

## Mosaic Pavement

The mosaic pavement (John 19:13) is a well-known ornament of the Lodge. Its white and black squares show us that even though there is diversity and antagonism in all things in nature, perfect harmony resides in everything. It illustrates that Masonary is a place where there is freedom of ideas and beliefs, and that every form of human manifestation is respected.

The word mosaic comes from Medieval Latin "*mosaicum*" and from Old Greek "*masseion*" that represents the Temple of the Muses, a sacred room where each one of the parts as well as its totality constitute a synthesis of universal harmony. The symbolic aspect of the pavement is very significant. Even though they are opposed, the tiles -black and white - are united by the same cement, that is, the same ideals.

This ornament is also an allusion to the Tao concept of yin and yang where dualities complement each other, positive and negative; spiritual and material; sun and moon; among others. Would days ever exist if there were no nights? Remember the proverb "The night is darkest before the dawn."

Unconditional love is the mystic-spiritual cement that unites all brothers. Each one is a brick; each one is a tile, where the main objective is to accept plurality and the great "melting pot" which "Royal Art" is. Maybe that's why Masonary continues to exist. It endured time, persecutions, and misinterpretation of some who do not really know what Masonary is and does.

The Mosaic Pavement can be seen all over the floor in some Lodges, or as many scholars would prefer, only surrounding the altar where the Volume of Sacred Law and the square and compass are located. Many understand that this way it could only be stepped on, during opening and closing of the sessions, and during the pledge.

Masonary is one of the good schools I have studied at. Masonary has taught me to be more tolerant. It is in Masonary that I always regain the sense of family that in our modern society seems to be forgotten. It is in Masonary that I feel the word compassion is lived. I feel privileged to be able to exercise my citizenship, to improve my knowledge, and to be accepted as I am.

It is among differences that we polish our rough stone. This process is continuous, permanent, and perpetual. To be a Mason is to understand and to accept this arduous initiation process.

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