



Sussex Freemasons - West Group

'The West Wing'
(Bognor, Chichester, Clapham, Littlehampton,
Midhurst, Petworth, Pulborough, Steyning and
Worthing)

'The West Wing'



Notebook

Oct. '24

Issue 2



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Introduction

An opportunity to make your own collection of Masonic 'gems' that will enhance your knowledge of the ritual and its meaning.

Every month you will receive some Masonic questions and their answers that will build into an amazing notebook that will last a lifetime.

The answers to the questions are sourced from a variety of authors that will give you, the learner, a balanced outlook on Masonic ritual and symbolism.

Start your collection and your journey today.

The 'West Wing'; Learning and Development Team



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Entered Apprentice.

Question 4

What is the symbolism of the cable tow?

Answer 4

The bondage of ignorance
(Jones, Freemason's Guide and Compendium)

A symbol of Submission
(ibid and Dumfries ms No. 4, c. 1710)

The cable-tow round the new Mason's neck is also to teach him that he is setting out on a journey into the unknown as Noah did and if he should fail then he will be lost at sea. (Freemason's were known as the 'sons of Noah') The idea of the Ark as the ship that carried all those who obeyed and trusted God to safety was strongly believed in the Middle Ages.
(Solomon, Properly Prepared (six steps))

In ancient days the Entered Apprentice wore a cable-tow to impress on his mind his duty to keep within hail, so as to come on in due time whenever summoned to his Lodge, unless prevented by sickness.
(Solomon)

("Retreat would be fatal as the Candidate would be an accessory to his own d. by s.").(Ritual)

(Note: Irish and Bristol Working: The Candidate wears the sign of servitude only until he is about to take his Obligation when it is removed and thrown contemptuously to the floor behind informing him that naught but free men may be made freemasons)
(Jones, Freemasons Guide and Compendium, The Cable Tow)



Question 5.

Should the c.t. hang behind or in front of the Candidate and why?

Answer 5

An assumption in front, to lead the candidate and to prevent any attempt at retreat. As Noah led the animals onto the Ark and as a man in bondage is led so the Candidate is led to the door and around the lodge.

("You may rise and follow your leader with a firm and humble confidence....."
(Ritual)).

Question 6.

Why is the Candidate h.w.d.?

Answer 6

- a. As a symbol of ignorance.
(Solomon, *Hoodwink*)
- b. So that the mind might conceive before the eyes were enabled to discover the beauties of Freemasonry. So, Candidates were received into the Degree and moreover, had they refused to go through the usual ceremony, they would have been led from the Lodge without observing its form.
(Solomon, *Preparation of the Candidate*)
- c. As you were received in a state of darkness, you were reminded to keep the world so in respect of Masonic secrets. The darkness vanishes on receipt of masonic light.
- d. To focus the mind on what is being said before being distracted by what he would see.
(Solomon, *Hoodwink*)



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e. As an expression of trust by the initiate that no harm will come to him in a Masonic Lodge

(Cryer, *op.cit.*)

(Solomon, *Properly Prepared (six steps)*)

f. To test one of his five senses, hearing, and to heighten the others.

("I will give thee the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places."

Isaiah 45:3)



Fellowcraft.

Question 3.

The Candidate is given a p.w. and told how it is usually depicted. There are early semitic words for each part of the depiction which combine to make the p.w.. What are these words?

Answer 3

There is one word שבל or שבלת ('sbl' or 'sblt' and, incidentally, there is no 'th' sound in Hebrew) having several meanings depending on context:
(Frederick Smyth, *A Reference Book for Freemasons*).

- "to go, hence a way." Travel, then as now, involved the use of riverbeds winding through the hills. Hence this root leads to the idea of 'winding' and 'twisting'. The Hebrew words for 'a whirlpool' and for 'a snail shell' are similar and from this same root. Thus it can be appropriate for our 'winding stair'.

- "to go up, to grow, to produce ears of corn."
(Note: corn grows best near water)

- "to flow, especially plentifully, hence showers."
(Note: where there is water, corn may grow plentifully)
(Gesenius, *Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon to the Old Testament Scriptures*)

Derived from the Hebrew word "shibolet".

Originally, this meant either the part of a plant containing the grain (such as an ear of corn) or a stream or torrent.

(Solomon, *Shibboleths ancient and modern*)

Used as a means of identification by Jephthah against the Ephramites. The word Shibbolleth was pronounced incorrectly by the Ephramites who said Sibbolleth as they were unable to pronounce the phrase "sh" because of a defect in dialect.

(Bible, *Judges: Chapter 12*)

Question 4.

What is the symbolism of how the word is depicted?



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Answer 4.

Symbolises "plenty", "fruitfulness" and is depicted in our Lodges by "an ear of corn near to a fall of water".

(Solomon, *Ear of Corn near to a fall of water*)

This is a potent symbol of fruitfulness and sustenance. As an emblem, we could regard the aspirant as representing the ear of corn, the sign of forthcoming fruitfulness, relying on the water to sustain it. Here is a hint of life's journey will not be accomplished without nourishment, both material and spiritual.

(Solomon, *Exploration of the Second Degree*)



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Corner Stone (Miscellaneous bits).

Learning Programs:

'The West Wing' Learning and Development Program.

Freemasonry is a Lifestyle Choice. Learn more through your Lodge Mentor, the West Group web page or the L & D Team.

Solomon <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk/>

Mentors Notes: <https://www.thesquaremagazine.com/mentorsnotes/>

Facebook.

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<https://www.facebook.com/share/Tx388jyGJiYKfd4q/?mibextid=K35Xfp>

Web Page

To follow.

Learning and Development Team

Enquiries: stevegoulding@sussexmasons.org.uk

WORKSHOP.

There will be a workshop on Saturday, 30th November, 9.30am to 12 noon at Chichester Masonic Centre, 7, South Pallant, Chichester, PO19 1SY.

It is a workshop where the Assistant Officers of the Lodge, along with newly appointed DC's and ADC's can reflect and share experiences, overseen by an established practitioner.

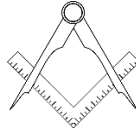
If you would like a place please contact Steve Goulding.

Contact W. Bro. Steve Goulding - stevegoulding@sussexmasons.org.uk



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If you are not willing to
learn no one can help
you.

If you are determined
to learn, no one can stop
you.

'The West Wing' L & D Team.



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