



# 24°, Prince of the Tabernacle

# What lessons do we learn in this degree from the four tests the candidate must endure?



- This degree tests us by fire, water, earth, and air:
  - The fire teaches not rashly to assume to perform an office for which we are unfit.
  - Water reminds us that only the pure-hearted can be admitted to the mysteries.
  - Earth reminds us of generosity and that the open hand of generosity is a fit companion for the pure of heart.
  - The air, mighty and invisible like him, again teaches us generosity. It also teaches gratitude, for it is God's free gift to us, for which he asks nothing in return.

# What is so important about the discussion of some of the world's major religions in this degree?

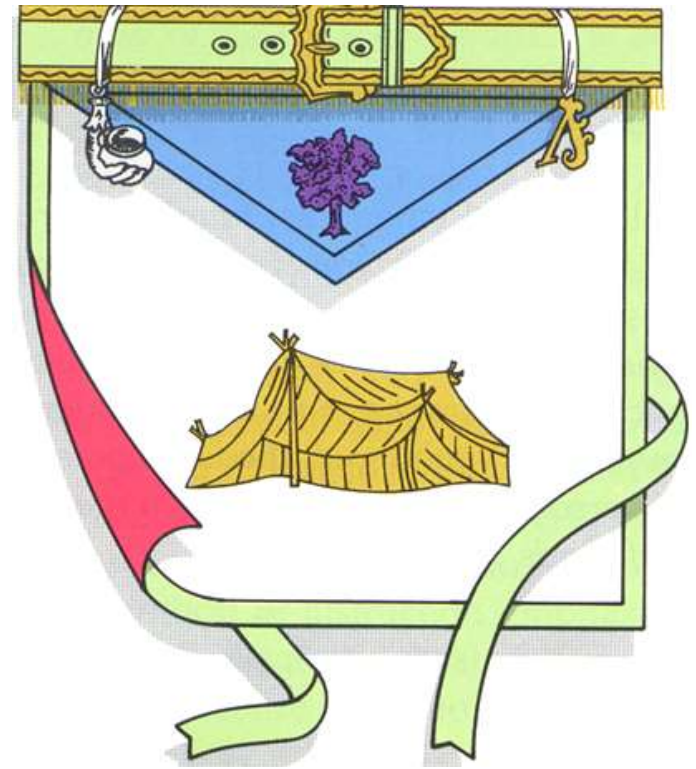
- The discussion of many beliefs belonging to the major religions of the world helps spread the importance of toleration.
  - This discussion brings to light that many of the commonalities at the roots of these religions are shared amongst them all.
  - This is done not to convert but to show the unity between the religions.

# What are the three great lights in this degree, and what do they symbolize?

- One of the first things the candidate is told is that, “the initiate is he who possesses the Lamp of Trismegistus, the Cloak of Apollonius, and the Staff of the Patriarchs.”
- To us, the lamp is reason, by the light of which, the initiate traverses the fields of science. The cloak is liberty, self-control, the full possession of one’s self. The staff is faith, the profound conviction of spiritual truths.
- Together, they make up the sides of the equilateral triangle.

# What do the images on the apron symbolize?

- The image on the apron is in gold and is a tent.
- This is a symbol of the Tabernacle and its devotion to Deity.
- On the flap is a violet Myrtle Tree, which is a symbol of immortality.
- Hanging above the apron, from the girdle are the jewel of this degree and the jewel of the previous degree.



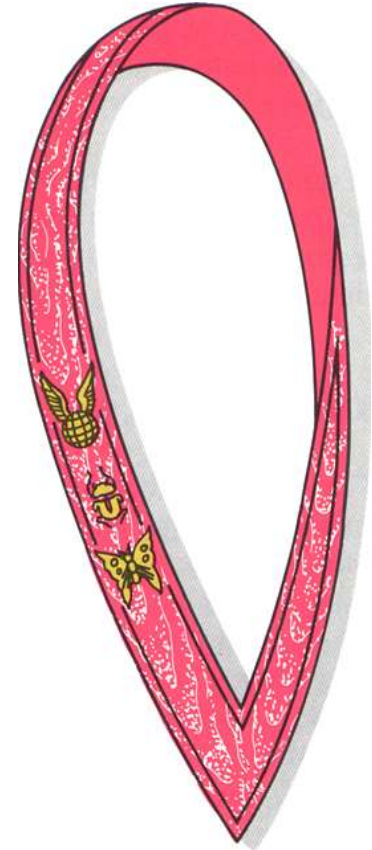
# What does this degree's jewel symbolize?

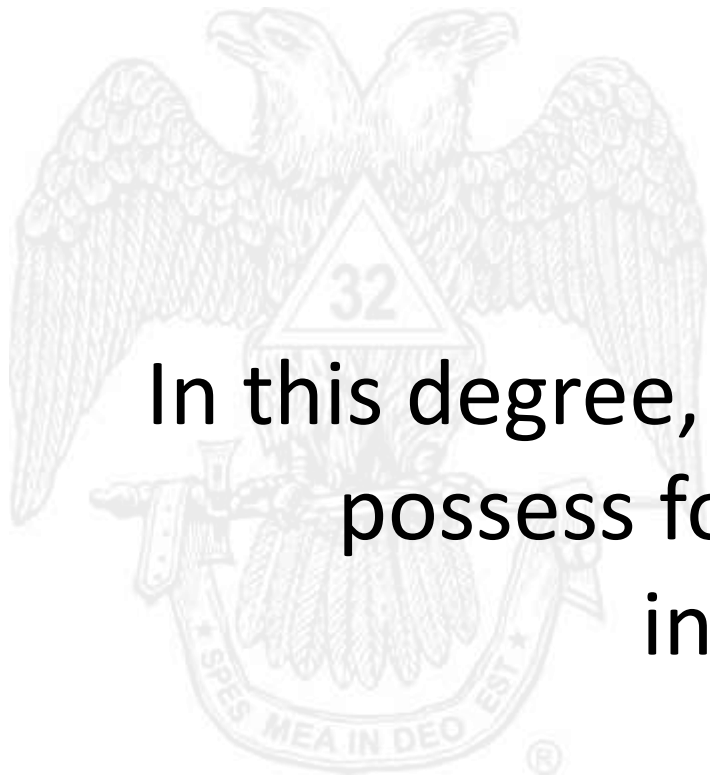


- The jewel of the degree is the Phoenician letter *Aleph*
- This symbolizes the five-pointed star.
  - This is because *Aleph*, being the first letter, is equal to *A*, which can be seen in a five-pointed star or pentagram from any angle.

# What does the cordon symbolize?

- The order, or cordon, of this degree is scarlet and is embroidered with three images in gold:
  1. The winged-globe
  2. The scarab
  3. The butterfly
- All are symbols of immortality like the Myrtle tree.





In this degree, we are told that we must possess four things, which are indispensable.

What are they? Which could prove the most difficult to obtain and why?