

FREEMASONRY AND PSYCHOLOGY

The 2010 Arizona Masonic Education Academy will explore the field of psychology in terms of the symbolic system of the Entered Apprentice degree. Taking the position that human growth and the development of Man's potentialities is implicit in the symbols and rites of the three degrees, the classes and discussions of the academy will be oriented toward the moral and spiritual aspects of the inner life, with a focus on Deity as particularly illumined by the tools of the Entered Apprentice and the lectures and charges which make up the instruction of the newly made Mason.

Comparisons will be made with the metaphysical system embodied in the plan of the Gothic Cathedral, with contrasts drawn to the present age of industrialism and materialism. Our study will consider the parallels between the three stories of the Temple of Solomon and the individual consciousness, the personal unconscious, and the collective unconscious. Parallels are further drawn to the 'secrets' of the 2nd and 3rd degrees of Masonry, and the insights of the personal unconscious awaiting discovery by the Entered Apprentice as he strives for mastery on the level of individual consciousness.

A thorough study of the First Degree Tracing Board will be made, and the several ways in which its symbols may be explained psychologically, including: the Ornaments of the Lodge; the Sun, Moon, and Stars; the Doric and Corinthian columns; and the parallel lines which bound the 'point-within-a-circle.' An extended consideration will also be given to the significance of Jacob's Ladder.

Further psychological connections will be drawn to the Rough and Smooth Ashlar, the Gavel, and the 24" Gauge, signifying, respectively, the process of individuation, passion and measured choice. The over-all goal of the academy will be to enable the Mason to examine the details and events of his everyday life, and to interpret those events and details using the symbols of the Craft. Day by day, month by month, and year by year, the Mason will, by this means, move 'from darkness to light', which is to say, from immaturity to maturity.