

Three Steps to the Altar in the EA Degree

“ The way to approach the altar in this degree is by three steps, the first of fifteen inches, the second of twelve, the third of nine ” .

First, why three steps?

Three is the dominant number in this degree. Read the ritual and see for yourself.

Second, why fifteen, twelve, and nine inches?

These are the lengths of the three sides of a Pythagorean triangle, used to construct a right-angle.

So, from a mason 's point of view, this could be used to create a square. Obviously that 's of great use in building and construction, but as we are not operative but Free and Accepted masons, we make use of it for more noble pur-

poses.

As Masons, we understand the moral lessons derived from the square. These are taught in the ritual and lectures of the EA Degree.

The triangle is an ancient symbol, and its many forms have various meanings.

From a spiritual point of view, we should understand the base of the triangle to represent the physical aspect of ourselves. The vertical line is the mental, and the hypotenuse or diagonal as the spiritual side.

There are other shapes of triangle which are important in Masonry, but I 'll leave that for another time.

