

This information may be freely given to Masons, however the following recognition is requested. The information contained in this educational paper was taken from the following books: <sup>3</sup>Beyond the Pillars.<sup>2</sup> Mackey's encyclopedia of Masonry It was compiled and edited by Bro. Barry D. Thom P.M Lodge Mackay #1129. (6 mins.)

#### NUMEROLOGY

The symbolism which is derived from numbers was common to the Pythagoreans, Kabbalists, Gnostics, and all mystical associations. Allusions to numbers are also to be found in most religions. It is therefore not surprising that it shows up in Freemasonry as well. Many of the ancient philosophers felt that numbers had spiritual connotations and were the cause of universal harmony as well as chaos. As the number three was celebrated by the ancient sages, so then nine being three times three was equally important. There were the nine Muses etc. Masons revered the number nine as did the Kabbalists. The Kabbalists saw the number nine as symbolizing the fertility of the egg. Nevertheless others regarded this number with a sort of terror. They considered it as an bad omen, warning of evil things to come They avoided all numbers where nine appeared especially 81 which is the product of  $9 \times 9$ . The Pythagoreans also disliked nine but felt that ten was the number of perfection which symbolized the completion of things. the number ten contained the first four integers ( $1+2+3+4=10$ )  
>From time immemorial the numeral three has signified completeness, or  
>even

divinity. There are three dimensions, three Fates, three Graces, three Gorgons, thrice three Muses, three wise men, three persons of the Christian Trinity. In Freemasonry there are three degrees, three principal officers, three assistant officers, and many more "threes". Perhaps in no degree is the number so frequent as in the First. Consider the following examples. Before you were admitted to the lodge room you were interviewed by a committee of three, who asked you three questions, each one relating to that great landmark, your belief in a Supreme Being. When you were led to the door of the lodge room three raps were given, which were answered by three from the inside. The I.G. addressed the J.D. three times. As you were admitted the J.D. spoke three times. While you were in a kneeling posture the W.M. spoke three times. In the perambulation the Junior and Senior Warden each addressed you three times. The W.M. then asked you three questions in the West. You were conducted to the altar by three steps each measure of which is a multiple of three. In the OB. there are three references of the lodge ..Worthy., Worsh., and Warr.... In assuring you of the regularity of the meeting, three references are made. In the oath of secrecy there are three parts, "always ....., ever ....., and never ....." The secrecy relates to three periods of communication, past, present, and future. Only under one of three conditions may those secrets be communicated outside a lodge, and in the body of a lodge only if it possesses three essential characteristics, just, perfect., and regular. The penalty is of a threefold character. After the OB. and before the light the W.M. spoke three times. Your attention was directed to the three great lights, also to the three lesser lights. You were warned of the three great dangers. Three true and proper signs were explained to you by which you were to know a Mason. After taking a short pace etc., you were told that there were three signs. of this Degree There were three reasons given for the trial in the N.E. corner.

Three W.T. were presented to you. A moral was deduced from them, namely, that knowledge, subjected to three influences, will produce three results.

In the J.W.'s lecture your attention was directed to the three dimensions of a lodge. The fact that our lodges stand on holy ground brings to our mind three grand offerings. Our lodges are situated due E. and W. for three reasons. They are supported by three pillars. These are emblems of three divine attributes and further represent three ancient G.Ms., and are referred to the three noble orders of architecture. There are three principal rounds in the ladder. The interior of a lodge is composed of three sets of articles. There are three ornaments, three items of furniture, three movable jewels, and three immovable jewels. There are three distinguishing characteristics of every Free. and Accepted Mason and three tenets or fundamental principles. We thus see that at every turn in our ceremony we are confronted by the number three.