



Sussex Freemasons - West Group

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

'The West Wing' Learning and Development Team.

'The West Wing'



Masons Notebook



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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 Gems' that will build into an amazing notebook that will last a lifetime.

The 'Gems' 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.



Wishing all our readers a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.





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The West Wing' Lodge of Instruction.

Lesson 4.

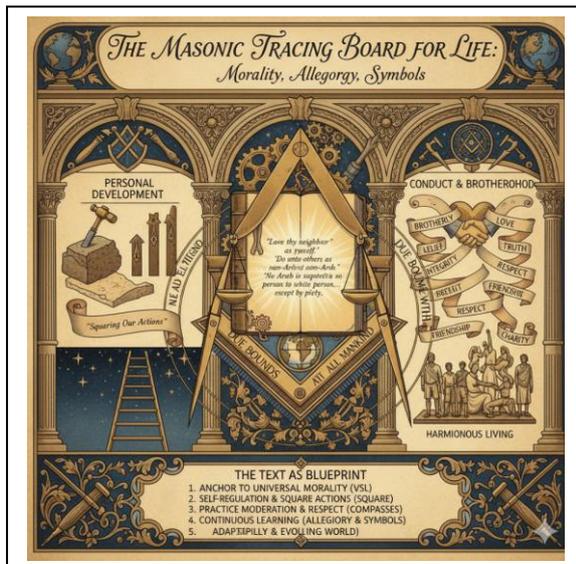
Morality, Allegory, Symbols

Objectives.

By the end of this lesson/tutorial the student will be able to:

- Understand the meanings of Morality, Allegory and Symbols in relation to Freemasonry.
- Apply those meanings to personal development.

Morality, Allegory, Symbols.



"Morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols". A phrase that immediately comes to mind when describing Freemasonry -Let us have a look at what this phrase actually means.

Morality, according to the Cambridge Dictionary, "is a set of personal or social standards for good or bad behaviour and character".

Immorality is "Behaviour that is morally wrong, or outside society's standards of what is acceptable"



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So, what is acceptable behaviour? Society is ever evolving and social standards change to reflect that cultural movement. For example pre 1967 it was illegal to be a homosexual and as late as 1989 in Scotland, rape within marriage was not a criminal offence. Is there, therefore, a difference between personal morality and public law?

In the 1950's Lord Devlin, a leading judge, envisaged that law and morality are "fundamentally interconnected" arguing that "the law had a right, in fact a duty, to uphold common morality" Hart, a leading academic at the time, disagreed arguing that law enforcing moral values was unnecessary. He argued that law enforcing morality "infringes the liberty of the individual" Even today the Hart-Devlin debate continues over legislation regarding assisted suicide.



As Freemasons we do not have to go deep into the academic realms of law and social justice to understand what is good and bad behaviour or good and bad morals for it is in our ritual. However, Freemasonry being universally spread over the globe and embedded within various cultures with different social outlooks on life what may be good behaviour or good morals in some communities may not be so good in others.

In Freemasonry a universal standard of morality is taught within our rituals and by the symbols within our Lodges. Having been "restored to the blessings of material light" in the first degree ceremony our attention is drawn to the first of those visual symbols, the 'three great emblematical lights', the Volume of the Sacred Law (VSL), the Square, and the Compasses. "The Sacred Writings govern our faith, the Square to regulate our actions and the Compasses to keep us in due bounds with all mankind." All are symbolic representations that give a Freemason his 'strength' and his desire to be the best person he can be.



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Volume of the Sacre Law.

"The Sacred Writings govern our faith". It is our faith which is the guide to our morality. Within the Sacred Writings there is an answer to all the moral dilemmas that we may come across in our life. For example on the question of 'diversity' the VSL of various faiths are unanimous in their answer.

'You shall love thy neighbour as yourself' there is no other commandment greater than these". (Holy Bible, New Testament: Mark 12:31)



"O mankind, your Lord is One and your father is one. You all descended from Adam and Adam was created from earth. He is most honoured among you in the sight of God who is most upright. No Arab is superior to a non-Arab, no coloured person to a white person, or a white person to a coloured person except by Taqwa (piety)." (Islam: Prophet Mohammad)

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (The Jewish Torah: Leviticus 19:18)

"Do not believe you are above or below anyone. Keep a humble spirit" (Buddhism)

"The God-conscious being looks upon all alike, like the wind, which blows equally upon the king and the poor beggar". (Sikhism. Guru Granth Sahib 272)

For a Freemason, who by definition is moderate in his attitude, it is his 'faith' which is his moral compass and that, brethren, is universal.

The Square.



"The Square regulates our actions.". A symbol that our actions or behaviour are dictated by our attitude. Our attitude is influenced by our faith and the teachings within the Volume of the Sacred Law. The teachings of morality and a way to live a virtuous life.

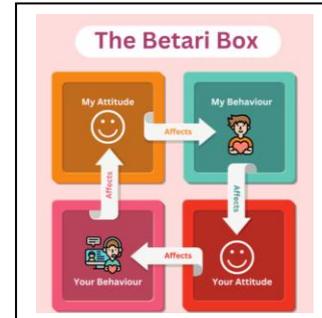


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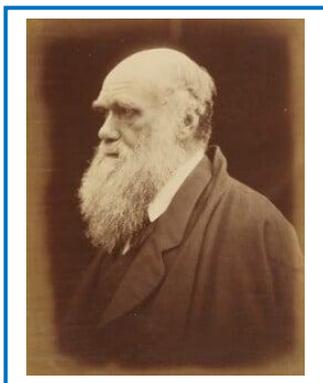
Bataris Box - *"My attitude effects my behaviour which effects your attitude and your behaviour".*



The Compasses.

"Keep us in due bounds with all mankind". We are once again drawn to the Sacred Writings on how we treat our fellow man. It is a wonderful reflection that all faiths teach the same with regard to the diversity of man. In fact all faiths teach their followers to live a virtuous life.

It is important that Freemasons are in touch with the ever evolving values of our cultures and communities. For if we do not, Freemasonry becomes irrelevant. But, most importantly, we must adhere to and promote those great Masonic values of "Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth" or in more modern terms, "Integrity, Respect, Friendship and Charity".



"It is not the most intelligent of the species that survive; it is not the strongest that survive; but the species that survives is the one that is able to best adapt and adjust to the changing environment in which it finds itself." (Darwin: Origin of the Species)

When we look at morality we reflect upon who we are as Freemasons. Our behaviour both in and outside of the Lodge room which is influenced by those three 'great emblematical lights'. Society may change in its attitude to various moral concepts, which it should as humankind evolves, but a Freemason's guide to morality lies in the symbolism of those 'three emblematical lights' and the moral symbolism of each part of the Lodge furniture and working tools.



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Everything within the Lodge room has a symbolic moral meaning. It would take too long to identify and explain each piece of Lodge room furniture and its moral meaning in this short paper, but the next time you are in your Lodge room take time to look at each part of it and identify its moral relevance. If you don't know ask, a senior brother would be more than happy to explain.

Allegory.

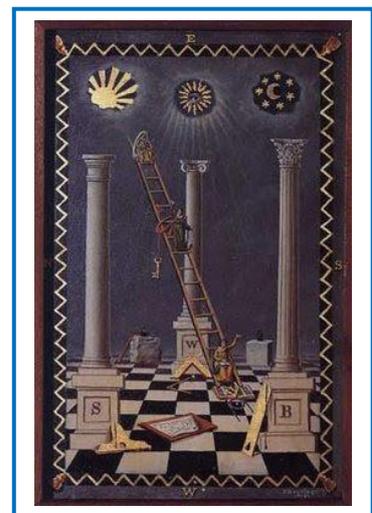
The Cambridge Dictionary defines an allegory as *"a story, play, poem, picture or other work in which the characters and events represent particular qualities or ideas that relate to morals, religion or politics"*.

Each degree ceremony in Freemasonry has a moral story to tell. It is a means of teaching morality in a way that involves the candidate. In education there is a phrase, *"Tell me and I will forget, show me and I will remember, involve me and I will understand"*. It is not a new or revolutionary method of teaching for characters in the Volume of the Sacred Law told stories to highlight moral teachings. Within the degree ceremonies a playlet is acted out and at the end of the play it is explained by a senior member of the Lodge with the aid of the pictorial representation of the degree, the Tracing Board.

The Tracing Board is a pictorial explanation of the allegory of the degree and is a constant reminder of what has taken place. When in Lodge study the Tracing Boards as the repetition of doing so will remind you of the moral story of each of the degrees.

Freemasonry is not just the social aspect of meeting and socialising, although that is a very important part of it, it can be spiritually uplifting. The more you understand the ritual and the symbolism the more interesting the whole experience becomes.

There is another educational phrase, *"if you want to learn about something at a deeper level, teach it"*. Do not be afraid to ask senior members of the Lodge questions if you do not understand. They will be more





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than willing to share their knowledge with you and you, in turn, will be able to instruct others in the meaning of Freemasonry, thereby expanding the knowledge of the membership giving everyone the tools and the interest to be better people, for Freemasonry makes a good person better.

W. Bro. Stephen J. Goulding. ProvSGD, SLGCR.

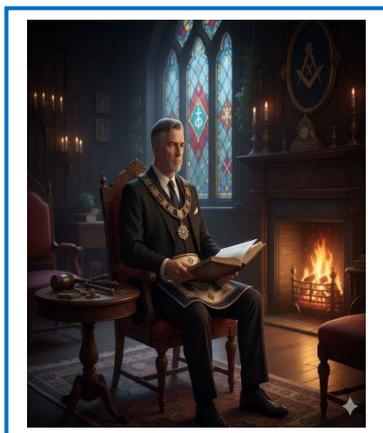
'The West Wing' Learning and Development Lead

Article published in the Square Magazine 11/21

Video & Article.

<https://www.thesquaremagazine.com/mag/article/202111morality-allegory-symbols/>

For an analysis of this lesson/tutorial go to the Learning and Development page of the West Group Web Site www.wgsm.co.uk under the heading "West Group Lodge of Instruction" - Lesson 4.



A more in depth analysis of this tutorial can be found in the Lodge of Instruction section of the L&D page on the West Group web site.

www.wgsm.co.uk



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Questions.

Q. Define 'morality'.

A. A set of personal or social standards for good or bad behaviour and character.

Q. Define 'immorality'.

A. Behaviour that is morally wrong or outside society's standard as acceptable.

Q. What did Lord Devlin envisage about Law and Morality?

A. The Law had a right, in fact a duty, to uphold common morality.

Q. What did Hart argue about the Law enforcing Morality?

A. "...infringes the liberty of the individual."

Q. What are the "three great emblematical lights" of Freemasonry and what do they mean?

A. VSL – "Sacred writings govern our Faith."

The Square – "Regulates our actions."

The Compasses – "Keep us in due bounds with all mankind."

Q. What is an 'allegory'?

A. "A story, play, poem, picture or other work in which the characters and events represent particular qualities or ideas that relate to morals, religion or politics."

Q. Where will you find a pictorial explanation of the allegory of the degree?

A. On the degree Tracing Board.

Q. Complete the following phrase. Tell me I will forget. Show me and I will remember.

..... me and I will"

A. Involve me and I will understand

Reflection

Look upon a degree Tracing Board and try to understand the symbolism within it.



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The Birth of 'The West Wing' Learning and Development Team.

What were you doing during Covid?

The three masked individuals on the right of the group are Nicholas Broadway, Steve Goulding and Barry Smith, all keeping 6 feet apart. They are the present 'West Wing' Learning and Development Team.



Steve was and is still the Lodge Mentor of Lodge of Union No. 38. During covid Steve looked for a way of keeping interest in the Lodge so he produced 28 video tutorials which Nicholas, the owner of The Square Magazine, an international on line masonic educational magazine, published.

After covid Barry, the Lodge DC and Steve got together, along with Nicholas and produced a Lodge of Instruction/Education format which they executed at 38's Lodge of Instruction.

In 2024, Nicholas and John Spence (At that time The West Group Chairman elect) were talking about Learning and Development and what we were doing at '38. John was sold on the concept and so the '38 education team became the 'West Wing Learning and Development Team.

In the 18months to date the 'Team' has produced a learning program for EA, FC, MM and RA Masons, all of which can be accessed via the West Group Web Page (www.wgsm.co.uk).

They have delivered workshops for Mentor training and Standards and Performance initiatives and they particularly enjoy producing this monthly magazine and deliver lectures to anyone who will listen about education in Freemasonry. All these topics can be accessed on the web page.



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More recently they completed a course of seven lessons on the Royal Arch ceremony.

Help us help you.

In 2026, we are delivering a number of workshops for Lodge and Personal Mentors; another for Lodge officers (DC's, ADC's, Deacons, Inner Guards called 'Standards and Performance' and a third set of seminars for Royal Arch Representatives and for those Master Masons not yet in the Royal Arch explaining the journey of 'Pure Ancient Freemasonry' and the Chichester Chapter of Improvement.

The Purpose of Freemasonry, Brethren, is 'to instruct'. (William Preston)

The best way to learn is to teach. Enrol on these workshops so you can go back to your Lodges and teach the Brethren of your Lodges about the philosophical and personal development aspects of the ritual, that is what the ritual is for. To teach and to learn.

- **Standards and Performance Workshop** for ALL Lodge officers.
Charmandean 31st January, 2026.
- **Mentors Workshop.**
Pulborough, 2nd May, 2026.
- **Royal Arch Representative Seminar** for RA Reps and all those brethren interested in joining the Royal Arch.
Pulborough .24th January, 2026.
Charmandean. 28th March, 2026.
- **Chichester Chapter of Improvement .**
For ALL RA Masons.
Chichester. Commencing 17th January, 2026.

To Enrol please contact:

W. Bro. Stephen J. Goulding. ProvSGD, SLGCR.

Email: stevegoulding@sussexmasons.org.uk



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Cornerstone (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/>

West Group Web Page: <https://www.wgsm.org.uk>

ONLINE LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT



Start your journey
<https://solomon.ugle.org.uk>

mentor's notes



self paced guided learning

the
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Learning and Development Web Page.

ALL West Group Masons and particularly Lodge and Personal Mentors please note - Contents of the Learning and Development (L&D) section of the West Group Web Page. (www.wgsm.co.uk).
EXPLORE!!

Contents.

Solomon and Mentors Notes Courses on:

- The Entered Apprentice Program.
 - The Fellowcraft Program.
 - The Master Mason Program.
 - The Holy Royal Arch Program.

The West Wing Learning and Development (Video) program.

Royal Arch Representatives Program.

'The West Wing' Masons Notebooks.

Lodge and Personal Mentors Program.

The West Wing Lodge of Instruction Program.

The West Wing Chapter of Improvement

"Ask and will be given. Seek and ye shall find. Knock and the door shall be opened unto you," Mathew 7:7

You have knocked on the door of Freemasonry, open it and see the wonders it possesses.



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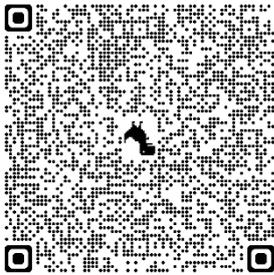
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Facebook.

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<https://www.facebook.com/share/Tx388jyGJiYKfd4q/?mibextid=K35XfP>

West Sussex Light Blues Club



<https://www.westsussexlbc.org/>

Are you a new Mason in the West Group of Sussex? Click on the QR Code and enjoy your journey into an exciting aspect of Freemasonry.

Membership Benefits

- Monthly Social Events Across The Province
- Curated masonic events, just for club members
- Learn more about the craft in a relaxed setting
- Access to a private Facebook page & WhatsApp group
- Socialise with & meet likeminded Freemasons in your area
- Future planned benefits including a masonic passport, lapel pins, a role within the club and more...



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The NEW Royal Arch Chapter of Improvement in Chichester.

A different approach to teaching the mysteries of the Royal Arch has been adopted in the Chichester Chapter of Improvement. It combines education of both the philosophical meaning and the personal development application of the ritual alongside traditional teaching methods of the Royal Arch ceremonies.

"Tell me I will forget. Show me I will remember.

Involve me I will understand".

Part 1 Royal Arch Course

Saturday, 17th January, 2026 10am – 12 noon

Chichester Masonic Hall, 7 South Pallant, Chichester,
PO19 1SY

Prospectus

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Opening and Closing the Chapter | Saturday, 17 th January, 2026 |
| 2. The Platonic Solids | Saturday, 21 st February, 2026 |
| 3. The Sojourners Journey | Saturday, 21 st March, 2026 |
| 4. The Vaulted Chamber | Saturday, 25 th April, 2026 |

To Enrol or if you would like a prospectus please contact the Chichester Chapter of Improvement Secretary Ex. Comp. Stephen J. Goulding, SLGCR:

.Email: stevegoulding@sussexmasons.org.uk



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Sussex Royal Arch Masonry launches new BLOG

<https://www.sussexroyalarch.co.uk>



The **BLOG** is a standalone communication platform which operates separately but in conjunction with the Sussex Royal Arch Website. The **BLOG** is **updated daily** and is easily accessible, simply visit <https://www.sussexroyalarch.co.uk>

A One Journey – One Organisation BLOG



Conveying information about

Royal Arch Masonry and how to join.

Future *Exaltation and Installation Ceremonies* taking place local to you.

Royal Arch Events taking place in Sussex Chapters and beyond.

Royal Arch Articles and *Announcement's*.

Membership and Mentoring.



Archway Support

UGLE- Solomon Royal Arch Virtual Learning Platform Guidance



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Actions Not Words.

Catching up with John Price at Worthing Hospital for a tour of the Maple Suite and an update on the charity 'My University Hospitals Sussex' where John is Special Projects Fundraiser.

For those Lodges that haven't yet held their Heads & Tails in aid of this marvelous Charity the good news is that the deadline has been extended to the end of January.

Please see your Lodge Secretary for details of how to enter and the prize! Alternatively contact Simon Fyfe who initiated this 'Nifty Fifty' initiative across the West Wing.



Sompting Lodge has reaffirmed its commitment to community support through its continued partnership with Durrington Infant and Junior School in Worthing — a relationship that has grown steadily over many years.



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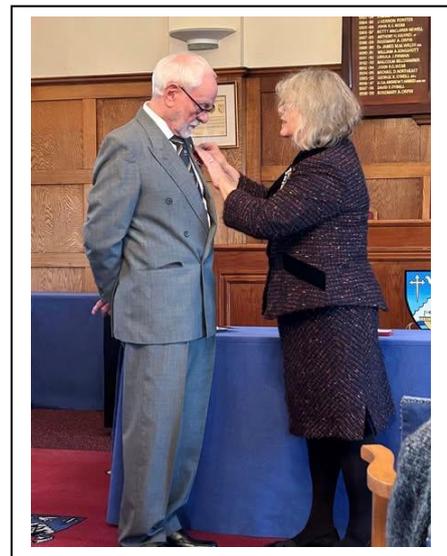
Congratulations to Steve Lewis and Cissbury Lodge 5327 in supporting **Care for Veterans** with money raised on their Ladies Night.



Lodge of Union 38 held their Ladies night at the Chichester Masonic Hall raising money for the charities Men's Sheds Association and Parkinsons UK. Thank you Chris Bond and his lady Sammy for arranging this wonderful event.

WBro David Slade (Rustington Lodge) was presented with his British Empire Medal (BEM). The presentation was made (on behalf of his Majesty King Charles) by The Lord Lieutenant of Sussex, Lady Emma Barnard supported by Deputy Lieutenant Sally Gunnell.

David's very well deserved award recognises his service to the community in Littlehampton. David has been involved in the world of life saving since 1957 and in 2019 founded the Littlehampton Wave Lifesaving Club where he remains the driving force. Congratulations David!





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Remembrance Day was fully supported throughout the West Group





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West Group Freemasons visited Sage House the dementia hub at Tangmere. We received a presentation on the 'one stop' dementia service from assessment and diagnosis through to support and care. This was followed by a tour of the facilities. The highlight of the evening was a cheque presentation by W Bro John Burgon and the **Wayfarers Lodge** team for £2,000

Watch this Space.

Any Brother wishing development in any area of Craft or Royal Arch Masonry that we have not covered please let us know. We will try to put a learning plan together for you.

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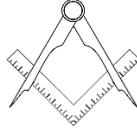
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If you are not willing to
learn no one can help
you.

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

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Notes.