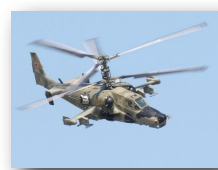


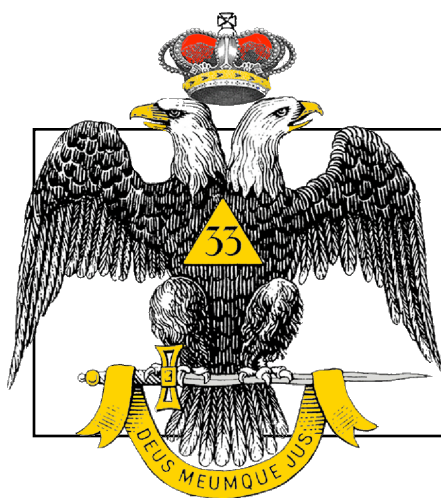
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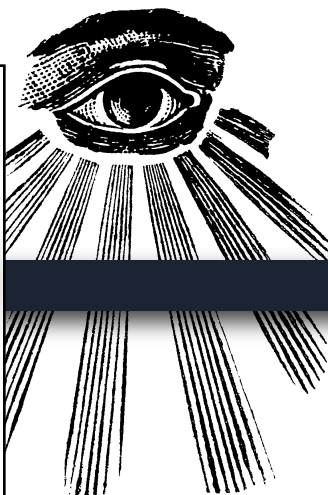
Examining Freemasonry:

Part 2 - Pursuing Perfection

By Carl Teichrib (www.forcingchange.org)



The September 2012 edition of *Forcing Change* began a series on Freemasonry. This issue looks to continue part of that story. With this in mind, I would recommend that the reader return to the September 2012 as a refresher after reading this edition.



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Carl Teichrib Editor.

In the September 2012 edition of *Forcing Change*, I wrote about my first experiences with Freemasonry - my paddle to Masonic Island in Lake Metigoshe, North Dakota, and the pressure to join the Lodge in my home community.

I also wrote about the question of Masonic authority; that Freemasonry doesn't have a standard authoritative text that gives a uniform meaning to the Lodge, but that authority is drawn from Grand Lodge constitutions and monitors, from the work of noted Masonic historians and philosophers, and from what individual's experience. This last point needs to be briefly elaborated.

While individual ritual experience plays an important role in shaping that person's understanding of the Lodge *as an individual*, it has little bearing on deciphering the broader meaning and purpose of the Craft, as the thoughts and feelings of the initiated candidate reflect a personal perspective. To discover the larger philosophical and spiritual fabric of Freemasonry, we must turn to Grand Lodge material and the literature of prominent Masonic historians and philosophers. And so, as we explored the role of religious universalism, spirituality, and the desire for human ascension in the September 2012 edition of *Forcing Change* - using the published works of important Masonic thinkers - we will once again return to some of those same authorities, and introduce new ones, as we examine the Craft's call to "perfection."

Perfection in the Lodge

The use of the word "perfection" is found throughout Freemasonry. For example, in the Scottish Rite - which is split into different geographical jurisdictions - the combined degrees of 4 to 14 are called the "Lodge of Perfection," and Degree 5 is labeled "Perfect Master."

Henry C. Clausen, the former Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council (1969-1985), Souther Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite, provides commentary on the fifth degree. Notice the connection between what *we create* - the works of our hands and what we do - and the subsequent attainment of immortality and our highest spiritual enlightenment.

"The setting and symbolic color for this Degree remind us that while we die in sin we may revive in virtue. We therefore always should act with regard to justice, equity, honesty and integrity and reaffirm our abiding belief in the immortality of the soul. Thus, we symbolically raise the departed from the coffin and place him at the holy altar as a Perfect Master..."

The universe is created continually. As we participate in the process we partake of the Creator - the Divine of God. This participation as co-Creator is itself a form of man's immortality regardless of whether, as we believe, his spirit survives the body. We exist and create. Being greater than self is man's true destiny, dignity and grandeur.

Man's will to believe in something greater than self is the springboard from which we can touch the Divine. Talk with men of faith. Read the books that tell of spiritual achievements. Meditate as you gaze at the stars of the first magnitude. Then you, too, may attain that conclusive spiritual revelation which is the highest human development."¹

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Then, when the Mason enters the 14th level, he has attained the degree of the Perfect Elu in the Southern Jurisdiction, or the Grand Elect Perfect and Sublime Mason in the Canadian division. Speaking to this degree, Clausen tells us that, "We press on toward the unattainable, yet more nearly approaching perfect truth... Our future well-being depends on how we perform in this life."²

Albert Pike, who was Sovereign Grand Commander of the Southern Jurisdiction for 32 years, starting in 1859, and had a direct hand in writing the Scottish Rite rituals, provides some philosophical background to the 14th degree.

"It [Masonry] is the universal, eternal, immutable religion, such as God planted it in the heart of universal humanity. No creed has ever been long-lived that was not built on this foundation. It is the base, and they are the superstructure... The ministers of this religion are all Masons who comprehend it and are devoted to it; its sacrifices to God are good works, the sacrifices of the base and disorderly passions, the offering up of self-interest on the altar of humanity, and perpetual efforts to attain to all the moral perfection of which man is capable."³

Many other instances of "perfection" crop up in the family of Masonic and esoteric societies. In the Egyptian Rite we find the Rite of Perfect Initiates, in the Irish branch we discover the Perfect Irish Master, and in the Order of Noachites we find the Perfect Prussian. In Rennes, France, there existed a Lodge of Perfect Union, and in 1754 a Masonic oriented lodge was set up in the College of Jesuits of Clermont, in Paris, known as the Rite of Perfection. In Germany, the degree of Perfection was the last in the now defunct Rite of Fessler. Moreover, when Adam Weishaupt formed his independent body - known as the Order of Illuminati at Bavaria - it was first called the Perfectionists.⁴

Today, a number of Masonic lodges have "perfection" in their name. In Calgary, Alberta, you can find Perfection Lodge #9; Perfection Lodge #75 is in New Westminster, British Columbia;

Jacksonville, Florida, is home to Perfection Lodge #11; and Perfection Lodge can be found in Framingham, Massachusetts.

Going beyond the naming of lodges, which is limited to those bodies who chose to be so labelled, Masonic symbolism is far more ubiquitous. Here, symbols meant to convey perfection and perfectibility are found across the Masonic landscape. One example is the rough and perfect Ashlar: A stone block which is first unfinished, and then, through the work of the Craft, emerges perfect and ready for use. Historian Albert Mackey describes it this way.

“The Rough Ashlar, or stone in its rude and unpolished condition, in emblematic of man in his natural state - ignorant, uncultivated, and vicious. But when education has exerted its wholesome influence in expanding his intellect, restraining his passions, and purifying his life, he then is represented by the Perfect Ashlar, which, under the skillful hands of the workmen, has been smoothed, and squared, and fitted for its place in the building.”⁵



The non-Mason is the Rough Ashlar, but once he enters the Lodge and is shaped by the rituals and educated in Masonic philosophy, this individual is made new and perfected in the task of what is called the “Great Work.” Sometimes the ashlar is pictured as a single stone being hewn or chiseled, but more often it’s two stones side-by-side; the rough and the perfect.

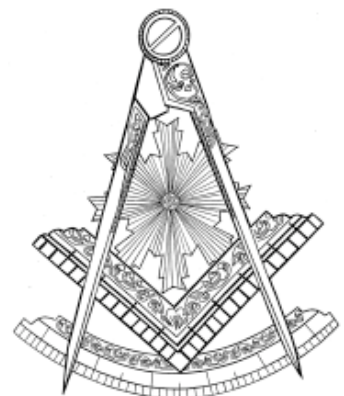
The Masonic Trestle Board too is symbolic of perfection. Allen E. Roberts tells us in *The Craft and Its Symbols*,

“The Trestle Board, used by the master workman to draw his designs upon, is a symbol of perfection. It is symbolically a spiritual board on which a man should lay out his plans to build his ‘living stones’ into a Temple to the Great Architect of the Universe.”⁶

Many other symbols employed in Freemasonry have a meaning that speaks to perfection. This includes the square and compass, the hexagram or six-pointed star (better known as the Star of David), the jewel of the York Rite’s Past Master (a compass set at sixty degrees - an example is shown below right), the Equilateral Triangle, the level and the plumb, the ruler with 24 divisions, and the Lambskin Apron worn by all men of the Lodge. As George H. Steinmetz reminds the Masonic traveler,

“All the symbology of Freemasonry depicts man’s journey back to his lost perfection is intended to assist him to accelerate his progress by teaching him how to more quickly accomplish his purpose.”⁷

So what is it about “perfection” that the Craft speaks so much about? It is the attempt through good works, rituals and obligations, and Masonic education to be spiritually perfected through *one’s own striv-*



ing. This is spiritual alchemy; the attempt to transform one's spiritual imperfection through the science of mysticism and thus be re-forged as a new and perfected being.

Henry C. Clausen explains, "If you follow the true path of Scottish Rite perfection, with an unshakable faith in a Supreme power, you will go from the darkness of slavery into the dazzling, holy light of freedom."⁸

"The Scottish Rite teaches its members how to spell 'God' with the right blocks. That truly is the great relevance of Scottish Rite Masonry in the modern world. We teach our initiates there are available for the mind of man vast spiritual forces, vital spiritual powers.

Similarly, we in the Scottish Rite can find in our inner selves a refuge from external distractions and evils, just as peace and quiet are found at the eye of a hurricane. There the sun shines and birds fly. Put your trust in your own inherent capacities.

Buddha attained his own enlightenment and said to his followers: 'Be a lamp unto your own feet; do not seek outside yourself'.⁹

Yet, for the Christian, we know through God's Word that we are incapable of saving or perfecting ourselves. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23).

Furthermore, Psalm 14 tells us that there is no one who does good, that all mankind is together corrupt, and that all have turned aside from God. And Ecclesiastes 7:20 says, "For there is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin."

Yet, Scripture informs us that we must be perfect. In Matthew 5 we find the standard for perfection, Jesus Christ, telling us that we too must be perfect, "just as your Father in heaven is perfect." (Matt. 5:48). How is this possible?

Hebrews 10 informs us that Jesus Christ, as both the High Priest and sacrificial Lamb, completed this task of perfecting on our behalf - making us holy before God. "For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified." (Heb. 10:14)

Moreover, consider the wonderful words of Ephesians 2:4-10,

"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His work-



Henry C. Clausen

manship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Indeed, Scripture runs counter to the ideas of the Lodge, which seeks mystical perfection through its own works; *The Mason must perfect himself*.

In contrast, consider how the Apostle Paul relates perfection and Jesus Christ in his letter to the Philippians. Here, Paul recognized that his Saviour is the perfecter, and that Paul himself must continue the race as a believer, knowing that Christ Jesus is the completer.

“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (3:12-13).

When we examine the Lodge and explore its mystical quest to achieve perfection, and contrast this to the saving grace of Jesus Christ, we realize that a fork in the road is before us: Either trust Jesus Christ as the perfecter and finisher, or attempt to achieve the impossible - perfect ourselves. **FC**

NOTE: The next article in this edition of *Forcing Change* is a significant selection of quotes from Masonic authorities on the issue of Masonic-based perfection.

¹ Henry C. Clausen, *Clausen's Commentaries on Morals and Dogma* (The Supreme Council, 33, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, USA, 1974), pp.24-26. Note, page 25 is a full page color picture, thus the text flows from pages 24 to 26.

² Ibid., p.71.

³ Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry* (The Supreme Council, 33, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, USA, 1871/1944), p.219.

⁴ For the list of “perfect” rites and lodges, see Albert G. Mackey, *An Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, Volume II (The Masonic History Company, 1925), pp.554-555.

⁵ Albert Mackey, *An Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, Volume I, p.81.

⁶ Allen E. Roberts, *The Craft and Its Symbols: Opening the Door to Masonic Symbols* (Macoy Publishing and Masonic Supply Company, 1974), p.35.

⁷ George H. Steinmetz, *The Royal Arch: Its Hidden Meaning* (Macoy Publishing and Masonic Supply Company, 1946), p.53.

⁸ Henry C. Clausen, *Emergence of the Mystical* (The Supreme Council, 33, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, USA, 1981), p.82.

⁹ Ibid., pp.76-77.

QUOTES ON PERFECTION

The following quotes are taken from Masonic historians, philosophers, and noted figures. All of the bibliographical data is found before the quote, with the page number listed afterward. Each leading number represents a particular book cited.

1) Richard Carlile, *A Manual of the Three First Degrees of Freemasonry* (William Gowans, 1860).

“Q. Why is it required, in this degree, before you are admitted, to show that you are well instructed in the three degrees of Masonry?

A. To show that it is only gradually that we can arrive at perfection.” (p.55).

“The master of this lodge allegorically represents the person of Wisdom and Perfection, which gives him the title of *most wise and perfect master*. The wardens are styled *most excellent and perfect*.” (p.109 – italics in original).

2) Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma of the Accepted and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry* (The Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction, 1871/1941).

“Step by step men must advance toward Perfection; and each Masonic Degree is meant to be one of those steps.” (p.136).

3) A.E. Waite, *The Secret Tradition in Freemasonry, Volume I* (Rebman Limited, 1911).

“The end intimated by these is that which I have already termed the perfection of man – that is to say, his integration – the supersensual, divine union of the human consciousness with God. And this is the broad bond of union between Masonry and that intellectual science which is termed Mysticism in the root-matter of both.” (p.240).

4) A.E. Waite, *The Secret Tradition in Freemasonry, Volume II* (Rebman Limited, 1911).

“The Candidate for Freemasonry, by the hypothesis, has also been born in a state of loss, imperfection and impurity, which state is summarized by the word ‘profane.’ On his initiation he enters the way of perfection, the way of transmutation, the golden way.” (p.62).

5) Chalmers I. Paton, *Freemasonry: Its Symbolism, Religious Nature and Law of Perfection* (Reeves and Turner, 1873).

“Freemasonry itself is symbolic of the highest possible perfection of mankind, and to this its great aim is to contribute; with a view to this object all its teachings are framed.” (p.1).

“We must ever seek to be more perfect than we are; and whilst we do so, we are encouraged to rejoice in hope of ultimate perfection, in that Temple of which every stone shall indeed be polished after the similitude of a palace.” (p.92).

6) J.D. Buck, *The Genius of Freemasonry* (Indo-American Book Company, 1907).

“The most transcendent problem that the mind of man is capable of conceiving is that of the natural, orderly and progressive higher evolution of the Individual, or the possible and final perfection of man.

God created man, but man must perfect himself. In this work of self-perfection, if man is earnest, sincere and persistent in seeking the lines of least resistance and greatest progress, he will find both God and Nature working with him, and he will avail himself continually of the assistance of Law and Light.” (p.42).

7) Roscoe Pound, *Lectures on the Philosophy of Freemasonry* (The National Masonic Research Society, 1915).

“But, in the attainment of human perfection, we must go beyond the strict limits of the social order. Morality, as we have seen, is an institution of social man. Nevertheless it has possibilities of its own, surpassing the essential requirements of a society... Hence the ultimate aim is human perfection.” (pp.34-35).

“Masonry has to deal with internal conditions of life governed by reason. Hence its fundamental principles are measurement and restraint – measurement by reason and restraint by reason – and it teaches these as a means of achieving perfection.” (p.39).

8) Foster Bailey, *The Spirit of Masonry* (Lucis Trust, 1957/1996).

“From another angle we might look upon speculative Masonry as embodying symbolically the drama of human evolution... The progress made by the candidate as he enters the Temple for the first time and passes from one degree to another, can be studied as a dramatic representation of the search for light, and for the Word of God which characterizes every soul. Masonry portrays the eternal quest. In total ignorance, blind and defenceless, man enters into the Temple of Life. Progressively he arrives at greater light and knowledge; he becomes worthy of receiving a reward and later can attain to an increase in wages. Still later he comes to a realization of those hidden indications which warrant his pushing forward in search of the L.W. [Lost Word] which can only be sought by a M.M. [Master Mason]. Steadily he goes forward using all the light available, traveling from the West to the East by way of the North. In spite of the difficulties and dangers encountered, he achieves increased knowledge and begins to ‘perfect himself in Masonry’.” (p.19)

“Masonry can be regarded as epitomizing the past, indicating the way and destiny of man in the present and foretelling his ultimate perfection.” (p.49).

“Masonry, therefore, is not only a system of morality, inculcating the highest ethics through which result, if followed, the conscious unfolding of divinity, but it is also a great dramatic presentation of regeneration. It portrays the recovery of man’s hidden divinity and its brining forth into the light; it pictures the raising of man from his fallen estate to Heaven, and it demonstrates, through that which is enacted in the work of lodge, the power to achieve perfection latent in every man, and his ability to arrive at full sight and understanding and thus become master of himself and of his destiny. What

is true of the unit is true of the group, and in Masonry is preserved for us a guarantee of the ultimate achievement of humanity – a humanity whose standard of measure is perfection...” (p.105).

9) George H. Steinmetz, *The Royal Arch: Its Hidden Meaning* (Macoy Publishing and Masonic Supply Company, 1946). NOTE: Capitals in original.

“The Worshipful Master serves his term in office and performs those duties to which he has been called. At the conclusion of his term the Lodge in effect, informs him ‘Well done, thou good and faithful servant... enter thou into the joys of thy Lord.’ This is significant of the evolution of the COMPLETE MAN into the PERFECT MAN.” (p.51).

“...when the Master of the Lodge has completed his term of office, the square, emblematic of the COMPLETE MAN is taken from him and he is presented the jewel of a Past Master, a compass open to sixty degrees, symbol of the PERFECT MAN. This is placed upon a quadrant to emphasize the thirty degrees which he has progressed from the ninety degree right angle of the square to the sixty degree angle of the equilateral triangle, of which the compasses are but a substitute. It is symbolic of his ‘REBIRTH’ on the spiritual plane.” (pp.54-55).

“MAN IS IMPELLED TOWARD PERFECTION! There is that within man – his innermost divinity – which informs him of the possibility of attaining completeness of being and urges him on to strive for that attainment.” (p.84).

10) W.L. Wilmschurst, *The Meaning of Masonry* (Gramercy Books, 1980).

“To sum up the import of the teaching of the three degrees, it is clear, therefore, that from grade to grade the candidate is being led from an old to an entirely new quality of life. He begins his Masonic career as the natural man; he ends it by becoming through its discipline, a regenerated perfected man. To attain this transmutation, this metamorphosis of himself, he is taught first to purify and subdue his sensual nature; then to purify and develop his mental nature; and finally, by utter surrender of his old life and losing his soul to save it, he rises from the dead a Master, a just man made perfect...” (p.46)

“This – the evolution of man into superman – was always the purpose of the ancient Mysteries, and the real purpose behind modern Masonry is, not the social and charitable purpose to which so much attention is paid, but the expediting of the spiritual evolution of those who aspire to perfect their own nature and transform it into a more god-like quality. And this is a definite science, a royal art...” (p.47)

11) Charles T. McClenachan, *The Book of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry* (Masonic Publishing and Manufacturing Company, 1868).

“Your apron is white, bordered with red, as an emblem of the ardour and zeal of the Masters: the pocket in the middle of the area is intended for the key of the box wherein is contained the plans and records of the tribunal, which key is represented to you by that on the flap. It teaches you to lock carefully up in your heart the secrets of Masonry, and to keep the key ever in your own possession;

and it is especially emblematical of that justice and uprightness that alone can unlock to you the mysteries contained in the higher degrees, and enable you to advance towards perfection.” (p.77)

(Masonic Prayer) “We beseech thee that our thoughts may be engaged, and our hearts set, on the grand work of Perfection; which, when attained, will be an ample reward for all our labor... may our doings tend to thy glory and our advancement toward Perfection.” (p.160)

(about the 18th degree: Knight of the Rose Croix) “This degree, like the one preceding it, is philosophical. The end of all philosophy is to free the mind from those encumbrances which hinder its progress toward perfection, and to raise it to the contemplation of immutable Truth and the knowledge of divine and spiritual objects.” (p.245).

12) J.D. Buck, *Mystic Masonry and the Greater Mysteries of Antiquity* (Regan Publishing, 1925).

“It is far more important that men should strive to become Christs than that they should believe that Jesus was Christ. If the Christ-state can be attained by but one human being during the whole evolution of the race, then the evolution of man is a farce and human perfection an impossibility... Jesus is no less Divine because all men may reach the same Divine perfection.” (p.62).

FREEMASONRY... BEHIND CLOSED DOORS: *A Biblical Look at The Lodge*

By Ed Decker

Note: Ed Decker, founder of Saints Alive in Jesus (www.saintsalive.com), is a noted Christian apologist who is best known for his work regarding Mormonism. However, Mr. Decker has also engaged in a great deal of work on Freemasonry. In this article, he contrasts the teachings of the Lodge with that of the Bible.

Note also that this article is set up as a comparison - Biblical passages are presented, points expanded, and Masonic positions compared.

There have been many questions regarding the compatibility of Freemasonry and Christianity. The claim of every Mason is that Masonry and Christianity are totally compatible.

They say that religion is the experience of relating to God, and Masonry is the experience of relating to mankind. While separate, they can and do naturally co-exist. Well, if Freemasonry is truly what it professes publicly, then "Bravo!" It is a welcome fellowship.

If it is being deceptive, or as some claim, a serious danger to the Mason, his or her family and Church, then it should be exposed as such. It is that simple. Let's look at just a few of the Lodge's basic principles in the Light of Biblical truth.

NO OTHER GODS!

"And God spoke all these words: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me..." (Exodus 20:1-5)

This is the first and primary Commandment! All other commandments find their reason in it. God put it at the top of the list for a reason! If you have a faulty view of God, your whole spiritual perspective is skewed by that error. Listen again to God: "This is what the LORD says - Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God." (Isaiah 44:6)

If your view of God is anything but that which God, Himself, has declared above, your view is not Christian orthodoxy. If your view of Christ is not that which is equally Biblically based, your view of Christ is just as filled with danger. Let's see what the Masonic fraternity, itself has to say about the nature of God.

FREEMASONS BOW AT EVERY ALTAR

"The true Mason is not creed-bound. He realizes with the divine illumination of his lodge that as a Mason his religion must be universal: Christ, Buddha, or Mohammed, the name means little, for he recognizes only the light and not the bearer. He worships at every shrine, bows before every altar, whether in temple, mosque or cathedral, realizing with his truer understanding the oneness of all spiritual truth."

- Manly P. Hall, *The Lost Keys of Freemasonry* (Macoy Publishing and Masonic Supply Company, 1976.), p.65.



"Everything good in nature comes from OSIRIS—order, harmony, and the favorable temperature of the seasons and celestial periods."

- Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, page 476.

Note: Osiris was the ancient Egyptian god whose annual death and resurrection personified the self-renewing vitality and fertility of nature. "The All Seeing Eye" is a Masonic representation of Osiris.

THE BIBLE SAYS

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'." (John 14:6)

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1Tim. 2:5)

Is Jesus Christ Lord?

In *Mystic Masonry*, by J. D. Buck, the following Masonic teaching is found: "It is far more important that men should strive to become Christs than that they should believe that Jesus was Christ." (p. 62)

"The perfect man is Christ: and Christ is God. This is the birth-right and destiny of every human soul." (page 86)

THE BIBLE SAYS

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

"Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son." (1 John 2:22)

OUR LORD AMONG THE BAALIM

"Masonry, around whose altars the Christian, the Hebrew, the Moslem, the Brahmin, the followers of Confucius and Zoroaster, can assemble as brethren and unite in prayer to the one God who is above ALL the Baalim, must needs leave it to each of its initiates to look for the foundation of his faith and hope to the written scriptures of his own religion."

- Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, page 226.

[**Author's Note:** The word "Baalim," is simply defined as "false god or idol." The Masonic author has included the God of the Christian in that category.]

THE BIBLE SAYS

"You shall have no other gods before Me." (Deuteronomy 5:7)

"Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish." (Deut 8:19)

"Turn now everyone from his evil way, amend your doings, and do not go after other gods to serve them..." (Jeremiah 35:15)

BOUND BY BLOOD OATHS

From the initiation rituals of the "BLUE LODGES" and through all 33 degrees of Freemasonry, *every Mason in the world is bound by bloody oaths* to maintain the secrets of the Lodge. These binding oaths are kept through the spirit of fear, because the penalties for betraying the brethren of the lodge include serious physical harm to the Mason. Look at them from the perspective of Christ's admonition.

The oath sworn by the Entered Apprentice or first degree:

"...binding myself under no less penalty than that of having my throat cut across, my tongue torn out by its roots, and my body buried in the rough sands of the sea, at low water mark."

The Master Mason swears,

"...under no less penalty than that of having my body severed in two, my bowels taken from thence and burned to ashes, the ashes scatter before the four winds of heaven..."

- Duncan's Ritual of Freemasonry (David McKay Pub., New York, NY), pp.33, 396

THE BIBLE SAYS

Jesus, speaking again to His disciples, clearly dealt with this exact situation.

"There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs. 'I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.' " (Luke 12:2-5)

"Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.' But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one." (Matthew 5:33-37)

That was Jesus Himself talking to those who believed on Him. Surely, it would be a foolish Christian who would defy the Lord in such a serious matter. What earthly thing would be worth violating a direct instruction from our Savior? None! It is not an isolated warning. James 5:12 tells us, "But

above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your 'Yes,' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No,' lest you fall into judgment."

TRUSTING THE BIBLE

"The teachers, even of Christianity, are, in general, the most ignorant of the true meaning of that which they teach. There is no book of which so little is known as the Bible. To most who read it, it is as incomprehensible as the Sohar."

- Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, page 105.

The Bible Says

We do well to know the Word Of God. As Jesus prayed to the Father for His disciples, His prayer was: "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth." (John 17:17)

The Bible clearly teaches that the mature Christian must be grounded in God's Word. This is probably the most grievous error of those enmeshed in the web of Freemasonry: It is the ignorance of or lack of regard for the truth of God's Holy Word.

What true Christian man (or woman) would dare go through the rituals of Freemasonry knowing that someday, he or she would have to stand before a Holy God and account for those acts of darkness. Let me give you a few examples...

THE JUDGMENT OF THE DAMNED

The grave, *Christless* end awaiting members of the Masonic order can be demonstrated by the Apron Lecture, given every Mason in the Blue Lodge Ceremony. The following quote can be found almost word for word in most Masonic Monitors, the Craft ritual manual. Each candidate, upon completion of the initiation is given a white Lambskin Apron whose pure and spotless surface, he is told, would be,

"an ever present reminder of purity of life and rectitude of conduct, and when at last, after a life of faithful service your weary feet shall have come to the end of life's toilsome journey and from your nerveless grasp shall have dropped forever the working tools of life, may the record of your life be as pure and spotless as this fair emblem which I place in your hands tonight, *and when your trembling soul shall stand, naked and alone, before the Great White Throne, there to receive judgment* for the deeds done while here in the body, may it be your portion to hear from Him who sitteth as the Judge Supreme, the welcome words: Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee rule over many things! Enter into the joy of thy Lord."

While the words sound noble, it is to the everlasting pit of hell that the unsuspecting candidate has been assigned in the subtle words of the message. The promise is that the apron represents the works of the flesh when the Mason stands before God at the Great White Throne judgment.

There is only one Great White Throne Judgment in my Bible and it is found in Revelation 20:11-15. It is the judgment of those dead not in Christ, the judgment of the damned, who will be judged... not by the gift of God through Christ, but by their own works, with an end in the lake of fire. What a tragedy! All worthy Masons are buried with this apron as their covering before God.

THE KING OF THE PIT OF HELL

In the seventeenth degree of the Scottish Rite, or The Knights of the East and West degree, after the candidates have completed the initiation they are given the secret password, Jubulum, and the Sacred Word, **Abaddon**. Here is the clue to the true identity of the Masonic Deity. It is revealed in the "Sacred Word" of this ritual, "Abaddon." In Revelation 9:11, we learn that, "they [the demons and workers from hell] had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon!"

How could any true Christian dare to take upon himself that evil name as a sacred word?

THE WORD IS OUT

The supposed quest of the Blue Lodge Masons is the search for "The Lost Word." Most Masonic ritual is concerned with the recovery of this lost word, presumed to be the name of God - supposedly lost through the murder of the architect, Hiram Abiff, during the building of Solomon's Temple. This quest is attained during the ritual of the ROYAL ARCH DEGREE.

It is here that the secret name of the DEITY of Masonry is revealed: **JAHBULON**.

"**JAH**" is the short form of the Hebrew name of God, "Yahweh," or "Jehovah." "**BUL**" is a rendering of the name, **BAAL**. "**ON**" is the term used in the Babylonian mysteries to call upon the deity, "**OSIRIS**"! The secret ritual book of the Craft prints the letters J.B.O. It states that: "We three do meet and agree-in peace, love and unity-the Sacred Word to keep and never to divulge the same-until we three, or three such as we do meet and agree."

No Royal Arch Mason can pronounce the sacred name by himself. What is represented as the god of Masonry is a three-headed monster so remote from the Christian Trinity and so blasphemous as to damn the soul of anyone who would dare to pronounce its name in a ritual of worship.

USURPING THE PRIESTHOOD OF JESUS

In the 19th degree of Scottish rite Freemasonry, the Initiate receives the degree of GRAND PONTIFF. It is during this ritual that the candidate swears an oath of secrecy and an oath of total obedience "to any Chapter of this degree to which I may belong; and the edicts, laws and mandates of the Grand Consistory of Sublime Princes and Commanders of the Royal Secret, as well as those of the Supreme Council of the 33rd degree..."

It is then that the "Thrice Puissant" anoints him with oil on the crown of his head and says: "Be thou a Priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

THE BIBLE SAYS

“...and inasmuch as He was not made priest without an oath (for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him: The LORD has sworn And will not relent, You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek”), by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant. Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.” (Heb. 7:20-24)

PAGAN COMMUNION—EATING THE DEAD

“QUESTION: What is to us the chief symbol of man’s ultimate redemption and regeneration?

ANSWER: The fraternal supper, of bread which nourishes, and of wine which refreshes and exhilarates, symbolical of the time which is to come, when all mankind shall be one great harmonious brotherhood; and teaching us these great lessons: that as matter changes ever, but no single atom is annihilated, it is not rational to suppose that the far nobler soul does not continue to exist beyond the grave: that many thousands who have died might claim to be joint owners with ourselves of the particles that compose our physical bodies; for matter ever forms new combinations; and the bodies of the ancient dead, the patriarchs before and since the flood, the kings and common people of all ages, resolved into their constituent elements, are carried upon the wind over all continents, and continually enter into and form part of the habitations of new souls, creating new bonds of sympathy and brotherhood between each man that lives and all his race. And thus, in the bread we eat, and in the wine we drink tonight may enter into and form of us part of us the identical particles of matter that once formed parts of the material bodies called Moses, Confucius, Plato, Socrates or Jesus of Nazareth. In the truest sense, **we eat and drink the bodies of the dead;** and cannot say that there is a single atom of our blood or body, the ownership of which some other soul might not dispute with us.”

- Albert Pike, *Morals And Dogma*, page 539 (underlining and bold added)

THE BIBLE SAYS

“And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’ Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you’.” (Luke 22:19-21)

but...ISN'T THE YORK RITE CHRISTIAN FREEMASONRY?

I am often told that the York Rite is a Christian Rite from start to finish. Would that it were true. First, the deep roots of Freemasonry are entwined within every branch of the craft and go through every level of paganism, cultic and occult practices, right into the depths of Luciferic rituals. No part

of the system is exempt. The York Rite is no different and those men within it who claim it is free from any non-Christian influence are either blind fools or lying through their teeth!

Let's look at the "**Knights Templar**" Degree of the York Rite. It is reported to have originally been established to preserve and protect the craft. The special garb worn in the degree consists an Apron, sash and cordon. The center of the Apron displays a hand holding a severed head, dripping blood. On the flap is a hand holding a knife. Drops of red blood cover the white background.

The Sash is white with a yellow fringe. It is filled with gory, severed heads, arms and legs, mixed in with knives, crosses and crowns. The cordon, which goes around the neck, is dark satin with severed heads down the side and a small ceremonial sword as the breast ornament. Along with these grotesque items is a human skull cut and pinned so that the top of the skull can be detached to use a drinking vessel. *And they call this the Christian Rite?*

A BIZARRE BLOOD RITUAL

The paraphernalia of this ritual should be evidence enough that the York Rite is every bit as pagan as the Scottish Rite, but let me finish this up with a few excerpts from the rite, itself. The obligation in this degree, called the Master's Nine Of Elect, is now given to the candidate in the usual form. While the candidate is kneeling at the altar, the companions all stand over him with raised poniards, as if about to stab him. Meanwhile a horrible, bloody head sits on the altar, facing him. The Mason swears this blood oath:

"I do solemnly swear, in the presence of Almighty God, that I will revenge the assassination of our worthy Master, Hiram Abiff, not only on the murderers, but also on all who may betray the secrets of this degree; and furthermore, that I will keep and protect this Order with all my might, and the brethren, in general, with all my power, and furthermore, that I will obey the decrees of the Grand Council of Princes of Jerusalem; and, if I violate my obligation, I consent to be struck with the dreadful poniard of vengeance, now presented to me, and to have my head cut off, and stuck on the highest pole, or pinnacle, in the eastern part of the world, as a monument of my villainy! Amen! Amen! Amen! Amen!"

The vows here are sealed with the Fifth Libation or The Sealed Obligation. The candidate is given the human skull filled with wine, which he drinks after swearing that "the sins of the person whose skull this once was, be heaped upon my head, in addition to my own; and may appear in judgment against me, both here and hereafter, should I violate or transgress any obligation in Masonry, or the Orders of [this] knighthood..." (Editor's Note: Most York Rite lodges no longer use a real human skull, but one made of synthetic materials)

I am sorry, but any man who has sworn such oaths has so violated his Christian *faith and grieved the Holy Spirit* that I suspect he *and all those over whom he has headship* have been removed from that umbrella of Christ's protection.

[Editor's Note: The above statement is strong, but reflects the seriousness of the situation. Masons who wish to live in a way that honors Jesus Christ should renounce their ties to the Lodge and turn to Christ alone.]

THE GOD OF THE MYSTIC SHRINE

The candidates for this ritual kneels at the ALTAR OF OBLIGATION with arms bound, leaning upon the top, head bowed. There they are required to “assume a most powerful and binding oath, inseparably uniting yourself with us, and once taken, it can never be retracted or departed from.”

The oath itself is curse enough, being four pages in length. Its penalty included “having my eye-balls pierced to the center with a three-edged blade.” The revelation of truth is in the candidates’ sealing of the oath, revealing the true nature of the Masonic god of the Mystic Shrine: “...and may ALLAH, the god of Arab, Moslem and Mohammedan, the GOD OF OUR FATHERS, support me to the entire fulfillment of the same, Amen, Amen, Amen.”

- *The Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine* (Allen Publishing Co. New York, NY), pp.35-39. NOTE: Allah is not another name for the God of the Bible. **FC**

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