

consists of twelve upright stones, in allusion to the solar year, or the twelve signs of the Zodiac, the east, west and south are marked by three stones each, placed without the circle in direct lines, pointing to each of these quarters; and towards the north in a double row of twice nineteen stones, forming two perpendicular parallel lines, with a single elevated stone at the entrance. In the centre of the circle stands high exalted above the rest the gigantic representative of the Deity, to which adoration of his worshippers was peculiarly directed.

This extraordinary symbol was also used by the ancient inhabitants of *Scandinavia*, and had an undoubted reference to the half of Odin, or the Zodiac, which the Edda informs us, contained the twelve seats disposed in the form of a circle, for the principal gods, besides an elevated throne in the centre for Odin, as the representative of the great father.

It is remarkable that the ancient systems of mythology, the *Great Father* or the male generative principle, was uniformly symbolised by—a point within a circle.

This emblem was placed by the Scandinavian priests and poets, on the central summit of a rainbow, which was fabled to be a bridge leading from earth to heaven, the emblem, therefore, represented *Valhall* or the supernal palace of the chief celestial deity.

THE FOUR CARDINAL VIRTUES.

Among the various ancient Societies *Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence* and *Justice*, were strictly enjoined upon the candidates at initiation into the mysteries, the practice of the same was most rigidly enforced by Hierophant and the other officers of the society and a violation of either was punished most severely. The candidates before and during the initiation underwent the the severest trials of temperance and fortitude, by a prolonged abstinence, fasting, prayer and penitence and the peculiar mode of the ceremony of initiation itself as has been seen by the description of the initiations into the Egyptian, Eleusinian and Pythagorean mysteries.

Above all others Pythagoras enforced, both by precept and by example the practice of the four cardinal virtues.

HIGH PLACES.

As we have learned from the former part of this lecture, the ancient Egyptians and the Druids worshiped upon hills and on the top of high mountains or in groves: but in no instance in buildings with a cover or roof, the same practice was followed by the Persians, the Japanese and various other nations; in fact this practice in early times was almost universal, and every mountain was esteemed holy, the people fancied that they were brought nearer to the Deity by ascending the mountains; and the hills were considered the peculiar place where God delivered his oracles. In course of time, as we have seen, the Egyptians changed their mode of worship and erected temples.

THE TWO PRINCIPAL PILLARS.

In astronomy the equinoctial points are called pillars, because the great semi-circle, or upper hemisphere, doth seem to rest upon them. The two principal pillars, called Jachin and Boaz are supposed to be placed at the equinoctical points; Boaz in the east and Jachin in the west the former on the left hand, and the latter on the right, to the inhabitants of the northern hemisphere, the seal of masonry; and the cross ways in which these two pillars are said to be fixed are the