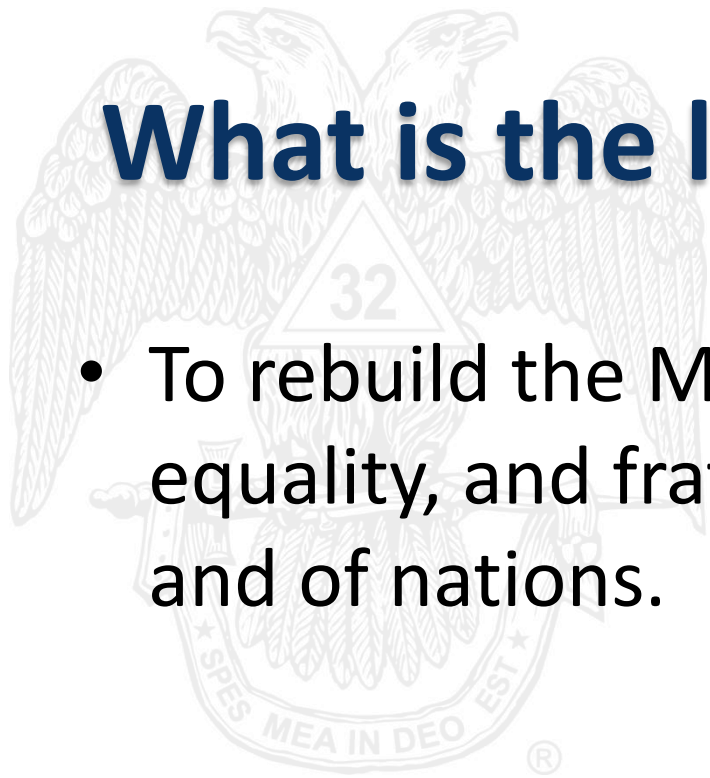




**15°,
Knight of
the East, of
the Sword,
or of the
Eagle**

What is the lesson of this degree?

- To rebuild the Masonic temple of liberty, equality, and fraternity, in the souls of men and of nations.





This degree opens with the ruins of Solomon's Temple, what does this teach us?

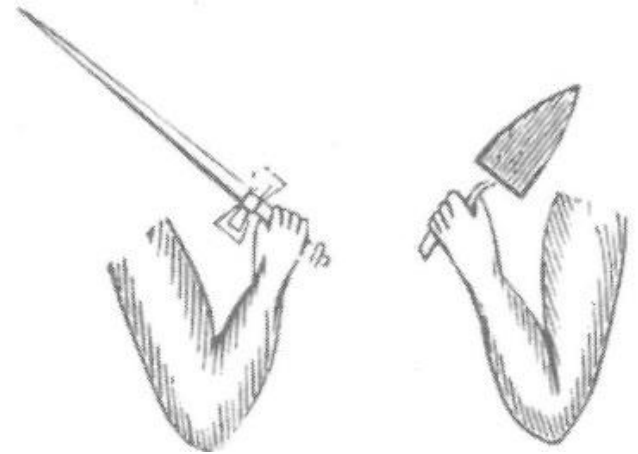
- This teaches us there is a great law of ebb and flow in nature.
 - Nature teaches us that perfection is not a static state but an ongoing process—a process of gradual and cyclic progression towards greater perfection.

What made Cyrus fulfill the promise of releasing the Jews to rebuild the temple and Jerusalem?

- Cyrus claimed that God spoke to him through a dream.
 - He dreamed that a lion was about to devour him and he could not flee, and he saw his predecessors Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar prostrate and loaded with chains before the Hebrew God.
 - He interpreted this dream as a command to release the Hebrew people or suffer the same fate.

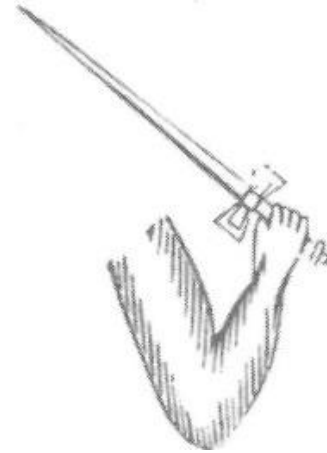
What was the significance of the builders holding a trowel and a sword?

- As the 15° is the beginning of the chivalric degrees, this reference shows knighthood and Masonry coming together in the same service.
- Many of the surrounding tribes were angered by the rebuilding of the temple and would attack the workers, so the workers had to learn to build with the trowel in one hand and a sword in the other for defense.

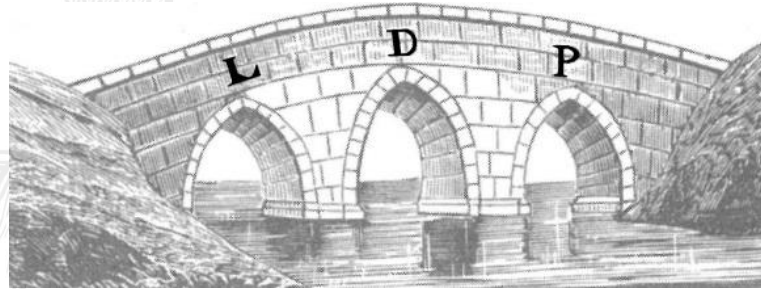


What was the significance of the builders holding a trowel and a sword?

- “... let us still remember that the only question for us to ask, as true men and Masons, is, what does duty require; not what will be the result and our reward if we do our duty. Work on, with the Sword in one hand, and the Trowel in the other!”



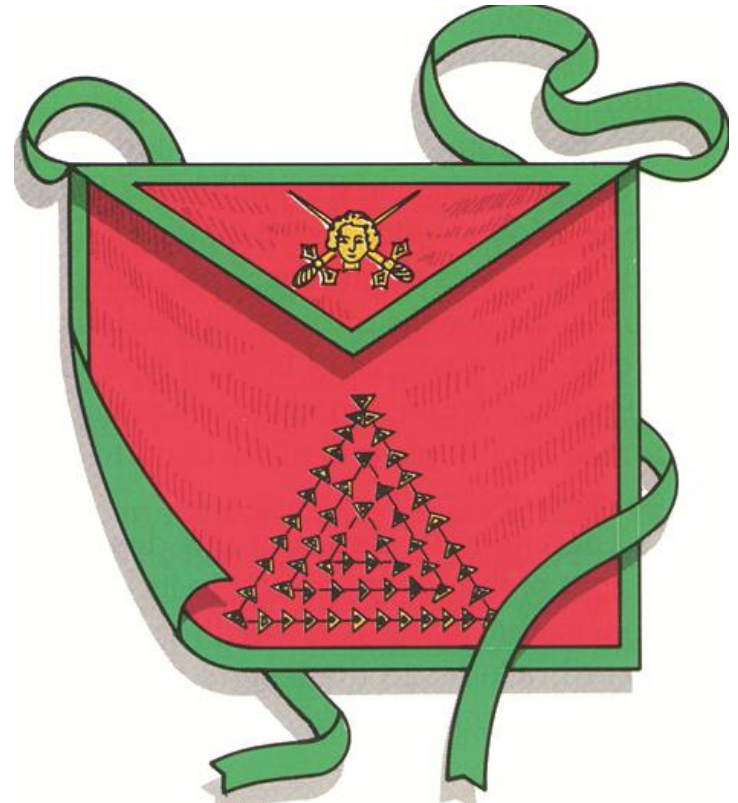
What is the symbolism of the initials “L.D.P” of the bridge?



- The initials from the old French Rituals, tell us these initials are “Liberté de Passer,” or “Freedom of Passage.”
- Pike states there is a further concealed meaning in using the initials as “Liberté de Penser,” meaning “Freedom of thought.”
- This symbolizes that their freedom of passage out of the captivity of a tyrant granted them freedom of thought and the ability to be true Masons.

What does the apron symbolize?

- The severed head crossed by two swords is that of tyranny, which was severed by the swords of free men.
- The three concentric triangles represent the three great and holy words that form the motto of the Scottish Rite: Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity.
 - The triangular links represent the bond of our Masonic brotherhood and our obligation.



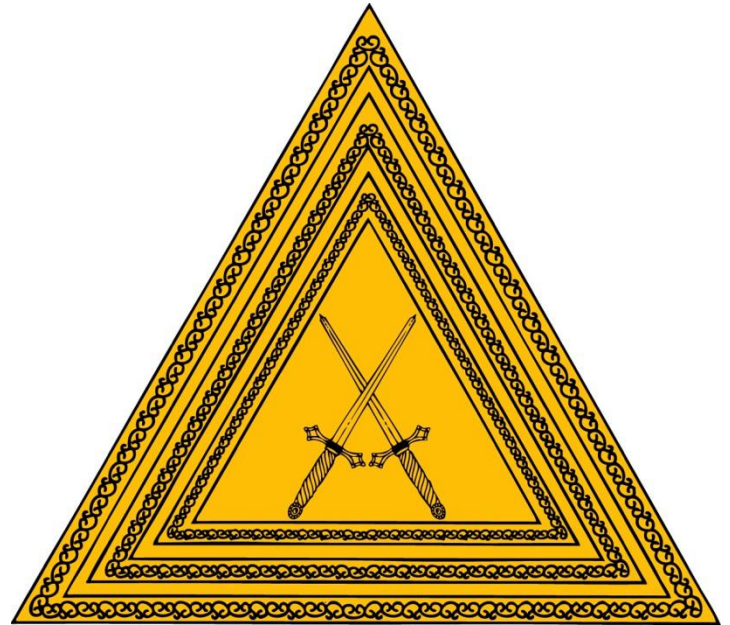
What does the girdle symbolize?

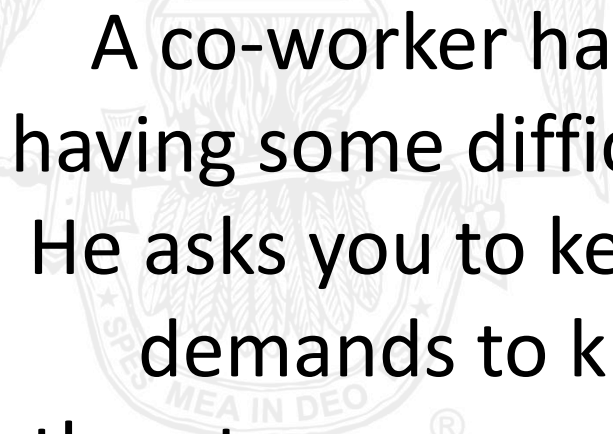


- This part of the regalia alludes to the passage Zerubbabel and his escort took over the bridge discussed earlier.
- The body parts strewn about on the girdle represent the conflict that ensued at the bridge, during which several limbs and heads were severed in the fight for the “Freedom of Passage.”
- The trowel again represents the Masonic half of the knighthood of this degree.

What is the significance of the jewel in this degree?

- These three concentric triangles represent three different attributes from those shown on the apron.
- These triangles represent Law, Order, and Subordination.
 - Our swords are not only to be used against despots who rule and rob by force but also for the laws and civil institutions of the state against anarchy and unjust military power.





A co-worker has confided in you that he is having some difficulties with your mutual boss. He asks you to keep his confidence. Your boss demands to know what is going on and threatens consequences should you refuse to share what you know.

How would you handle this situation?