

lines of the masonic symbol, and was emblematical of the universe, protected and supported equally by the power and wisdom of the creator.

The *Hindoo*s believed that the Supreme Being was correctly represented by a perfect sphere without beginning and without end.

The first settlers in *Egypt* transmitted to their posterity an exact copy of the masonic point within a circle, expressed in emblematical language. The widely extended universe was represented as a circle of boundless light, in the centre of which the deity was said to dwell, or in other words, the circle was symbolical of his eternity.

The point within a circle afterwards became a universal emblem to denote the temple of the deity, and was referred to the planetary circle, in the centre of which was fixed the sun, as the universal god and father of nature, for the whole circle of heaven was called God.

The Egyptians observed towards the north, that a circuit in the heavens always appeared above the horizon, this they denominated one great empire; and as there is a point in the middle of it which is always stationary, they made it the seat of the empire and subjected it to the government of a monarch, who could from his throne (that is the *pole*) behold all the nations of the earth both by night and by day. This notion no doubt gave rise to the custom of symbolizing Deity by a circle with a dot in the centre. That part surrounding the *south pole* was distinguished as another grand division and called the *Pit*, in contradiction from the opposite which was called the mountain. Hence the epithets *Helion* and *Acheron*. *Helion* is the sun in his highest estate, which the Greeks pronounce *Heli-os* that is *Eli-os* the most High. *Acheron* is generally translated *Hell*. It is a compound of *Acher* the state or condition and *On* the sun. *Acher-on* therefore signifies the last state or condition of the sun, alluding to his annual disappearance in those constellations which were in the neighbourhood of the south pole.

Pythagoras esteemed them the central fire, the supernal mansion of Jove and he called it Mesouraneo, because the most excellent body ought to have the most excellent place, i. e., the centre. And Servius tells us it was believed that the centre of the temple was the peculiar residence of the deity; the exterior decorations being merely ornamental. Hence the astronomical character used to denote or represent the sun, is a point within a circle because that figure is the symbol of perfection.

The most perfect metal, gold, is also designated in chemistry by the same character.

With this reference the point within a circle was an emblem of great importance amongst the British Druids. Their temples were circular, many of them with a single stone erected in the centre, the solemn processions were all arranged in the same form, their weapons of war, the circular shield with a central boss, the spear with a hollow globe at its end, etc., etc.; all partaking of this general principle and without a circle it was thought impossible to obtain the favor of the gods.

Specimens of Druidical temples founded on the principle of a point within a circle, are still in existence to demonstrate the truth of the theory.

The body of the temple at Classerniss, in the Island of Lewis, sacred to the sun and the elements, will illustrate the principles before us.

This curious Celtic temple was constructed on geometrical and astronomical principles in the form of a cross and a circle. The circle