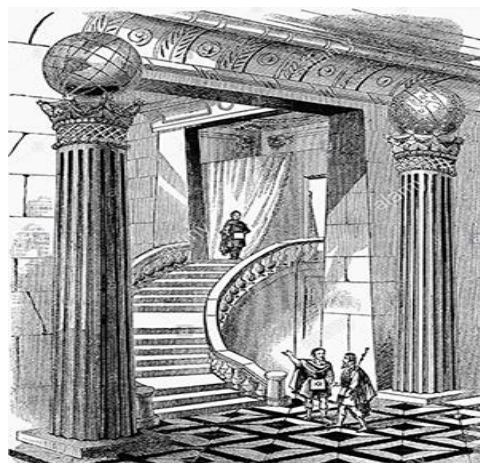# You have to be Odd to be number 1

Why are all the numbers afraid of 7?  Because 7 ate 9. Do you know why?  7 was told to eat 3 squared meals a day.

Numbers are all around us in masonry. They repeat in many areas, if you think about it, how many times do we see the number 3, 5, or 7? How about 4?  Arithmetic is defined as the science that is engaged in considering the properties and powers of numbers.  What powers do the numbers I just mentioned have for you? Do numbers have power? Do you have a lucky number, if so, why? Is it because it has a special memory or attachment to a person, place or experience? How about the numbers we see repeated in Masonic teachings and Ritual? I believe that these numbers have a certain power to assist with our memorization of the fundamental lessons in Masonry. How many of you learned the number of items in the obligations for each degree and then tick them off on your fingers as you recite them. I will bet you learned how many items there were before you memorized the actual lines of each obligation.

There is another aspect of arithmetic to consider as it applies to our masonic improvement. The common operations of this science: addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division can have an uncommon application for us as masons.  We should always add to our fellowship and good experiences of our brothers, never subtract anything from the character of our neighbor, multiply our charity and take care of others, and divide our materials to contribute to the relief of every human being that has a claim upon our kindness.

We move on to Geometry for the next lecture, so I guess I need to "shape" up and deliver a "solid" experience.



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