

The Five-Pointed Star

By W. Bro. Rob Lund

I was asked recently about the significance of the five-pointed star, or pentacle, in Masonry. The person asking me had seen it on the regalia of a Grand Lodge officer. I was surprised at myself for not being able to provide an immediate answer. Of course, I then set out to find out more about this mystery.



The five-pointed star, pentagram, or pentacle, also known as the Pentalpha by the Pythagoreans, is an ancient symbol having a great many symbolic and mystical meanings in many cultures and organizations. The pentagram is a polygon (as shown in the jewel above), while the pentacle is drawn by five straight lines (as shown below in the Pentacle of Moses).

In ancient Mesopotamia, it was symbolic of imperial power. To the Egyptians, Greeks, and Pagans, it represented the underworld.

Used by the Christians until medieval times, it was a secondary symbol of their faith, and represented the five wounds of Christ on the cross. This is also in use by the Rosicrucians.

To the Jews it , represented the Pentateuch—the books of Moses.

To the Pythagoreans, it represented perfection because it incorporates the number 5.

Hermeticism refers to the Star of Hermes which was meant to brighten the path for seekers of light.

It can provide the Golden Ratio, used by Architects for designing perfect proportions in buildings, and it may have been used by Stone Mason guilds.

An inverted pentacle is considered “evil” by some - as a symbol of Satanism, although this is a relatively new idea—it was interpreted as such by Eliphas Levi in the nineteenth century.

So, what about Freemasonry?

In perusing the rituals of the three degrees, I found only two references to a star that is shown in the lodge as five-pointed (I am discounting the reference to the seven stars). In the first degree, the candidate is shown the star in the centre of the mosaic pavement, where it is a symbol of Divine Providence. I

have read that this is meant to be a six-pointed star. In the third degree, there is reference to the bright morning star. This relates to Venus, which has a relative path, over forty years, that traces out a five pointed star.

So there you have it.

