

## ***The Globe of Jachin***

*By Worshipful Brother Richard Dale Carver*

*The constellations on the globe atop the pillar of Jachin are a mirror image of how they appear in the sky. Why is this?*

While we were performing a 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree last evening, it occurred to me that a great deal of explanation is offered as to the dimensions and characteristics of Jachin & Boaz but not much explanation is provided about of the globes that top them. The Terrestrial Globe seems fairly self-explanatory. The Celestial Globe is a bit more difficult for me to get my mind around.

The first problem was convincing myself to think of the universe in terms of being a sphere that can be viewed from somewhere *outside* of our universe and *looking back towards it*. Clearly, this is how a Terrestrial Globe is designed to be viewed and these types of maps have been used for centuries. Aside from Freemasonry, have you ever seen a map of the universe represented in globe form? Not only is it an odd way to map the heavens, I do not believe the Celestial Globe was intended to be viewed from the outside looking back. Many of the Celestial Globes in use at lodges do not contain detailed star maps. The one we have at our Lodge shows considerable detail, and it has a couple of interesting anomalies.

The first thing that caught my attention was that various constellations appear in *mirror images* of how they actually appear in the night sky. The second thing I noticed was that while all the other planets are shown, the Earth does not appear anywhere on the map. This would imply that the Celestial Globe is not a complete model of the heavens — it is a map of

the constellations as viewed *from the Earth*. This essentially means that the map it provides is not a representation of the universe viewed from the outside looking in like the Terrestrial Globe, but is instead intended to be viewed from the center of the globe looking outward. The constellations and the relative locations of the planets all being shown in a mirror image further supports that they are intended to be viewed from the inside looking out because doing so puts them in the correct relationship.

It also occurs to me that the point within a circle is universally represented with a point being in the *center* of a circle. We are taught to allegorically learn that the point represents an individual Brother and the circle is his boundaries of acceptable behavior. Yet he could remain *anywhere* within the circle and still maintain his Masonic obligations, so the point necessarily need not be in the center of the circle for this to be so.

I propose that the point within a circle is also a metaphor for how a Mason experiences his relationship with the universe. In 3-dimensional terms, he becomes a point in the center of the universe. When experienced in that aspect, the Celestial Globe of Jachin becomes a perfect parallel to how a Brother can find his place within the universe — both figuratively and literally.