

THE COLOR BLUE: Symbolism and meaning of color is a very wide category of which numerous interpretations exist; of particular interest to us is the one stating that blue stands for the vertical and the spatial (in other words, height and depth, or the blue sky above, the blue sea below, etc). It symbolizes that Masonry can be as wide as these dimensions.

It is also interesting to note that blue is considered to be "between black and white", also commonly identified with two opposing forces, good and evil. Thus blue is considered to be the most neutral of all colors.

As Masons we are equal (on the level) in our position with other members, regardless of color, rank or title, thus very appropriately blue would represent this equality. If we were to consider this world "on the level", as we seek deeper meaning, the higher we go to the sky above the darker blue it becomes. In the same way, the deeper you go into the blue ocean, the darker it would become.

Blue is commonly used to represent religious feeling, devotion and innocence. It also was one of the primary colors used to adorn the Tabernacle.

To the Egyptians blue was used to represent truth. They happened to have two theories about the creation of the world: 1) that it was created by Thaut who when uttered any word, caused that object to exist; and 2) the work of Ptah "The Great Artificer" whose father Kneph was always adorned and depicted in blue.

Blue is also considered the color for the spirit and the intellect. Jesus teaches in a blue garment, and the Virgin Mary is usually depicted in a blue mantle, as is the Norse god Odin. Vishnu of ancient Indian mythology is blue, and one of its incarnations, Rama, is blue skinned symbolizing his vastness being as deep as the heavens.

In Europe, the blue flower was the symbol of the greatest aspiration of the spirit.

In French, the word Bleu is used as a substitute for the word Dieu (which means God) as swearing was punishable in the middle ages by death. As such, swear words as "morbleau", "sacribleau" and "parbleau" became popular substitutes in those times, and continues to be used nowadays. The French royal family was associated with the color blue, because blue was believed to be of celestial origins, and the royal family like many other royals of the time, also claimed to stem from this origin. As such they were referred to as "de sang bleu" or godly blood. Even today, a substitute expression for aristocracy is "Blue Blood".

Our Lodges, known to all as the "Blue Lodges" and cradle of Freemasonry are therefore appropriately named and decorated, wouldn't you agree?

JULY NOTABLES:

- 1756 Died. Bro. Johann Sebastian Bach, renowned musician
- 1776 The Declaration of Independence is signed.
- 1793 Died. Bro. Paul Maurat, French Revolution leader, murdered.
- 1863 Born. Bro. Henry Ford, motor car industry mogul.
- 1913 Born. Bro. Gerald Ford, senator and US President.
- 1921 Born. Bro. John Glenn, astronaut, US Senator.
- 1923 Born. Bro. Robert Dole, US Senator.
- 1980 Died. Bro. Peter Sellers, prolific movie actor.

QUOTABLES:

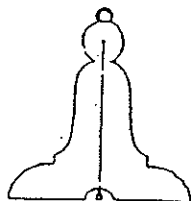
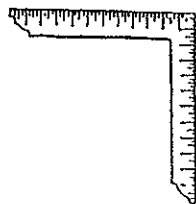
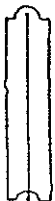
"Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves"
Carl Jung

"Friendship is the only cement that will ever hold the world together" Woodrow Wilson

REMEMBER/DON'T FORGET CORNER::

- There are thousands of young people who have been educated with Masonic scholarships.
- There are countless victims of severe burns who have been cared for without charge in the Shriner's (Masonic) burn institutes.
- There are thousands of children who live healthy, happy and whole lives thanks to the free medical care they received at one of the Masonically-sponsored crippled children's hospitals.
- There is an almost endless stream of youngsters across the country who have learned to communicate because of the free services of Masonic (Scottish Rite) language disorder clinics.
- There are mayor improvements in the treatment of schizophrenia, thanks to medical studies and research funded by Masons.
- There are thousands of Americans who, without charge, have had their sight restored or their vision improved, again without cost, because of the commitment of Masons.

We have a lot to be proud of, share with others and...remember/don't forget.



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