

# The Mosaic Pavement

## *An Antique Knowledge*

Like all works of stone and other natural materials, the art of mosaic is known since antiquity. These assemblies of pieces of various sizes and colors can illustrate scenes of nature or human life. The pavement or mosaic pavement as we know it in our temples is said to come from biblical times. The space composed of alternating black and white tiles is one of the main elements of the lodge, covering part of its floor or the entirety of it to the example, according to a legend, the Temple of Solomon. Others claim that the checkerboard pattern, also called “*paving*”, is prominent in sacred buildings only from the Roman period.

Whatever its origin, size, shape and placement in the various Masonic rites, its meanings remain what they are and it is amazing that a design as simple as this can give rise to an almost limitless field of thought. The first idea is the binary system it represents, first of all the opposition light-darkness. Yasar Berker, of “*Pensée et Action*” in Martigny writes: “*With my days with my nights. With my joys and my troubles. In my memory and my forgetfulness. I live the mosaic pavement.*” All dualities are conceivable here, even if it is necessary to foresee nuances because few things are completely black or white. It is not a question for the mason to deny what attaches him to the terrestrial realities but to make a harmonious whole of it in order to go further. And to elaborate by himself the rest of the mosaic pavement.

There is thus nothing static in the bicolored paving. We will speak more about complementarities than about irreducible opposites. “*With my head with my heart. In the wellbeing and in the ardour. With my brothers. I live the mosaic paving.*” This work of conciliation is the most arduous that we have to do, it mobilizes us permanently, requires an unfailing determination and at the same time raises multiple questions. Is there not in the paving stone an opening on four sides, and is not each of the squares which form it a world in itself waiting to be explored? Linked to the science of numbers, this month's theme is a universal concept, which reveals much more than it conceals. Let us hope that the following texts will help everyone to better understand it.

I have spoken W.:M.:

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