

Finding Doric

The first of the Orders provided to us from the Greeks, the Doric is the simplest of the three and stouter than the other two. In Greece these columns were typically placed directly on pavement or floors and did not have a base. That came with the Romans who incorporated plinths for the columns to rest upon.

Given the stout nature of the Doric column, we can allude to this being representative of the pillar of strength in Masonry and being placed in the West. It is said that Hiram King of Tyre our first Grand Senior Warden erected a pillar to Jupiter upon forming a grand junction in ancient times. I posit that Boaz, one of the two pillars located at the outer porch of King Solomon's Temple is Doric in nature since it symbolizes strength as taught to us in the walking lecture of the second degree.

Further examination of the etymology of the word Boaz shows that it emanates from be'oz meaning "in the strength of" of bo'oz "in him is strength" from a root of 'zz "to be strong". In urban dictionaries, a person called by the name Boaz is said to be "strong of character". Would that we all strive to emulate the symbolic and historical nature of Boaz as we continue to climb this beautiful staircase and raise ourselves Masonically to be better men.

This step also refers to the sense of seeing. As we stand here before taking our next step, we should be looking for the strength in each other. And while hearing allows us to learn the ritual and was part of the last step, seeing should allow us to achieve deeper meaning by drawing correlation between the signs given regularly as well as the beautiful images around our lodge and in our literature. I hope you can see now how each stair and element of our beautiful ritual builds upon the previous ones.

Coming next month, I have the feeling that we will touch upon an Ionic symbol of Freemasonry.



The Winding Staircase - A 15 step path to improving yourself in Masonry'
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