

A MASONIC MINUTE

THE MOSAIC PAVEMENT The Ornaments of the Lodge Some Observations

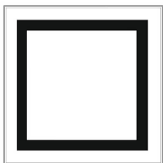


The Ornaments

- 1) The Mosaic Pavement – alternating **squares** of black and white
- 2) The skirting or border that surrounds the Pavement – alternating **triangles** of black and white
- 3) The Blazing **Star** that gleams in the centre

The Ritual explanation of these three elements is contained in the Junior Warden's Lecture. I suggest that the Mosaic Pavement is a chessboard upon which the true Mason plays out the game of life according to new rules based upon high moral and ethical standards. In many examples, the Four Tassels are depicted in the corners of the Pavement, representing the Four Cardinal Virtues – a further reminder of our high calling as men and as Masons.

THE SQUARES



The Squares having **FOUR** corners represent the material world – north, south, east, and west – in which we live, move and have our being. The four basic elements of the material world are fire, water, air, and earth.

THE TRIANGLES



The Triangles having THREE points or corners represent the spiritual world. Since the time of Pythagoras the triangle has been a sacred symbol. In Christian theology it represents the Trinity.

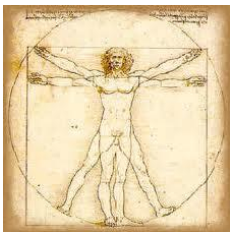
The Square **(4)** and the Triangle **(3)** add up to **7**, the number of perfection.

It might be noted that our Aprons are also composed of a Triangle upon a Square. In all ranks, the Triangle is over the Square, a further indication that the Spiritual supercedes the Material.

THE BLAZING STAR



The Star represents the Deity – Divine Providence. The North Star is the fixed point in the Universe by which mariners over the centuries have charted their course. As such it is a symbol of the Most High. Upon Him, Masons rely for guidance, and look up to Him for support.



It has long been stated that Man was created in the image of God. Vitruvian Man illustrates the correspondence with the five-pointed Star.

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