

**EXTRACTS FROM
THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF FREEMASONRY**

ACTIVE - ...a brother is denominated active when he is punctual in his attendance upon his masonic duties.

ADAM - 1. The mystical parent of the human race. He is said to have received a book of Kabbalistic wisdom (Razit) to console him after the Fall.

ALL-SEEING EYE - An emblem in the degree of Master Mason, reminding us of the superintending Providence perceiving the most secret things.

ALPHABET OF ANGELS - The Jews speak of a celestial and mystical alphabet communicated by the angels to the patriarchs.

ALTAR - The place of sacred offerings - either as altars of sacrifice or as altars of incense... In America, the altar is situated in the centre of the Lodge, in the form of a cube, three feet high, with four horns, one at each corner, the open Bible, square and compass being displayed...

AMUN - The ram-headed God of the Egyptians; Jove of the Greeks; and Jahve of the Jews.

ANCIENT OF DAYS - Applied by Daniel to Jahve, in his visions, to signify that his days were beyond numbering (Dan. vii. 9).

ANOINTING - A custom of ancient use at the coronation of kings and the consecration of priests.

APRON - It is the first gift bestowed by the Master upon the newly initiated apprentice. ... The Essene was clothed in a white garment reaching to the feet, girded with a linen girdle...as an emblem of holiness... An apron composed of the three Masonic colors - blue, purple, and scarlet - was worn by the Jewish priesthood; and the prophets, on all occasions of moment, invested themselves with a girdle or apron.

BEEHIVE - An emblem of industry... The esoteric meaning of the beehive was that of regeneration; and a hive was a type of the ark.

CAIN - The elder brother of Abel. A degree has been formed respecting him, called Knight of the Black Cross.

CLOTHING - Proper clothing consists of white leather gloves, the apron, of course, and the jewel, if any, of the rank of the wearer...Formerly, part of the costume of the Worshipful Master consisted of a hat which he wore in that capacity.

COLLAR - An ornament worn about the neck by the officers of Lodges, to which is suspended the jewel indicative of rank.

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COMPASSES - In speculative Masonry, the implement is symbolical of that even tenour of deportment so desirable in the social state. The compasses are thus the most prominent emblem of virtue, and the measure of a Mason's life and conduct. They teach a lesson concerning the duty we owe to ourselves and others, and inculcate the imperative duty of circumscribing our passions and keeping our desires within due bounds.

CONSECRATION, ELEMENTS OF - In Masonry these are corn, wine, and oil, being symbolical of nourishment, refreshment, and joy, and also of health, plenty, and peace.

CORNER STONE - The first stone in the foundation of every building of magnitude is usually, if not invariably, laid in the north-east, with solemn ceremonies.

DARKNESS - This state is symbolical of ignorance in Masonic and other occult matters.

DEACON - 1. In symbolical Masonry the fourth and fifth officers of the Lodge are termed Deacons. They receive visitors in cases where no special doubt arises as to the standing of such visitors, and they are the representatives of the Senior and Junior Wardens.