

and thus demonstrate that merit constitutes the great title to our privileges, and that on you they have not been undeservedly conferred. Thus much by way of admonition. I will now proceed to explain the propriety and significance of the various colors of the Degrees through which you have passed. White, the color which represents the First Degree, has ever been regarded as emblematic of purity and sincerity. Thus, in the Apocalypse it is said, I will give him a white stone, and in it a new name written which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it. He that overcometh the same shall be clothed in white raiment. Near the capitol of Rome stood the Temple of Fides. When the priests offered their bloodless sacrifices to her their faces and hands were shrouded in white clothes, thereby intimating that faith or fidelity should be alone and secret. She is called by Virgil *Cana Fides*, because candor is essential to fidelity. One of the symbols of this goddess was a group of two young virgins, clad in snowy vestments and joining hands, which act signifies a pledge of faith for future friendship. In physics white is the result of a union and refraction of all the primary rays of light. Hence it is metaphorically used to signify a collection and reflection of the graces and virtues which adorn and dignify the character.

Pink, which distinguishes the Second Degree, was the hue by which the ancients represented youth and modesty. It denotes in poetry the spring-time