



Concord Lodge No. 625 F. & A. M. Masonic Education

Why do brethren not pass between the Altar and the East when lodge is at labor?

Brethren do not pass between the Altar and the East in a masonic Lodge at labor (except in a degree) because the Master is supposed to have the Great Lights constantly in view. In theory, at least, he draws inspiration from the Altar to preside over the lodge and must not, therefore, be prevented from seeing it at any time.

The custom is but a pretty courtesy, but it is rooted in a fundamental conception of the Craft -- that the Altar is the center of Masonry, and that from it and from the Great Lights it bears, flow all that there is of Masonic inspiration and truth and light.

English lodges do not have this problem, since in them a pedestal near the Master is the Altar on which lies the Holy Book.

One Hundred One Questions About Freemasonry
The Masonic Service Association
Twenty-sixth Printing
January 1999