



Scientia Coronati Research Lodge No. 4 F&AM

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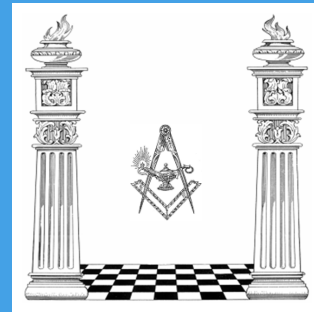
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And the Earth was without

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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TO LEARN TO SUBDUE MY PASSIONS AND IMPROVE MYSELF IN MASONRY...

By George E. Weil

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My Honored Brethren,

The growing public interest in the Dan Brown books, the mysteries of Egypt, secret societies, and the Knights Templar, has pulled Freemasonry into the mix, feeding romantic notions of Masonic significance. This in turn has caused a new generation of men to come knocking at Freemasonry's door, perhaps, curious to see whether it might be worth their time and interest.

How does one define what's worthy or worth our time? The real worth of a Mason can never be measured in the opinion of his fellows or in the Masonic honors he has attained. The standard by which a Mason must be judged is by his own evaluation of his conduct and by the principles, which he knows to be the unerring and unchanging ones.

The Masonic culture that we have immersed ourselves reflects philosophical ideals that we strive to abide by and teach throughout our lifetime in this material world. Each brother of a Masonic Lodge is a living essay to the various aspects of the Masonic fabric that we weave.

The Craft is a culture housed in the Temple of the Mysteries. The true Masonic Lodge is a Mystery School, a place where initiates are taken out of the mundane world and given instruction in the mysteries of life. Three steps or degrees lead up to the temple doors, and all who wish to enter, must climb them to reach a certain level of knowledge. Every Mason must guard these gates from the profane and ignorant. It is our responsibility that this knowledge, this philosophy, this culture be not given to selfish people unprepared for their responsibility. In order to protect this ancient and honorable fraternity, obstacles have been placed in the way of its attainment which only the sincere and honorable are strong enough to recognize and overcome.

Masonic worth and value is not obtained solely through one quick reading or by observing one ritual. Nor, is it experienced only through barbeques, raffles or other social events. While these elements of social interaction within our Fraternity are wonderful and create an atmosphere of cohesion and companionship it is not the "be all, end all" to Masonry nor the sum of its worth. Rather, its benefits are derived from the function of continuous review and investigation, through intellect and reason, through the investment of time in its study both in a personal setting and through discussion with other like-minded men. All of human life; the mysteries of Nature and Science, the Liberal Arts; even death itself is worthy of our contemplation.

The Mason has sworn that every day he will extract from life its message for him and build it into his temple. He seeks to learn the things which will make him of greater service in the Divine Plan, a better instrument in the hands of the Great Architect. The true brother of the Craft knows and applies one great paradox. He must search for the high things in lowly places and find the lowly things in high places.

It rests with ourselves whether Freemasonry remains for us what upon its outward and superficial side appears to be merely a series of symbolic rites, or whether we allow those symbols to pass into our lives and become realities within.

The greatest of all ritualists, might have been W. Bro. William Preston. He believed Freemasonry should not only be a progressive moral science, but that it should have an educational value in giving its members more knowledge of the liberal arts and sciences. The seven liberal arts and sciences constitute the traditional foundations of our educational systems. Freemasonry is a system designed to continue our education, refining and polishing us until we are rendered fit as perfect ashlar for the "the Celestial Lodge above."

Freemasonry does not suit all men or people nor does it need to. However, it does need to be recognized as a real force for good in this increasingly materialistic and confused modern world. It provides a bedrock, a foundation on which we may build the structure of our future selves.

Many of us who have arrived at the portals of Freemasonry have been attracted to the vision of a humanity ennobled by Freemasonry's profound teachings of morality, wisdom, honor and virtue. The very fact that we find this vision attractive is a direct result of the education we received which taught us to prize these ideals above material rank and fortune. Educational and spiritual growth should be one of the aims of a new Mason throughout his life's journey. He should be encouraged to engrave the stones of his Lodge building with his ideas, participation and illumination in the Craft. As Freemasons, we work for the promotion of values that are beyond price and that are truly timeless and eternal.

How do we know the value of Freemasonry? By its atmosphere, its spirit, its resonance within our deepest selves and by the honor that shines from each member who cherishes the core values of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.