



18°, Knight of the Rose Croix



What roll does religion play in this degree?

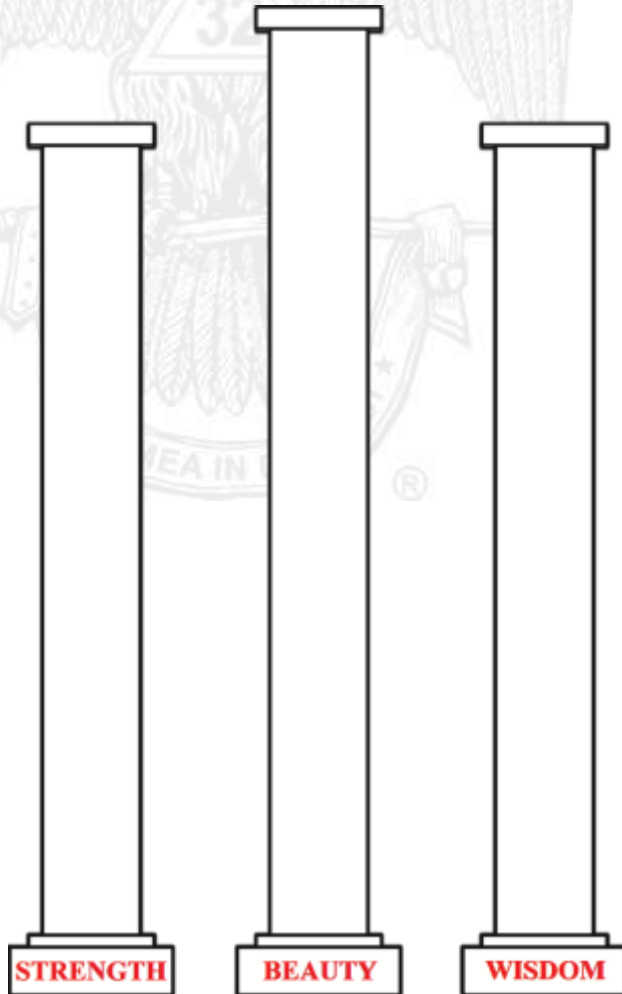
- This degree uses religion to teach us that “tolerance is not simply a duty, but an inescapable conclusion.”
- From lessons of many different beliefs, we are shown that the cross and messiah are not uniquely Christian ideals.
- This also teaches that instructions on the concepts of religion are not to be taken as official doctrines of Freemasonry.
- *“No Mason has the right to interpret the symbols of this Degree for another, or to refuse him its mysteries ...”*
—Albert Pike

What, when combined, do the pelican and rosy cross represent?

- These two symbols united represent the core of our fraternity itself.
- The rosy cross represents brotherly love.
- The pelican, feeding its young from its breast, represents the Masonic virtue of relief.



What do the three pillars represent and allude to?



- The three pillars represent the three constellations of faith, hope, and charity.
- Pike tells us that these correlate and allude to the three supports of the Symbolic Lodge: beauty, strength, and wisdom.
- This, of course, alludes also to the Tree of Life in the Kabbalistic Theory.

What is the meaning of the pentagon in this degree?

- The colors black, white, and red, commonly have been used to denote death, resurrection, and ascension.
- Man was believed to be of a fourfold nature (Earth, Air, Water and Fire. The spiritual essence in alchemy is used in literature by the Latin word *quintessence*, or “fifth essence.”
- The pentagon then symbolizes that man should subject his elemental or lower nature to the influence of the Divine Spirit.



What does the two-sided apron of this degree symbolize? (Front)



- The white and crimson coloring represents light and is a symbol of faith, hope, and charity.
- The rose was a symbol of the ancient goddess of dawn, Aurora, who represented the resurrection of light and renewal of life, and therefore, immortality.
- The pelican represents suffering and relief as it plucks its vitals to feed its young.

What does the two-sided apron of this degree symbolize? (Back)


- The colors black and red represent death and resurrection.
- The red cross, therefore, represents life.
- Paired with the pelican, these symbols represent immortality won by suffering and sorrow.



What do the two sides of the jewel represent?

- On the front, the pelican represents all reformers who have offered up their life for the benefit of humanity.
- On the back, the eagle was seen as the symbol for wisdom, and his wings could bear him above the clouds, closer to the light.
- Together, these create a representation of devotion and wisdom.





A new family with very different beliefs moves into the neighborhood, which makes some of your neighbors uncomfortable.

Use the lessons of the 18° to describe how one should proceed in this situation.