



Scientia Coronati Research Lodge No. 4 F&AM

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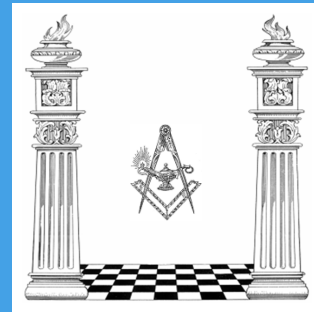
Essays, Papers & Articles

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And the Earth was without

form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters, and God said, 'Let there be light'



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INVITE THE BRETHREN IN AND CLOSE THE DOOR

By George E. Weil

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My Honored Brethren,

Most of the articles I have written has the intent not to teach our brethren what they do not know, but rather to remind them of what they already know and clearly understand. For within these words they will find general concepts and ideas that most Masons know with certainty. However, to the degree that these concepts and rules are well known and their truth self-evident, they are routinely overlooked, or people forget about them altogether. This small hieroglyph of the Masonic mind deals with truing the rough ashlar within ourselves into a more perfect stone.

Almost everywhere you look in the world today, you find that the majority of the bright and clever people are devoting their thinking and investigations to a profound analysis of worldly knowledge and its subtleties, each according to his intellectual capabilities. The true Master Mason recognizes the value of seeking for truth wherever he can find it. We who cleave to the Blue Lodge and its teachings, its philosophies, its demands and burdens consider these a service of the heart and a love for our ancient and honorable fraternity. How will devotion and ardor for our Craft and its treasures enter our souls if we do not direct ourselves toward the purity of its teachings, thereby internalizing it within our hearts? How will our thoughts be purified if we do not try to cleanse them from the blemishes infused in them by daily worldly distractions? Much the same can be said about all the character traits, which need improvement and adjustment. Who will adjust them, and who will correct them, with all the necessary rigor, if not us?

Walking in the ways of Freemasonry relates to the finest traits of character and their cultivation. All Masons are familiar with the ceremonial form of initiation but in reality this is no more than an outward symbolization of an inner and esoteric work, which should take place within each man seeking the Sacred Mysteries of our Order. Hence, a man may have received the degrees of the Blue Lodge and yet be wholly unfamiliar with the method of procedure which would bring into being the results of the personification of the life as symbolized in the three degrees. It is this outcome of which, we should be most cognizant of and should bring about the habit of asking questions and becoming more familiar with our Order's esoteric as well as exoteric meaning. Thousands of our brothers, good men and true accept the letter of Masonry without going deeper into the meaning of our rituals, ceremonies and symbolism. What a shame! Here is where begins the first great error in connecting with our Fraternity, our Order, our School of Mystery.

If each man traces the progress of Freemasonry he will find it very intimately connected with the history of philosophy, of religion, and of art in all ages of the world. No Mason is expected to fully appreciate the character of our Order unless he carefully studies its annals, and makes himself conversant with the facts of history, to which and from which it gives and receives a mutual influence. An obstacle very insurmountable is to convince the Mason that the secrets of his Craft are worthy of his profound consideration.

Each step or degree that we as Masons observe and absorb begins a process of reinventing oneself to a higher plane of understanding and consciousness. We can argue that our quality of life improves with each passing degree that we participate in by tapping into that latent spiritual reservoir. But, to clarify, we do not by virtue of accumulating degrees automatically accumulate the true worth and serious understanding of each degree. We must labor within our mental and spiritual quarries to truly understand the personal experience we have gone through.

Many degrees have two natures in their realities. The first is the obvious expression of their outward or exoteric meaning in the ritual and ceremonies. The second, (being more interesting to the Masonic traveler and student) is the hidden or esoteric mystery contained deeply within the symbolism, furniture, lecture and lessons of the degree.

But, again let's be clear, the ceremonies, rituals and symbolism of Freemasonry must be coupled with the philosophy of Freemasonry to better reveal the Craft's significance to each individual brother. We cannot invest ourselves of Freemasonry's outward and extrinsic form alone. We must not suppose that certain usages and ceremonies constitute the sum and substance of Freemasonry. The ceremony is but the outer garment which covers and perhaps adorns our Order. The relationship of the outer garment with the intrinsic value of the Craft, such as its philosophy, psychology, social and moral values and other disciplines are the elements needed to gain the divine wisdom and further our spiritual development of the soul.

It is a wise Mason who will vigorously read and study whereby, he may receive all of that for which he has asked. The Blue Lodge puts before him the bread of truth, the wine of belief, and sets his feet upon the path that leads to further light. Every offered degree is considered an initiation, an initiation to a new outlook or a new experience in Freemasonry. It is a gift that is placed before each candidate in the hopes that he will accept the initiation of this new degree by understanding its significance and impact to his spiritual rebirth and development.

Freemasonry is something that must be worked at to understand the benefits it is ready to reveal and give. For it is obvious that something which does not occupy a place in a person's mind becomes of no concern to him. And, although the beginnings and foundations of spiritual enlightenment are inbred in the heart of every truthful person, if he does not utilize them he will lose the ability to discern their details, and he will pass over them without awareness. Life is the span of time appointed for accomplishment.

Mr. Rusty Rustenbach, in his article, "*Giving Yourself Away*" may have said it best. He writes, "You and I live in an age when only a rare minority of individuals desire to spend their lives in pursuit of objectives which are bigger than they are. In our age, for most people, when they die it will be as though they never lived."

As Freemasons let us not fall into the world of insignificance. Let us learn to value ourselves, until that happens we really won't value our time. Until we value our time, we will not do anything with it.