

## THE MYSTERIES OF FREEMASONRY.

Showing from the Origin, Nature and Object of the Rites and Ceremonies, their Remote Antiquity, their Identity with the Order of Modern Free-Masonry.

COMPILED FROM AUTHENTIC SOURCES BY R. W. BRO. OTTO KLOTZ.

"If circumstances lead me, I will find  
Where Truth is hid, though it were hid indeed  
Within the centre. —SHAKESPEARE.

[Continued.]

## SIGNS AND SIMBOLS.

Although among the various ancient societies, there existed in the practice of their mysteries, some difference in the *ceremonial*; yet the great *essentials* of all the mysteries never varied. The difference in the ceremonial was produced by the difference in the intellectual attainments of the people, their mode of government, their peculiar propensities, their pursuits in life, their language and also the climate and country in which they lived; while the great essentials of all the mysteries had a reference to the worship of a Supreme Being and the moral culture of man. Hence the same or similar ceremonies, which were applied in Egypt to Osiris and Isis, were celebrated in Greece in honor to Bacchus and Rhea, at Cleusis they were applied to Ceres and Proserpine, in Tyre, Cyprus to Maha, Deva and Sita, in Britain to Yen and Ceridwen, in Scandinavia to Odin and Frea, and in Mexico to Tlave and the Great Mother; for these appear to be but different names for the deities which were originally the same system.

They used as most significant emblems: the Theological Ladder—the triple support of the universal lodge, called by masons wisdom, strength and beauty—the triangle, the point within a circle, the sun and moon, the star, the all-seeing eye, the coffin and many other legitimate emblems of masonry; they used the same form of government, the same system of secrecy, allegory and symbolical instruction, all tending to the same point, the practice of moral virtue. None were admitted without previous probation and initiation, the candidates were bound by solemn oaths; united by invisible ties, taught by symbols, distinguished by signs and tokens, and impelled by a conscientious adherence to the rules of the order, they professed to practice the most rigid morality, justice towards men and piety to the gods.

If primitive masonry was a system of *light*, the initiated heathen equally paid divine honor to the *sun*, as the source of light, by *circum-ambulating* in the course of that luminary, during the ceremony of initiation.

The initiated referred to the four elements which were portrayed by certain prismatic colors. *White* represented the air, *Blue* the water, *Purple* the earth and *Crimson* the fire. The *Zodiac*, was considered as the great assembly of the *twelve gods*, the sun being supreme, and the planets his attendants.

The emblems which masons now make use of as the secret repositories of their treasures of morality, were adopted by the ancients in very early times, as signs and symbols, and were even substituted for alphabetical characters.