

Orator's Report on the 14th Degree Perfect Elu

May 13, 2021



The apron of the 14th Degree is a white lambskin, lined with crimson and edged with blue. In the middle of the apron is painted or embroidered the jewel.

Bremerton Valley of the Scottish Rite

The Legend: This Degree and the Thirteenth are very closely related. The legend associated with the Cubic Stone bearing the ineffable name of the Deity is continued here. Solomon decides to place the cubic stone in a special underground cavern used by himself, King Hiram of Tyre, and Master Hiram for private conferences. The contrast between the crypt of Enoch and that of Solomon form an important allegory of the latter and of the Thirteenth Degree.

The Setting: The Temple, with the Ark of the Covenant placed in the Sanctum Sanctorum, has been built. The innermost Chamber of the secret crypt of the Temple of King Solomon in which the True Word, lost in the legend of the Master Degree, has been discovered, and that which was discovered has been secured. The Chamber is reached by a horizontal passage with nine arches. The Arch figures prominently in this Degree.

The Ritual: King Solomon, styled as Venerable Master, asks the candidate, who is clothed as a Mason of the Royal Arch of Solomon, 10 questions based on the duties taught to him in the previous Degrees, and awaits the Candidate's positive reply for each question. Upon Acceptable response, the candidate is made a Perfect Elu and taught the degree's lessons.

The candidate is invested with the apron, cordon and jewel which is a pair of compasses surmounted by a pointed crown set to thirty degrees and opened upon a quarter of a circle. Within the compasses is a medal, representing on one side the Sun, and on the other a five-pointed star, in the center of which is a delta, and on that the ineffable Name of God represented by the Roman letters YHVH.

The Lecture: The ceremony has two main purposes: one, to call for reflection on the nature of Deity and man's relationship with Him; and two, review the Ineffable Degree's duties and obligations. These duties include:

4° Practice silence, obedience, fidelity

5° Cultivate honesty, sincerity, good faith

6° Being zealous, faithful, selfless and benevolent; act as a peacemaker

- 7° Decide fairly and impartially; do justice to all men
- 8° instill benevolence and charity; brotherly sympathy for those in our employ
- 9° Destroy ignorance
- 10° Fight against tyranny and fanaticism
- 11° Be sincere, truthful, trustworthy; be the advocate and champion of the rights of the people
- 12° Seek truth and right
- 13° Being guided and directed by honor and duty
- 14° Be dedicated to virtue and the cause of humanity

As a Mason, the candidate should reflect on and recognize that his life is the life of a man, and should calculate his months based on his virtues and his search for truth.

Pike says [M&D]: “The perfect truth is not available anywhere, still we must not rest in the search for truth, nor intentionally accept error. It is our duty always to advance in the search; because although the absolute truth is unattainable, Masonry should be a continuous battle after the Light. The Mason rightly undertakes to conform to the demands of heaven and earth on his time and thought.”

Pike: “A Mason must labor to elevate and purify his motives as well as diligently cherish the conviction that in this world there is no such thing as effort thrown away; that in all sincere labor there is profit;...and that, however we may, in moments of despondency, be apt to doubt, not only whether our cause will triumph, but whether, if it does, we shall have contributed to its triumph,—there is One, Who has not only seen every exertion we have made, but Who can assign the exact degree in which each soldier has assisted to gain the great victory over social evil. No good work is done wholly in vain.”

Pike: “The Perfect Elu will in nowise deserve that honorable title, if he has not that strength, that will, that self-sustaining energy; that Faith, that feeds upon no earthly hope, nor ever thinks of victory, but, is content in its own consummation, combats because it ought to combat, rejoicing fights, and still rejoicing falls”.

THE MORAL TEACHING of this degree is that knowledge without its application is of little or no value. With knowledge comes responsibility, and one must prove oneself worthy to possess it.

DUTIES

Assist, encourage and defend the brethren. Protect the oppressed and relieve want and distress. Enlighten the people. Serve the common good and be fruitful of all good works.

LESSONS

Perfect Elus are both bound and free; bound by their obligation and free from prejudice, intolerance and envy. Masons meet on the level because in their lives authority and liberty are in equilibrium.

FOR REFLECTION

If perfection is not attainable, for what does the Mason strive?

IMPORTANT SYMBOLS

Baptism, horizontal passageway to the vault, the cube, Seal of Solomon, columns, triangular pedestal, Great Candelabrum with 7 lights.

The apron is made of white sheepskin, with a crimson reverse and blue border. On the flap there is a representation of a flat square stone to which a ring is attached, representing the entrance to the Secret Chamber of the 13th degree. Its three colors, white, blue, and crimson, represent justice, perfection; and truth. The Cordon is crimson and on its left side is a green Acacia Branch symbolizing immortality; on the right a 5-pointed star and the word "perfection". The Jewel is a Compass open to a quarter of a circle. This jewel is made of gold and is worn as a necklace.