

ADELPHIC UNION LODGE #14

BEHOLD, HOW GOOD AND HOW PLEASANT IT IS..



A Message From The Worshipful Master

NIGEL PHILIP

Dear Past Masters and Brothers of Adelpic Union Lodge #14,

I am tremendously humbled and honored to accept and assume the responsibilities of leading our lodge for the year of 2025, I love this craft! I love this lodge that I was raised in and I am continuing to grow in. What I believe makes Adelpic Union Lodge #14 special is honestly what makes every lodge special in its own way, it's our members, our brothers.



December Highlights

12/14 - ATTENDED CRISPUS ATTUCKS WINTER WHITE AFFAIR

12/18 - HELD ELECTIONS

12/20 - JW LOUIS BOCKNIGHT TRAVELED TO SAMPSON LODGE MWPGLNJ

12/21 - ELECTA CHAPTER UGLY SWEATER PARTY

12/25 ASSISTED WITH THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



We have a host of all-star Grand Lodge officers to be proud of but it's our faithful brothers that makes us the "U". Our other speciality can be found in the quality of our education. We raise knowledgeable masons and I am proud to know that.

The vision I have for our lodge is to continue and build upon the momentum set forth by my predecessor, Junior Past Master Wilbert Green and the Past Masters before him. As it's been said many times before, we all stand on the shoulders of giants and I acknowledge and more than appreciate the road that's been paved before me and for all of us. The name of our lodge literally translates to the Union of Brothers.

I've chosen Unity through Love and Light as 2025's theme because I could not think of two better allegorical brothers to keep united than Love and Light. They are the heart and brain of the body. If we, as a lodge, can harmonize the love we have for each other as brothers, forgive each other of our faults and gently hold each other accountable for the light we all should be pursuing as freemasons then each of us and as a collective will be wiser, stronger and more beautiful for it in the process and in the end and we will be in the our best position to do greater works for others and in the world.

Fraternally Yours
Bro. Nigel Philip, WM



Wisdom Dwells In Contemplation

PRIOR MONTH'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Installation 12/18
- Christmas Luncheon 12/25
- Kwanza Celebration 12/3



The good man is the man who, no matter how morally unworthy he has been, is moving to become better.

JOHN DEWEY

Upcoming Events & Visitations

Upcoming opportunities to connect and grow

- St James Lodge #114 Superbowl Party
- Unity Lodge #148 Raising Feb 4th
- PHGL Workshop and Reception at NYS Black, PR, Hispanic & Asian Caucus Feb 15th



Birthdays

Celebrating our brothers' special days

- BROTHER NIGEL PHILIP – JAN 3RD
- BROTHER SIDNEY CORNIFF JAN 10TH
- BROTHER NELSON SOTO JAN 14TH
- BROTHER DENNIS MARTINEZ –JAN 24TH
- BROTHER JASON GAMBLE – JAN 27TH
- BROTHER ANGEL ROSADO- JAN 3RD
- BROTHER GREGORY AQUINO JAN 13
- BROTHER EZECHEMEREM EMEONYE JAN 1ST
- BROTHER RODNEY HUNTER JAN 27TH

Sickness and Distress

Keeping our brothers in our thoughts and prayers

- PM Robet Meyers
- PM Andre Jones
- Bro Leo Bazille
- Bro Mick Rosa

Spiritual reflection for the month

Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: Love her, and she shall keep thee. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: And with all thy getting get understanding. – Proverbs 4:6-7 KJV

To acquire knowledge,
one must study; but to
acquire wisdom, one
must observe."
Marilyn vos Savant



Art Section / Suggested Reading & Entertainment

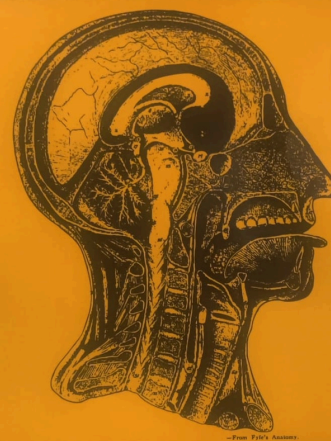
Nurturing the mind and soul



FEATURED ARTWORK BY WM NIGEL PHILIP

Suggested Reading

THE PINEAL GLAND: THE EYE OF GOD



Comprising Chapter XVI of Manly Hall's
Man: The Grand Symbol of the Mysteries



The Rite of Circumambulation

BY: PM ERROL ALLEN

When a candidate alarms the door of a Masonic Lodge, he's greeted by the SD (rather harshly most times) who ascertains, "who are you and what do you want?"

The SD then let's the WM know who's outside and what he wants. He's described as being poor and blind. He's asking for three things; his first request is "to have and receive a part in the rites" of the Lodge. Without being granted this request, Masonic light and benefits will never be attained. What are these rites that are spoken of? We'll talk about 4.

Astronomy has long been a part of every faith. Often, the movement of the stars and constellations is seen as a representation of God. The act of admiring his creation is among the purest forms of worship.

Therefore, it is no surprise that the rite of circumambulation appears in our lodges. The act of replicating the movement of the heavens around the lodge—which we are told in the first degree is representative of the universe.

Circumambulation is among the most time-honored methods of appreciating The GATU's great creation.

"Truth is incontrovertible. Panic may resent it, ignorance may deride it, malice may distort it, but there it is."

Winston Churchill



Galaxy S23 Ultra

Albert Mackey links the Masonic rite of circumambulation to the practices of the Greeks and Romans who used it as part of their sacrificial rites. That this was done to imitate the movement of the sun from the east to the west by way of the south. He claims that this is the influence of the pagan mysteries on what he calls the “Freemasonry of Antiquity.” He speculated that the ancient pagans practiced a form of Freemasonry which was tailored to fit their spiritual beliefs.

The ritualistic explanation is simple enough, “which is that it allows for the continued inspection of the candidate by the Brethren.” This simple explanation fits into the lodge education and was probably composed by Brothers who hadn’t explored the authentic knowledge of the real meaning of the ceremony of circling the alter so that now few brethren are convinced that the simple ritualistic explanation conveys all the truth.

"Circumambulation" is the name given in a formal procession around an altar, or other holy and consecrated objects.

This rite among the ancient beliefs appears to be universal, it alludes to the course of the sun which, which is from east to west by the way of the south.

The secret of Masonry, like the secret of life, can be known only by those who seek it, serve it, live it. It cannot be uttered; it can only be felt and acted.

DR. JOSEPH FORT
NEWTON



In ancient Greece, when the priests were engaged in the rites of sacrifice, they and the people (or alone) always went around the altar while chanting a sacred hymn or ode (Psalms 133) In making this circumambulation, it was considered necessary that the right side should always be next to the altar, and consequently, that the procession should move from the east to the south, then to the west, next to the north, and then to the east again. It was in this way that the revolution of the Sun was represented.

Let's look at this circumambulation around the altar being accompanied by the singing or chanting of a sacred ode. There's always three parts of the ode, the strophe, the antistrophe, and the epode, each part was to be sung at a particular part of the procession. The analogy between this chanting of an ode by the ancients and the recitation of Psalms 133 in the masonic circumambulation, becomes apparent.

Among the Romans, the ceremony of circumambulation was always used in the rites of sacrifice and repentance. In fact, it was common to unite the ceremony of circumambulation with that of purification. A purification and circumambulation were often expressed by the same word in Latin, *circuire*. In making this procession, the initiate is symbolically making a sacrifice and seeking both repentance and purification.

Islamic circumambulation is practiced around the Ka'ba in Mecca, the Rock of Mount Moriah in Jerusalem, and in many mausoleums and shrine where the sages of Islam are revered.

Among the Hindus, the same rite of circumambulation has always been practiced. The ceremonies which are to be performed by a Brahmin (Priest) upon first rising from bed in the morning. The priest, having first adored the sun while facing the east, then walks towards the west by the way of the south, saying, at the same time, "I follow the course of the sun," which he thus explains: "As the sun in his course moves round the world by the way of the south, so do I follow the great orb of day, to obtain the benefit arising from a journey around the earth by the way of the south." Those benefits being, knowledge of self-sacrifice, faith in forgiveness and spiritual purification.

Whether in a Masonic lodge, or in cultures different from our own or in a religious rite, circumambulation is a humble imitation of the form of worship of those ancient men to whom the sun in the sky and fire on their stone altar were representations of God. The implementation of a rite of passage is ultimately what will determine the quality of impact it will have on the initiates and candidates.

I've learned so that our degrees are, in fact, rites of passage. If a lodge works to apply these practices, then the rites of passage that it puts initiates through will have much more profound, long-lasting, and desired results. Masonically, this rite is also intended to instill faith in fellow Mason (if you make it) when told to follow your conductor and fear no danger. In performing this rite, the candidate is thus prepared for the rite of investiture, "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart."

The Rite of Investiture

Another ritualistic symbolism, which I personally believe is more important as a Mason, is the *rite of investiture*. The rite of investiture or the *ceremony of clothing* brings us to that well-known symbol of Freemasonry, the LAMB-SKIN OR WHITE LEATHER APRON.

This rite of investiture, or the placing of some garment on a candidate, as an indication of his appropriate preparation for the ceremonies or ongoing conduct in which he was about to engage. This prevailed in all the ancient initiations. In all these modes of investiture, no matter what was the material or the form, the symbolic signification intended, is that of purity.

In Freemasonry, the same symbolism is communicated by the apron. It is the first gift which the Brother receives along with a pair of white gloves. He receives his first set of instructions as a Mason. He has been taught that this vestment is an emblem of innocence and "badge of a Mason." And most appropriately, that whatever deeper mysterious or specialized knowledge, whatever language or information he acquires in his devotion to our mystic art, or wherever his thirst and zeal may carry him, he never parts with this vestment. Aprons may change in form and decorations indicating one's ambitious feet treading round after round of the ladder that leads to fame within our mystic circle. He may even discover some new and beautiful allusions in masonry, but the substance of the vestment is still there as he continues to claim the honorable title which he received on the night of his initiation, the title of Brother.

The apron (vestment) derives its significance, as the symbol of purity, from two sources, from its color and from its material. These must be considered, before its symbolism can be properly appreciated. First, the color of the apron must be an unspotted white. This color has, in all ages, been seen an emblem of innocence and purity. It was with reference to this symbolism that a portion of the vestments of the Jewish priesthood was directed to be made white. Leviticus 16:3 "And hence Aaron was commanded, when he entered the holy of holies to make an atonement for the sins of the people, to appear clothed in white linen, with his white linen apron, about his loins.

In the early ages of the Christian church (and still today) a white garment was always placed on the one who had been recently baptized, to denote that he had been cleansed from his former sins and was therefore to lead a life of innocence and purity. It was presented to him with this appropriate charge: "Receive the white and undefiled garment and produce it unspotted before the tribunal of our Lord, that you may obtain eternal life." The material of the apron unites with its color to give to the investiture of a mason the symbolic signification of purity.

This, together with the fact that the ceremony of investiture was common to all the ancient religious rites, gives some proof of the identity of origin between these institutions and the Masonic institution. The pure, unspotted lamb-skin apron is, in Masonry, symbolic of that perfection of body and purity of mind which are essential qualifications in all who would participate in its sacred tenets.

This symbolism also indicates the sacred and religious character which the founders (whoever they may be) may have sought to impose upon Freemasonry, to which both the moral and physical qualifications of our candidates should be referenced. So, it is with the masonic lodge as it was with the ancient faiths. No man that has a blemish can enter a masonic Lodge in any other way than being vested with the emblem that is pure and uncorrupted. Having been spiritual purified by circumambulation and now vested with the emblem of innocence, that badge of a Mason, he's thus prepared to receive of one the lessons of Three Principal Rounds" of the Ladder of Heavenly Ascent. Charity.

Before we proceed, let's look at charity. One aspect of charity is love, which manifests itself in the benevolence of freemasons. Apostle Paul, in his letter to The Corinthians said "Though I have the gift of prophesy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge. Though I have all faith so that I could remove mountains, I have no charity, I am nothing.

The Rite of Destitution

That Hopeless, Empty Feeling. Let's think back to that day you became an Entered Apprentice

You had waited perhaps for months, even years perhaps not exactly so patient – for this big moment. You're finally being addressed as Brother, we're now a Freemason. You stood before the Master of the Lodge among your Brothers, knowing you were a part of things... accepted... perhaps, even had a small sense of accomplishment.

Then, it all momentarily fell apart. You were asked for something you couldn't produce, and all those warm, positive thoughts just evaporated into a hopeless, empty feeling. Here we were the new Brother. We wanted nothing more than to please our new Brothers. we saw an empty hand stretched out. You wanted to comply, but You couldn't. Now what? Were they going to discontinue the degree?

A brother vouched that We were worthy and well qualified, duly, and truly prepared. As Brothers tell us "To give him something," our mind descended into confusion. Then the Master explained what this was all about. You just received, in a graphic way, one of your first Masonic lessons.

This lesson in charity does not come by way of the charitable hand but through the eyes and mind of the destitute, the hopeless, the desperate. Every Freemason, even if financially well-off, has for at least a small moment known the despair of not having enough.

That little object lesson, called the Rite of Destitution, cannot compare to the reality of a life of grinding and desperate poverty, but the hope is it will teach us, as new Brothers, that it is our duty – not our option, but our duty – to treat those in that condition fairly, to be able to empathize with them and, if at all possible, contribute to the relief of any such person "so far as his necessities may require and our ability will permit."

Freemasonry, being a progressive science, this is not the end of our lesson in charity but the beginning. In our Masonic journey, we learn Relief is one of the great tenets of our craft. In the United States we're privileged in most cases to have the opportunity and means to support ourselves and our families, but even here there are those who can't.

So, we as Masons, must do what we can, both as Lodges and individuals.

It is going to be a never-ending task. All the Holy Books teach us, that, "the poor will always be with us." We cannot become discouraged, apathetic, and uncaring. We must remain aware that every little bit helps, and we never give up. Larger Lodges, various institutions, and persons of great means can – and do – make a significant difference with their contributions and have made an immense impact on humanity. We, as individuals and smaller Lodges, we do not operate on the same level, BUT “the spirit of our contributions is by no means any less significant”.

Most, if not all, of our brothers are individuals who would be generous to the less fortunate anyway, but it does not hurt to have that Rite of Destitution tugging at us as a reminder that practicing the great tenet of Relief is the duty of every Freemason

The Rite of Discalceation

The rite of discalceation, is uncovering the feet on approaching holy ground, is derived from the Latin word discalceare, to pluck off one’s shoes.

Its symbolic signification was well understood in the days of Moses, we learn from that passage of Exodus where the angel of the Lord, at the burning bush, exclaims “Draw not nigh hither; put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.”

The Masonic lodge can be deemed a holy place. Where the solemn truths of the resurrection of the body and the immortality of the soul are inculcated. The candidate, on entering the Lodge, even though he’s not yet aware, participated in this rite, this symbolic application.

I haven’t found any proof that there were any divine laws attached to this rite of removing one shoe, but only that it was a long-established custom to do so in transferring one man’s right in any land to another.

In Ruth, it says, to confirm all things a man plucked off his shoe and gave it to his neighbor and This was testimony in Israel. In our ritual, it states “This therefore, we do, testifying in the strongest manner possible, the sincerity of our intentions in the work in which we are engaged. It's interesting that when a shoe was given to bind a bargain, or to renounce a right, each party to the agreement kept one shoe, because the possession of one shoe by each person was evidence of the transaction. (Fortunately, we don't do that. Can you imagine the collection of shoes in your Lodge building?)

The Symbolism of Discalceation also for the Candidate, the absent shoe, denotes that he is forming new ties, and taking new obligations. In the process he is disgracing ties to the past, aspiring to climb to intellectual and moral achievements and cultivate the tenets of brotherly love, relief and truth.

The symbolism to the candidate is that rights are being transferred to him and that mutual pledges and obligations are being assumed. (We hear this in the address to a Brother). In one instance it is symbolic of the initiate agreeing to surrender his own will in all that relates to the order and become obedient to its ancient laws and precepts and also of the candidate's truthful testimony to the Brethren of the Lodge. Of his sincerity in entering on this important work and of a persevering effort to complete the work."

We don't often stress this meaning of the first-Degree Rite of Disclamation. We must recognize that man values most that for which he has to labor. But it is the less stressed meaning of this Rite which is of the greater importance. He is the better and the happier
Freemason who digs for himself in the “rubbish of the Temple” to uncover that which is gloriously buried there. (If this is not a call to study The Craft, I don't know what is.)

These rites are ceremonies to mark a person's change of status on a significant occasion such as upon entry into our Craft. Do we want our rites and degrees to make a positive impact on the initiate? Of course we do.
We should understand that a rite of passage consists of phases. Each phase is as important as the last and they must occur in order due to their nature and our Masonic structure: There is a transition in every degree between the time that you leave the anteroom and when you take the obligation for that degree. These can be looked at as micro-transitions. The other transition occurs during a period of time (in between degrees) that begins with Entered Apprentice degree and ends when he is raised as a Master Mason.

The individual degrees in Freemasonry are themselves rites of passage. Rites that are transformative in nature and when we say,
“Freemasonry takes good men and makes them better.” How do we do this? By making them Freemasons.

Mason Video Profile of the Month

PM WILL GREEN

The image is a YouTube video thumbnail. At the top, it says 'Systemic Leadership w/ WM Wil Green' next to a small circular icon. The main title 'Systemic Leadership' is in large, bold, black letters on a yellow background. Below this, it says 'Masterful Conversations Podcast' and features a red YouTube play button icon. The episode title is 'Episode 25 with Worshipful Master Wil Green'. On the right side, there is a portrait of Wil Green in Masonic regalia with his hands clasped. On the left side, there is a photo of three men in suits sitting on chairs. At the bottom left, it says 'Watch on YouTube' with the YouTube logo.

Worshipful Master Wil Green is a member of Adelpic Union Lodge No. 14 in Harlem, NY. He started serving as Worshipful Master in 2023 and is currently in his second term.

In this episode, we learn about his time in the East, how he works with his Lodge membership, the impact of having a lodge culture of leadership, and how he currently shows up as a leader in the Craft.

Disclaimer: The information shared on our show is intended for education and entertainment purposes. The views and opinions expressed here do not represent those of any Masonic Lodge or Grand Lodge. It's important to do your own research and consult with an appropriate officer in your Masonic jurisdiction.

Masterful Conversations Podcast. Hosted by PM Mark Alexander and PM Matthew Wagstaff.

Health Tip - Clove Water

Because a healthy Mason is a strong Mason



CLOVE WATER HAS SEVERAL POTENTIAL BENEFITS WHEN CONSUMED BEFORE BED, THANKS TO ITS HIGH LEVELS OF ANTIOXIDANTS AND ESSENTIAL NUTRIENTS. HERE'S WHAT IT MIGHT HELP WITH:

1. IMPROVES DIGESTION: IT CAN EASE BLOATING, GAS, AND STOMACH DISCOMFORT, HELPING YOUR DIGESTIVE SYSTEM WORK BETTER OVERNIGHT.

2. BOOSTS IMMUNITY: CLOVES ARE RICH IN VITAMINS AND COMPOUNDS LIKE EUGENOL, WHICH SUPPORT YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM.

3. AIDS IN BETTER SLEEP: CLOVE WATER MAY HELP RELAX YOUR BODY DUE TO ITS MILD SEDATIVE PROPERTIES, PROMOTING RESTFUL SLEEP.

4. REGULATES BLOOD SUGAR: IT MIGHT HELP STABILIZE BLOOD SUGAR LEVELS, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE MANAGING DIABETES.

5. ANTI-INFLAMMATORY EFFECTS: CLOVES CAN REDUCE INFLAMMATION IN THE BODY, EASING MUSCLE AND JOINT PAIN.

6. ORAL HEALTH: CLOVE WATER CAN COMBAT BAD BREATH AND SUPPORT HEALTHY GUMS.

Making clove water is simple! Here's a quick recipe:

1. Boil a cup of water (about eight ounces).
2. Add three to five cloves to the water.
3. Let it simmer for five to ten minutes.
4. Turn off the heat and allow the mixture to steep for another five minutes.
5. Strain the water to remove the cloves.

You can drink it warm, plain, or add a little honey for flavor. Let me know if you'd like variations!

2025 ADELPHIC UNION LODGE #14 OFFICERS

Worshipful Master ~ Bro.Nigel Philip
Senior Warden ~ Bro. Louis Bocknight IV
Junior Warden ~ Bro. Thaddeus Majett

Treasurer ~ RW. Kevin P. Wardally
Secretary ~ RW. Sandino A. Sanchez
Senior Deacon ~ Bro. Angel Rosado
Junior Deacon ~ Bro. Sean Baldon
Chaplain ~ Bro. Errol Allen

Senior MC ~ Bro. Nelson Soto
Junior MC ~ Bro. Andrew Lowndes
Marshall ~ Bro. LaKeith Rouse
Senior Steward ~ Bro. Courtland Hankins
Junior Steward ~ TBA

Historian ~ Bro. Jason Gamble
Recording Secretary ~ Bro. Tyrell Jackson

**Editors Note: The deadline to submit articles/essays for
The Beehive Is the second Tuesday of the following
month.**

Editor In Chief - Bro. Tyrell A Jackson
January Planned Events

**Every Friday - Study Class at the Grand
East**

**Jan 20th
Grand Lodge Martin Luther King
Jr Service**

**Jan 18th
GE Open House**

**Jan 18th
Masonicon GLNY**

**Jan 23rd
Prince Hall Lodge #38**





Brothers,

You are cordially and fraternally invited to the
Adelpic Union Lodge #14 monthly Stated
Communication scheduled for Jan 28th, 2025.

The gavel will sound at 7:00 pm sharp.
All brothers in good standing are invited to
attend.

Take due notice and govern yourself
accordingly.

