



On The Level ~ Chamber of Reflection

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Bro. Pierre Brown Friendship Lodge 84

- History and purpose of the Chamber
- The Candidate, the Chamber, and Initiation
- Symbolism and Alchemical Elements within the Chamber

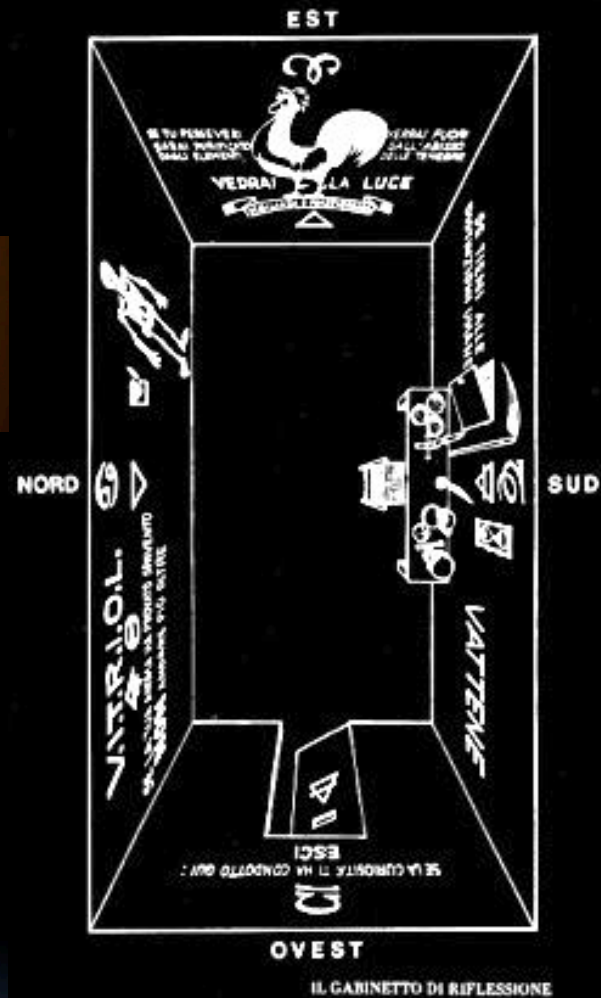
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What is man's duty to God, to Himself, his fellow beings?

DAN BROWN'S
THE LOST SYMBOL



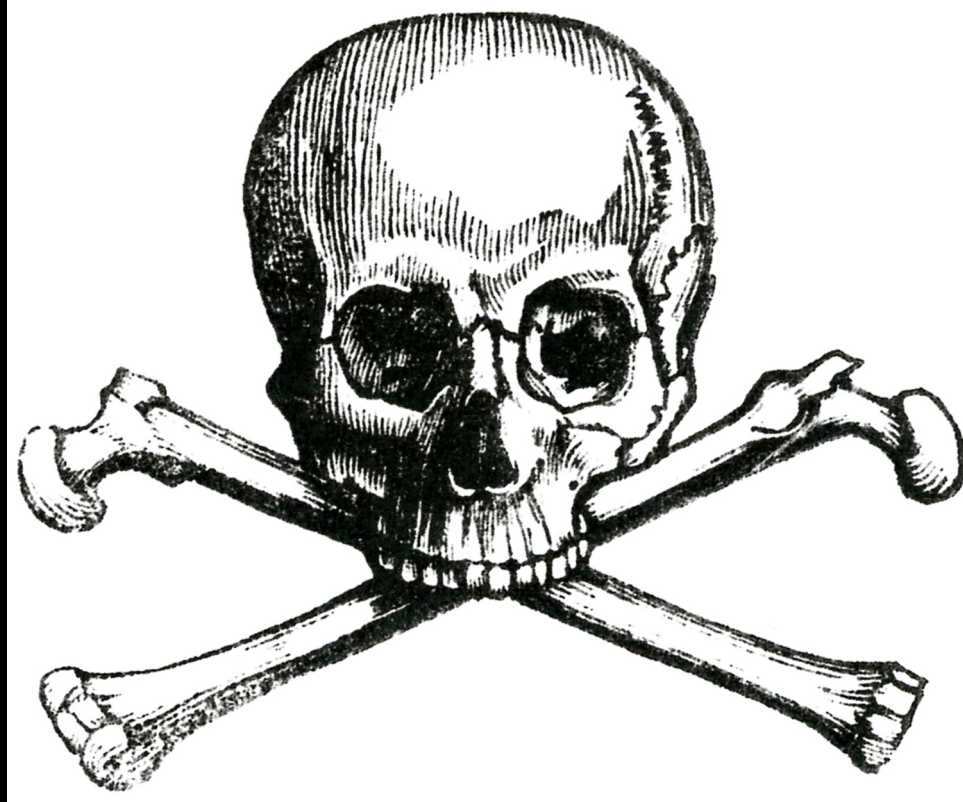
The skull sits atop a rickety wooden desk positioned against the rear wall of the chamber. Two human leg bones sat beside the skull, along with a collection of other items that were meticulously arranged on the desk in shrine like fashion – an antique hourglass, a crystal flask, a candle, two saucers of pale powder, and a sheet of paper. Propped against the wall beside the desk stands the fearsome shape of a long scythe, its curved blade as familiar as that of the grim reaper... These rooms are designed as cold, austere places in which a Mason can reflect on his own mortality. By meditating on the inevitability of death, a Mason gains valuable perspective on the fleeting nature of life. ~ [The Lost Symbol](#). Dan Brown



Mr. _____

YOU ARE NOW SEATED IN THE CHAMBER OF REFLECTION, WHERE, IN SILENCE AND SOLITUDE, YOU WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY FOR MEDITATION. YOU ARE HERE BECAUSE YOU DESIRE TO ENTER THE REALM OF FREEMASONRY. THESE DEGREES WILL INCULCATE THE CARDINAL VIRTUES, AS WELL AS THE PRINCIPLE TENETS OF OUR ORDER. YOU ARE IN THIS CHAMBER TO GIVE YOU A FEW MINUTES TO REFLECT ON WHY YOU ARE HERE FROM YOUR OWN PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE. REFLECT ON THE EXPECTATIONS YOU HAVE, THE BENEFITS YOU HAVE TO GAIN AND CONTRIBUTIONS YOU CAN OFFER THE LODGE IN RETURN. WHILE THE WORLD IS SHUT OUT, MEDITATE UPON THESE THINGS, AND PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR THE SOLEMN CEREMONIES THROUGH WHICH YOU WILL BE CALLED TO PASS. THERE LIES ON THE TABLE BEFORE YOU A MELANCHOLY MEMENTO OF MORTALITY. BESIDE IT IS AN HOUR GLASS, WHICH I NOW REVERSE. (Done.) AS YOU BEHOLD ITS SLOWLY FALLING SANDS, LEARN THAT SO SURELY ARE THE WASTING SANDS OF YOUR MORTAL LIFE RUNNING OUT TO DEATH. THERE IS ALSO ON THIS TABLE THE HOLY BIBLE, WHICH IS OPENED TO PSALM 133. I ENJOIN UPON YOU AT THIS TIME THE READING OF THE VERSES INCLUSIVE OF THAT CHAPTER. WHEN YOU SHALL HAVE CONCLUDED THE READING YOU WILL DISCOVER SOME QUESTIONS, TO WHICH YOUR EXPLICIT ANSWERS ARE REQUIRED IN WRITING. REFLECT ON THEM, AND THEN ANSWER EACH WITH A SIMPLE "YES" OR "NO," ACCORDING TO THE DICTATES OF YOUR CONSCIENCE. THEN SIGN YOUR NAME, IN FULL, TO EACH OF THEM. YOU ALSO FIND THAT THERE ARE SOME ARTICLES OF CLOTHING, YOU WILL REMOVE ALL METALLIC SUBSTANCES ABOUT YOUR PERSON, REMOVE YOUR CLOTHING AND PUT ON WHAT IS PROVIDED FOR YOU. I AM NOW ABOUT TO LEAVE YOU ALONE, AND WILL SIGNAL MY DEPARTURE BY THREE KNOCKS UPON THE DOOR, HEARING THEM, YOU WILL REMOVE THE HOODWINK AND PROCEED AS I HAVE DIRECTED. WHEN YOU SHALL HAVE CONCLUDED, GIVE THREE KNOCKS AND I WILL ATTEND YOU.

The *Chamber of Reflection* should be used prior to each of the three degrees. This is an important custom that should be restored to every lodge thus allowing the candidate to participate in a True Masonic Experience.



SKULL and CROSSBONES

It is a symbol of mortality, and is used to elaborate on the other symbols present in the chamber. Its' purpose is to serve as a reminder of the Latin phrase memento mori, "remember, you will die."



QUILL PEN and PAPER

The quill pen and paper are placed in the chamber of reflection for the candidate to perform his appointed task of writing as he is instructed.



HOUR GLASS

A symbol of human life and represents the passing or marking of time. It symbolizes the futility of attempting to stop or to slow down time.



BREAD and WATER

Represents the bare necessities of life and are humble emblems of sustenance and simplicity.



CANDLE and BELL

The burning ***Candle*** primarily serves to provide the candidate with suitable lighting so he may perform the assigned task.

The ***Bell*** is to inform the Master of Ceremonies, or the Mason in charge of the candidate while he is in the chamber, that the candidate is ready for the degree.



Sulphur



Salt



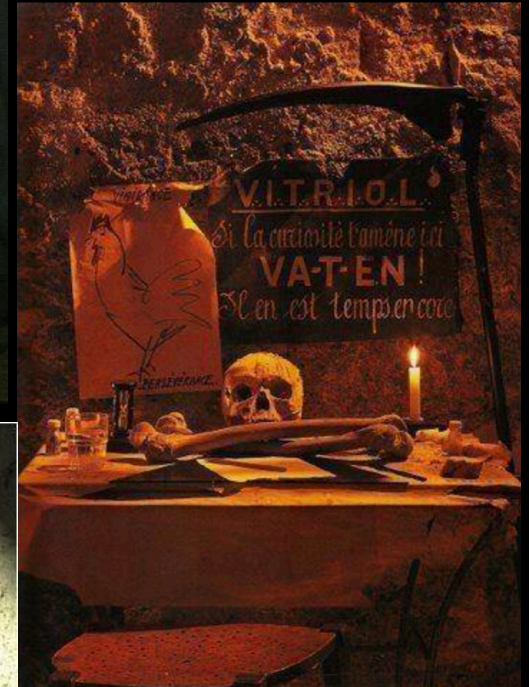
Mercury



Sulphur refers to the human body and is also a reminder that all trials come to pass.

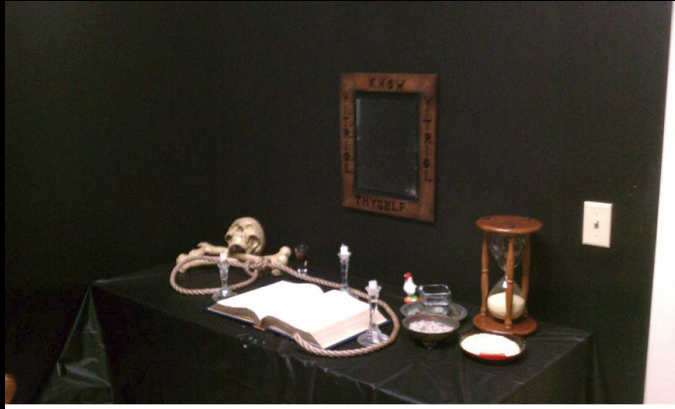
Salt alludes to the human soul.

Mercury is a symbol of the emergence of the darkness of ignorance and fear.



V:I:T:R:I:O:L

It is an acronym for the Latin phrase *Visita Interiora Terrae Rectificando Invenies Occultum Lapidem*



MIRROR

The mirror is essential to the Chamber of Reflection, because the purpose of this portion of the initiation process is to allow the candidate to reflect.



SCYTHE

This is a reminder of the certainty of **DEATH**.



Saved by the grave of iniquity, and raised to the faith of salvation.



Now is the time for us to *pause and “reflect”*! ... Many times, man fails to use the virtue of Reflection, and even goes through life without ever using it, until our final moments arrives.