

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the District of Columbia
Knightly News ~ February 2022 Excerpts of Esoteric Geometry

A lecture created by WM Marcus Trelaine and VEDGC Douglas Cohen, and edited by GSB Carter Diggs ~

Zero. The symbol for nothing. The Nothing from which everything comes the potential for something new to appear. "...and the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of god moved upon the face of the waters and God said let there be light and there was light". Zero is the omnipotence (that which is infinite in power and possibility) and the omniscience (that which is all Knowing) from whence power originates from the void.

One. The symbol for the sun. The geometric representation for All that IS. Everything in existence and the "Everything" of One. One is the initiation of something new. A beginning, an expansion, or a seed of something new that appears in the conscious mind seeking manifestation in the physical world.

Two. The representation of duality. It mathematically describes the active and receptive forces of life. Complementing and conflicting, attraction and repulsion, union and division. It is the eternal changing of energy that forms the foundation for existence. The principles of duality are a dominant expression in Freemasonry where in the First-Degree darkness is overcome by light; in the Second-Degree ignorance is transformed to knowledge; and in the Third-Degree death is vanquished by eternal life.

Three. In Western theology the expression for the Holy Trinity expressed in the sacred delta; in Eastern religion the unity of the masculine, feminine and the Divine eternally bonded by love that creates amongst us a sense of belonging. Everywhere among the ancients the number three was considered the most sacred. In the philosophy of the ancient Greeks, three was the image of the Supreme Being because it had a beginning, a middle, and an end. The Pythagoreans called three a number in perfect harmony. The geometry of three is the most sacred in Masonry commonly represented in the degrees, offices, jewels, tools, and other "emblematic symbols most expressive to imprint on the mind wise and serious truths".

Four stands for the framework of human thinking. The Pythagoreans believed it the perfect number and was later adopted as a sacred number in the Degree of the Perfect Master. It is the geometric foundation upon which the belief system of a culture is built upon or destroyed. It is bordered by Earth, Wind, Air and Fire, the four cardinal directions, four freedoms (expression, worship, want, fear) and even the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. In many ancient cultures, God was expressed in four letters such as Amun by the Egyptians, Oeos by the Greeks, Adad by the Syrians and Deus by the Romans. In Royal Arch Masonry we find it representative of the four veils or principal tribes of the children of Israel.

Five. The symbol for magical or Divine manifestation. No symbol has undergone more interpretive transformation or brought greater controversy. The geometry of five has represented everything from light and knowledge; to the Quintessence of man of in spiritual alchemy; to the now more commonly misunderstood association with satanic worship. Among the Pythagoreans five was a mystical number because it was formed in union of the first even and odd numbers symbolizing the same union of order and chaos, happiness and misfortune, and life and death. In Masonry, five is a sacred number

inferior only to three and seven. It is especially significant in the Fellowcraft degree wherein five are needed to organize a Lodge; in reference to the five orders or architecture, and the human senses; and ultimately in the third degree ending with the five points of fellowship.,

Six is the manifestation of the Universe. It is the solid reality within which the body of the higher consciousness exists and to which higher dimensions are possible. In Masonry, six is symbolic of the three greater and three lesser lights represented in a form more commonly accepted as the Star of David. The lesser lights corresponding to the Patriarchal, Mosaic and Christian Dispensations; and the greater lights in expression of the Creative, Preservative and Destructive power of Deity. A hexagon is the most efficient use of space and material in architecture commonly depicted in nature by the beehive honeycomb. Hence, six has come to symbolize stability, stasis, order, harmony, conservation, and integration of change in the belief system.

Seven. An ancient symbol for the Flower of Life, it continues to stand for inner peace, personal reflection, rest and protection. In every system of divinity there is a frequent veneration to the number seven. The Pythagoreans found it sacred because it was made up of three and four, or the triangle and square, which are considered the two perfect figures of geometry. The number seven has been used to stand for major occurrences on heaven and earth; from the seven planets to the seven seas. It is a sacred number used in the Kabbalah, in Wiccan practices and the major religions of the world to reflect the perfection of God. The number seven is used to ward off evil, prompting the shape of most sheriff badges as an obtuse heptagon.

Eight stands for the power or the ability to make change within the manifestation of life. It stabilizes or balances eternally opposing forces symbolizing infinity in mathematics, or healing by the entwined snakes of the caduceus. forces symbolizing infinity in mathematics, or healing. Among the Pythagoreans the number eight was esteemed as the first cube, being formed by the continued multiplication of $2 \times 2 \times 2$, and signified friendship, prudence, counsel and justice. It was made to refer to the primitive law of nature which supposes all men to be equal. However, in symbolic Freemasonry the number eight does not hold a sacred significance. Eight stands for the power or the ability to make change within the manifestation of life. It stabilizes or balances eternally opposing forces symbolizing infinity in mathematics, or healing by the entwined snakes of the caduceus. Among the Pythagoreans the number eight was esteemed as the first cube, being formed by the continued multiplication of $2 \times 2 \times 2$, and signified friendship, prudence, counsel and justice. It was made to refer to the primitive law of nature which supposes all men to be equal. However, in symbolic Freemasonry the number eight does not hold a sacred significance.

Nine is the symbol of completion and resurrection. It is the sign of every circumference because a circle, or 360 degrees is equal to nine. In other words, $3 + 6 + 0 = 9$. In base 10, this repetitive cycle is curiously demonstrated by multiplying nine by any whole number (except zero), and repeatedly adding the digits of the answer until it's just one digit. The result will always end with nine. In this manner, nine became associated as a symbol of versatility, of change, and the emblem of the frailty of human affairs. So just as six was the symbol of the terrestrial globe animated by a divine spirit, the number nine came to characterize the earth under the influence of the evil principle. For similar reasons in Masonry, nine is often denoted by the expression three times three.