lodge, the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, take a moment to reflect. Here we dwell within a Landmark, American Freemasonry’s homage to our beloved nation’s first president George Washington and the moral standard of freedom and truth.

Allow ourselves to be immersed into a moment in time in American history and take a brief yet precise view of Arizona’s Masonic History in 1923. Most Worshipful Brother Louis Gwaltney Moyers presided. During his period in office as the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Arizona, new lodges arose and were granted their charters, such as Silver Trowel Number 29, Pinal Number 30, and Peoria Lodge Number 31. While these charters were authorized at the 40th proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Arizona, these groups marked the greatest amount of lodges constituted in the history of Arizona Masonry in one year at that time, lending to the growth of Arizona commerce, expansion, and migration of business to the Southwestern region.

Please ponder the historical implications at hand. During the early 1920s Arizona as a state experienced a time of infrastructural expansion and development. Many Arizona Freemasons, did not begin their Masonic journey in the state of Arizona, however, once establishing themselves and traveling from far and wide to our state to bring their businesses along with them, these brethren lent firmly to the ideal of expansion, working together in unison and harmony among men and brothers as well.

While reading the historical proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Arizona starting from 1918, and leading up to 1923, one is reminded of familiar subject matter and concerns which all of Masonry should concern itself with until these present times. Masonic Study Clubs requested the

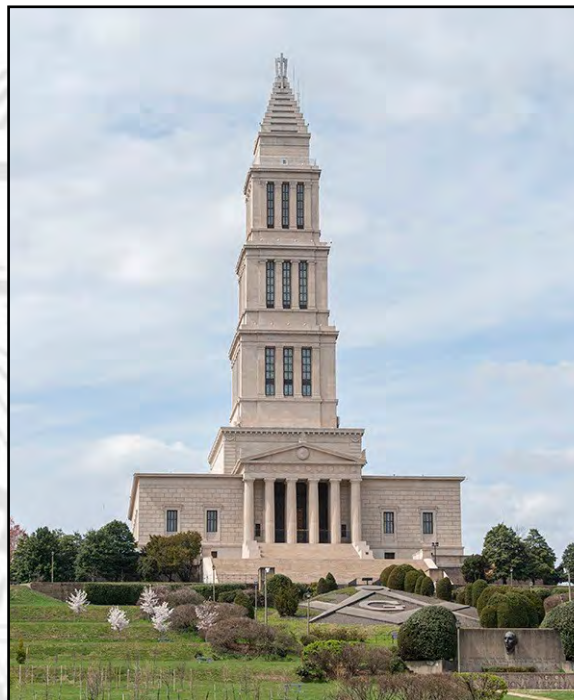


Photo by Bro. Shawn Eyer, Director of Education,
George Washington Masonic National Memorial

purview and guidance of the Grand Lodge, Masonic Education being avowed as one of the very cornerstones of our time-honored institution. Giving outlines as to the expectations and wishes with a firm focus on ritual, Masonic education, and receiving occasional publications distributed to brethren who awarded their time to participating, deemed “Willing Workers.”

A pivotal need to establish Arizona Freemasonry as a hub for charity in all communities of Arizona was expressed. The cable tow was extended with an appeal for assistance for Men Blinded in Battle, relief in the interest of children was described as a cause “that should strike a responsive chord in every Mason’s breast. Relief of suffering humanity and particularly little children is a duty we cannot ignore.”

On February 13th, 1923, arrangements for the Arizona Grand Lodge representation to be present at the cornerstone dedication for the George Washington Masonic National Memorial dedication were mentioned as of the utmost importance by our Most Worshipful Grand Master. The significance of such a monumental Masonic ceremony and cornerstone was stressed in addition to the proposal of donating funds to The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association.

Oration at the George Washington Masonic Memorial by Grand Orator Antonio Lugo

Fast forward to our present Masonic era. With the devout and heartfelt leadership of our Grand Master of Masons in Arizona Most Worshipful Jim H. Baker, Arizona Freemasonry continues to grow and build upon the tradition of Freemasonry of spreading devotion and amity between brethren from all walks of life and backgrounds while focusing and improving on the character of the man. Most Worshipful Brother Jim Baker's rallying call for this masonic year is "Together we build, Celebrating the Diversity of Freemasons in Arizona". Our Most Worshipful Brother states very clearly "Masonry unites men of every country, sect, and opinion and causes a true friendship to exist among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance."

When we reflect on how Arizona has grown in numbers, commerce, and the influx of people from all over the country to the state, one may visualize the growth and landscape of our beloved state reflected in the evolution of the craft.

"Let your heart feel for the afflictions and distresses of every one, and let your hand give in proportion to your purse...."

.....George Washington

At this time Ritual and Lodge Education remain of the uttermost importance with the Arizona Grand Lodge utilizing nine District Deputy Grand Lecturers & twenty-four District Deputy Grand Masters. Our Lecturers have been focused on facilitating classes and coursework properly titled "Schools of Instruction" These sessions use our Ritual and Monitor to instill the lessons and landmarks of the craft to fortify the hearts and minds of our brothers and future leaders. In addition to teaching proper Masonic ritual etiquette, floor and rod work, to ensure appropriate procedures are intact for each one of our candidates to absorb the full initiative experience while teaching them how to apply the teachings of Freemasonry to their everyday lives. Our Deputy Grand Masters preside over multiple districts and govern multiple lodges ensuring each lodge within their oversight operates under the customs usage rules and regulations of the Masonic Constitution and Statutes of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Arizona.

Our continued philanthropy carries on with a multitude of programs designed and implemented to help the community and those in need of our assistance. The Masonic Charities of Arizona, established in 1981 is a non-profit charitable organization, operating under the laws of the State of Arizona. Each member of the board of directors is appointed by the Grand Master to serve three-year terms. Not only do these directors serve voluntarily and receive no compensation for their services, but they travel far and wide alongside presiding lodge masters to over thirty charities statewide. These charities range from Soldier's Best Friend which provides service animals to veterans afflicted with PTSD, and the Arizona Association for Foster & Adoptive Parents which provides financial aid, as well as clothing and networking opportunities to assist foster parents to not only support the endearing act of adopting foster children but help to cultivate a positive and enduring childhood growth experience for these children. All of this is in the addition to contributing to the Shriners Hospitals of America, and The Knight Templar Eye Foundation which accommodates those who need surgical treatment for their loss of sight.

May we not forget the implementation of the GCARE program, to assist Arizona residents, Arizona Masonry has committed to helping those who are in need by being committed to aiding those afflicted with chronic illness and lending a helping financial hand with the high cost of medical care and co-pays.

Under the attentiveness and guidance of our fair, just, and genuine leadership, Arizona Freemasonry will continue into the next one hundred years deploying into service the tenets found in the hearts of all Masons, brotherly love, relief, and truth and abiding very strictly to have faith, remain full of hope in all of our integral endeavors, and always to remain steadfast and provide charity.

We appreciate your time and the opportunity to be present today.

Antonio Lugo

Grand Orator
Arizona F. & A.M.
2022-2023



The Pythagorean Tetraktys

Part Three: The Plane

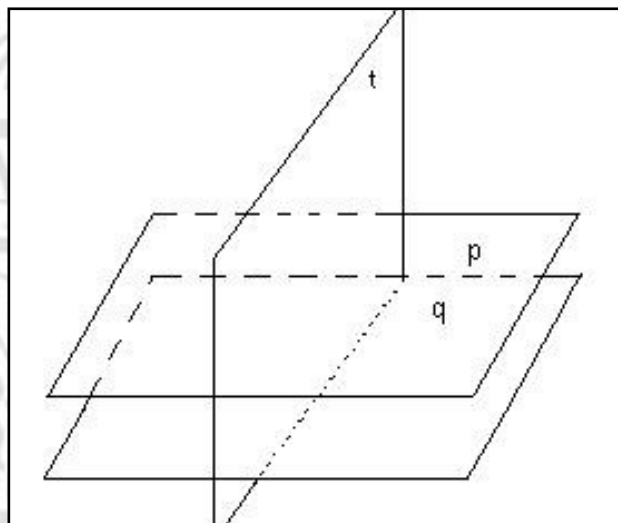
In part two of this series, we continued a four-part series on the Tetraktys of the Pythagoreans (a model illustrating the organization of space through the emanations of the Grand Geometer: from a point, to a line, to a superficies and, finally, to a solid) and its significance, in both the geometrical (operative) and metaphysical (speculative) senses. We began by examining the point, which issues from the first, or top tier of the great Tetraktys, and noted how this position (for it is more of a place than a thing) symbolizes God, the Monad and the individual Mason. We next considered the line, which is a straight segment connecting two points and is denoted by the second tier of the Tetraktys. We then discussed how the line represents the Dyad, in the Pythagorean tradition. In this installment, we will move on to the third 'Tetraktyan' emanation: the plane, or superficies.

The Plane

Geometrically, a plane is described as a flat, Euclidean, two-dimensional surface, or superficies. If a third point is positioned anywhere in relation to the two points of the line (other than on their axis), a plane is constructed. The simplest plane consists of three points, therefore representing the Triad.

As we have previously mentioned, the quantitative and the qualitative exist in harmony in the Pythagorean worldview. That is to say that numbers are not merely seen as counting integers but as archetypal concentrations, pregnant with 'meta-numerical' meaning. The number three is at once a quantity *and* a quality.

According to Pythagorean number symbolism, the Triad is the oldest and 'first born' number because the equilateral triangle (which consists of three points) is the first polygon to emerge from the *vesica piscis*. They also noted that the number three is the only number that is equal to the sum of the two preceding numbers.



To the Pythagoreans, the Triad was considered perfect (consisting of a beginning, a middle and an end; a past, a present and a future; a youth, a manhood and an old age) and symbolized proportion, harmony and perfection.

Numbers are not merely seen as counting integers but as archetypal concentrations pregnant with “meta-numerical” meaning.

The Operative and Speculative Denominations

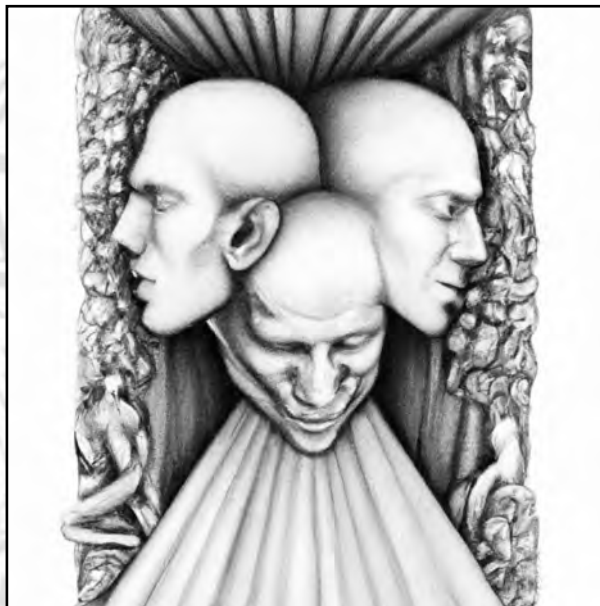
As we've been establishing in this series of articles, the Pythagorean marriage of the quantifiable and the qualifiable is reminiscent of the operative and speculative denominations of the Craft. The operative stonemason is engaged in the erection of the physical temple; whereas the speculative Freemason is concerned with the building of a metaphysical Temple. This is mirrored in the Pythagorean approach to number, which also had both an operative and speculative component.

As we consider the three points that form a plane from a symbolic and meta-numerical.....

Tetraktys: The Plane (cont'd)

perspective, we are reminded of both the Neoplatonic and Christian Hypostases. According to the philosophical doctrines of the Neoplatonists, the higher spiritual principles were stratified into the hypostasis of the One, the Intellect and the Soul, as laid out in the work of Plotinus. This model was adopted and modified in Christian theology as the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

Speculatively, or metaphysically, we encounter this triadic distinction in what has been called the “triune nature of man.” This doctrine differentiates the body, mind and spirit as being distinct components of being. In ancient Greek philosophy, we see this triad in the soma, psyche and pneuma (Latin: corpus, anima and spiritus). The body is, of course, the physical vessel; the mind is the numinous product of the brain, consciousness and thought; and the spirit is the animating life principle, seat of the emotions and character.



“The Triune nature of man” as perceived
by AI Image generator artssy.co

In the next and last article in this series, we will move on to the fourth and final tier of the Tetraktys, consisting of four points, and examine its operative and speculative implications while showing how the Tetrad symbolizes the final phase of the Pythagorean cosmogony...

The triune nature of man refers to the idea that humans consist of three distinct components or aspects: body, soul, and spirit.

.....ChatGPT Artificial Intelligence

This triad also has a correlative in alchemical theory. Paracelsus, in his *Liber Paragranum* (1565), was looking for an alternative to the humoral theory which was popular in the medicine of his day; he came up with what is known as the *Tria Prima* (“three primes”): salt, sulphur and mercury. Salt corresponds to the body; sulphur to the soul; and mercury to the spirit.

Fraternally,

Jaime Paul Lamb

Worshipful Master, Ascension Lodge No. 89
Author of “Approaching the Middle Chamber”



A conversation with Artificial Intelligence

These questions were typed into the ChatGPT Interface and the following answers were returned.

Q: What is Freemasonry?

ChatGPT: Freemasonry is a fraternal organization that traces its origins to the local fraternities of stonemasons, which from the end of the fourteenth century regulated the qualifications of stonemasons and their interactions with authorities and clients. Freemasonry as it is known today emerged in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in Great Britain and continental Europe, when lodges began to admit non-operative members who were interested in the moral, intellectual, and social values of the fraternity.

Freemasonry is based on a system of moral and allegorical teachings, often expressed in symbolic terms, that are intended to promote personal growth, ethical behavior, and social responsibility. Its members are organized in lodges, which are autonomous and self-governing bodies that follow a common set of principles and ceremonies. Freemasonry is non-political and non-religious, and its members come from a wide range of social, cultural, and religious backgrounds.

Freemasonry has had a significant impact on Western culture and history, and has been associated with many famous individuals, including George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Mozart, and Winston Churchill. Freemasonry continues to be active today, with millions of members around the world, and it is known for its charitable activities, educational programs, and community service projects.

Q: Is Freemasonry a religion

GhatGPT: No, Freemasonry is not a religion. Freemasonry is a fraternal organization that is based on a system of moral and allegorical teachings, which are intended to promote personal growth, ethical behavior, and social responsibility. While Freemasonry requires its members to believe in a Supreme Being, it does not promote any particular religion or religious doctrine, and it does not require its members to adhere to any specific religious practices or rituals.

Freemasonry welcomes members of all religions, and it encourages its members to be tolerant and respectful of other people's beliefs and opinions. In fact, one of the core values of Freemasonry is the belief in the importance of freedom of thought and expression, which means that members are free to hold their own religious beliefs and opinions without fear of persecution or discrimination.

Overall, Freemasonry is a fraternity that emphasizes the

importance of moral and ethical values, rather than religious doctrine, and it welcomes members of all faiths and backgrounds.

Q: Is Freemasonry an esoteric organization?

GhatGPT: Freemasonry has elements of esotericism, but it is not primarily an esoteric organization. Esotericism refers to the study and exploration of hidden or secret knowledge, particularly relating to spirituality, mysticism, and the occult. While Freemasonry does use symbolic language and ritual practices that have esoteric elements, its primary focus is on moral and ethical teachings, personal growth, and social responsibility.

Some of the symbols and practices used in Freemasonry have esoteric origins, but they are used in a symbolic way to convey moral and ethical lessons. For example, the square and compasses, which are often used as symbols of Freemasonry, have esoteric meanings in various traditions, but in Freemasonry, they are used to represent the importance of moral and ethical behavior and the need to act with integrity in one's personal and professional life.

Overall, while Freemasonry does incorporate some esoteric elements, it is primarily focused on promoting moral and ethical values, rather than exploring hidden or secret knowledge.

Q: Are Freemasons also the Illuminati?

GhatGPT: No, Freemasons and the Illuminati are not the same thing, and there is no evidence to suggest that they are related in any way. The Illuminati was a secret society that was active in Bavaria, Germany, in the late 18th century. The group was founded by Adam Weishaupt, a professor of law, and its members were dedicated to promoting Enlightenment ideals such as reason, science, and human rights. The Illuminati was disbanded in 1785, and there is no evidence to suggest that it survived beyond that time.

Freemasonry, on the other hand, is a fraternal organization that has been in existence for centuries and is still active today. While Freemasonry has been the subject of various conspiracy theories, there is no evidence to support the claim that it is connected to the Illuminati or any other secret society. Freemasonry is a non-political, non-religious organization that is dedicated to promoting personal growth, ethical behavior, and social responsibility through its moral and allegorical teachings.

A conversation with Artificial Intelligence (cont'd)

Complete Questions and Answers in a conversation with ChatGPT

Q: Describe the third degree of Freemasonry

The third degree of Freemasonry is often called the Master Mason degree and is the highest degree in the Blue Lodge. It is a dramatic and powerful ceremony that represents the culmination of the Masonic journey and is considered the most important degree in Freemasonry.

During the third degree ceremony, the candidate is symbolically representing Hiram Abiff, a legendary figure from the building of Solomon's Temple. The candidate undergoes a series of trials and challenges, which test their character and commitment to the principles of Freemasonry. The ritual emphasizes the importance of moral and ethical values, and the need to act with integrity and honor in all aspects of life.

The central theme of the third degree is the pursuit of knowledge and the idea that true wisdom comes from a deep understanding of the mysteries of the universe. The ceremony also highlights the importance of brotherhood and mutual support among Masons, as well as the belief in the immortality of the soul and the continuation of life beyond death.

Overall, the third degree of Freemasonry is a powerful and moving ceremony that represents the culmination of the Masonic journey and emphasizes the importance of moral and ethical values, brotherhood, and the pursuit of knowledge. It is a significant and memorable experience for those who undergo it, and it serves as a reminder of the core values of Freemasonry.

Q: Who was Hiram Abiff?

ChatGPT: Hiram Abiff is a legendary figure in Freemasonry, and his story is central to the third degree ritual. According to Masonic legend, Hiram Abiff was a master craftsman who was responsible for overseeing the construction of King Solomon's Temple. Hiram Abiff was said to be highly skilled and had knowledge of the hidden or secret aspects of the craft of stonemasonry.

In the legend, Hiram Abiff is approached by three fellow craftsmen who demand that he reveal the secrets of the craft to them. Hiram Abiff refuses, and the three craftsmen attack him in an attempt to force him to reveal the secrets. Hiram Abiff is ultimately killed in the attack, and his body is buried in a shallow grave.

The legend of Hiram Abiff is used in Freemasonry as a sym-

bol of the importance of integrity, honor, and the pursuit of knowledge. The story is also seen as a metaphor for the pursuit of spiritual and moral enlightenment, and the need to remain true to one's values, even in the face of adversity.

It's worth noting that the story of Hiram Abiff is considered a legend or allegory in Freemasonry, and there is no historical evidence to support the existence of a real person named Hiram Abiff who oversaw the construction of King Solomon's Temple.

Q: Why do Freemasons wear tuxedos?

Freemasons do not typically wear tuxedos as part of their regular Masonic attire. However, some Masonic events and ceremonies may call for formal attire, and in these cases, Masons may wear a tuxedo or other formal dress.

In general, Masonic dress is relatively simple and understated. Masonic lodges typically require members to wear dark suits, white shirts, and black ties, along with Masonic aprons that are specific to their degree. The color and design of the apron vary depending on the Mason's rank and the particular lodge to which they belong.

In some cases, Masonic lodges may require or encourage members to wear a specific type of dress for certain events or ceremonies, such as a tuxedo for a formal banquet or awards ceremony. However, the wearing of a tuxedo is not a universal practice among Masons, and it is not a requirement for membership in the organization.

Overall, Masonic dress is generally simple and understated, and it is intended to emphasize the values of humility, modesty, and service to others, rather than personal style or fashion.

Q: Who was Hiram King of Tyre?

ChatGPT: Hiram I (also known as Hiram or Hiram King of Tyre) was a king of the city-state of Tyre in ancient Phoenicia (modern-day Lebanon) who reigned from around 969 to 936 BC. He was known for his wealth and power, as well as his support of King Solomon of Israel in the construction of the First Temple in Jerusalem. According to the Hebrew Bible, Hiram provided King Solomon with cedar and cypress wood from Lebanon, as well as skilled workers and craftsmen, to aid in the construction of the Temple. Hiram and King Solomon are said to have had a close relationship, with Hiram referring to Solomon as his "brother" and the two exchanging gifts and letters.

A conversation with Artificial Intelligence (cont'd)

Complete Questions and Answers in a conversation with ChatGPT

Q: What can Freemasonry do for me?

ChatGPT: Freemasonry is a fraternity that aims to make good men better by promoting personal growth, moral and intellectual development, and social responsibility. Joining Freemasonry can offer several benefits, including:

1. **Brotherhood and Fellowship:** Freemasonry provides an opportunity to form lifelong friendships with like-minded men who share similar values and beliefs. Members of the fraternity offer each other support, guidance, and encouragement.
2. **Personal Growth:** Freemasonry offers a structured system of moral and intellectual education, based on the teachings of the Craft, which encourages self-reflection, personal development, and the pursuit of knowledge.
3. **Community Service:** Freemasonry places a strong emphasis on community service and charitable giving. Members work together to support local and national causes, promoting social responsibility and making a positive impact in their communities.
4. **Networking Opportunities:** Freemasonry offers a vast network of members, both locally and globally, which can provide access to professional, social, and personal opportunities.
5. **History and Tradition:** Freemasonry has a rich history and tradition dating back hundreds of years. Joining the fraternity provides an opportunity to connect with this history and become part of an organization with a long-standing legacy.

It's important to note that joining Freemasonry is a personal decision and requires a commitment of time, effort, and financial resources. However, for those who are interested in pursuing personal growth, building strong relationships, and making a positive impact in their community, Freemasonry can be a fulfilling and rewarding experience.

Q: How do I become a Freemason?

ChatGPT: To become a Freemason, you must first express your interest in joining by reaching out to a local Masonic lodge in your area. Here are the general steps involved in becoming a Freemason:

1. **Find a local lodge:** Use online resources or local directories to find a Masonic lodge in your area. You can also reach out to the Grand Lodge of your state or country for information on lodges in your area.
2. **Contact the lodge:** Reach out to the lodge either by phone or email, expressing your interest in becoming a

member. A lodge member or secretary will typically follow up with you and provide information on the next steps.

3. **Submit an application:** If you decide to proceed, you will be asked to submit an application. The application typically includes basic personal information, such as your name, occupation, and contact information, and may require personal references.
4. **Attend an interview:** After submitting your application, you will typically be invited to attend an interview with members of the lodge. This is an opportunity for you to ask questions and for the lodge to learn more about you.
5. **Attend a ballot:** After the interview, the members of the lodge will vote on whether to accept you as a member. If the vote is positive, you will be invited to attend an initiation ceremony.
6. **Complete the initiation process:** The initiation process is a series of ceremonies and rituals that introduce you to the values, traditions, and teachings of Freemasonry. The process varies by lodge and jurisdiction, but typically involves a series of degree ceremonies.

It's important to note that becoming a Freemason requires a commitment of time, effort, and financial resources. Additionally, each jurisdiction may have different requirements for membership. It's important to speak with members of the lodge or Grand Lodge for more information on the specific requirements in your area.

Q: How old is Freemasonry?

ChatGPT: The origins of Freemasonry are not precisely known, as the organization emerged over a long period of time and evolved from various local fraternities of stonemasons. However, the earliest known references to "operative" or working Masons, who regulated the qualifications of stonemasons and their interactions with authorities and clients, date back to the late 14th century in England.

The modern form of Freemasonry, which admitted non-operative or "speculative" members who were interested in the moral, intellectual, and social values of the fraternity, emerged in the 17th and 18th centuries in Great Britain and continental Europe. The first Grand Lodge of Freemasonry was established in London in 1717, which marked the beginning of organized Freemasonry as it is known today.

Grand Lodge of Arizona F. & A. M.

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Most Worshipful Grand Master Jim Baker (9)

Deputy Grand Master George Rusk (20,75)

Senior Grand Warden Michael A. Dale (17)

Junior Grand Warden Leigh J. Creighton (4)

Senior Grand Deacon Roger C. Biede III (9)

Junior Grand Deacon Eric D. Dupree (86)

Senior Grand Steward David A. Sahady (1)

Junior Grand Steward James Xie (43)

Grand Secretary Gregory A. Vasquez (15)

Grand Treasurer Ronald W. Richards (32,41,89)

Deputy Grand Secretary James R. Leppert (85)

Grand Treasurer Emeritus Michael N. McGee (50)

Deputy Grand Secretary James W. Rowan (43)

Grand Secretary Emeritus George H. Stabelin Sr. (15)

Grand Secretary Emeritus Wilbur E. Robertson (20)

Grand Lecturer John W. Welsch (7, 14)

Grand Chaplain Michael D. Valecourt (16,43)

Grand Orator Antonio L. Lugo (31)

Grand Marshall Adam B. Pitman (30)

Grand Editor Robert(Bo) F. Buchanan III (2)

Grand Bible Bearer John B. Brooks (70)

Grand Pursivant Wayne S. Thatcher (42)

Grand Standard Bearer Yosef B. Acosta (5,53)

Grand Organist Gordon Stevenson (20)

Grand Tyler (pictured) Bryan Sawyer (22)

Grand Sword Bearer Michael L. Fluty (5,53)

Grand Tyler (present) Eric Smith (9)

Grand Counsel Ricard L. Brooks (85)

Grand Photographer G. Allen Nichols (43,85)

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