

that they did not make any distinction between a real and an Ideal Principle; but contented themselves with the general proposition; that "Number" was the principle of things, that all was "Number," Pythagoras' "Forte" was mathematics, and he made every branch of study subservient to it. At the present day, he would be regarded as a "Freemason."

His pupils, in some mysterious way, deduced from his teaching, that numbers were the "Tasis" and "Essence" of Things. No stress ought to be laid upon him, as an exponent of the Origin of the Universe, for he looked upon himself as a being destined by the gods, to reveal to his disciples only a new and pure mode of life. From our standpoint, we would consider him the originator of the "Order of Freemasonry."

His school or secret society was a kind of Religious Brotherhood the members of which were bound together by peculiar rites and observances. Everything done and taught in the fraternity was kept a profound secret from all without its pale. The members had some private signs by which they could recognize each other, even if they had never met before.

At the present day "Freemasonry" demands a belief in a "Sovereign Intelligence," the "Soul's Immortality," "A Future State" and honour amongst men. It is not a religion or a system of religion: it is, so its members claim, the handmaid of all seeking "truth," "light" and "right." It is a system of morality illustrating by symbols man's condition and responsibility. It inculcates the "Duty" of man to man, in all the relations of life, of the ruler and the ruled, of the rich and the poor, of the old and