

SEMPERVIRENS

Lodge No. 860



TENAX

UMBRA

VIRTUS

The Liturgy of the *Letter G*

The Western Tradition and the Crafts foundations in
Reason and Revelation



“All men, Socrates, who have any degree of right feeling, at the beginning of every enterprise, whether small or great, always call upon God.”

Introductions

Michael Stetka



- Undergraduate studies in Logic and Metaphysics.
- USMC Veteran
- Initiated - 08/12/2011
- Raised - 10/27/2011
- P.M. of Sempervirens lodge, 2019
- SRICF Motto:
"The Greater the light, the greater the shadow cast."

SNAPSHOT: System

“English lectures have therefore very properly defined Freemasonry to be a
“system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols.”

“A *Peculiar system* of **morality*, veiled in **allegory* and illustrated by **symbols*. “

Obligate
Lecture
Charge

All Built around

Morality
Allegory
Symbols

English Emblem Tradition


Combe Theater London 1593? 019

English Motto
No man °reapes the pleasant °gaine,
But with °travell [= suffering] and with °paine.

Picture
A flowering °rose-bush

Epigram
thorny→stem→rose→labour→pleasure→profit
knowledge→gem→weary→gloss→prickle→rose

Emblem
No man reapes the pleasant gaine,
But with travell and with paine.



Out of the thornie and the pricking stem,
Riseth the daintie, sweetly smelling rose:
Labour and care all pleasures °to inhem,
And all the wayes of profit do foreclose.
Who seeks of knowledg the most precious gem,
'till over-rosie full manie a wearie glose;
Id through such prickles he that rose shal gain
or many seekes, and very few attaine.

The

“No man reapes the pleasant gaine, but with
travell and with paine”

More specifically

Freemasonry is..

A *Peculiar* system of *Christian* morality

Veiled in (*Platonic*) *Philosophical* allegory

And illustrated by (*Pythagorean*) *Geometric* symbols

*British: noun: *peculiar*;

a parish or church exempt from the jurisdiction of the diocese in which it lies, through being subject to the jurisdiction of the monarch or an archbishop.

Masonic Symbols



Like the Star to the Menorah are our Square and Compass to our Pillars.

If not Dogmatic, then Doctrinal

System integrity

I. Entered Apprentice

Old Testament

1. Psalm 133 (1/3)
2. Genesis 1
3. 1 Kings 6:7
4. Ruth 4:7

New testament

5. Matthew 7:7

Directional References

1. **Holy Saints John (New Testament)**
2. "Holy Writings" - Bible
3. Book of "Nature and Revelation"
4. Cardinal Virtues – Philosophical Guides

II. Fellow Craft

Old Testament

1. Genesis 2
2. 1 Kings 7:21
3. Judges 12

New Testament

4. 1 Corinthians 13

Directional References

1. Pillars - History
2. 7 L&S - Education
3. Staircase - Rite of passage
4. Greek vs. Roman - Comparative analysis

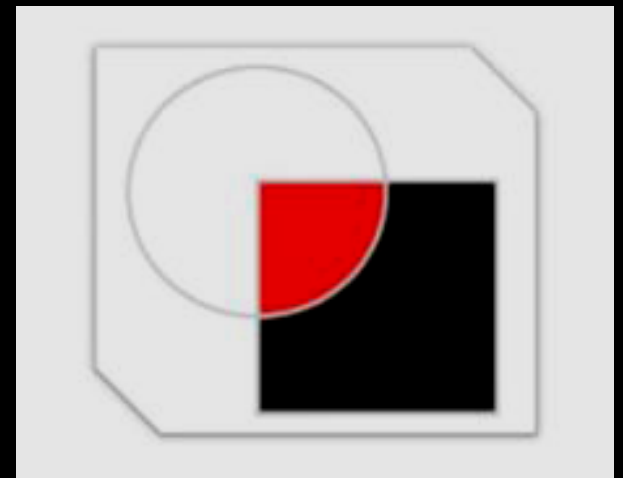
Heaven and Earth

“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.”

“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.”

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

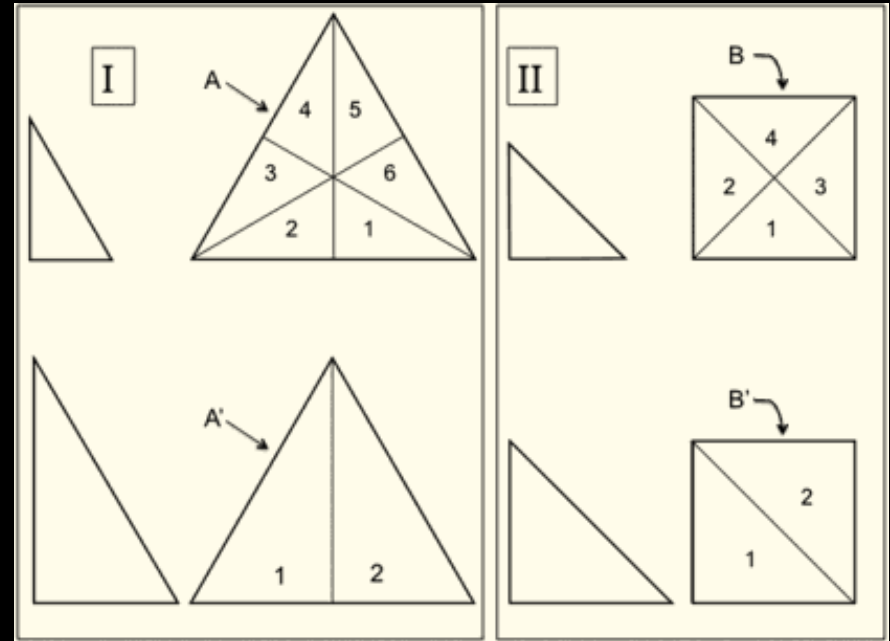
(Timaeus of Locri 360BC)



Fire and Earth – Man and the Divine

Of the two kinds of triangles the equal-sided has but one form, the unequal-sided has an infinite variety of forms; and there is none more beautiful than that which forms the half of an equilateral triangle.

From the triangle of which the hypotenuse is twice the lesser side the three first regular solids are formed—first, the equilateral pyramid or tetrahedron; secondly, the octahedron; thirdly, the icosahedron; and from the isosceles triangle is formed the cube. And there is a fifth figure (which is made out of twelve pentagons), the dodecahedron—this God used as a model for the twelvefold division of the Zodiac.



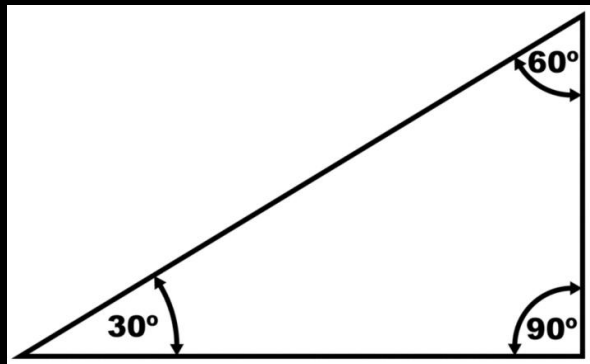
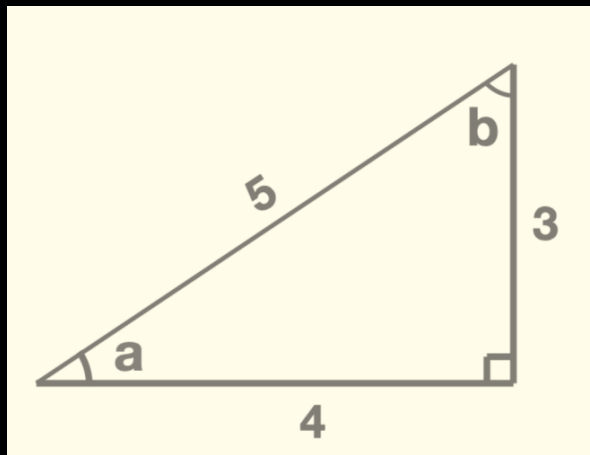
"Proof"

Square 90*

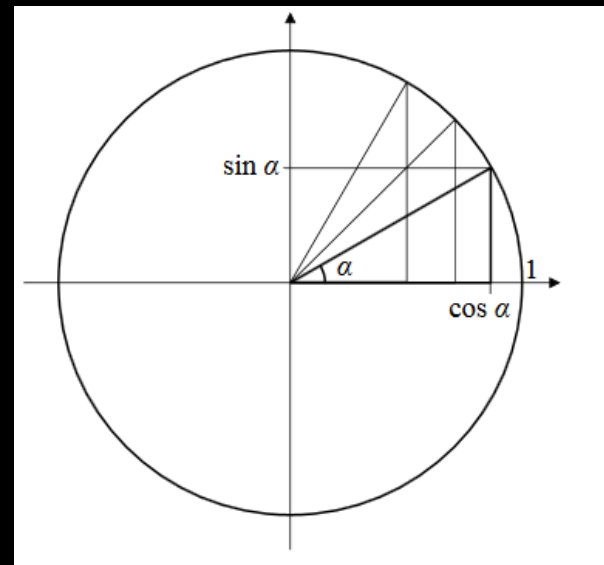
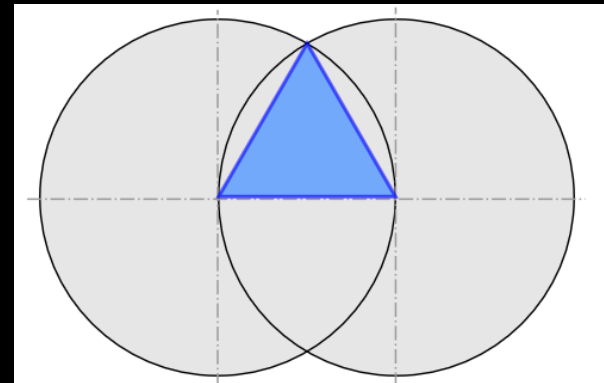
Special Right Triangles

45,45,90 & 30, 60, 90

Pythagorean Triples (3,4,5)



Compass 60*



Convergence of Heaven and Earth

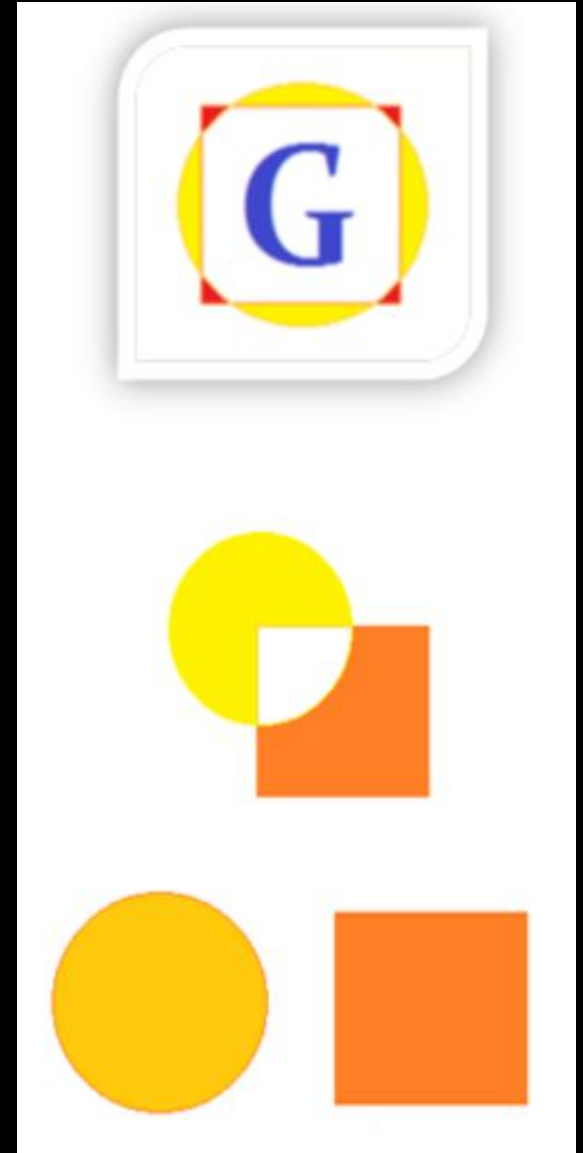
The path to Mastery of the Royal Art

From Profane to Pillars
From Pillars to Altar
From Altar to G
By the G Transformed

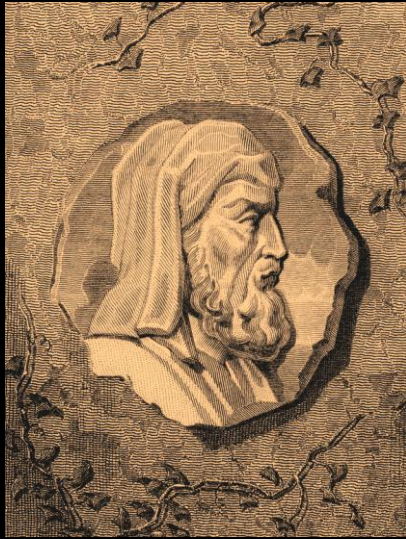
Fire is the element of transformation and becoming a mason strengthens a mans fire. The light and heat of the fire is bound by the “process”.

The strength of our “fire” and the strength of our process gives us the opportunity to help others recall their own inner fires.

Fires must have three things, Fuel, Oxygen and an ignition source. Like fire, masons require three things. A good man, an able lodge and a transformative space.



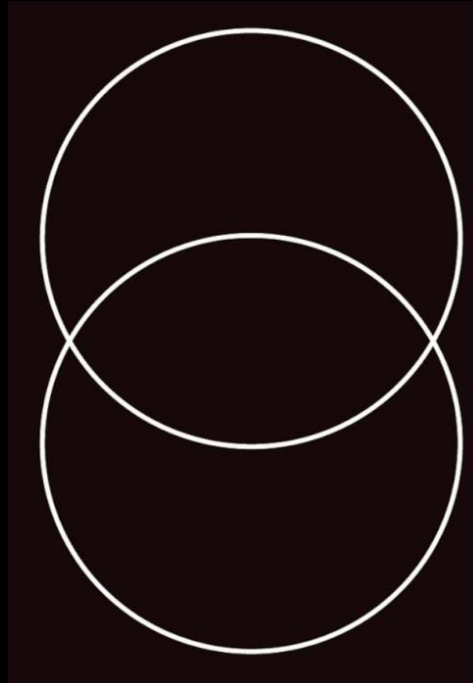
Eureka!



Pythagoras, **Fiat Lux**



Euclid, **Halliwell**

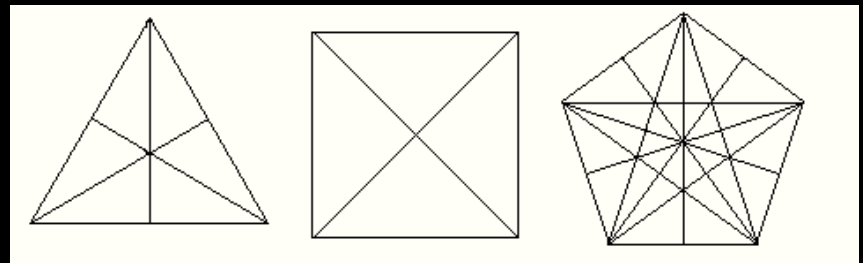
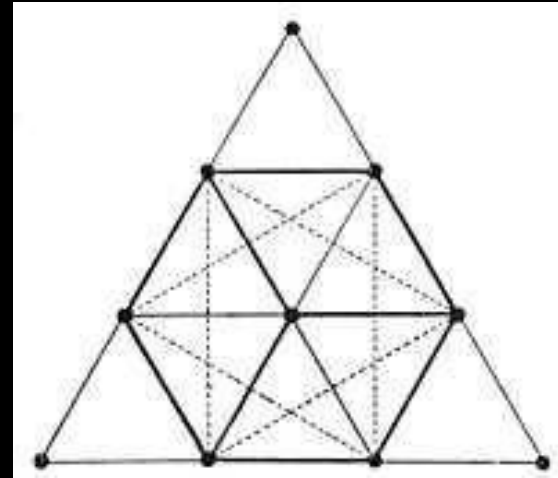


A third and hidden “master”



Archimedes
153 – John 21:11

The Master



“There is thus a possibility that the ancient dream of philosophers to connect all Nature with the properties of whole numbers will someday be realized.”

Lecture delivered by Paul Dirac Feb. 6th 1939

Light, Redemption, Music, Healing, Purity and Virtue

Aristotle reports that the people of Croton called Pythagoras the “Hyperborean Apollo” and Iamblichus’ report (VP 140) that a priest from the land of the Hyperboreans, Abaris, visited Pythagoras and presented him with his arrow, a token of power, may well also go back to Aristotle (Burkert 1972a, 143).

Kingsley argues that the visit of Abaris is the key to understanding the identity and significance of Pythagoras. Abaris was a shaman from Mongolia (part of what the Greeks called Hyperborea), who recognized Pythagoras as an incarnation of Apollo.

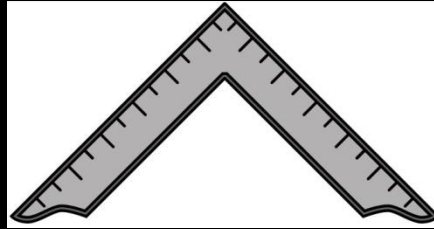


Pythagoras, Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

Masters, Master & Mastery *“Thrice Great”*



Apollonian Quadrant



Square Angle



“47th” Proposition

We are called to be “lovers” of Wisdom.

We are called to be *Philosophers*, Learned Christians and Leaders.

We are called to inherit the Western Tradition.

The Pythagorean table of opposites

-

limit, the unlimited

odd, even

Unity, plurality

right, left

male, female

rest, motion

straight, crooked

-

❖ light, darkness (Allegory)

❖ good, evil (Morality)

❖ square, oblong (Symbols)

Aristotle's Metaphysics (Loeb Classical
Library Pg. 35) 1st century BC

Other notable Pythagorean inventions
used by Free Masons.

-

The Tetractys

The Monad

Harmony ("Music of the Spheres")

Man as "Micro-Cosmos"

Secret Symbols

The Quadrivium (& Trivium)

The Pythagorean Theorem

"Tokens " – "The secret sayings"

KOSMOS – "Order"

Masonic Puzzle Cube of the Entered Apprentice

A Lodge

Oblong

Due East and West

Dark in the North

“North East Corner”

Mosaic Pavement (Law)

Indented Tessel

Blazing Star

-

Light and Dark

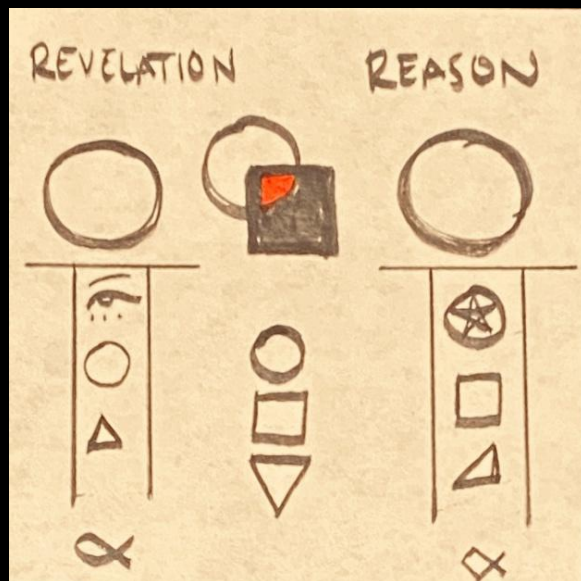
Good and Evil

Square and Oblong

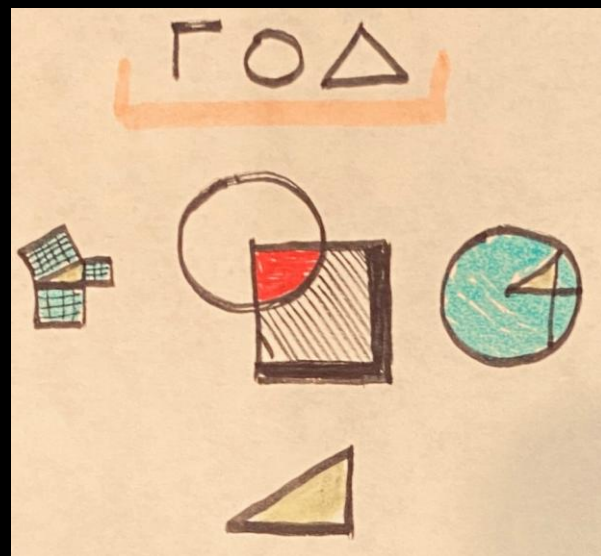
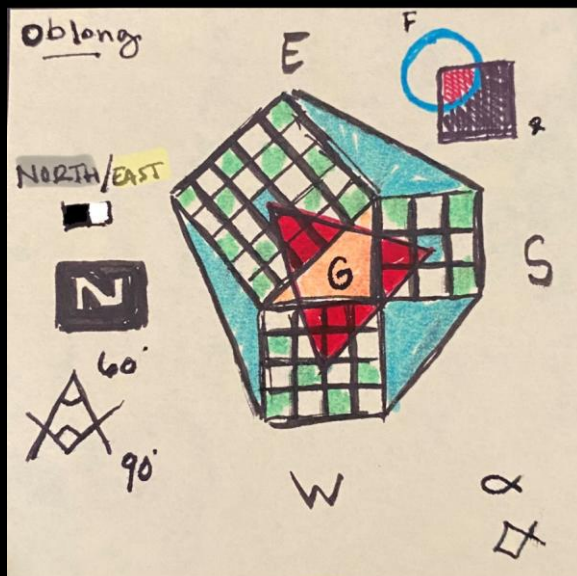
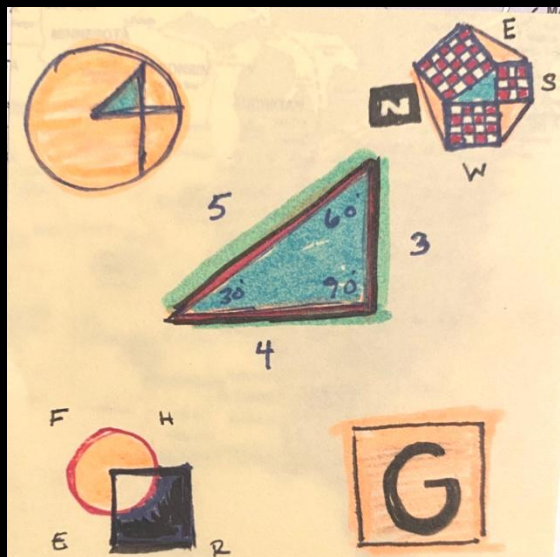


The Keys

The perfect Ashlar, is a sphere. Which like a star rests "eternal in the heavens".

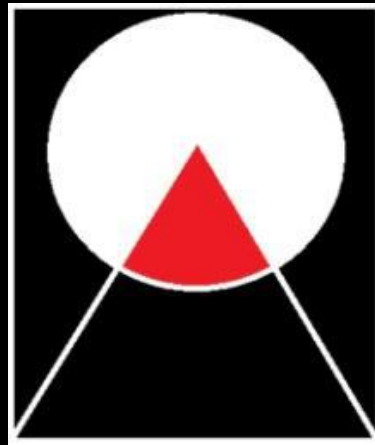


The Dark North and the Light in the East allow us to stand upon the cusp of light and dark. From Profane wanderings, to Masonic accountability.



The Perfect Fifth, The Big four, The rule of three
The two pillars and the Mason.

GAMMA * OMICRON * DELTA



*"The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting.
It has been found difficult; and left untried."*

-

G. K. Chesterton What's Wrong with the World (1910) pt. 1 'The Unfinished Temple'

Practical App. To Abstract thinking

"Pythagoras (c. 582-507 B.C.) represents a different intellectual trend. A native of the island of Samos in Ionia, he migrated to the city of Croton in southern Italy where he founded a sect or secret society that was half scientific, half mystical."

Roots of the Western Tradition – Guy Rogers and C Warren Hollister

But what he (Pythagoras) learnt in Egypt was a few geometrical facts rather than geometry. For, while the Egyptians had practical rules for measuring with more or less accuracy (1) certain areas such as squares, triangles, trapezia, and even circles (2) the solid content of measures of corn &c., of different shapes, there is no trace of any attempt by them to give proof of any rule; they had no idea of geometry as a demonstrative science. Geometry in this sense was the creation of the Greeks. No one before them had thought of proving such a thing as that the two base angles of an isosceles triangle are equal; the idea was an inspiration unique in the history of the world, and the fruit of it was the creation of mathematics as a science.

Manual of Greek Mathematics – Sir Thomas Heath

Quotes unto our time ~

“Across Eurasia the sixth century B.C. was a turning point for Humankind. ...In the West a revolution of a different sort was taking place, for this was when the Greeks began to turn away from mythological explanations of the world around them and to seek instead physical causes.”

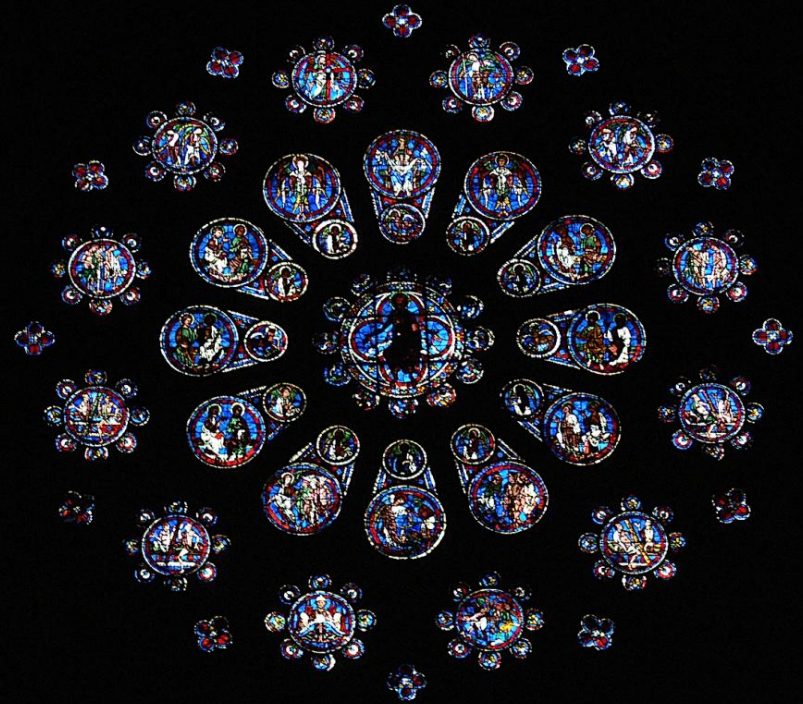
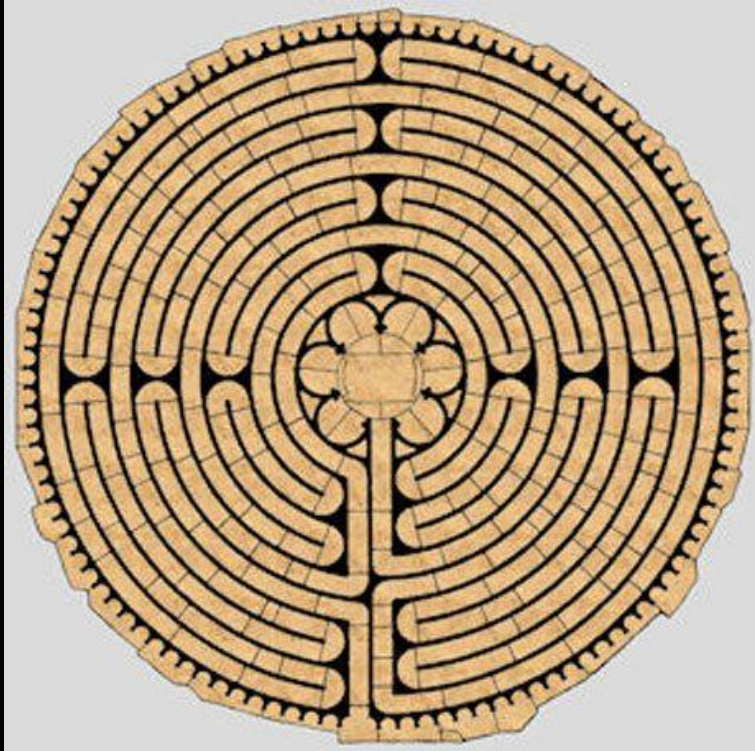
Pythagoras' Trousers, Margaret Werthheim 1995

“Newton's ultimate aim was to recover the lost Adamic knowledge, and his private notes reveal that he saw himself not as a pioneer but as a restorer of the ancient wisdom God had given humankind... More substantially, he (Newton) asserted that Pythagoras had known the universal law of gravity, and he concocted a convoluted argument to demonstrate that this law was in fact the true knowledge concealed in the Pythagorean idea of The harmony of the spheres. Rather than look forward to some innovative future, Issac Newton set his sights solely on the distant past.”

Pythagoras' Trousers, Margaret Werthheim 1995

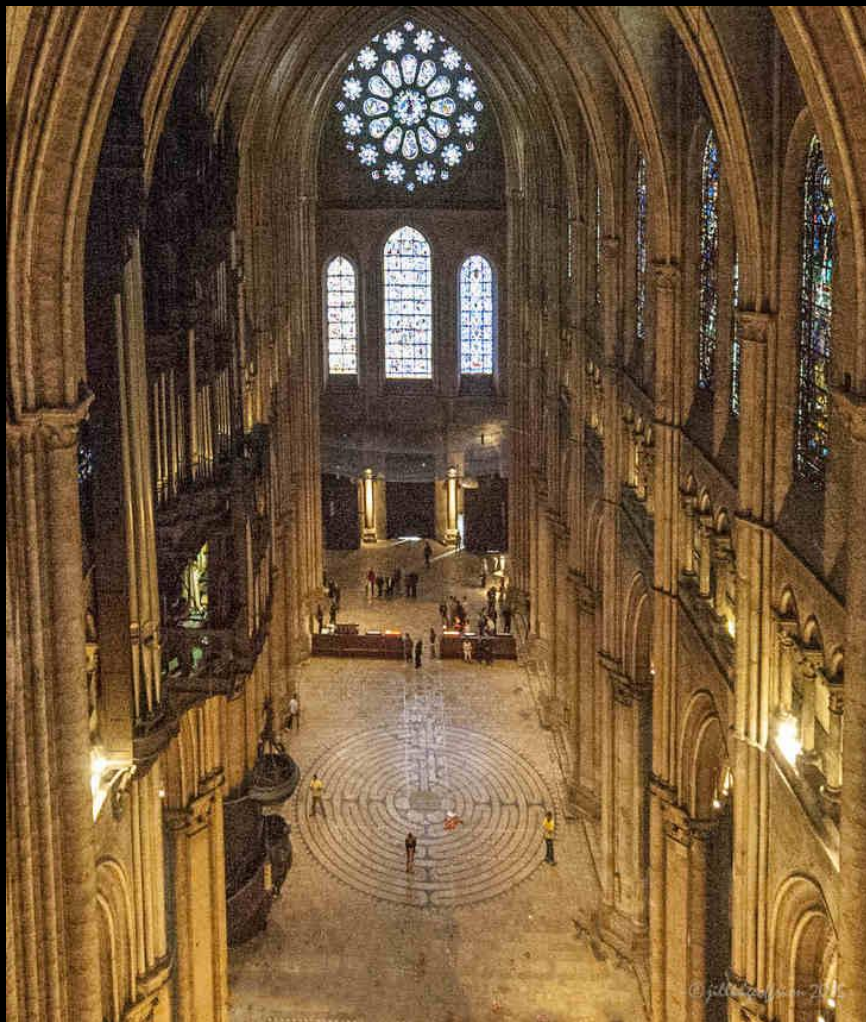
Chartres: Labyrinth and West Rose

Completed in 1220



“Unio Mystica”

Heaven and Earth



Connected by light



The light Divides

"I am the light of the world" John 8:12

Masonry , like our Holy Bible, like the Dialogues ,is built on Morality, Allegory and Symbols. To know Free Masonry a man must know his Holy Bible, his Plato and his geometry.

From Pythagoras, to Plato, Aristotle to Augustine, Galileo to Newton... We are groomed to become the inheritors and the vanguard of that Great Golden Chain we call the Western Tradition.

Masonry then continues the great work of the ancients to observe divine order and keep skepticism/relativism in its place.



**"Transfiguration of Jesus" - 1408
Theophanes the Greek**

Simply put...

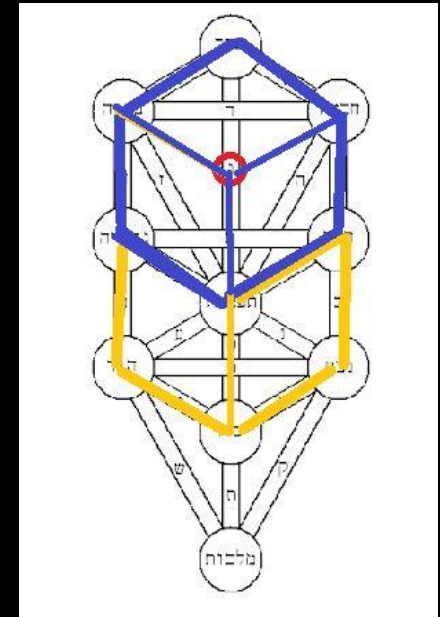
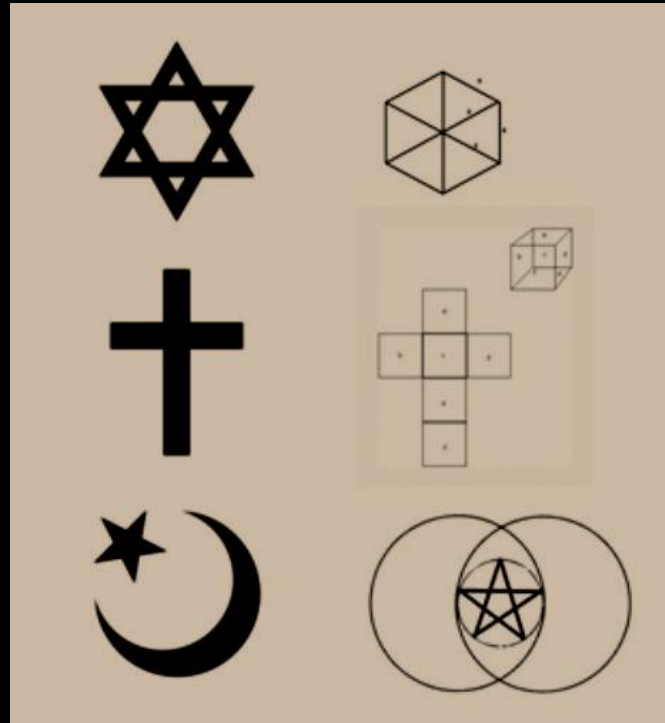
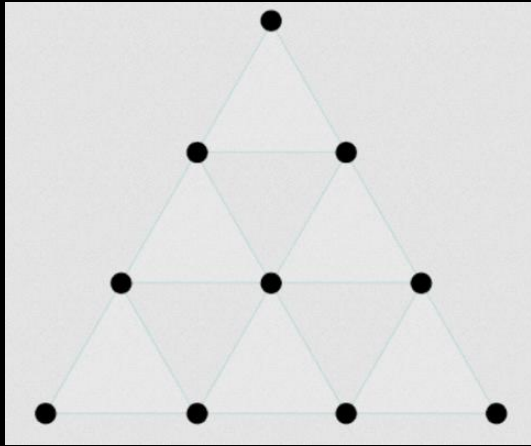
22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.”

1 Corinthians 1:22-24 King James Bible

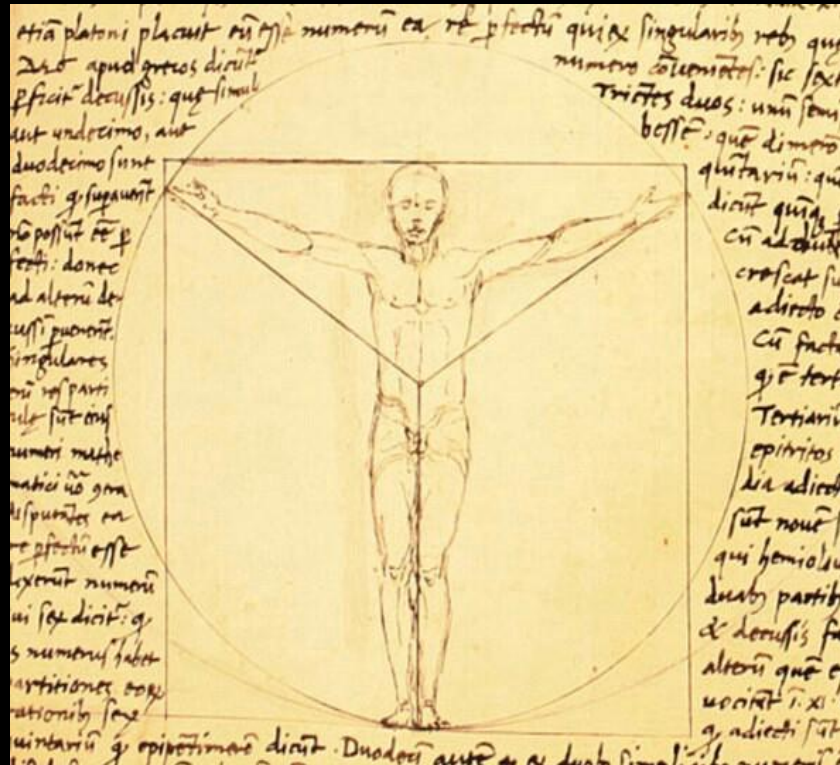
*“Approach ye genuine philosophic few,
The Pythagoric Life belongs to you...”*



*“The symbols of the wise always become
the idols of the ignorant multitude”*

Albert Pike, MaD

To “*Know Thyself*” you must first know history



A Vitruvian Man
('The proportions of the human body according to Vitruvius')
By: Iacomo Andrea

Eastern outlook

"Regarding the Pythagorean Basilica at Porta Maggorie" (and its *oblong rectangular* plan).

"This sanctuary, the most holy part of the building, demonstrated in its decoration the role of Apollo as redeemer, for it was through him that Sappho's soul was rescued for eternal life. This image constituted the most significant symbolic decoration of the entire building.

Its Eastward orientation corresponds with what Vitruvius (a Pythagorean) had insisted on and Plutarch, Iamblichus, and others were shortly to reaffirm, that the cosmological orientation toward the rising sun was of primary importance for Pythagorean worship."

Measuring Heaven, Christine L. Joost-Gaugier

WISDOM, STRENGTH, “BEAUTY”

“This theorem affords a useful means of measuring many things, and it is particularly serviceable in the building of staircases in buildings, so that the steps may be at proper levels.”

Vitruvius – Ten Books on Architecture 30~15BC

Virtuvian Man - *cosmografia del minor mondo* (cosmography of the microcosm).

“The doctrine of the microcosm is as old as Pythagoras, or at least was espoused by some of his disciples...”

Polychronicon, Vol. II Raqnulphi Higden 1300s

In 1509, Monk Luca Pacioli, inventor of double entry bookkeeping and the math teacher of Leonardo De Vinci published “De Divina Proportione” which was the first public exposure of the construction and unique geometric properties of the pentagram, secret symbol of the Pythagoreans and secret teaching tool of the Stone Masons (never written but only orally handed down).

Snapshot of The Liberal Arts and Sciences

Odds and Ends

Chartres Cathedral

Quadrivium – Archytas **P**

Trivium – Plato **P**

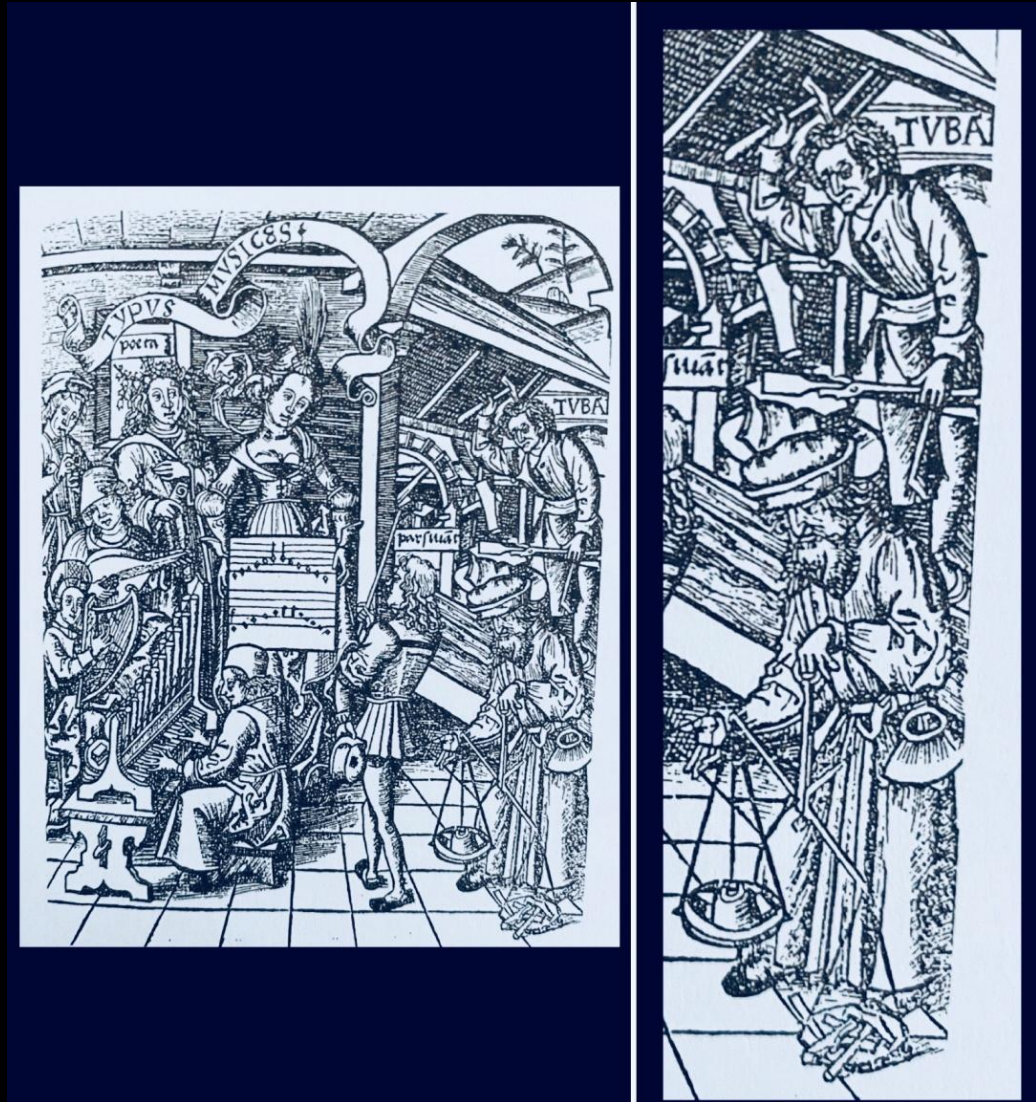
Music and its beginnings

- Moses: **Tubal Cain**
- Greek: **Pythagoras**

Consider: (St. John 1:17)

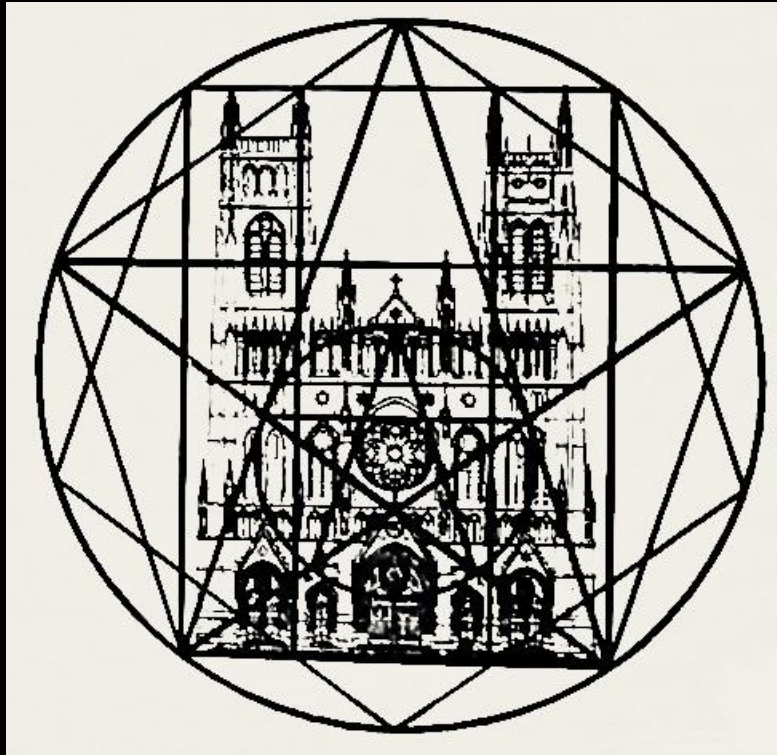
Photo: *Margarita philosophica*.

Gregor Reisch 1467 ~ 1525



A Hymn to Saint John

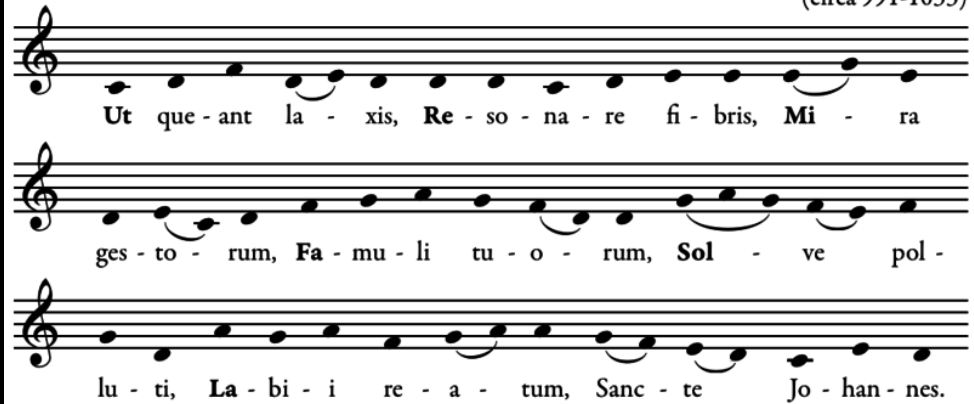
KOSMOS & 57



Macro to Micro

Ut Queant Laxis (Hymn to St. John the Baptist)

Guido of Arezzo
(circa 991-1033)



Translation:

So that your servants may, with loosened voices, resound the wonders
of your deeds, clean the guilt from our stained lips, O Saint John.

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version by Matthew D. Thibeault, October 31, 2008

Sapphic Verse in Pythagorean scale

Echoes

xv. The inventors of music (De inventoribus eius)

“Moses says that Tubal, who was of the stock of Cain before the Flood, was the discoverer of the musical art. But the Greeks say that Pythagoras discovered the elements of this art from the sound of hammers and from the striking of taut strings.”

The Etymologies of Isidore of Seville (615~630 AD)

Cap V. The Posterity of Lamech,

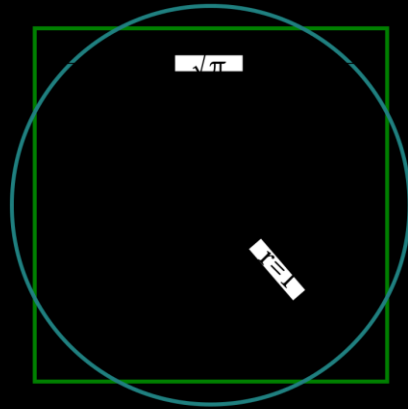
“The construction of the inscribed column of brick and marble, which should be proof against fire or flood.”

Polychronicon, Vol. II Ragnulphi Higden 1300s

“But discrete men say, thau he, Tubal exercisede firste musike to alleuiate the tediousenses pastorage, neuerthelesse he was not the firste fynder of the reason of consonance by weights but rather Pitagoras, of whom hit schalle be schewede in the thyrdde booke”

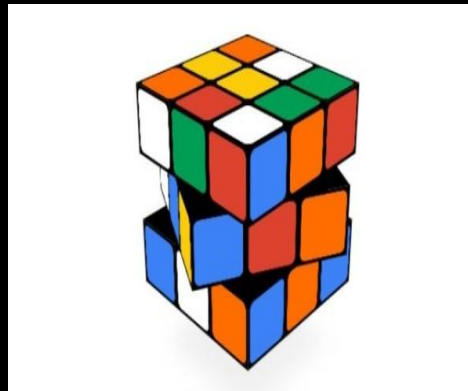
Polychronicon, Vol. II Ragnulphi Higden 1300s

The Labyrinth and the Golden Thread



"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*



Square Particles and Oblong Waves.

$$E=MC^2 \text{ (Einstein)}$$

$$E=H\nu \text{ (Planck)}$$

$$MC^2=H\nu \text{ (De Broglie)}$$

And the net was not broken...



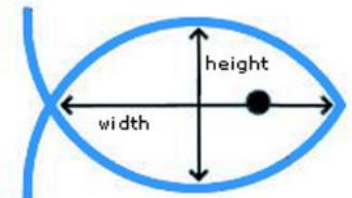
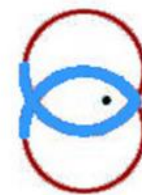
St. Luke 24:42



Pythagoreans → Euclid → Archimedes

Measure of the Fish

$\text{IX} \Theta \text{Y} \Sigma$



$$\frac{w}{h} = \sqrt{3} \cong \frac{265}{153}$$

The Masonic G

- Great Architect -> G
- Geometry -> G
- Music-> Apollo -> (Pythagorean Scale) Sol -> G
- The “circle squared” (Reason and Revelation Harmonized) > G
 - 3rd Greek, 5th Arabic, 7th Roman Letter -> “G”



"With Pythagoras the motive for philosophy ceases to be primarily what it had been with the Ionians, namely curiosity or technical improvement and it becomes a search for a way of life whereby a right relationship might be established between the philosopher and the universe." (Guthrie)

Lampado Trado
John Dee to Francis Bacon



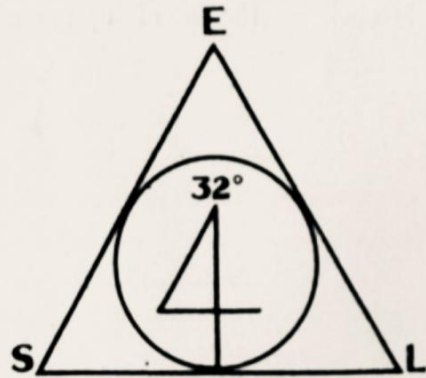
"The Lamp of Tradition"
Jacob Cats, (1655)

"A little Philosophy inclineth Man's Mind to Atheism;
But depth in Philosophy, bringeth Men's Minds about to Religion."

"The Essayes Or Counsels, Civill and Morall" by Francis Bacon

The guide to follow...

ὁμιλεῖν τῷ Θεῷ



**GOD GEOMETRIZES
CONTINUALLY~PLATO.**

*“Then, my noble friend, **geometry will draw the soul towards truth**, and create the spirit of philosophy, and raise up that which is now unhappily allowed to fall down. ...*

*Then nothing should be more sternly laid down than that the inhabitants of your fair city should by all means learn **geometry**. “*

(The Republic)



Geometry is knowledge that appears to be produced by human beings, yet whose meaning is totally independent of them.

— Rudolf Steiner —

Resources

PRIMARY

The Holy Bible, King James Translation

Plato's Dialogues, Benjamin Jowett translation

The First Six books of The Elements of Euclid, Oliver Byrne

SUPPLEMENTAL

A Beginners Guide to Constructing the Universe, Michael Schneider

A History of Greek Philosophy Vol. 1, WKC Guthrie

A Manual of Greek Mathematics, Sir Thomas Heath

Birth of the Symbol, Peter Struck

Liberalism Ancient and Modern, Leo Strauss

Measuring Heaven, Christiane Joost-Gaugier

Polychronicon, Ranulphi Higden

Pythagoras, Kitty Ferguson

Pythagoras and Renaissance Europe, Christiane Joost-Gaugier

Pythagoras' Trousers, Margaret Werthheim

Roots of the Western Tradition, Guy Rogers and C Warren Hollister

Tales of Impossibility, David Richeson

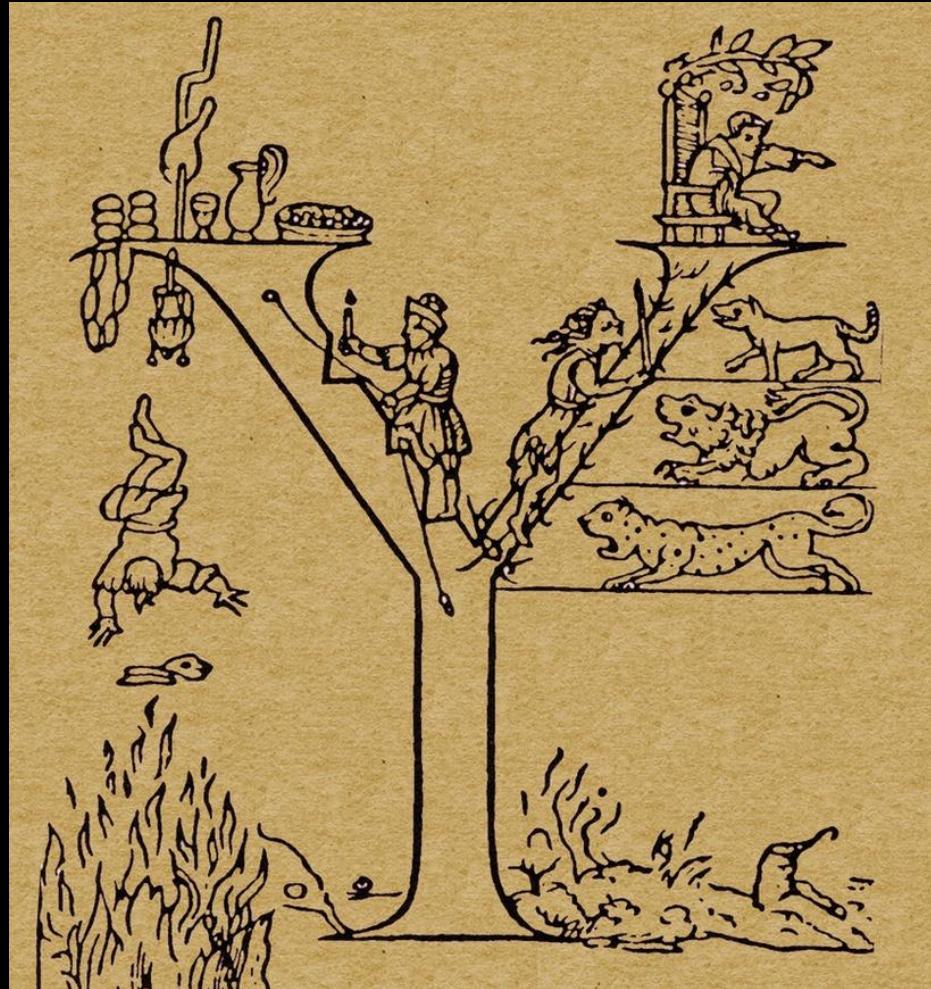
The Etymologies of Isidore of Seville

The Ten Books of Architecture, Vitruvius

The Theology of Arithmetic, Joel Kalvesmaki



Comments, questions and a note on ritual teaching vs. historical murk



The Pythagorean Y

Thank you.

Be Sempervirens Ever Bold!



"Better than discovering something new was rediscovering knowledge that God had previously revealed only to extraordinary men of legendary wisdom"

The music of Pythagoras, Kitty Ferguson - Pg. 280