

# The Lodge of Perfection

## 9th Degree - Elu of the Nine

ELU OF THE NINE  
NINTH DEGREE



The apron, an emblem of Masonry and Truth, is of white lambskin, lined and bordered in black. The candle, surrounded by darkness, represents the feeble light of ignorance, error and intolerance with which the world is shrouded, and through which Masonry moves like a star, dispensing light and knowledge and toleration, symbolized by the star on the flap.

The jewel is a dagger, its hilt of gold and its blade of silver. These two metals in combination symbolize the brilliance of the combined light of the sun and the moon. We also see this meaning in the ancient Han characters of China where the character for 'sun' is merged with the character for 'moon' to form the character for 'brilliant'. This dagger is not an emblem of false bravery but of the weapons of legitimate warfare, which an Elu of Nine may lawfully use, and especially of the two-edged sword of truth with which every Mason should be armed. A reference to the dagger is also found in the lecture for the Knight of the Brazen Serpent Degree, "Even the dagger of the Elu of the Nine is that used by the Mysteries of Mithras [a Persian deity]; which, with its blade black and hilt white, was an emblem of the two principles of Light and Darkness" (p. 506). We shall see this symbol repeated in the poniard of the 30th Degree.

The cordon is a broad, black watered ribbon, worn from the right shoulder to the left hip; from the end of the cordon hangs the jewel. At the lower end are nine red rosettes, four on each side and one at the bottom. The rosettes symbolize the original nine Elus or 'Elected' who were chosen by King Solomon to seek out the assassins of Hiram. They also represent the nine virtues taught in this degree; disinterestedness, courtesy, devotion, firmness, frankness, generosity, self-denial, heroism and patriotism. The color of the cordon reminds us ever to lament the prevalence of ignorance, oppression and error. We should strive to overcome them by means of the above excellent qualities of an Elu of Nine.

### DUTIES

To enlighten our souls and minds.

To instruct and enlighten the people.

To be vigilant to the interests and honor of our country.

### LESSONS

Ignorance is the principal enemy of human freedom.

A free press is indispensable to true liberty.

Remorse and guilt are God's punishment and more severe than that of man.

**FOR REFLECTION**

Do principles shape and control your conduct or are you guided by sentiment?

**IMPORTANT SYMBOLS**

The assassin Abairam, the cave with a pale light and fountain, the stranger Pharos, the Master Hiram as Human Freedom.

---

The regalia pictures and excerpts from the degree descriptions are from the book,  
" A Bridge to Light" by Ill. Rex R. Hutchens, 33°.  
Copyright 1988, 1995, 2006 by the  
Supreme Council of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry,  
Southern Jurisdiction of the USA.