

but symbols. The natural world is full of emblems ; it utters no articulate voice, it writes no legible alphabet ; yet the human mind understands, and the human heart appreciates, the meaning of its myriad forms. Symbols constitute a universal language. They are older than Babel, and survive its discord ; they are the representation of signs of something by images or properties of natural things, and should always represent what is really behind them. But they may be made to convey false intelligence—they may counsel evil under the garb of good ; so with men, they often speak and act as if they were virtuous, and give to the world merely the semblance of a righteous character ; but alas ! the symbol in this instance is deceptive—the heart holds out false signals. Let not this be your case. Let hand and heart and speech harmonize in the consistency of a sincere and upright nature. Be ever what you seem.

Our time will not permit us now to explain the truths contained in each emblem that should decorate a Lodge-room. Some have been explained in your progress through the Degrees, and much more you must learn for yourself. They will make a profitable study for you, in which it will be our pleasure to assist you. Each of them either illustrates some duty of man or inculcates some lesson of virtue or morality ; and amongst them are some which forcibly proclaim the mysteries of man's destiny ; for instance, there is a most significant symbol,* teaching

* The Death Scene.