

The Four Cardinal Virtues

By Frater David Kampschafer IV Grade

August 27, 2023
Los Altos, CA



The 4 Cardinal Virtues

The Cornerstones of Freemasonry



The Four Cardinal Virtues

We are a Fraternity of Builders

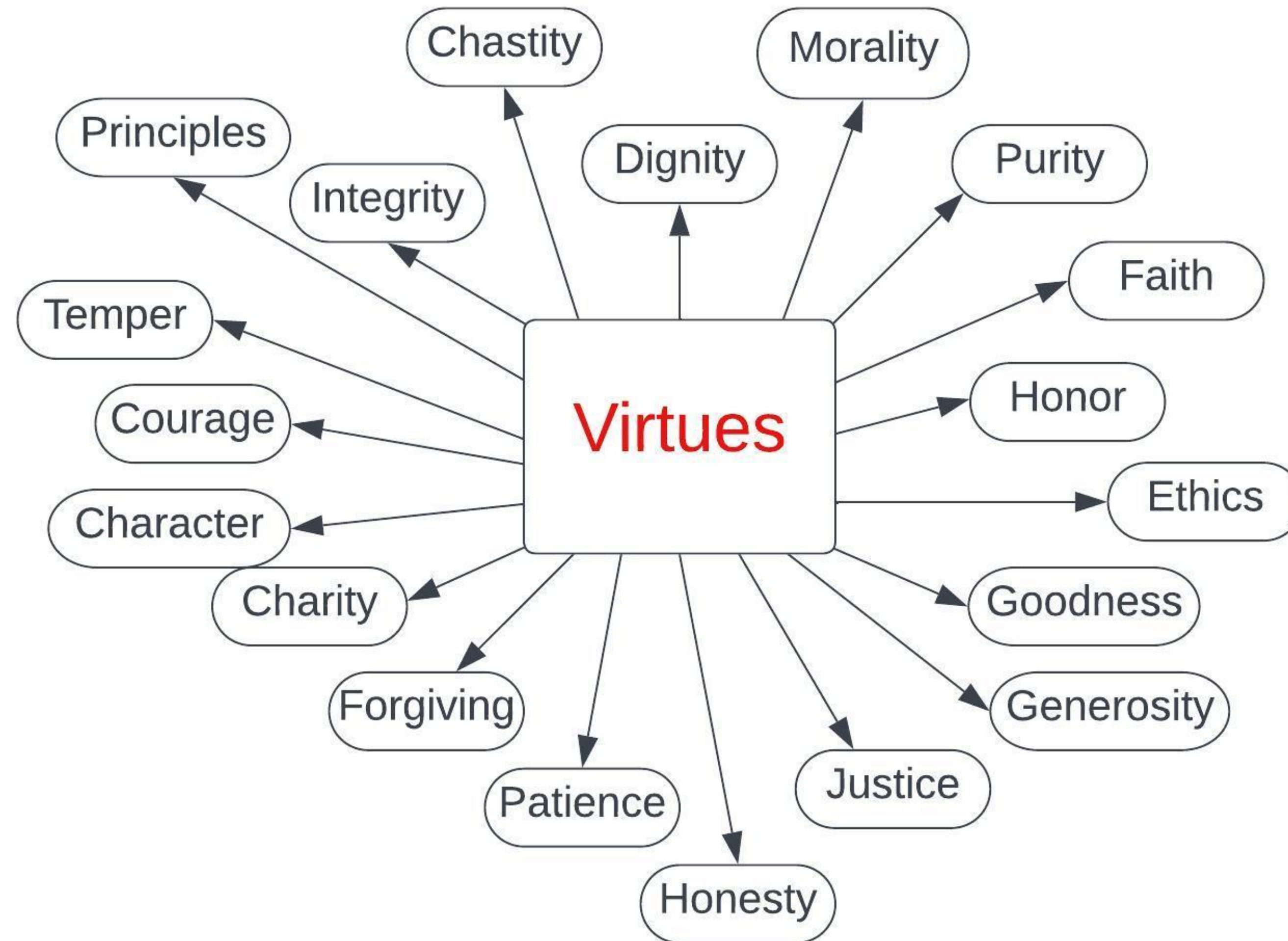
The Four Cardinal Virtues



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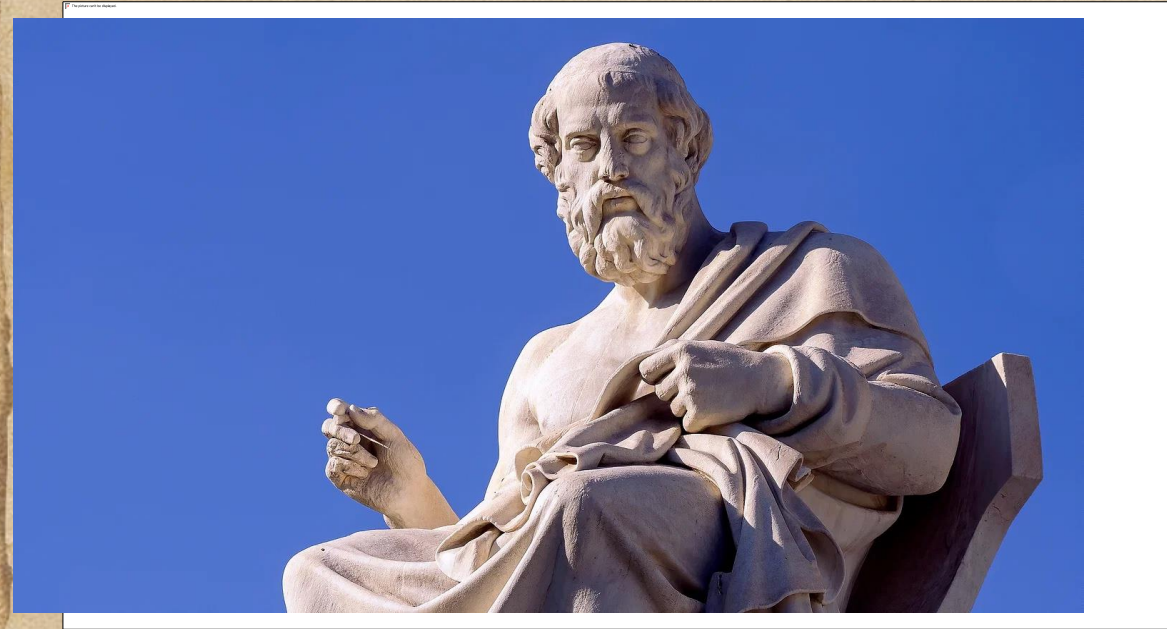
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The Four Cardinal Virtues



They were identified by the Greek philosopher Plato
As the necessary character traits of a good man

by other ancient authors such as The Roman
philosopher and statesman Stoic Cicero.



They were also defined by 4th-century theologian Ambrose
as "prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance."



The Four Cardinal Virtues



388AD Saint Augustine of Hippo

The Four Cardinal Virtues

יהי אחריות מן שם עבד
יהיה אמר יהוה אל יהושע
בטוב מן שם עבד
בטוב מן שם עבד

Jewish Book of Wisdom

The Four Cardinal Virtues

Let us dive deeper in to these Four Virtues

Prudence



Is the virtue that guides us by

- setting rules
- setting measures on our actions
- directing our conduct
- being careful about your choices
- stopping and thinking before acting
- It is the strength to of restraint

in accordance with our conscience, or Self-reflection.

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Justice



Justice is the virtue that reminds us

- to behave fairly when dealing with another person
- to ensure that each do the necessary work
- for the betterment of society.
- people are to be treated impartially
- people are to be treated fairly
- people are to be treated properly
- people are to be treated reasonably by the law.

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Fortitude



Fortitude or Courage

is the choice and willingness

- to confront agony,
- to confront pain,
- to confront danger,
- to confront uncertainty,
- or to confront intimidation.

Valor is courage or bravery, especially in battle.

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Temperance



in its modern use is defined as **moderation** or voluntary self-restraint.^[1]

This includes;

- restraint from revenge,
- restraint from arrogance,
- restraint from excesses, and
- restraint from rage or craving

by the practice of calmness and self-control.

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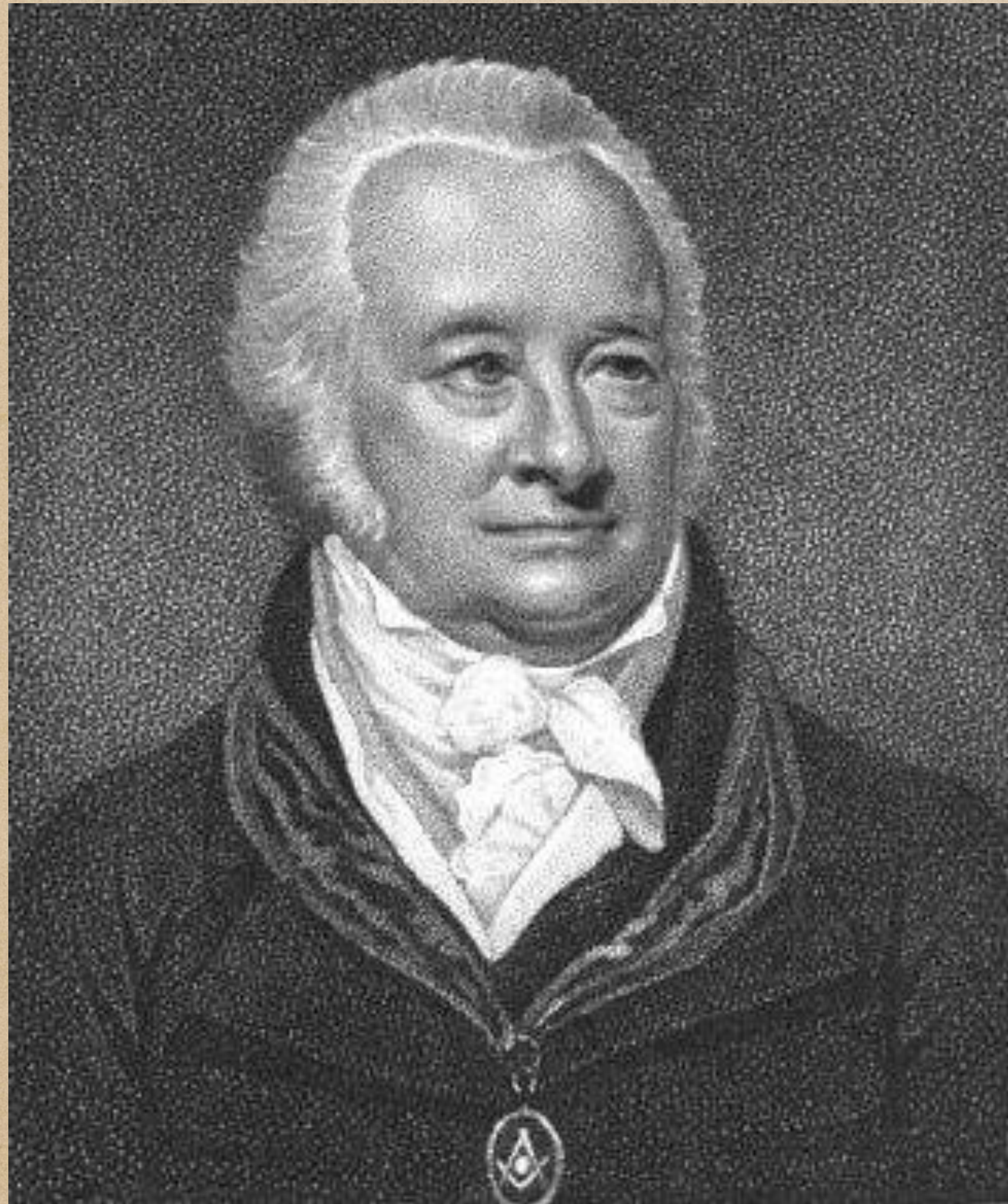
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Freemasonry

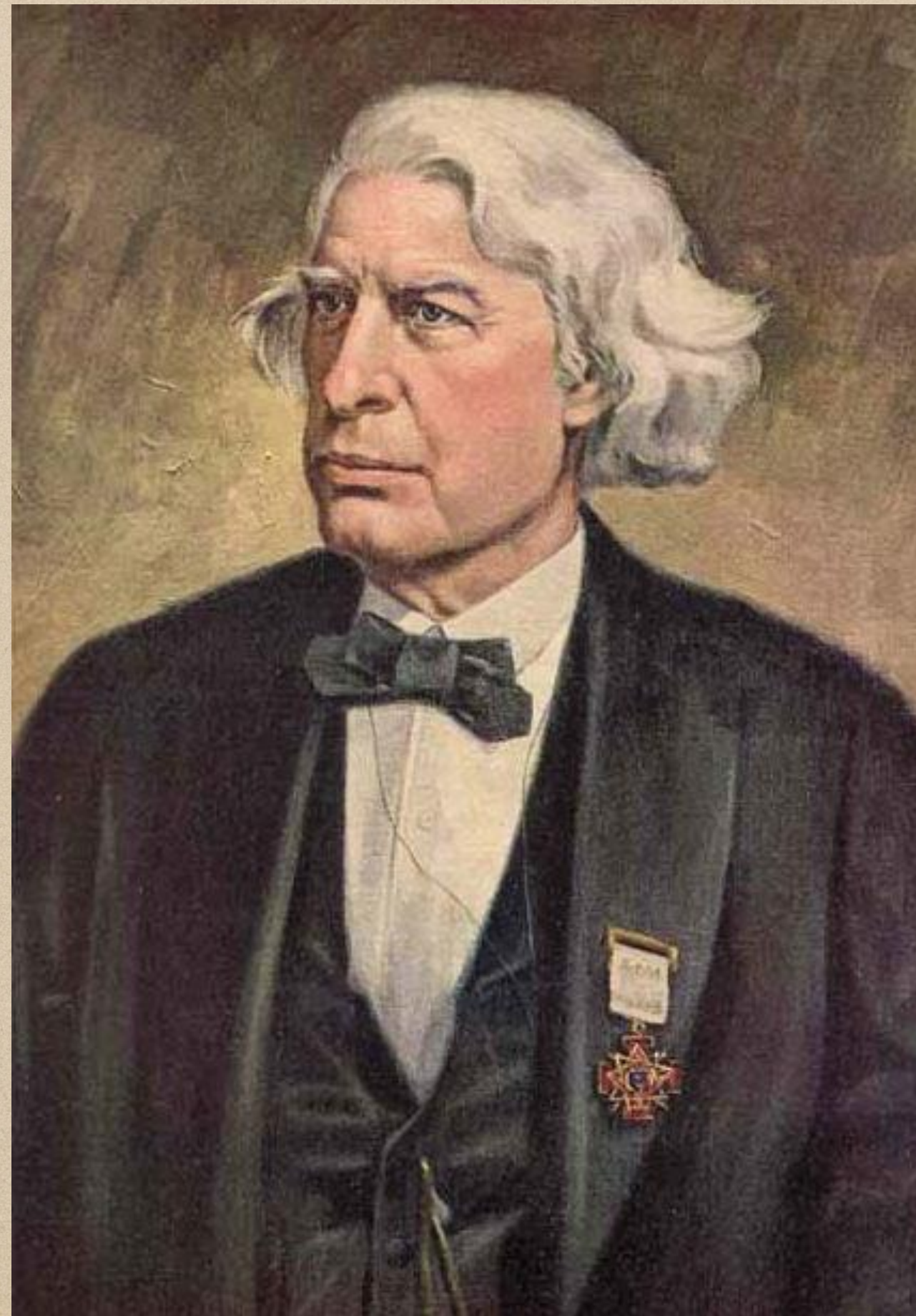


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William Preston first introduced them into the Degree as referring to what was then, and long before had been called the Four Principal Signs, but which are now known as the Perfect Points of Entrance

The Four Cardinal Virtues



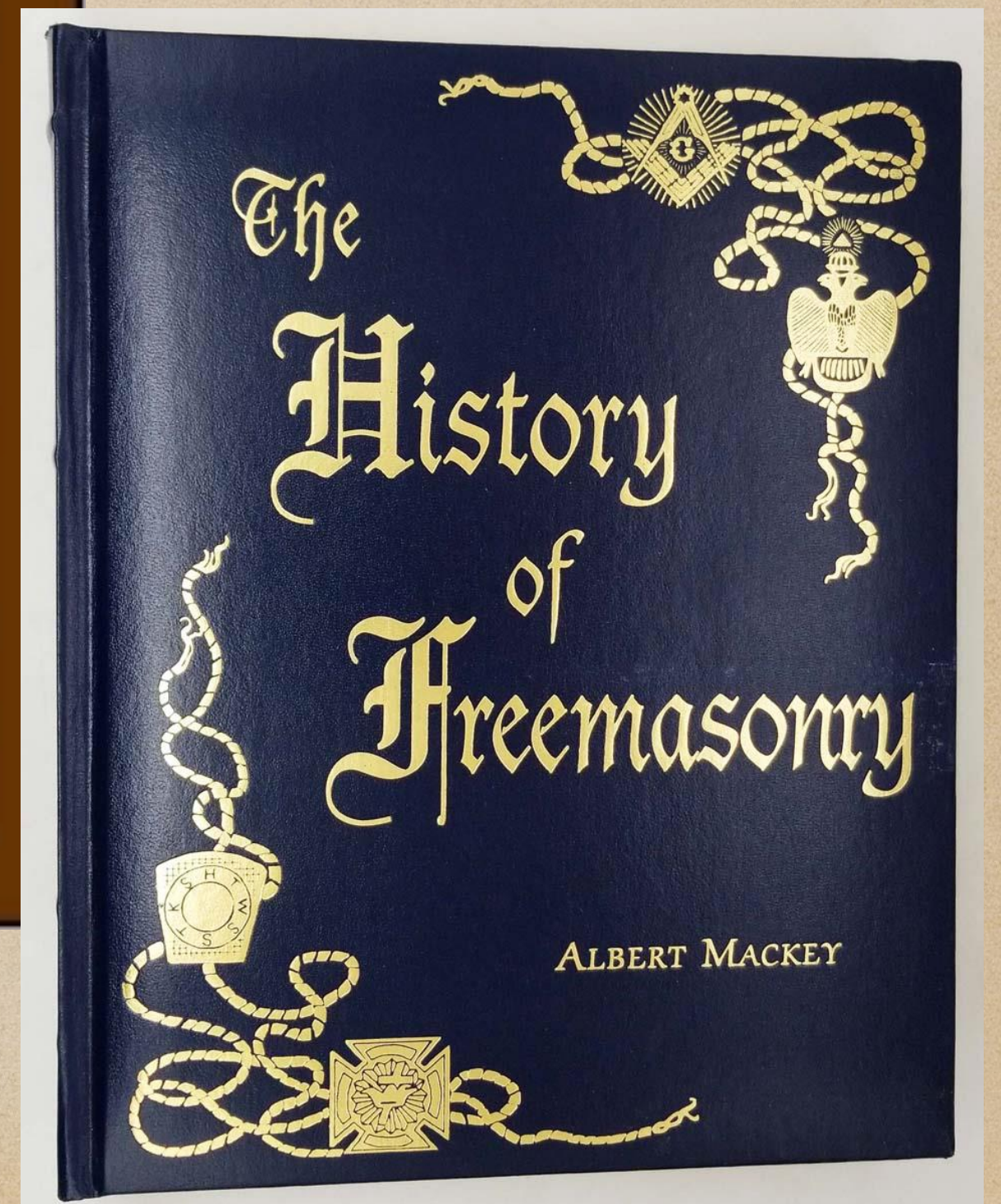
Albert Mackey, M.D.

The Symbolism of Freemasonry:

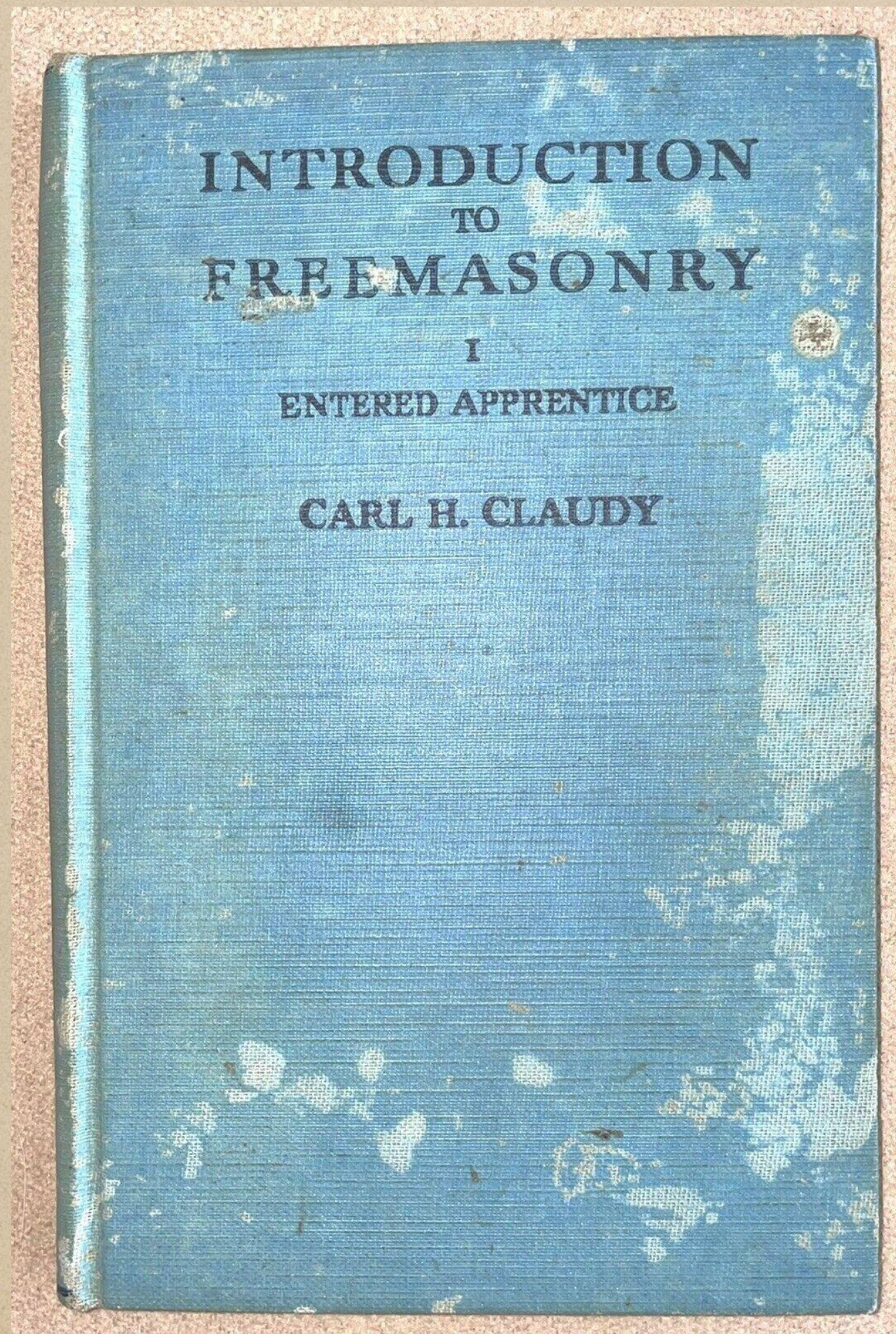
Illustrating and Explaining
Its Science and Philosophy, its
Legends, Myths and Symbols



Albert G. Mackey, M.D.



The Four Cardinal Virtues



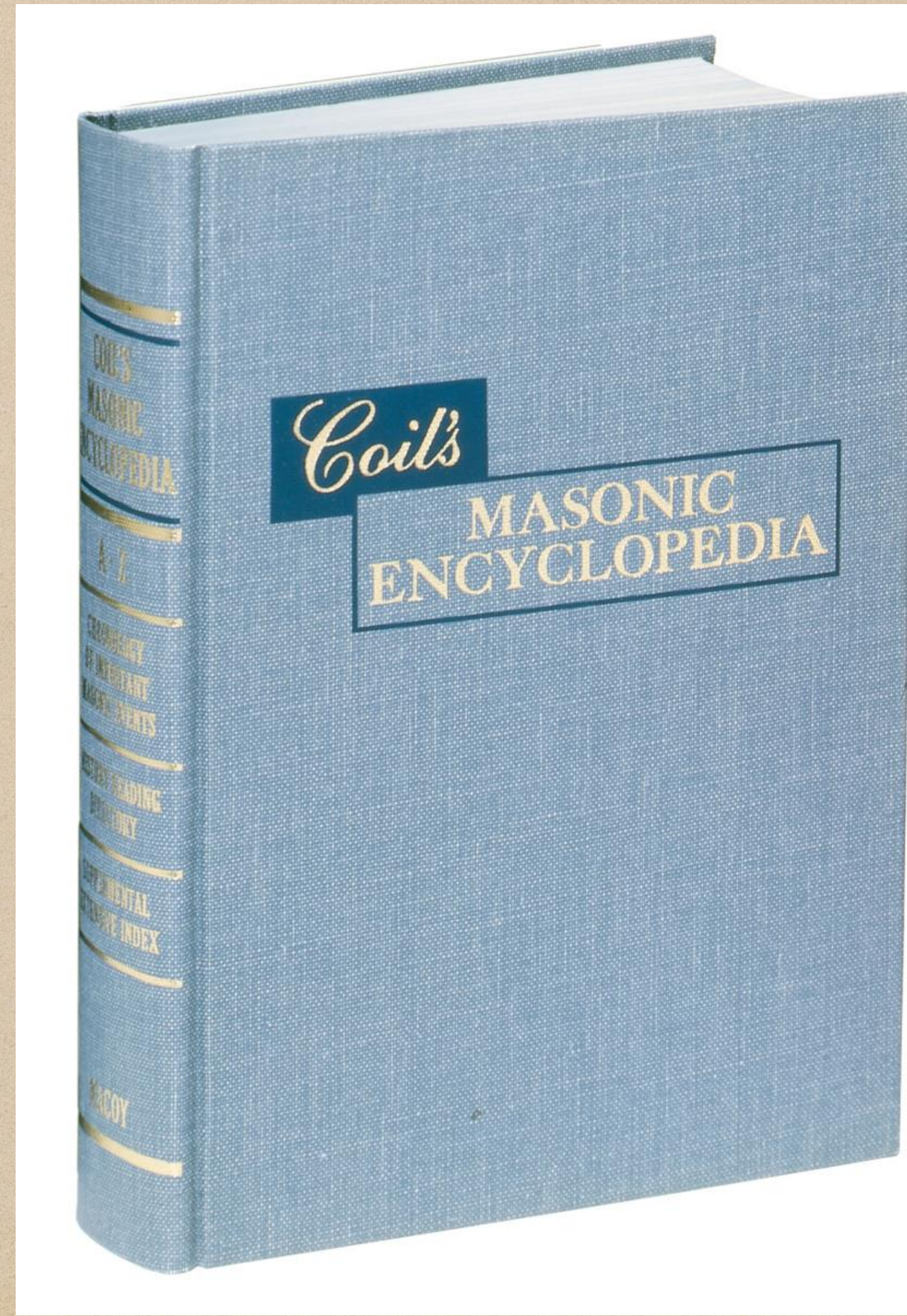
According to "An Introduction to Freemasonry,"

Freemasonry is defined as an organized society of men symbolically applying the principles of operative Masonry and architecture to the science and art of character building.

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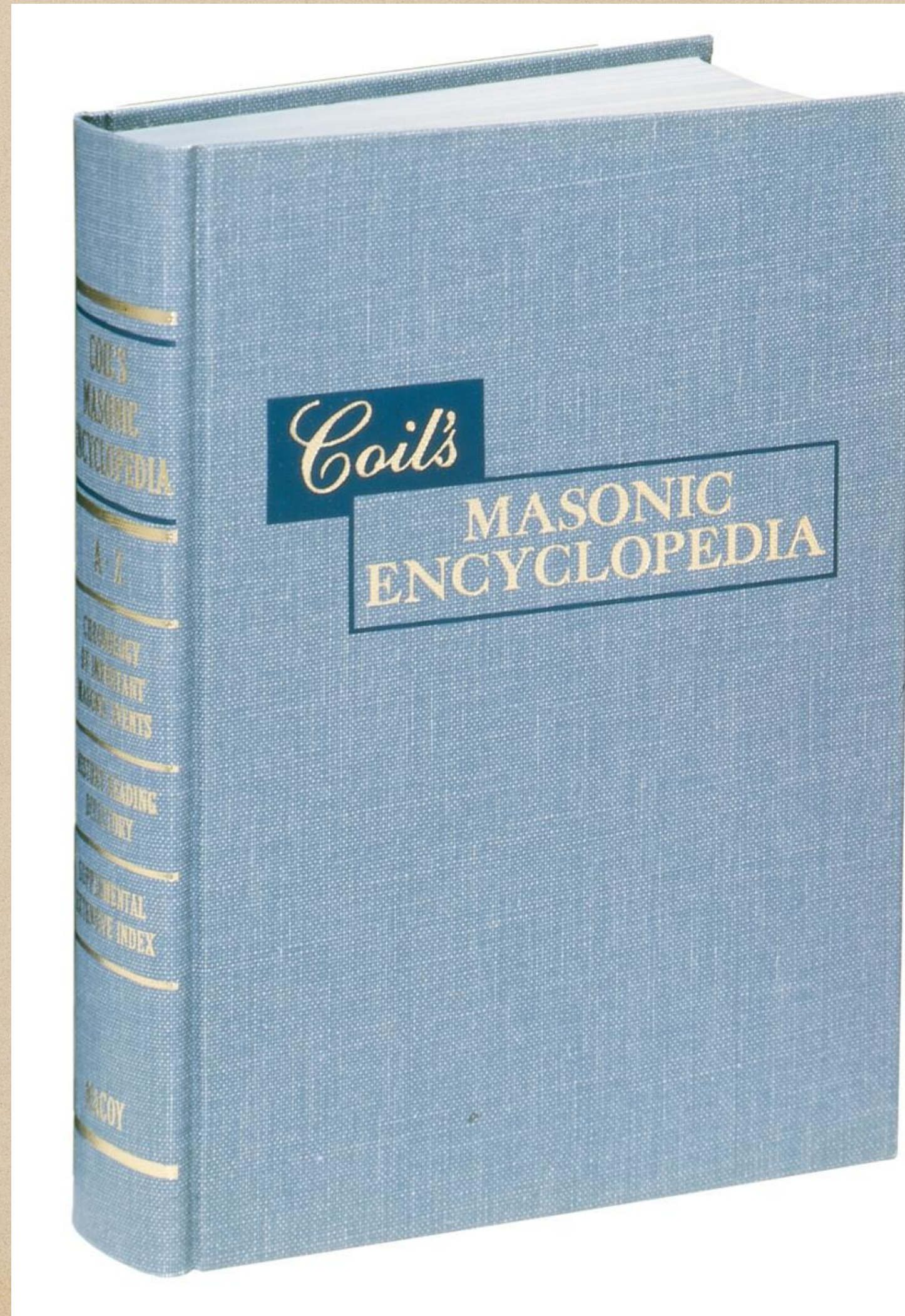
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The Four Cardinal Virtues

Faith, Hope & Charity
the three graces



The Four Cardinal Virtues

So why are the Four Cardinal Virtues the cornerstones
of Freemasonry?

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What are you willing to die for?



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What good things are you willing to give up to attain what is better?



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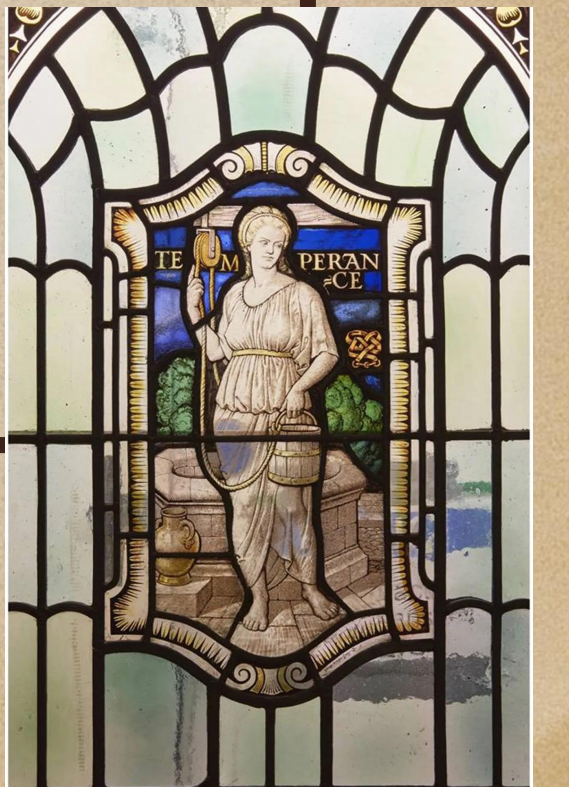
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Simply put,

That by applying the principles of the
Four Cardinal Virtues to our Masonic life,
it will make us better people in our life overall.

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Q & A