



6°, Intimate Secretary

What is the principal lesson of this degree?

- **Zeal & Fidelity**

- “To perform [our] Duty, whether that performance be rewarded or unrewarded, is [the Mason’s] sole care. And it doth not matter, though of this performance there may be no witness, and though what [we do] will forever be unknown to all mankind”
- So, we should fulfill our duty regardless of reward or recognition.

What does King Solomon mean when he teaches us to be disinterested and act the peacemaker?

- **Disinterestedness:**

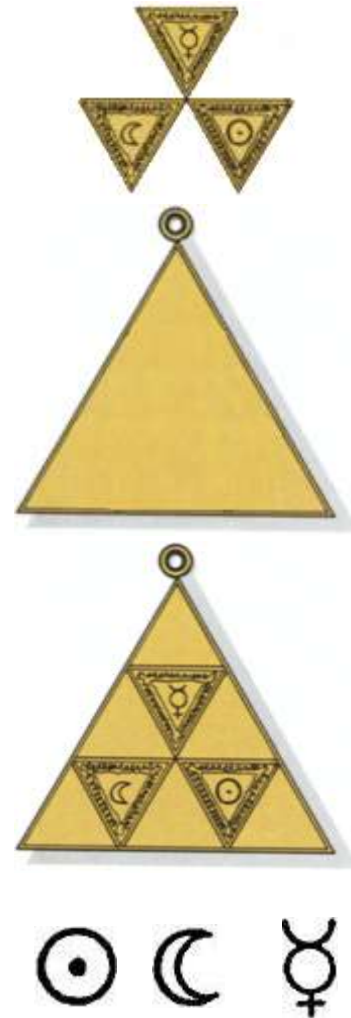
- Is not being influenced by considerations of personal advantage; otherwise meaning, we should be impartial, unbiased, objective, or neutral, when dealing with a conflict.

- **Act the Peacemaker:**

- “The duty of a Mason is to endeavor to make Man think better of his neighbor, to quiet instead of aggravate difficulties, to bring together those who are severed or estranged, to keep friends from becoming foes, and to persuade foes to become friends. To do this, he must control his own passions and be not rash or hasty, nor swift to take offense, nor easy to be angered.”

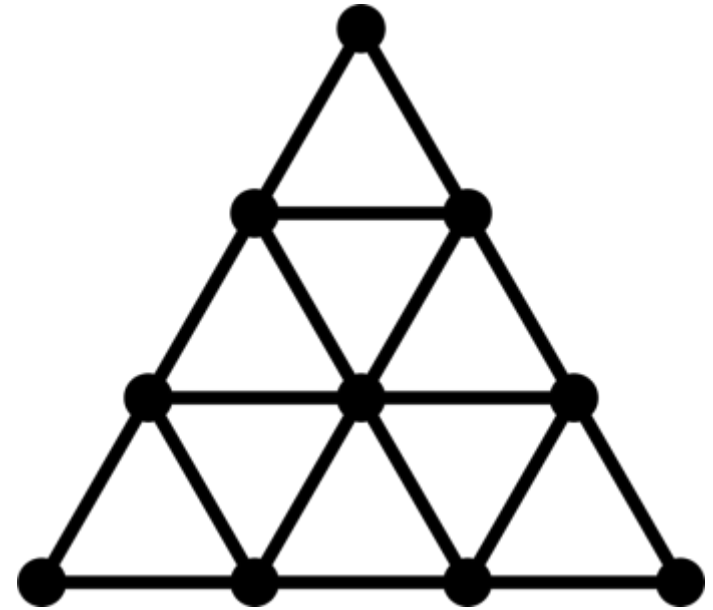
What does the jewel of this degree symbolize?

- The jewel of this degree is a triple-delta superimposed upon an equilateral triangle of gold. Within the triple-delta are three alchemical symbols, for the Sun, Moon, and Mercury. The ☉ represents the Sun, the ☾ represents the Moon, and the ♿ represents Mercury.
- To the ancients, the Sun was a “masculine” (active) symbol, as well as the source of light, which the “feminine” (passive) Moon reflects, while Mercury “harmonizes,” or reconciles, them. Thus understood, Mercury (also called Hermes), the messenger of the gods, is a symbol of dynamic equilibrium, an apt symbol of the Master of the Lodge, who illuminates his Brethren with good and wholesome instruction.






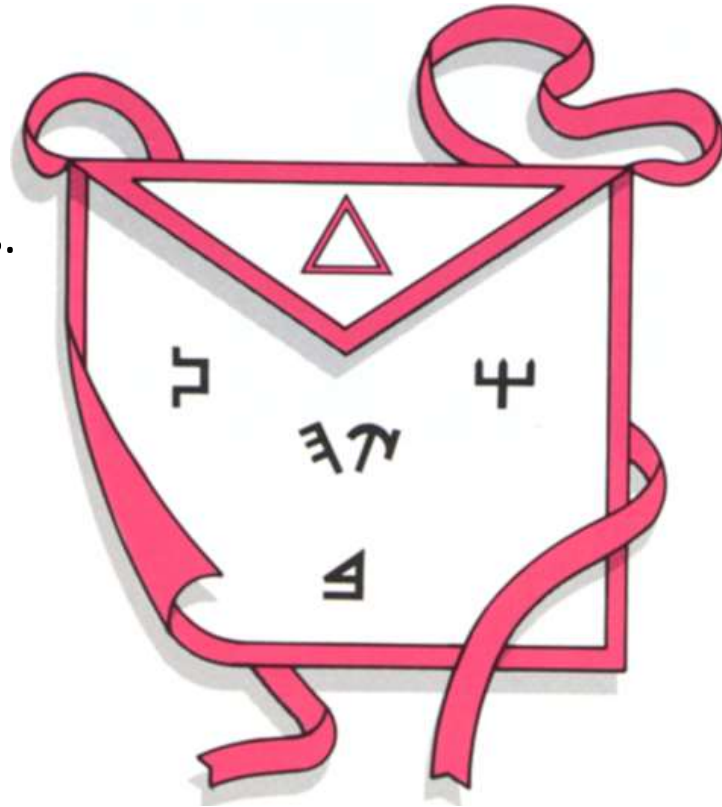
From what does the jewel derive?

- The form of this jewel is utterly derived from a favorite source of Pike's Masonic symbolism, the Pythagorean Tetractys.
- This tetractys is an important symbol of the Scottish Rite workings of the symbolic degrees (1–3); so therefore, it is not well known by Masons in the United States.
- The triple triangle is the first example of the tetractys seen in the American Scottish Rite system.



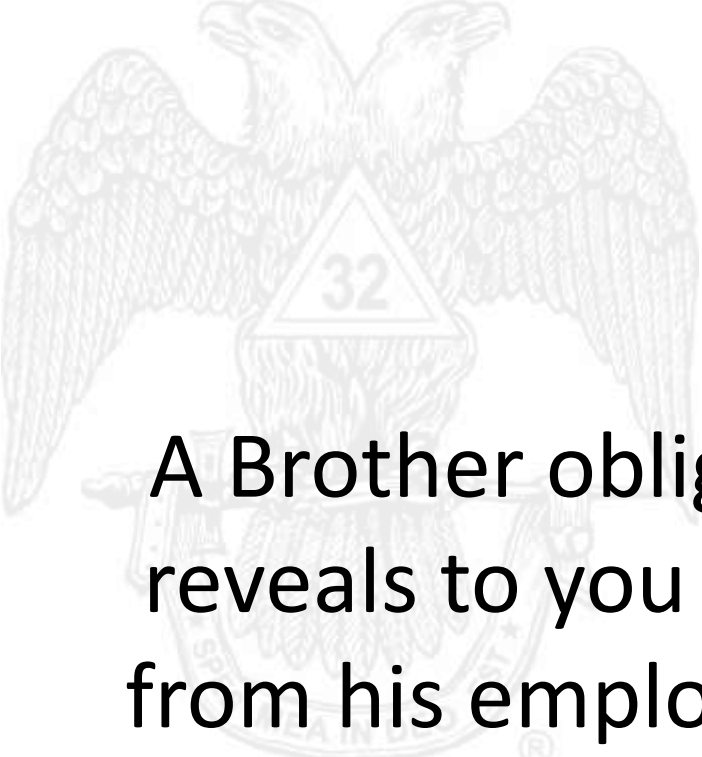
What do the symbols on the apron represent?

- In the center of the apron, you once again have the Phoenician characters for the first two letters of the ancient name of God (*yud, heh*).
- There are also three other Phoenician letters.
 -  or *B* is the initial for the Phoenician word *berit*, which means “a covenant, agreement or Divine law.”
 -  or *N* is the initial for *neder*, meaning “a promise or vow.”
 -  or *Sh* is the initial for *shelemot*, meaning “completion, performance, an offering in accomplishment of a vow, perfect, salvation.”



Why do we use both Phoenician characters and Hebrew characters?

- Phoenician characters are used to represent Master Hiram.
 - Though Hiram's mother was Jewish, he himself was considered a Phoenician. He served as a Phoenician king and presumably worshiped the Phoenician expression of Deity.



A Brother obligates you to secrecy then reveals to you that he has been stealing from his employer. What should you do? How does this degree encourage you to act? Why?