

## The Junior Warden and the Moon

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During the ceremony of the opening of the lodge under the ritual of the UGLV the W.M. questions the J.W. on his "place" in the lodge;

W.M. – Bro JW, your place in the Lodge?

J.W. – In the south

W.M. – Why are you so placed?

J.W. – To mark the sun at its meridian; to call the brethren from labour to refreshment and from Refreshment to labour, that profit and pleasure may be the result

This piece of ritual would appear to be straight forward enough, and the reference to "marking the sun at its meridian" suggests a remnant from older operative times of a practical trade usage. However at first glance there would appear to be a contradiction with this opening statement and the "**Lesser Lights**" as detailed in the **Emulation Ritual**;

W.M. – You are now enabled to discover the three lesser lights; they are situated **East, South and West**, and are meant to represent the Sun, Moon and Master of the Lodge; the sun to rule the day, the moon to govern the night, and the Master to rule and direct his lodge.

To the untrained eye this piece of Emulation ritual would appear to suggest that the JW represents the moon – to govern the night. However, from Prichard's "Masonry Dissected" we know the "Lights of the Lodge" were originally 3 large candles placed on high candlesticks.

Q – What do they represent?

A – Sun, Moon and Master-Mason

Q – Why so?

A – Sun to rule the Day, Moon the Night and Master-Mason his lodge

So what were once the "Lights of the Lodge" have become the lesser lights, and in some constitutions there are no longer 3 stand-alone large candles (e.g. Victoria) as these have evolved into lights a top of the Master's and Wardens' columns. Hence the confusion for some brethren that the light on top of the JW pillar means he represents the moon.

Interestingly, under the UGLV, in times past this confusion between the JW and the moon may have been considered a distraction easily rectified, for under the **ritual of the UGLV** the "**Lesser Lights**" state (same as the Bristol workings);

W.M. – You are now enabled to discover the three lesser lights in Freemasonry. They are situated in the **South, West and East**, and are meant to represent the sun, the moon and the master of the lodge.

Any confusion concerning the moon & the JW would appear to have been negated, but have we distorted the original intent when, according to early 18<sup>th</sup> century rituals, a lodge also had 3 fixed lights;

Q – How are they situated?

A – East, South and West

Q – What are their Uses?

A – To light the men to, at and from their work.