

Step 1 – Plumb Beautiful

As we begin our climb towards the inner sanctum, the first step we take is marked by a plumb, the tool of the Junior Warden who is representative of Hiram Abif who through his designs made King Solomon's temple beautiful. Hence, this station is referred to as the pillar of beauty and is adorned by the most beautiful of the three original ancient orders in architecture, the Corinthian, provided to us by the Greeks.

The jewel of this station, the Plumb also originated from the Greeks. Originally nothing more than a simple lead ball on a string and named Molubdos, meaning lead, by the Greeks, it evolved as the romans adapted it and changed the name to Plumbum which shortened over time to the work Plumb we use today. Using nothing more than gravity, this simple tool ensured that structures were perpendicular when placed on level ground. As structures remain upright, so should we endeavor to remain upright Masons. Acting schools teach students to imagine a string coming out of the top of their head to help maintain proper posture. We as Mason's should have our own imaginary plumb line to keep ourselves just and upright morally.

This brings us to beauty. Confucius said "Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it". Take a moment to look around your lodge room, Is it Beautiful? If so what makes it beautiful? Is it the paintings on the wall donated by a member? The newly upholstered chairs? The altar cloth, bible, and bookmarks? Beauty could be any or all of these things to each of us in an individual way, but what is the true beauty of a lodge? To me, each and every one of you contributes to the beauty of Tuckahoe and Masonry in general. If we look past outward appearances, and things only the eyes may perceive we see true beauty every time we meet. The beauty of our lodge is when we have brethren at our meetings, taking part in our classes, ritual work and community activities. Again I ask you, look around, can you see it now how beautiful it is when 2 or 3 are gathered together? Another quote for you "The beauty of a face is transient, but the beauty of a heart is everlasting and magnificent." Debasish Mridha.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to the next step of our journey which will take us to a whole new Level.



***'The Winding Staircase - A 15 step path to improving yourself in Masonry'
By: Michael J. Caro, LEO, Tuckahoe Lodge No. 347***