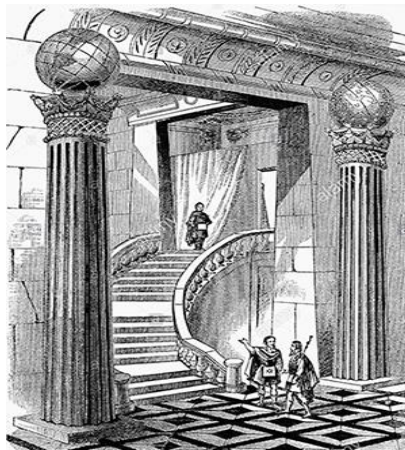


A Question of Rhetoric.

Two boll weevils grew up in North Carolina. One took off to Hollywood and became a rich star. The other stayed in Carolina and never amounted to much, and naturally became known as the lesser of two weevils.

Last step we learned that Grammar teaches the mechanics of language. Rhetoric is the application of these mechanics to instruct and persuade the audience through the use of Logic which we will cover next time. Widely associated with public speaking, rhetoric has been closely tied to politics throughout the ages dating back to the Greek forums. Rhetoric in its purest form cannot be limited to just speech or written forms since by definition, torture would be a form of rhetoric as it was a means to persuade or coerce a way of thinking or a specific action. While not enacted in that way within the lodge, Rhetoric in Masonry alludes to wisdom and the means we use to impart the knowledge to our candidates as we progress through the degrees. By utilizing the grammar we convey the rhetoric and will allow logic to enable understanding of factual knowledge that can be trusted. These three elements are there not unlike the plumb, square and level which are used together to help build our understanding of the lessons of Freemasonry.

Given that rhetoric is defined as the art of persuading, I leave you this to ponder. If someone suggests to remove rhetoric from a discussion or argument, isn't that rhetorical? If not, how could you persuade someone otherwise?



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

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