



Scientia Coronati Research Lodge No. 4 F&AM

Scientia Coronati Research Lodge No. 4 F&AM is a Masonic entity formed for the purpose of education, research and informative discourse of Freemasonry.

www.scientiacoronati.org

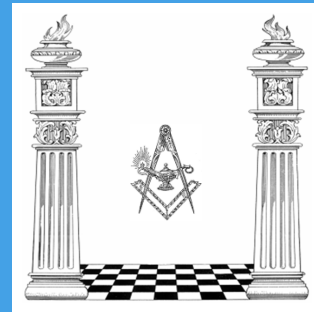
Essays, Papers & Articles

Masonic Topics

From the Library of

**Scientia Coronati
Research Lodge No. 4 F&AM**

www.scientiacoronati.org



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'



Address postal correspondence to:

Scientia Coronati Research Lodge No. 4 F&AM

1028 Willow Creek Road Prescott, Arizona, USA 86301-1642

Address electronic correspondence to:

secretary@scientiacoronati.org

“Smelting”

By George Weil

originally published in “Arizona Masonry” March 2011

My Honored Brethren,

People often refer to the process of becoming a better Mason as “growth.” I think another word might be “smelting.” Let us use the Entered Apprentice who is divested of metals as an example.

There comes a time when the candidate in the First Degree, being required to deposit something of a metallic kind finds himself incapable of doing so. It is not unreasonable, to suppose that some sort of lesson is concealed in this lack of metals, some lesson applicable to all Masons alike and not merely the candidate. The Lecture reveals some of the reasons but there may be a deeper meaning that we can apply to the words Personal Masonic Development.

Metals have always been employed as symbolic of various spiritual qualities. The more precious metals, such as gold and silver typify the higher qualities. Thus, gold is a symbol of spiritual qualities or wisdom. It would be an easy matter to pick out many passages from Scripture and also from ancient mythology to prove this statement. Metals are obtained at the expense of considerable labor. Usually they have to be dug out of the rock and smelted. Rocks are a part of the earth, and the earth, the ground has always been used to symbolize the lower natures. Metals are obtained by means of labor in the earth.

Qualities of the mind or of the lower nature are obtained by means of the labor performed by the spirit or the consciousness in the lower nature. Such qualities as self-control, courage, concentration, persistence and a thousand others all have to be developed by hard work and the “smelting” of the rock material of the lower nature. The Laws of Nature provides us a valuable lesson in this analogy.

But we must remember that the Entered Apprentice has not had time to digest and develop this lesson and understand the meaning and application of it. The Master Mason has. It is to teach him that the real valuable qualities of mind and spirit and character are not obtained by the haphazard life which the ordinary uninstructed man lives. Development of mind and spirit require knowledge and this knowledge must be mined or “smelted” from the earth and rock of the lower natures.

Just about anyone would agree that growing is a good thing, but relatively few Masons dedicate themselves to the process. Why? Because it requires change, and most people are reluctant to change.

Author Gail Sheehy stated: ***“If we don’t change, we don’t grow. If we don’t grow, we are not really living. Growth demands a temporary surrender of security.”***

Making the change from being an occasional learner to becoming someone dedicated to personal growth goes against the grain of most people. If you asked one hundred people how many books they have read on their own since leaving school (college or high school), I wager only a handful would say they have read more than one or two books. Most people celebrate when they receive their diplomas or degrees and say to themselves, “Thank goodness that’s over. I’m finished with studying.” But such thinking, especially in the art of Masonry doesn’t take you any higher than average. If you want to be successful, you have to keep growing.

Oliver Wendell Holmes said, ***“Man’s mind, once stretched by new ideas, never regains its original dimensions.”*** Growth today is an investment for tomorrow.

I can’t think of anything worse than living a stagnant life, devoid of change and improvement.

George