

# The pentagram in Freemasonry



The masonic significance of the pentagram is controversial. While it often appears on masonic regalia and decorative illustration, nowhere is it mentioned in masonic rituals or lectures. *Coil's Encyclopedia* asserts: "The Pentalpha is said to have had a great many symbolic and mystical meanings, but it has no application to Freemasonry...."

On the other hand, Waller Rodwell Wright, who had a part in the revisions of the Craft ritual which took place between 1809 and 1815, records a letter written "London Jany 7, 1815": "There is a small lamp used only in this Degree [3rd] whose light is seen from a *Five pointed star*." Colin Dyer notes "The use of a small lamp in the form of a five-pointed star will be noted. It will also be remembered that this was one of the features deleted when the ritual came up for approval before Grand Lodge in June 1816."

There are other opinions: " "By the early Christians it was used to represent the five wounds, the stigmata of the *Consolator Mundi*, by the Rosicrucians, the five elements and the five senses. Our five pointed star is in all probability derived from it and is hermetic in origin. Bro Oliver connects it with the star of manifestation, and builds up a Johannite theory of Christian Masonry upon it. But as according to the old hermetic teachers the Star of Hermes, the great Teacher, was to brighten up the seekers after Light along the misty pathway of this earthly life, to illuminate the darkness of the shadows of death with the radiant gleams of an eternal existence and everlasting truth, there seems to be a great analogy between hermetic and masonic use and teaching. The Pentalpha is also a masons' mark, and is found, I believe, in all countries where masons marks do abound, and also in all ages, more or less."

One of the most popular schools of thought, attributes the shape to the apparant orbit of the planet Venus, as observed from the Earth. Each point of the pentagram represents the position of Venus at eight-year intervals during it's 40 year cycle. The symbolism of the pentagram can also be found in other places, such as the Forget-Me-Not worn by some European Masons as a lapel pin, and in certain Lodge emblems, jewels and banners.

Other Masonic references to the number 5 - the five noble orders of achitecture, the five who hold a Lodge, the five points of fellowship, etc.

The pentagram has also captured the imagination of great artists, such as Leonardo DaVinci, and Poussin, who are known to have encoded the pentagram

shape into their paintings.

The street-plans of several cities across the world also feature the pentagram in their design, the most famous being Washington D.C. - a city designed by Masons!