



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.

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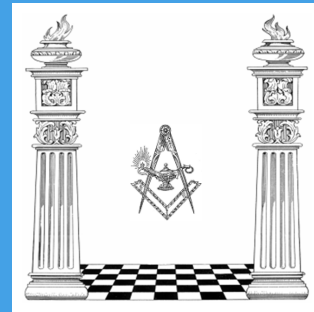
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And the Earth was without

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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THE ARCHITECT BEGAN TO DESIGN...

By George E. Weil

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My Honored Brethren,

No competent builder erects a structure without first satisfying himself about the nature of the materials with which he proposes to build. Therefore, in Freemasonry, no Mason can properly build the temple of his own soul without first understanding the nature of the raw material he has to work upon.

An individual who first comes to knock on the doors of Freemasonry may be a man who has internal ingredients of chaos, a multitude of confused desires, thoughts, and passions. But, present even amidst the ordinary man is conscious of a higher and spiritual element in him, which he may cultivate or disregard.

To the literalist, unacquainted with the fact that in both Sacred Writ and the teachings of the Masonic Art, surface appearances are always intended to be transposed into spiritual values and that semi-historic characters are meant to be impersonations of philosophic facts or principles. Therefore, the education and enlightenment of our rites and rituals have a deliberate intent to slowly enlighten the initiate to rise above merely material facts and to dwell in the truer realm of ideas. Without this understanding, there is a small chance of the initiate receiving the great value of the spiritual force and vitalizing energy of their inherent ideas.

Every brother admitted into our ranks is by successive stages being prepared to become a Mason. We do not give out diplomas, rings or pins when a man signs a petition or application. The preparation of a man to be a Mason begins in his heart, it being the first springs of impulse that must originate from him and only him to move towards the doors of Freemasonry to await admission. His reflection through life and his acceptance into our fraternity reflect upon all of us and ultimately we are responsible in helping him grow within our fraternity. It goes without saying but as a reminder that our fraternal and lodge customs are to be cherished and not whimsically shared among the profane and uninitiated. What is produced on the internet, or published by misinformed authors about our Order, and viewed on different historical television channels are not to be considered the base metal which forge our suit of armor.

The candidate to be initiated into Freemasonry does not fully comprehend the change that will be thrust upon him. It will be a change that will take time to fully appreciate but, it will be one that starts immediately through the ceremony he has allowed himself to participate in. The ceremonial preparations surround him, all of a significant character, to indicate to him that some great change is to take place in his moral and intellectual condition. He is already beginning to discover, that the design of Masonry is to introduce him to new views of life and its duties. He is to commence with new lessons in a new school. There is to be, not simply a change for the future, but also an extinction of the past; for initiation is, as it were, a death to the world and a resurrection to a new life.

He has come to Freemasonry freely; he has freely consented to abide by its conditions if it would but instruct him; Freemasonry has taken him at his word and he feels the logic of the situation.

The world is left behind — the chains of error and ignorance which had previously restrained the candidate in moral and intellectual captivity are to be broken — the portal of the Temple has been thrown widely open, and Masonry stands before the neophyte in all the glory of its form and beauty, to be fully revealed to him, however, only when the new birth has been completely accomplished.

The initiate is at the gates of wisdom symbolized by the door separating the preparation room from the Lodge proper. We as established members of this School of Mystery have made a decision to let him enter and begin his studies. Bearing in mind that we feel he is ready to begin his spiritual journey. Being vouched for that his body and soul are properly purified and is therefore attuned to receive our great spiritual fraternity which, concealed behind the exoteric rite, forms the living power of the Entered Apprentice Lodge. Consequently, he must devote himself to the study of his own being and its mysteries and complexities.

The silent lessons of the Lodge room, the platforms and the steps, the dramatic teaching of the clothing and all the other symbolisms produce suggestive effects upon the candidate's and Master Mason's mind, but, without great work on his part to understand these symbols there can be no incorporation of them to his subjective mind.

Where the meaning of the symbolism is not known, Freemasonry is but little more than a mere fraternal organization and her beautiful, dramatic lessons are almost if not entirely wasted. The contemplation of symbolism in our rituals and ceremonies must be an understanding one.

There are Master Masons who are brethren in name only, for their failure to exemplify the ideals of our Craft make them unresponsive to the teachings and purpose of Freemasonry. They are the ones who stand on the top of Fools Mountain pretending that they hold the keys to enlightenment in our Craft. Not really understanding that their life is the sole password which admits them to the true Masonic Lodge, and from within must build those qualities which will make possible their true understanding of the Craft.

To begin well, is the most likely means to end well; and it has been properly remarked, that when order and method are neglected at the beginning, they will be seldom found to take place at the end.

What do you get from our Craft? Look well to your heart for the answer.