

A touch of the Ionic

Continuing our journey, the next step brings us to the Ionic order of architecture and the human sense of feeling. The Roman architect Vitruvius has stated that the Doric Order was based on the proportions of the male body. He also references the Ionic being modeled after the more graceful elements of the female body which may be why it was used in the Temple of Artemis which is an iconic building and was said to be one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

We have already attributed Doric order Masonically to the West and representing strength. You may be inclined to think that due to its graceful lines that the Ionic order would be Masonically associated with the South and represent the pillar of beauty, however, it is actually associated with the East and is commonly considered the pillar of Wisdom. There are many theories as to why this could be, my own personal thoughts are that it is representative of the infinite wisdom required to rule and govern since it much taller and expansive than the Doric column.

This step also references the sense of touch or feeling. The physiology of our sense of touch is when our somatic sensory system is functioning properly. When something makes contact with our skin, one of over 5 million nerve receptors informs the brain. In addition to this physical interaction, the way your brain perceives the contact defines the overall type of touch you are experiencing.

Receiving a handshake from a close friend or relative should provide a sense of warmth and connection that gets stronger with repetition, an exchange of tokens between brothers should also provide comfort and confidence in each other that you can communicate on the level with one another in the dark as in the light. And while we are taught that tokens are to be used for recognition during time of visual darkness, keep in mind that it could be in times of emotional or mental darkness as well, and be ready to offer a token to a brother that may need help to see. Next month will involve two Corinthians, men of exquisite taste, who will be providing jokes.



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