

# THE "BALANCE-SCALES" OF MASONIC ROSICRUCIANISM

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## Alexander VII (1655-67) Testone, Papal Coin

The concept of "Balance" is everywhere in Nature. Our planet Earth (as well as the other planets and satellites) are kept in a certain 'Balance' within the overall Universe. The Seasons of the year, along with our calendar, keep us in a certain 'Balance'. Farmers know when to plant and when to reap. Soil consistency relies on a particular pH balance for bountiful harvest yields of crops. Our own personal hour-glass showing the sands-of-time, can be a clock, a wristwatch, or nowadays ---even a time-display on a cell-phone. Lastly, vertical gravity is in "Balance" with the Earth's circular or horizontal orbit to keep buildings and structures, comparably in-balance....barring any opposing force such as a strong wind, hurricane, tornado, earthquake, or the like. Even with the human body, the inner-ear, middle-ear, eyes, and other sensory functions such as vision and touch help keep ourselves, in "Balance" and free from falling....barring some extenuating circumstance as an ear-infection or other type of handicap. Our bones and even our blood also depend on pH balance as well as oxygen, nutrient and fat-to-protein 'balance' to healthy growth proper metabolism, digestion, and optimal lifespan.

In Ancient Craft Masonry, we are taught to "Balance" our daily Time by the Twenty-Four Inch Gauge. Eight hours toward the Service of Almighty God or helping a distressed worthy Brother; Eight hours for our usual avocations or occupations; and Eight hours for refreshment and sleep. Stonemasons and the earliest primitive speculative Freemasons only had "tools" such as the flat stick of the 24-inch-gauge to measure-by. As our Fraternity evolved and expanded, more grand & glorious opportunities availed themselves.

In Royal Arch Masonry, we are taught that a 'keystone' is that special stone which keeps a curved archway in perfect Balance. In the 8th Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, the apron of that Degree features a nine-pointed star symbolizing the Divine Truth of Almighty God. Above the star is a Balance-Scales which symbolizes both Equilibrium and Justice. In the jewel of the 33rd Degree of the same Rite, is the Double-



Headed Eagle and, again, the Balance-Scales. The Motto: ORDO AB CHAO signifies bring "Order out of Chaos".

Masons regularly used the conventional tools of their work such as the Square and Compasses, as well as the Plumb, Level, Square, and Trowel ..as well as the mallet, pick, spade, and various other tools used indiscriminately ---whenever a need arose to use a tool....they used the appropriate tool designed for that particular purpose. It is my belief that Rosicrucians interjected the Balance-Scales into Freemasonry. It was Rosicrucians who studied various compounds such as Mercury, Lead, Silver, Gold, Sulphur, Water, and Fire. Rosicrucians were closely alligned with the ancient Apothecaries, who dispensed medicine as well as friendships ---- and still do, today, in the world of pharmaceuticals and herbal remedies. Similarly Members of the Legal Profession use Balance-Scales as their professional symbol. Precise measurement via the Balance-Scales was needed to ensure Equilibrium and Justice....as in measuring a precious-metal as a unit of monetary exchange. The Balance-Scales were also vital for precise measurement of Medicinal remedies.

The balance-scales not only serve as a visual measurement for outwardly dispensing proper amounts of Medicines and Pharmaceuticals; but we also have an inner compass or balance-scale within each of our bodies that ---when functioning normally-- keeps our bodies in equilibrium with regard to daily production of insulin and hormones, as well as the perfect balance of a controlled heart-beat; as well as a regular rhythm for food and water intake and corresponding excretion of waste matter. Our blood, bones, and immune system depend on a 'balance' of some acidic substances as well as some alkaline substances to keep our bodies sound ---in in good functioning order. We also find a 'balance' in every inward breath of air/oxygen we take into our lungs; corresponding with subsequent exhalation of carbon dioxide. Nature itself has a similar 'balance' with trees and other greenery thriving when exposed to carbon-dioxide....and they in-turn ---via photosynthesis --- give off Oxygen which benefits Mankind. This unique "circle of perfection" or Equilibrium is as regular as (and comparable to) the Earth's rotation. Even our various Seasons: Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter are Nature's way of keeping us in another type of 'balance'.

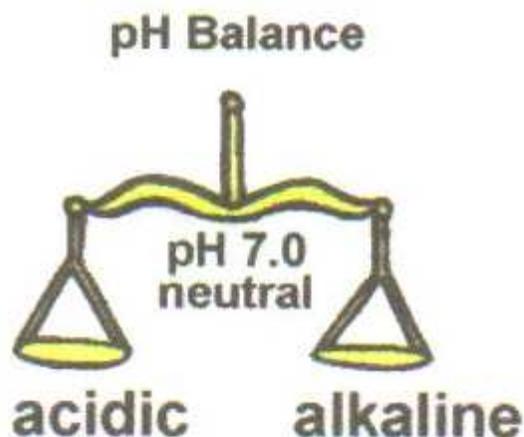
The interlacing of 'Masonry' and 'the Society of the Rose & Cross' into "Masonic Rosicrucianism" is somewhat similar to the interlacing of the 3 Triangles. As Masons and Rosicrucians, we always keep a harmonious balance between our Scholarship and our Reverence for Almighty God. Recently, I purchased an old Papal States coin, from the era of Pope Alexander VII (1655-67)----- (pictured at the TOP OF THIS PRESENTATION ARTICLE) ---which depicts the "Hand of God holding the Balance Scales. Although the old-time humorous phrase of someone"putting their thumb on the scales" (to sway the 'balance' in their favor, illustrated how an innocent person could be cheated or deceived --- We need to remember another Rosicrucian symbol: "[The All Seeing Eye of Almighty God](#)" which sees all ...and knows all. As noted earlier: early Freemasons used tradesmen tools as their symbolic emblems of measuring their moral limits and standards-of-conduct. But it took early Rosicrucians to interject "Symbols of human Life" into Masonry to more deeply touch the mind of a candidate and more deeply touch the Soul of the human heart. The "Winged-heart" and the "Hour-glass" are further illustrations which help make Masonic Rosicrucianism the deeply scholarly Institution that it is.



Our rewards are not always felt solely on Earth. Each of us hopes and awaits that Eternal Reward promised by the Lord in Heaven. By always remembering that all good and virtuous things are bestowed by our Creator, may we ever be mindful to keep our lives in due-bounds and balanced by the Volume of Sacred Law, or The Holy Bible. There is a time to "Give" and a Time to "Receive".

Masons, as Craftsmen, originally focused on the materials they were working on....on building or or that which was being constructed. They focused on the material at hand, whether it be stone, bronze or wood. In early times, they gave little thought about regulating (or measuring) their own inner-levels of exertion: to "Balance" their workday or to preserve their health. Yet, the Society of the Rose & Cross founded by Father Christian Rosenkreutz studied ancient wisdom ----not to be some esoteric or cliquish group ---but to refine that knowledge into contemporary thought for the benefit of Mankind. **One of the "Rules" of his Society was to give aid and assistance (even medical assistance) freely at no charge; gratis.** The interjecting of Rosicrucian ideals with Masonic work eventually snowballed into Masonry transforming itself from a Guild of ancient stonemasons to a Mutual-aid and Benevolent Society of modern Freemasons ....who further amplified our efforts in diverse, charitable and philanthropic endeavors to Masons and non-Masons alike.

To be sure, we can all be proud of our Masonic Charities. I just hope that as Masonic Rosicrucians, we can encourage our fellow Brethren, Companions, Sir Knights and Nobles to remember that our "charitable wing" shouldn't grow so topheavy that it forgets or outweighs our "fraternal wing". Just as with our own families: We must think of our Duty to ourselves, our own families, our immediate neighborhoods, and our duty to God. If we keep the focus on God, Country and Family; we will be in a better position to regain our collective-strength as a Nation. Just like the old saying: "Charity begins at home" --- we must be true and genuine Masonic Brothers and Rosicrucian Fratres. Good intentions must be "Balanced" by honorable actions. If we don't balance our lives, we will be comparable to a car's tires that are out-of-balance: We may roll down the road; We may get from 'Point A' to 'Point B'..... but it might be a shaky, wobbly experience. And, after a while: an unbalanced tire will begin to show undue wear & tear, and literally wear-out prematurely. I compare Freemasonry to a "tire" ----but I compare "Masonic Rosicrucianism" to the lead-weights which keeps our tires in "Balance". And, just like the human body's sense of "Balance" ---we often take it for granted as automatic, until we lose it.



## Sources /Recommended Readings:

- Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry, by Albert G. Mackey, 33<sup>o</sup> and a Knight Templar

-Balance-Scales (image at bottom of article) Courtesy of Angie Berg of Australia...who gave written permission to James A. Marples, of Longview, Texas, in an e-mail transmission dated 24 Sept 2011. Showing Importance of pH balance in the human body. Her health website: <http://www.allaboutparasites.com/ph-balance-in-the-body.html>

- 8<sup>o</sup> of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite : ----Commentary of the Masonic Degree "Intendant of the Building" and its accompanying Apron design. Permission granted by The Scottish Rite Journal and The Supreme Council 33<sup>o</sup> , Southern Jurisdiction, Washington, D.C.

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