



GRATITUDE & RECOGNITION

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ADOBE LODGE XLI



Ipresent myself in the good state of Gratitude and Recognition...

Many of you have seen the above line dealing with gratitude and recognition before and it's possible that some of you may have seen the image of the dog to the left before in another paper of mine.

The question is... what does one have to do with the other?

POTENSE VIDERE ID

Recently, I was thinking about writing something on the Chamber of Reflection Ancillary Ceremony to perhaps better explain it's inner workings. I, as always, put myself in a state of gratitude and expectation and started to think about an illustration that would fit my needs. Next thing ya know., as if by Magic..., this illustration and 'gratitude and recognition', popped into my mind.

It was there., I immediately saw good connections to that hidden essence, it's inner workings you might say, that I could use to bring about a better understanding of the metaphysical elements contained in the Chamber of Reflection Ancillary Ceremony.

Having just attended a presentation by Brother Will on AI and it's use in writing a Masonic paper I thought., why not see if it could come close to what it was that I recognized as being a good answer to the question - **'what does one have to do with the other?'**

On the very first try, it came closer than I thought it would, but no cigar. On it's second try with a prompt in a right direction, it sort of in a loose way, made a couple of the connections that I initially saw when the image shot into my head. The third prompt of how the image of the dog related to the participant in the Ancillary Ceremony was given just to see what the result would be, as the initial question only involved the dog image as relates to the first sentence. Give the first question a try before you turn the page, there's value in doing your own work!

CHATGBT AND RESPONSE

Question: ‘what does one have to do with the other’ The image of the dog and the phrase ‘I present myself in the good state of Gratitude and Recognition...’ found in the Chamber of Reflection Ancillary Ceremony.

“At first glance, they seem unrelated—one is a formal, almost ritualistic statement, and the other is a vibrant, expressive image of a dog. But they connect quite naturally when you think in terms of state of being rather than literal meaning.

The phrase “I here present myself in the good state of gratitude and recognition” describes an internal posture: humility, awareness, and appreciation. It’s something often said intentionally—declared, even ceremonially.

The dog, on the other hand, embodies that same state without words.

The dog appears alert, centered, and fully present.

Its stance and focus suggest awareness—recognition of the moment, the viewer, or its surroundings.

The energetic, almost radiant colors give a sense of vitality and appreciation for life—what we might call gratitude, but expressed instinctively rather than verbally.

So the connection is this:

The phrase is a conscious declaration of a mind-set.

The dog is an unconscious demonstration of that same mind-set.

In other words, the human says it.

The dog lives it.

There’s also a deeper layer if you want to go there: in many symbolic or philosophical traditions, animals—especially dogs—represent loyalty, sincerity, and presence. They don’t pretend, posture, or intellectualize. They simply are. That makes the dog a kind of visual metaphor for what the phrase aspires to: a genuine, grounded state of being.

So the answer to your question:

One is the formal expression of gratitude and awareness; the other is a living image of it.”

A PROMPT IN A RIGHT DIRECTION

Question: Could the fact that the image is of a dog known for its love of water and the esoteric symbolism of water and psychological truth fit into a further analysis?

CHATGBT AND RESPONSE

“Yes—now you’re moving into a much richer symbolic layer, and it absolutely strengthens the connection rather than stretching it.

The Dog in Water (More Than Just a Scene)

The dog here isn’t just present—it’s immersed. And that matters.
If we bring in esoteric and psychological symbolism:

Water as Symbol

Water = the unconscious / inner world

Ripples = disturbance, awareness, or awakening within that inner world

Immersion = engagement with truth beneath the surface

Emergence = bringing something inward into conscious recognition

Psychologically (in a Jungian sense), water often represents the psyche itself, especially what is felt but not yet articulated.

The Dog as Symbol

The dog adds another layer:

Instinctual honesty (no pretense, no masking)

Loyalty and fidelity (to truth, to self, to master—however defined)

Natural presence (it does not “perform” awareness—it is aware)

Unlike humans, the dog does not intellectualize the unconscious—it moves through it naturally.

Bringing It Together with the Phrase:

“I here present myself in the good state of gratitude and recognition”

Now this reads less like a polite declaration and more like a ritual acknowledgment after inner work.

“Gratitude” → acceptance of what is found within

“Recognition” → conscious awareness of truth (especially inner truth)

“Present myself” → emerging, as the dog emerges from water

The Deeper Interpretation:

The image could be read as:

A being fully immersed in the waters of the psyche, shaking off illusion, and standing in raw, honest presence.

While the phrase is:

The formal articulation of that same process—having encountered something real within, and now acknowledging it consciously.

Final Synthesis

So yes—when you include:

the dog (instinctual truth),

the water (psychological depth),

and the act of emergence / motion (integration),

...the image becomes almost a visual allegory of the phrase.

The dog does not just represent gratitude and recognition—
it represents the process required to arrive there.

That's a much more esoteric—and compelling—fit.”

A PROMPT IN A RIGHT DIRECTION

Question: In what way would the dog image relate to the participants role in the uploaded file - Chamber of Reflection Ancillary Ceremony.

CHATGBT AND RESPONSE

Yes—when you place the dog-in-water image alongside the roles and movement of the participant in your uploaded ritual, the connection becomes quite precise and structured.

Let's map it carefully.

The Dog as the Participant

The dog can be read as a symbolic stand-in for the participant — not in a literal sense, but as an archetypal model of how the participant is meant to be.

The participant is led, questioned, and examined

The dog is instinctive, responsive, and unpretentious

In ritual terms, the participant is being stripped of ego-performance and brought into a state of authentic presence — exactly what the dog naturally embodies.

Water as the Chamber of Reflection

The Chamber of Reflection is, symbolically, an inner descent — a confrontation with self.

From your text:

The participant must wait in patience
Then knock and seek admission
Then move station to station, giving increasingly expanded declarations

This mirrors immersion in water:

Ritual Action	Water Symbolism
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Waiting in silence	Submersion / stillness
Knocking	Disturbing the surface
Entering the Lodge	Emerging from water
Speaking the “good state”	Articulating what was found within

So the dog in water is not random—it visually encodes the same psychological process the participant undergoes.

The Three Stations as Progressive Emergence

From your file:

East → Recognition of universal creative power
West → Recognition of brotherhood and justice
South → Recognition of beauty, light, and victorious life

This is a progression:

1. Inner realization (East)
2. Relational realization (West)
3. Harmonized living (South)

Now relate that to the dog:

The dog shaking water can be seen as a **moment of transition**:

It has been in the water (unconscious / reflection)
It is now emerging (conscious articulation)
The droplets radiate outward (expression into the world)

That is essentially what the participant is doing as he moves through the chairs.
The “Shaking Off” as Ritual Purification

One particularly strong symbolic overlap:

The dog shakes off water

The participant symbolically casts off ignorance, illusion, or prior state

Not explicitly stated in the ritual text—but strongly implied in the structure of:

* preparation

* testing

* declaration

* witnessing

By the end:

“Your good state... being thus witnessed 3 times... you have been found... proven and skilled.”

That is the equivalent of ****emergence purified and affirmed****.

Final Integration

So in terms of roles:

The participant = one who undergoes inner immersion and emerges transformed

The dog = a symbolic image of that same process, but in pure, instinctive form

And in terms of function:

The ritual formalizes and verbalizes the journey

The image embodies and visualizes the journey

Concise Answer

The dog in water relates to the participant as a symbolic mirror of his role:

The participant consciously enacts a descent into inner truth and re-emergence in a state of gratitude and recognition... while the dog naturally lives that same cycle — immersion, emergence, and authentic presence — without ceremony.

In that sense, the image could be seen as a compressed visual allegory of the entire Chamber of Reflection process.

END OF CHATGBT

Now here's the rub, while it did loosely touch on some of the connections I was thinking of.., it was rather long winded and not what I had in mind when considering a short exposition on the inner workings/understandings of the Ancillary Ceremony. The image of the water dog wasn't meant to explain the Ceremony, but to be a touchstone that enhanced a two level short exposition of it. To be fair, how was AI to know..

As the dog related to the participant making his journey through the ceremony, AI was impressive. It did uncover what I had designed into the ritual including the reasoning behind the participants good state being witnessed 3 times, thereby finding him proven and skilled.

The Three Stations as a, Progressive Emergence if you will:

East → Recognition of a universal ever present creative power

West → Recognition of universal brotherhood and justice as Law

South → Recognition of, 'The last is First', whereby, the All extends from a source of Beauty, and Light, towards the Victorious Life by way of strength (right action or direction), and wisdom.

1. Inner realization (East)
2. Relational realization (West)
3. Harmonized living (South) Leading to the Victorious Life!

The progression is why the journey does not end at Solomon's chair in the East (Wisdom), but at Hiram Abiff's in the South (Beauty). The last is First.

I wonder... Could AI have provided an illustration as good as the water dog and a corresponding question that would allow one to make the good connections necessary to unveil the hidden essence contained in the, Chamber of Reflection Ancillary Ceremony?

Prompt: AI, write me a 7 page or less paper with only one illustration that would allow a person to make the good connections necessary to unveil the hidden essence contained in the, Chamber of Reflection Ancillary Ceremony.

I will say, it is possible to keep querying the AI app for better answers or at least, answers you agree with. However, that method misses out on the more intimate process of creative writing which so often takes you on unexpected turns within your own understandings, which can be used to aid your exposition. For me, the water dog illustration combined with the, 'gratitude and recognition', phrase - made sense intuitively in the instant, unexpectedly, as if by Magic!

Creative writing using an intuitive process does need proper exercise to develop and it has one huge advantage over AI in that it always gives results that are within your own understandings, in service to those you are trying to reach.

The abundance of AI fodder as just demonstrated by the prompts should sway you to stay focused within your own developing understandings, and expectations of being of service.

Ten pounds of shit in a 5 pound bag is what this Chatgpt exercise reminds me of. I just wish I could shake off the stench of this exercise like the dog shaking off the water in, a moment of transition.
Ha, ha.

It's not that the AI exercise didn't have any value, it did. And I can see how it might be used by your creative instincts in making queries. But you'll still have to distill and expound the information in a way that helps others understand.

I can't help but think, had I done my own work, wrote out my thoughts on the matter succinctly as my creative juices and inner knowledge dictated, might not the both of us been better off for it?

The subject of writing out a fully completed paper and then having AI strengthen or improve it has been brought up. However, this type of use is best left to profane messaging, as sublime influences of beauty, word selection and their fuller intended meanings in esoteric writings are mostly conveyed by those that understand, to those that are ready to understand.

An error of omission: The true motto of Masonry

MASONRY : A HIGHER MORAL SCIENCE
HELPING TRANSFORM THE BETTER MAN INTO
A TRULY GOOD MAN