

Ciphers Cards and Cubes
Hermeneutics and Symbolism in Free Masonry
In Two Parts
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May 22, 2022

Ciphers Cards and Cubes

Hermeneutics and Symbolism in Free Masonry

In Two Parts



*“Who kindly sets a wand’rer on his way
Does e’en as if he lit another’s lamp by his:
No less shines his, when he his friends hath lit.”*

Cicero, On Duties, Book I, xvi.



DIALOGO
D I
GALILEO GALILEI LINCEO
 MATEMATICO SOPRAORDINARIO
 DELLO STVDIO DI PISA.
E Filosofo, e Matematico primario del
 SERENISSIMO
GR.DVCA DI TOSCANA.

*Doue ne i congressi di quattro giornate si discorre
 sopra i due*

MASSIMI SISTEMI DEL MONDO
TOLEMAICO, E COPERNICANO;

*Proponendo indeterminatamente le ragioni Filosofiche, e Naturali
 tanto per l'una, quanto per l'altra parte.*

CON PRI



VILEGI.

IN FIORENZA, Per Gio:Batista Landini MDCXXXII.

CON LICENZA DE' SUPERIORI.

*"To apply oneself to great inventions, starting from the smallest beginnings,
 and to judge that wonderful arts lie hidden behind trivial and childish things is not for ordinary minds;
 these are concepts and ideas for superhuman souls."*

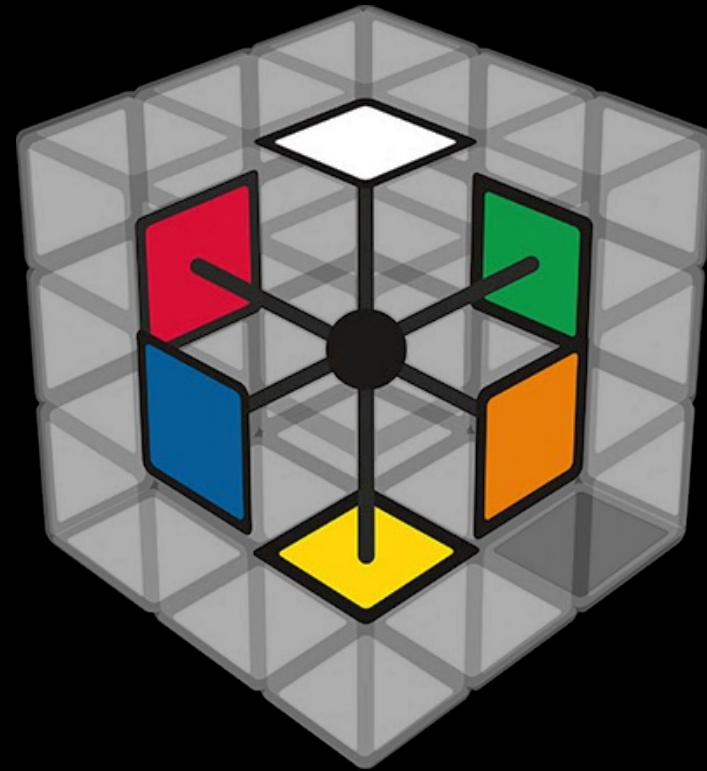
Galileo, *Dialogue Concerning Two Chief World Systems*, 1632

The Rough Ashlar

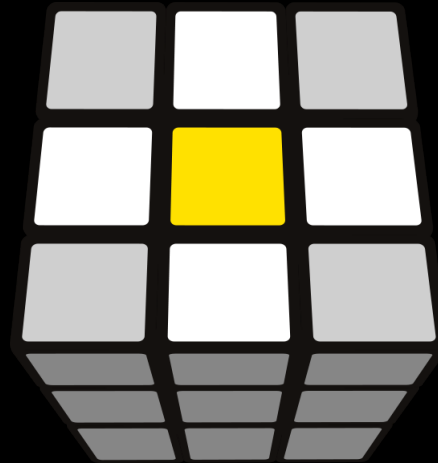
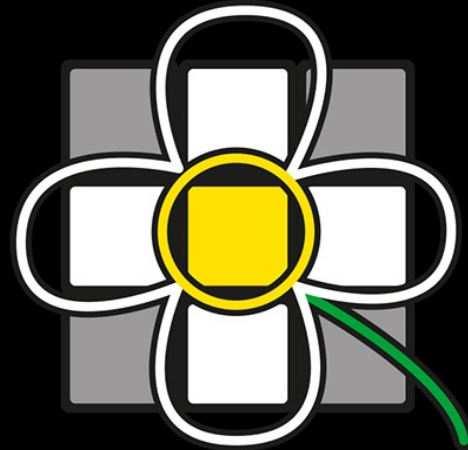
Masonic Mystery, Murk and Mess

*"And the light shineth in darkness;
and the darkness comprehended it not."*

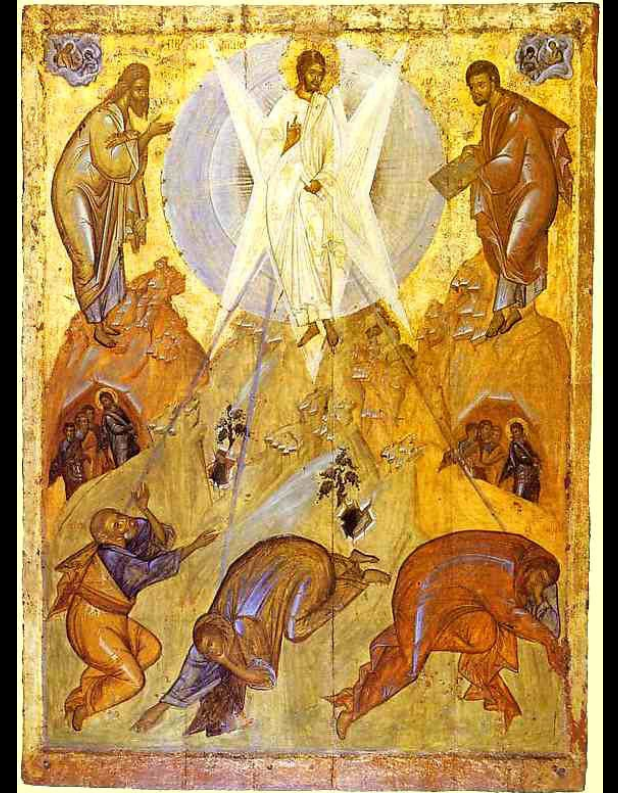
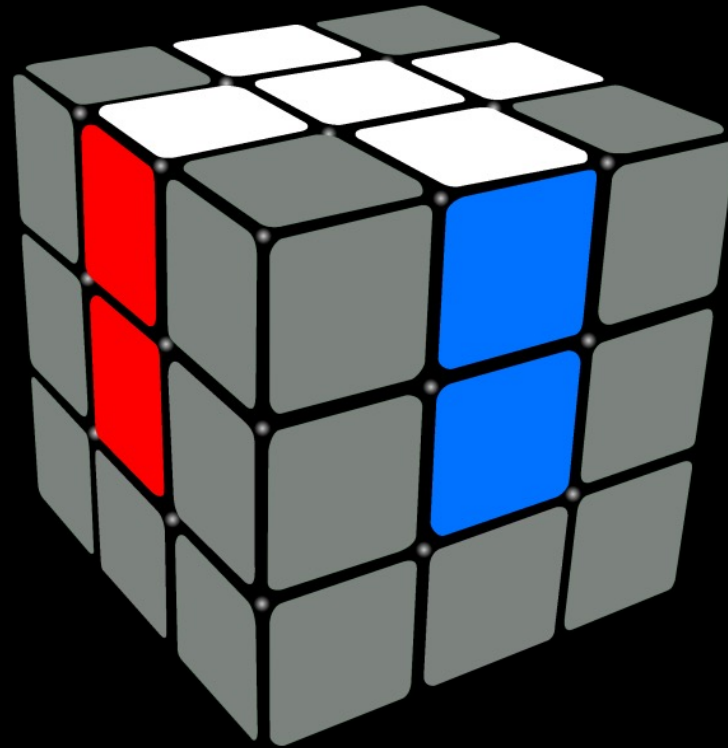
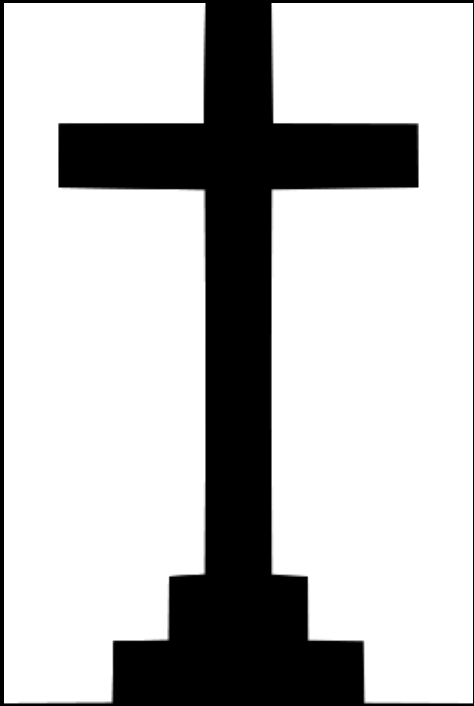
The Gospel According to Saint John, 1:5



The Daisy - "Days Eye" *"The Sun"*

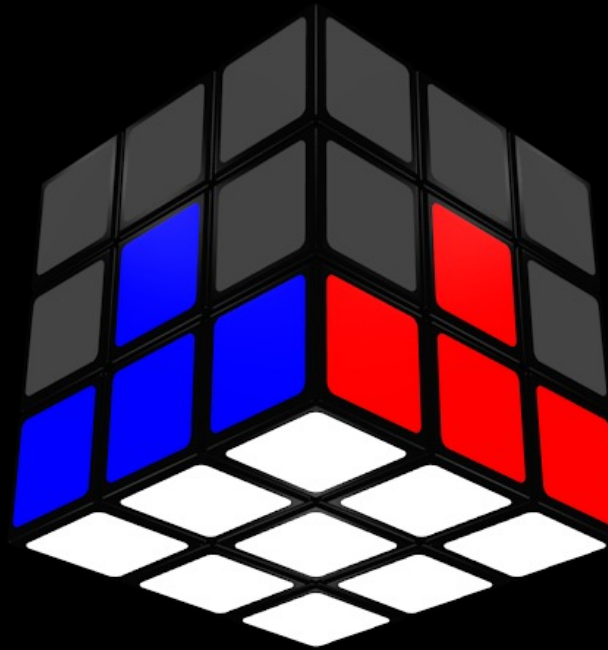
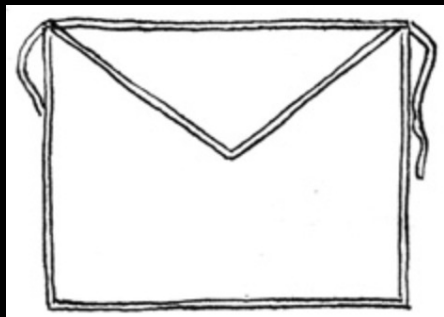
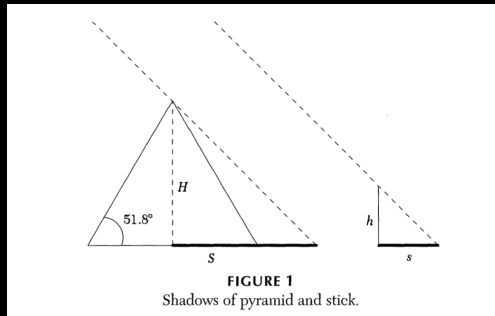
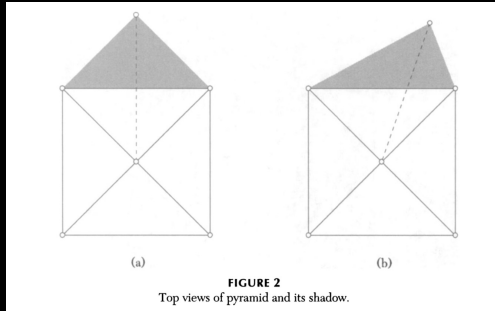


The Cross
"The Son"



The First Step

A Pure Faith



"And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked;

and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."

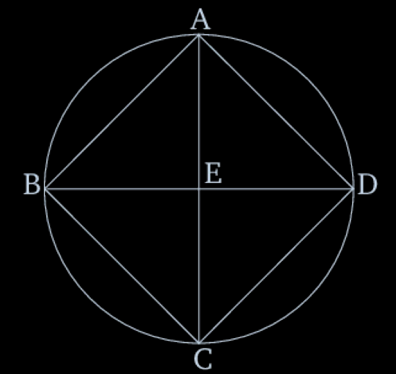
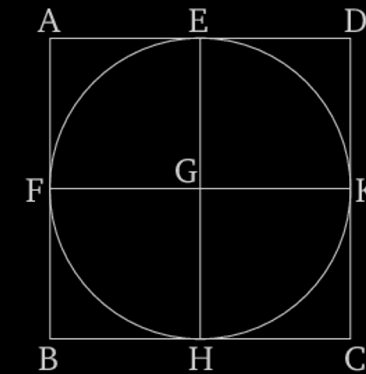
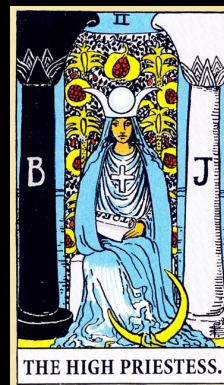
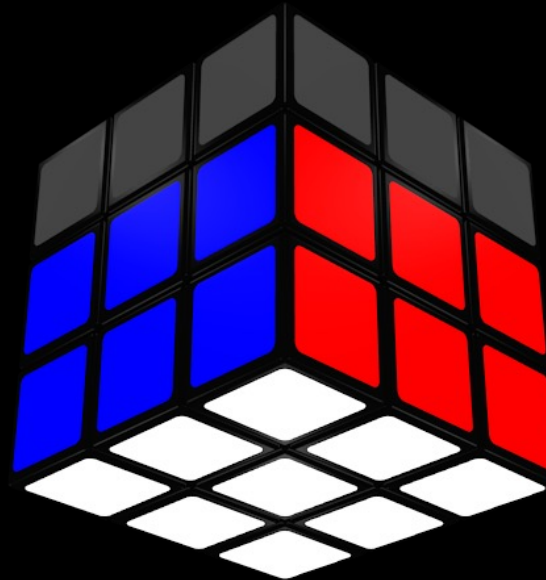
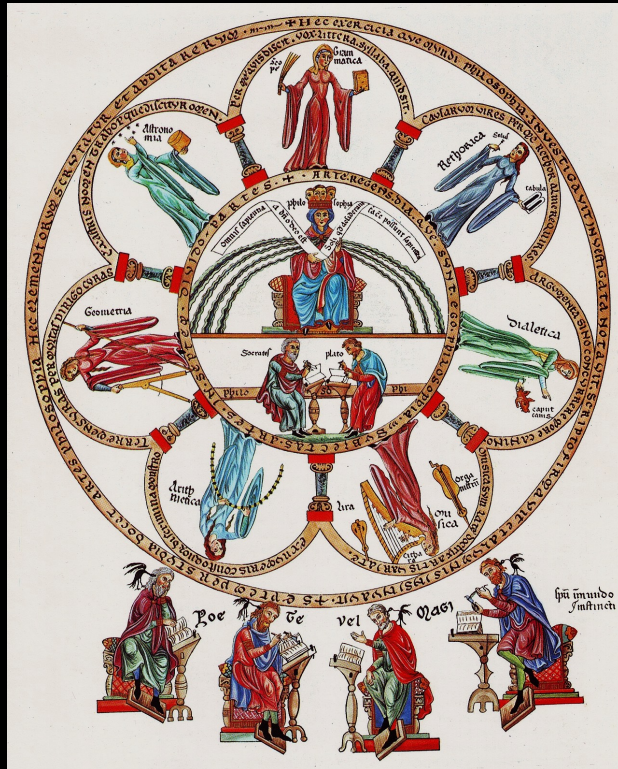
Genesis 3:7

"Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment:"

Psalms 104

The Second Step

Faith inspired Work



Charity
Hope
Faith

Justice
Prudence
Fortitude
Temperance

Astronomy
Music
Geometry

Arithmetic
Logic
Rhetoric
Grammar

The Square, Level and Plumb



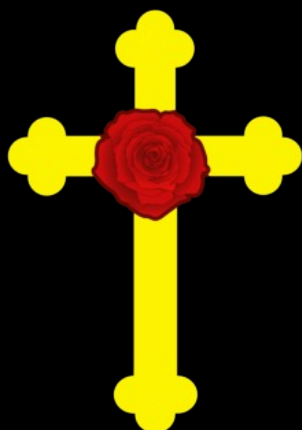
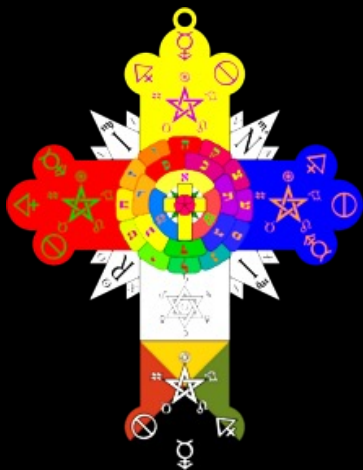
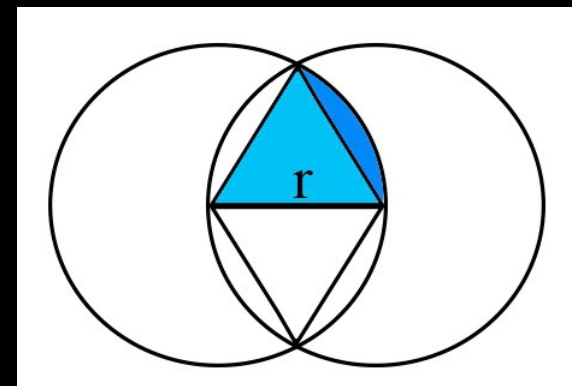
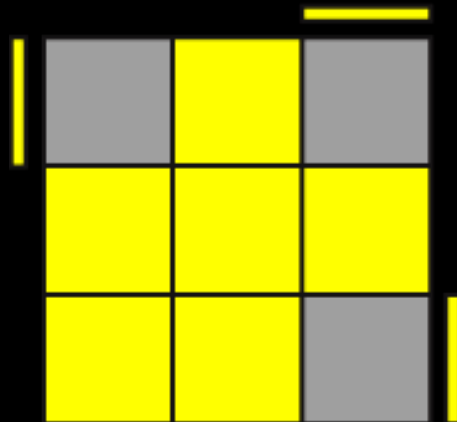
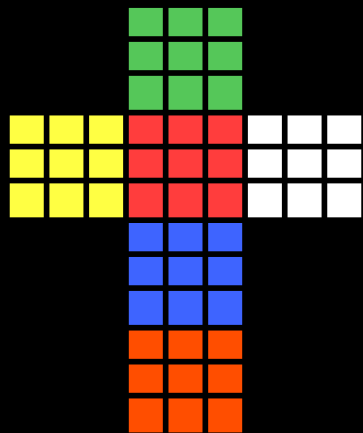
“The Square teaches us to regulate our actions by rule and line...”

The Level demonstrates that we are descended from the same stock...

The Plumb admonishes to walk upright...”

William Preston, Illustrations of Masonry 1812 Edition.

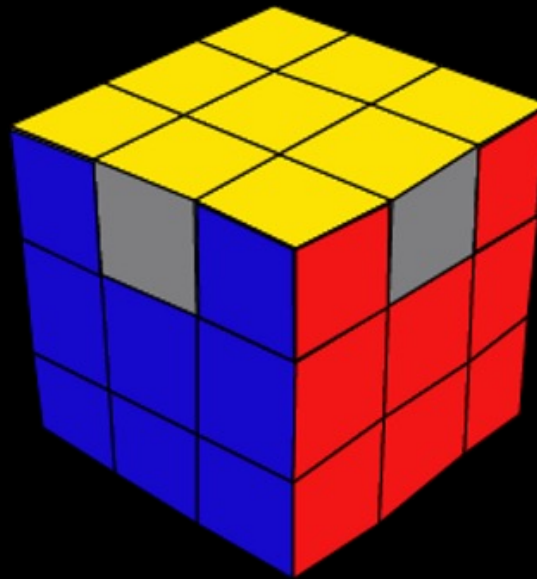
The Golden Cross and The Fish



High Council S.R.I.C.
Instituted: 1877 | Reconstituted: June 29, 1997
"Post 120 Annos Patebo"

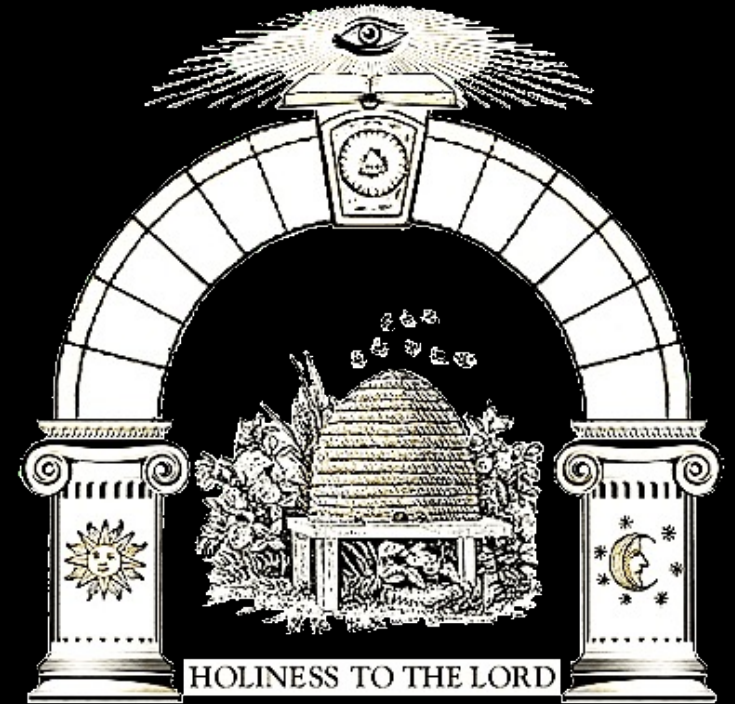
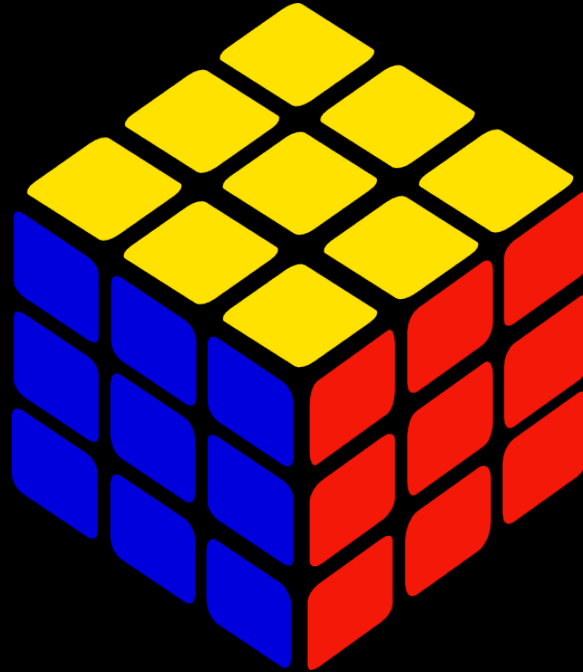
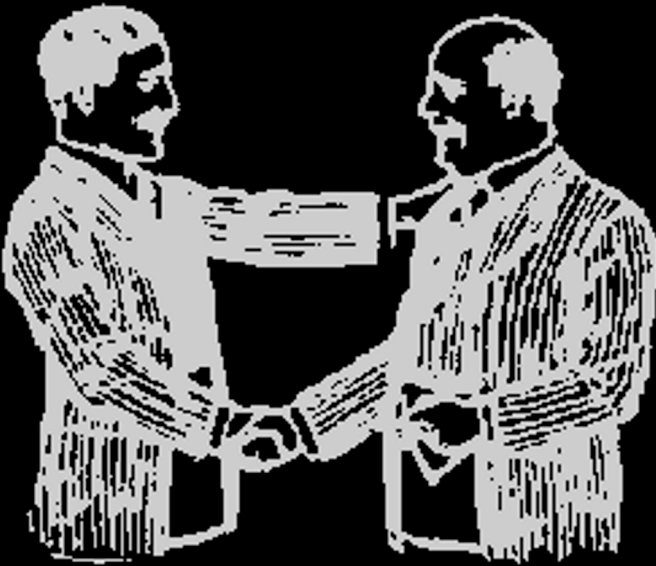
The Blazing Star of our “Solar” system

A Star in the East, true Wise men Follow



TELOS – The Perfected Ashlar

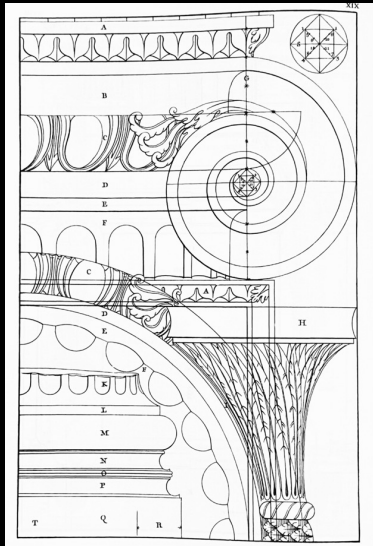
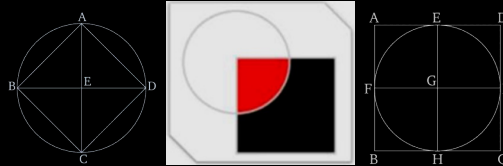
Good Work makes way for **Charity**



“A Virtuous Education, Our own Endeavors and the Blessing of God”

"The Marriage of Heaven and Earth"

"There is no portion of the earths surface that I could not describe from memory"
The Marriage of Philology and Mercury, Pg. 220



"Their principal use, besides serving as maps to distinguish the outward parts of the earth, and the situation of the fixed stars, is to illustrate and explain the phenomena arising from the annual revolution, and the diurnal rotation of the earth round its own axis."

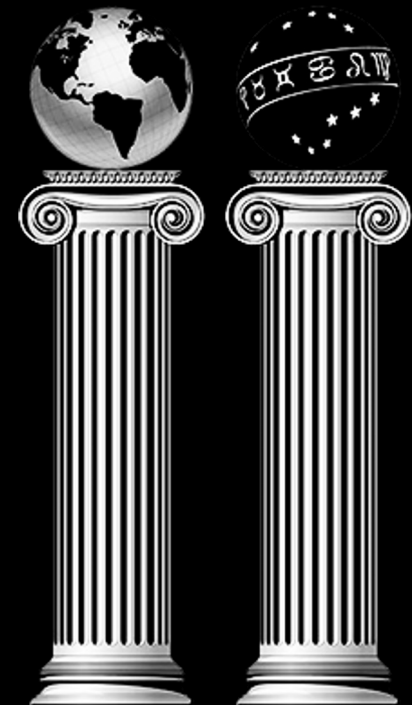
"They are the noblest instruments for giving the most distinct idea of any problem or proposition, as well as for enabling us to solve it.."

William Preston, Illustrations of Masonry 1812 Edition.

"To earth, then, let us assign the cubical form; for earth is the most immoveable of the four and the most plastic of all bodies, and that which has the most stable bases must of necessity be of such a nature."

"For as the universe is in the form of a sphere, all the extremities, being equidistant from the centre, are equally extremities, and the centre, which is equidistant from them, is equally to be regarded as the opposite of them all."

Timaeus, Plato: Collected Dialogues



Paradox to Possibility

"It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones"
Proverbs 3, "Using Wisdom"

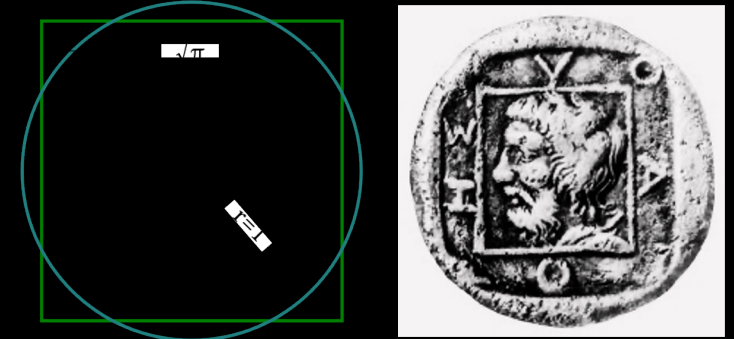
"It is during this time that the first surviving portraits of Pythagoras appear in Abdera, a Greek Coastal City near Thrace. On different silver coins, from about 430BC, the same man is represented, his head framed by short wavy hair. He has a prominent nose and high cheek bones, and he wears a short wavy beard. The representation of a philosopher on silver coins at this moment in history is stunning. It may well be the first time a philosopher was chosen for representation on Greek coinage, an event, at the very least, extremely rare at this time.

More important, perhaps, is how he is represented. Framed by a (four-sided) square, his head centered in the circular chape of the coin. Although imagined in three dimensions, the coin with its two-dimensional language suggests the cube (of the earth) inscribed within the sphere (of the universe), one of the earliest known Pythagorean teachings believed to have originated with the master himself.

Christine L. Joost-Gaugier
Measuring Heaven, Pg. 248

"The problems were irresistible to mathematicians. For 2000 years, many of the major mathematical developments were directly or indirectly related to these problems."

David Richeson
Tales of Impossibility Pg. 4



What is Free Masonry?

*"...in the great **book** of nature and revelation..."*

*"But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word kept **in store**, reserved unto fire against the day of judgement and perdition of ungodly men."*

2 Peter 3:7

"For the Bible is not chained in every expression to conditions as strict as those which govern all physical effects; nor is God any less excellently revealed in Nature's actions than in the sacred statements of the Bible."

Perhaps this is what Tertullian meant by these words:

"We conclude that God is known first through Nature, and then again, more particularly, by doctrine, by Nature in His works, and by doctrine in His revealed word."

Letter from Galileo to the Grand Duchess Christina of Tuscany (1615)

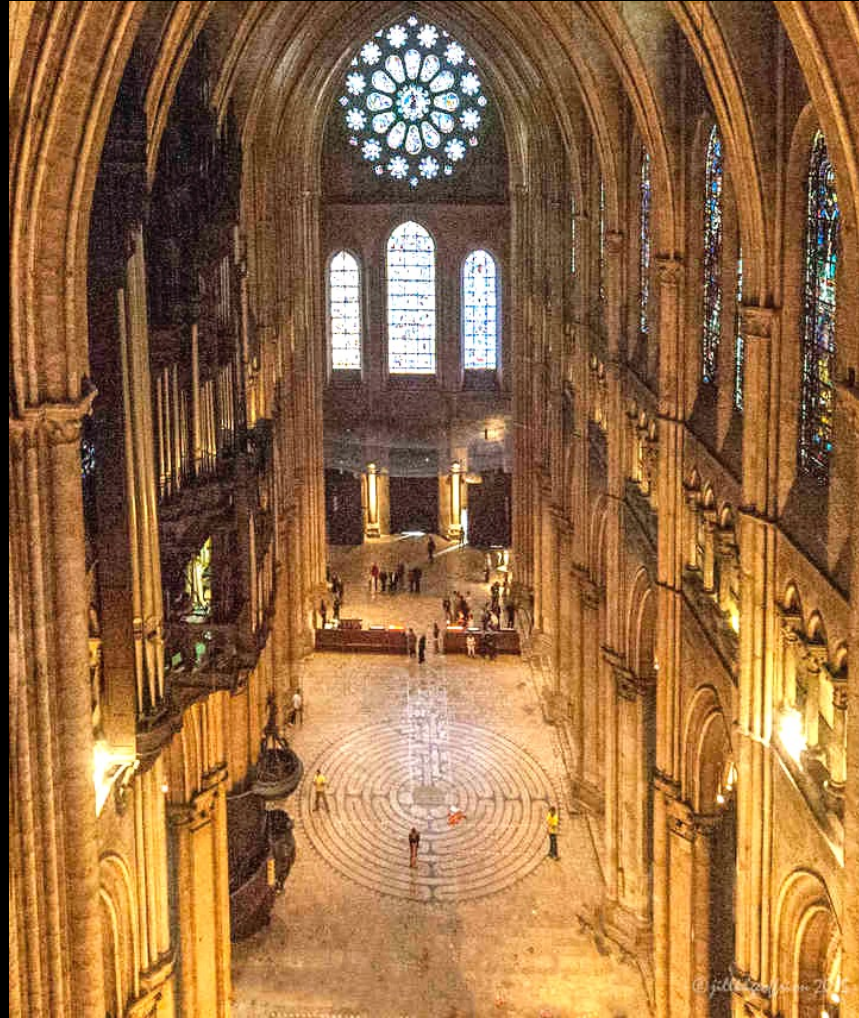
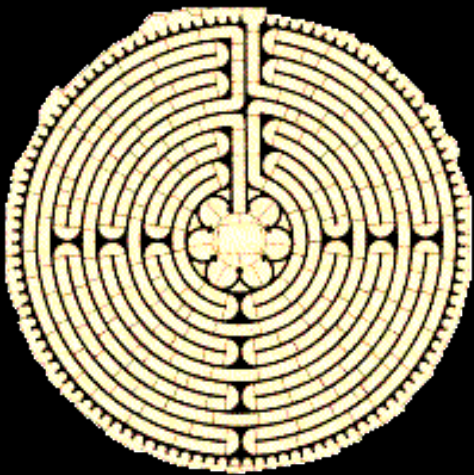
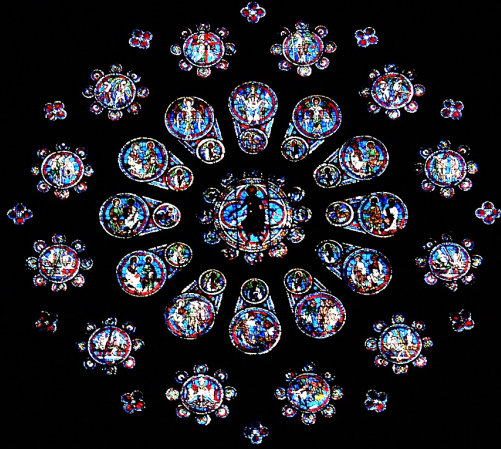
"The progress of knowledge and philosophy, aided by divine revelation, having enlightened the minds of men with the knowledge of the true God, and the sacred tenets of the christian faith, masons have readily acquiesced in a religion so wisely calculated to make men happy."

ILLUSTRATIONS OF MASONRY BY WILLIAM PRESTON, Twelfth Edition 1812

Freemasonry is,
A (**Peculiar**) system of **Christian** morality
Veiled in (**Platonist**) **Philosophical** allegory
And illustrated by (**Pythagorean**) **Geometric** symbols

“The Book of Nature and Revelation”

*“It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter.”
Proverbs 25:2*

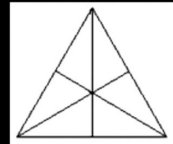
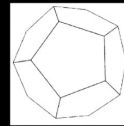
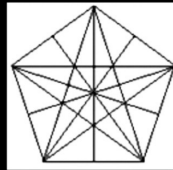
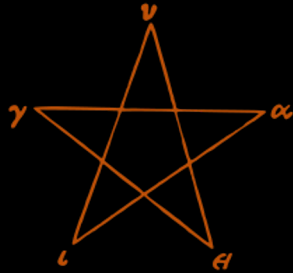
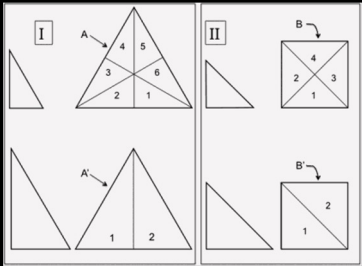


“This concept of unfolding or unveiling was particularly developed by the ‘Platonizing’ school of Chartres.”

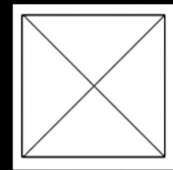
Robin Waterfield
The Theology of Arithmetic, Pg.12

Fiery Spirits in an Earthen Tomb

"The Mosaic pavement, The indented Tessel and the Blazing Star"



FIRE



EARTH



Tetrahedron
Fire



Cube
Earth

"This figure is referred to Pythagoras himself, and in the middle ages was called 'Pythagorae figura'.

It is said to have obtained its special name from his having written the letters [Y, Γ, Ι, Θ, Α] at its prominent vertices"

George Allman

Greek Geometry from Thales to Euclid Pg. 183 n. 66 (1877-1885)

"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

Genesis, 2:7

"Wherefore also God in the beginning of creation made the body of the universe to consist of fire and earth.

But two things cannot be rightly put together without a third; there must be some bond of union between them."

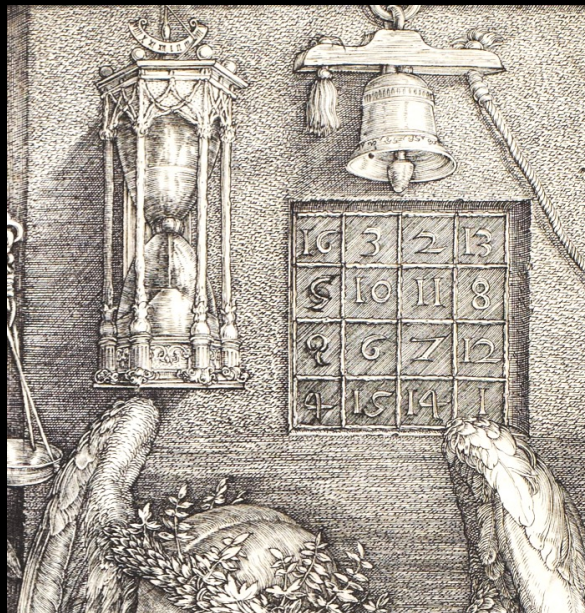
Timaeus, Plato: Collected Dialogues

The Beam of Balance

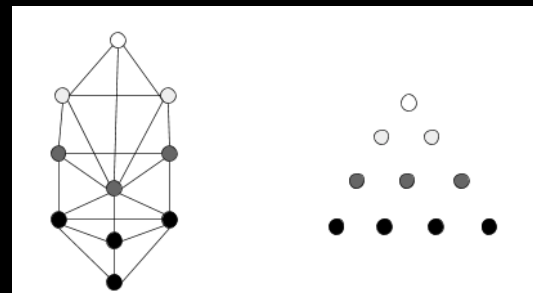
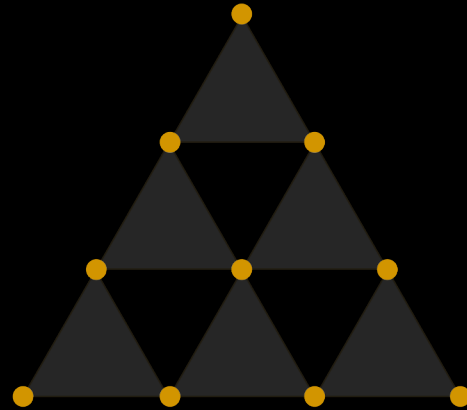
Limiting Factors for Limitless Possibilities

4	9	2
3	5	7
8	1	6

The Magic Square of Saturn



Melencolia I By Albrecht Durer



1. 4. 7.
2. 5. 8.
3. 6. 9.

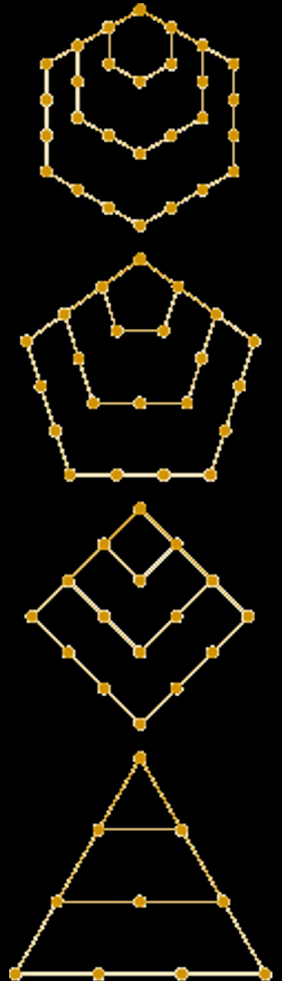
For here, as in the middle of the beam of a balance, 5 does not depart from the line of the equilibrium, while one scale is raised, and the other is depressed.

The Life of Pythagoras, by Iamblichus
Translated by Thomas Taylor

"Figurate numbers as well as a majority of classes of special numbers have a long and rich history .

They were introduced in [the] Pythagorean school (VI-th century BC) as an attempt to connect Geometry and Arithmetic. Pythagoras, following their credo "all is number", considered any positive integer as a set of points on plane."

Michel and Elena Deza, "Figurate Numbers" 2012



Cultural Literacy and Architectonic Comprehension

...a progressive *moral science*...



"The man of science must work with method. Science is built up of facts, as a house is built of stones; but an accumulation of facts is no more a science than a heap of stones is a house."

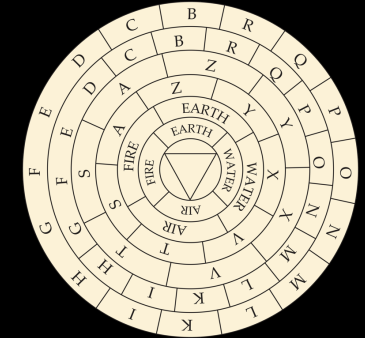
Henri Poincaré, *Science and Hypothesis*, 1905 Pg. 141

The “Plumb-line”

“Judgement also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet”
Isiah 28:17



Capital at Palazzo Ducale,
Venice South Façade (1344)



“The modern scholar Paolo d’ Ancona suggests these sages were especially chosen to be protectors of the disciplines of the trivium and the Quadrivium.”

Christiane L. Joost-Gaugier, *Measuring Heaven*, Pg. 199

“Lampado Trado”

Jacob Cats, Collected Works Vol. I (1655)



*“What from your fathers’ heritage is lent,
Earn it anew, to really possess it!”*

Goethe, Faust Vol. 1

Lux Dividit : Fiat Lux



“Every creature is a puppet of the Gods—whether he is a mere plaything or has any serious use we do not know; but this we do know, that he is drawn different ways by cords and strings. There is a soft golden cord which draws him towards virtue—”

Plato, Laws Book I

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T



U

V

The Pillars expanded

The Cosmic and the Corporeal



The School of Athens

*"For I saw it was impossible to do anything without friends and loyal followers."
The Seventh Letter, 325d*



Healing of the Lame Man

"And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering."
Acts 3:11, KJB

