



Pillars of Light



Compiled by the
Editorial Team of the
Grand Lodge Library

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Editorial

I have wondered many times about this Light that we are talking so much about in Freemasonry. It is even part of our newsletter's name.

It is about Light of Knowledge. The spirit of our ceremonies is in their esoteric meaning. Therefore it is important that instruction and enlightenment should be made available in addition to that already apparent in the Charges. The hidden meaning not being apparent without study, instruction and research, more occasions should be made when the brethren can learn something of what lies beneath. Lectures are often lightly regarded. The fault might lie with both the lecturer and listeners.

Declarations such as: "we don't always want to be educated" shouldn't be taken literally. We have to insist and create for all, sources of information and knowledge, a choice that will correspond to every demand. We need to continue and be creative, organize Study Circles, open discussions in Lodges and out of the meetings.

In the Library we have to initiate activities that will attract the interest of brethren and stimulate this interest with multiple, different ideas. It is about the spiritual Light, composed of many beams, which like the colours of the rainbow, united give the pure white light. Three of its principal beams – the primary colours, as we may call them – are Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Let's never cease to study and enquire about them. Truth, for example, is of great importance, for every brother should be a true man, square in his conduct, upright in all actions. He who regulates his life according to the Masonic line and rule will walk justly and uprightly before God and man, neither turning to the right nor to the left from the paths of virtue. The essence of truth is to be true to one's self, true to one's neighbour, and to our God. And as a man is said to be a Freemason, the world should know that he is one whose word is his bond, one whose tongue is kept from evil, and his life is an example to others.

Brethren, it is our pride that this ray of Light is known to be shining bright and clear from our "Pillars of Light", and that it is, as it were, a hallmark of integrity, a stream of pure ideas and an inspiration to all our readers. Join in with us to make it shine even brighter. There is always space for your contribution, for your own beam of Light to be shared by all.

Joseph V. Haffner

Some more on our ritual II

(continued from March Issue)

In 1725 there began a serious series of schisms in the Craft, and it was not until 1813 that a happy issue from these severe afflictions was found. There were several matters in dispute, one of the chief being that the ritual had been given a vivid Christian and sectarian tinge. The first break was in 1725 when the "Grand Lodge of all England" was formed in York. In 1753 some annoyed Irishmen denounced Grand Lodge for having departed from several of the old landmarks, and set themselves up as "Ancient" Masons, bestowing on their rivals the title of "Moderns." The former afterwards became known as "Athol" Masons, because the Duke of Athol presided over them.

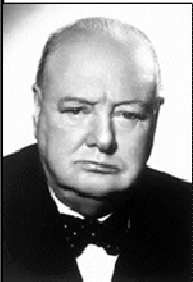
The great figure in this schism was Lawrence Dermott who for thirty years or so championed the cause of the Ancients, and was the main instrument of their success. In 1756, Dermott published his first book of laws, titled "Ahiman Rezon" (being a corruption of the three Hebrew words **ahi min ratzon**, which signifies textually "my brother by choice" relating to the brother chosen by ballot). It was the term, which was used as the title of the Book of Constitution, much of which is taken from the Irish Constitutions of 1751, by Pratt, and the rest from Anderson's Constitutions. In 1778 William Preston and some followers took offence at the decision of Grand Lodge, and became instrumental in forming a "Grand Lodge of England, South of Trent." Two lodges joined, but the promoters soon saw the extravagance of their ways, disbanded, apologized, and returned to the fold. Finally in 1813 all dissension ceased with the holding of the Lodge of Reconciliation on the 27th of December in London, at which the two Grand Lodges united. Proceedings were deeply solemn and impressive, the Duke of Sussex became the Grand Master, and twenty-one articles of Union were signed. Since then the United Grand Lodge of England and all the "daughter" Grand Lodges of the world have had the shape and functions familiar now to us all. Namely, as it is declared "... pure and antient masonry consists of three degrees and no more; viz., those of Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch..."

Thus did the builders further stabilize the fabric both in the spiritual and material sense and Masonry has never looked back since.



FAMOUS FREEMASONS

Sir Winston Leonard Spencer-Churchill



Born November 30, 1874 – Died January 24, 1965, Winston Churchill was an English statesman, soldier, author and artist, but best known as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom during WWII. He was one of the most important leaders in modern history.

Born in Blenheim Palace in Woodstock, Oxfordshire, England to Lord Randolph Churchill and Lady Jennie (Jerome) Churchill, he went to Harrow school where he did well in English and history but poorly with the rest of the subjects. After 3 attempts Churchill finally was accepted at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. He graduated at the age of 20 and joined the army as a Subaltern of the IV(Queens Own) Hussars Calvary Regiment.

In 1895 he travelled to Cuba and obtained a commission from the *Daily Graphic Newspaper* to write on the Spanish battles against Cuban guerrillas. At the beginning of 1897 he was rushed back to India to help quell the Pathan revolt on the North West Frontier. During this campaign he wrote articles for *The Pioneer* and *The Daily Telegraph*. By October 1897, Churchill was back in England and wrote his first book – *The Story of the Malakand Field Force*. Using family connections he managed to serve in the Sudan and also wrote for the *Morning Post*. During the second Anglo-Boer war he served as war correspondent, was caught in an ambush while riding a train and held in a POW camp in Pretoria. Churchill escaped and became a minor national hero in England. He rejoined General Buller's army on its way to relieve Ladysmith and take Pretoria. After returning from South Africa in 1900, stood as a Conservative party candidate in Oldham and was duly elected. He went on a speaking tour of England and the United States to raise funds for himself as Members of Parliament were unpaid in those days.

Returning to England in February 1901 he entered Parliament, and became interested in Freemasonry, with many of his family already Masons. Churchill was initiated into Studholme Lodge 1591 in London on the 24th May 1901, at the age of 26. In 1912 Churchill resigned from Lodge Studholme, but continued his membership in the craft. He was also one of the 95 signatories on a petition in 1918 for the Formation of a new Lodge Named "*Ministry of Munitions Lodge*". Gr. L. refused the petition.

In 1904 Churchill joined the Liberals and by 1911 became First Lord of the Admiralty. He took most of the blame for the disastrous Gallipoli landings in 1915 and resigned from government. He

rejoined the Army, commanding a battalion of the Royal Scots Fusiliers for many months on the Western Front. In 1925 he rejoined the Conservative Party.

Winston Churchill married Clementine Hozier on the 12th September 1908 at St Margaret's in Westminster. They had five children – Diana, Randolph, Sarah, Marigold and Mary. When not on government business, Churchill lived at his Chartwell House in Kent where he enjoyed writing, painting and admiring the estate's famous black swans.

After the outbreak of WW II, Churchill was appointed a member of the War Cabinet. Chamberlain resigned as Prime Minister in May 1940, and King George VI asked Churchill to replace him and to form an all party government. Churchill's greatest achievement was that he refused to capitulate when all seemed hopeless, and remained a strong and defiant opponent of any negotiations with Germany. As Prime Minister his speeches were a great inspiration to the moral of the embattled British people. During the war Churchill initiated the Special Operations Executive which established, conducted and fostered covert, subversive and partisan operations in occupied territories with notable success; and also the Commandos which established the pattern for most of the world's current Special Forces. His health suffered during this period with a heart attack in December 1941 at the White House, and in December 1943 when he contracted pneumonia.

Immediately after the end of the war in Europe, Churchill lost the 1945 election. But was re-elected in 1951 and served as Prime Minister until 1955 when he retired due to health reasons.

On the 15th January 1965 Churchill suffered another stroke that left him gravely ill. He died nine days later. By Royal Decree, his body lay in state for 3 days and a state funeral was held at St Paul's Cathedral. As his coffin passed down the Thames, the cranes of London's docklands bowed in salute. The Royal artillery fired a 19 gun salute and the RAF staged a fly-by of 16 fighters. At Churchill's request he was buried at St Martin's Church, Bladon near Woodstock in the family plot.

Few statesmen have received so many honorary degrees, freedoms of cities, honorary citizenships and memberships. Few have been named honorary citizens of the United States, and fewer still to be awarded a Nobel Peace Prize. Among Churchill's honours are 37 orders, decorations and medals received between 1885 and 1963. His statue stands in Parliament, overlooking those who enter the House of Commons.

Bro. Gabriel Bilyk - Librarian

New Book Review

The Secrets of Solomon's Temple

by Kevin L.Gest, Published by Lewis Masonic
Printed by Ian Allan Printing Ltd. – Surrey

The author reveals in his book, how Freemasonry's ceremonies and procedures are vested in antiquity. During the course of his book he embarks on a quest to discover the roots of Freemasonry. The intricate web of knowledge encoded in Masonic ceremonies and Masonic Buildings goes back to our earliest understanding about the heavens and world on which we live – the macrocosmos – that our ancestors have accumulated. In this book, Kevin Gest starts by asking some basic questions about the Masonic Temple in which his lodge meets. The answers proved to be tied together with a mixture of celestial information, sacred geometry as revealed by the great religious buildings of Europe, Africa and the Middle East. From all these he proposes an insight into the secrets of Solomon's Temple and Solomon's wisdom.

The background research has taken 12 years of persistent enquiry and deliberation to unravel before being committed to print. The author acknowledges that it challenges some of the fundamental impressions we may have inherited from previous generations with respect to certain aspects of Solomon's Temple as presented in the Scriptures.

A Mason for over twenty years, Kevin Gest is a design engineer in the aerospace industry. He worked with major international companies in the electronics industry and has periodically lectured on a range of management issues.

He lived in Australia for ten years, has travelled extensively and took advantage of his travelling to visit ancient sites and to gain first hand experience.

The Secrets of Solomon's Temple develop a series of mysteries, clues are found and some questions are partly answered. Others remain as intriguing as they were and demand more inquisitive reading, more acquiring of information, more study of Freemasonry...

Bro Manfred von Risch



We bring to you this poem, received today, because it is a splendid piece of Literature. It refers to a deep relation between a father and his son, both in their fight for life . But this poem is also a call for help. One of so many calls that can be heard in the fields of NSW. It could be a call of a Mason to his fellows in the Craft, it could be the voice of a member of our rural lodges. It is a moving expression of a sad reality. Can we do something in the spirit of Brotherly Love? Your practical commitment should be forwarded to MasoniCare, but keep the Pillars of Light informed for further reporting.

RAIN FROM NOWHERE

His cattle didn't get a bid, they were fairly bloody poor,
What was he going to do? He couldn't feed them anymore,
The dams were all but dry, hay was thirteen bucks a bale,
Last month's talk of rain was just a fairytale,
His credit had run out, no chance to pay what's owed,
Bad thoughts ran through his head as he drove down Gully Road
Geez, great grandad bought the place back in 1898,
Now I'm such a useless bastard, I'll have to shut the gate.
Can't support my wife and kids, not like dad and those before,
Christ, Grandma kept it going while Pop fought in the war."
With depression now his master, he abandoned what was right,
There's no place in life for failures, he'd end it all tonight.
There were still some things to do, he'd have to shoot the cattle first,
Of all the jobs he'd ever done, that would be the worst.
He'd have a shower, watch the news, then they'd all sit down for tea
Read his kids a bedtime story, watch some more TV,
Kiss his wife goodnight, say he was off to shoot some roos
Then in a paddock far away he'd blow away the blues.
But he drove in the gate and stopped - as he always had
To check the roadside mailbox - and found a letter from his Dad.
Now his Dad was not a writer, Mum did all the cards and mail
He knew the style from the notebooks that he used at cattle sales,
He sensed the nature of its contents, felt moisture in his eyes,
Just the fact his dad had written was enough to make him cry.
Son, I know it's bloody tough, it's a cruel and twisted game,
This life upon the land when you're screaming out for rain,
There's no candle in the darkness, not a single speck of light
But don't let the demon get you, you have to do what's right,
I don't know what's in your head but push the bad thoughts away
See, you'll always have your family at the back end of the day
You have to talk to someone, and yes I know I rarely did
But you have to think about Fiona and think about the kids.
I'm worried about you son, you haven't rung for quite a while,
I know the road you're on 'cause I've walked every bloody mile.
The date? December 7 back in 1983,
Behind the shed I had the shotgun rested in the brigalow tree.
See, I'd borrowed way too much to buy the Johnson place
Then it didn't rain for years and we got bombed by interest rates,
You said 'Where are you Daddy? It's time to play our game'
I've got Squatter all set up, you might get General Rain.'
It really was that close, you're the one that stopped me son,
And you're the one that taught me there's no answer in a gun.
Just remember people love you, good friends won't let you down.
Look, you might have to swallow pride and get a job in town,
Just 'til things come good, son, you've always got a choice
And when you get this letter ring , 'cause I'd love to hear your voice.
Well he cried and laughed, then put the truck in gear,

Shut his eyes and hugged his Dad in a vision that was clear,
Dropped the cattle at the yards, put the truck away

Filled the troughs the best he could and fed his last ten bales of hay.
Then he strode towards the homestead, shoulders back and head held high,

He still knew the road was tough but there was purpose in his eye.
He called for his wife and children, who'd lived through all his pain,
Hugs said more than words - he'd come back to them again,
They talked of silver linings, how good times always follow bad,
Then he walked towards the phone, picked it up and rang his Dad.
And while the kids set up the Squatter, he hugged his wife again,
Then they heard the roll of thunder and they smelt the smell of rain.

Murray Hartin February 21, 2007

Muzza (Murray Hartin) has been asked to pen something that can bring awareness to the general public about Rural suicide. He came up with this poem, which I think is exceptional, brought a tear to my eye anyhow.

Juan Carlos Alvarez

Dear Editor,

I regularly use the 'Pillars of Light' publication as one of my resources when researching any Masonic Topic. I was wondering however, whether any attempt has been made to create an Index for this publication. This would certainly make looking up a particular topic much easier.

Fraternally yours,

VW Bro Ross Partridge PDGDC

Secretary, The Bundaleeah Daylight Lodge No 992

Thank you Brother, marvellous idea.

Work on the subject has began !

Bro. Manfred von Risch

Co-Editor

We need you !!!

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Masonry to share or expand?**

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views and enlarge our
knowledge?**

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Enlightened Pillars of the Grand Librarian

Any Questions? Ask the Grand Librarian-POL edited by Rt Wor Bro J. V. Haffner

Dear Editor,

Is there any precise record of who was the first non-operative Mason?

J.M.B. – a Caledonian Mason

Records exist from as early as the middle of the 13th century of master masons, some of whom, whilst supervising the working masons and having authority over the work, were probably non-operative masons, which proves that Guilds had both operative and non-operative members. (see the *Mediaeval Mason* by Knoop and Jones)

The earliest record of a non-operative mason being member of a Masonic Lodge, is contained in a Minute of the Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel) No. 1,.

This is the only instance in which William Schaw, the Warden-General and Master of Works to the King, is recorded as having attended the Lodge.

Probably a better-known example is the admission into the same Lodge of the Rt. Hon. Alexander Hamilton, General of Artillery in the Army of Scotland and the Rt. Hon. Robert Moray, General Quarter Master to the same Army, which ceremonies took place at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on 20 May 1641, whilst the Scottish Army was laying siege to the town.

Dear Grand Librarian,

At a Lodge of Instruction meeting, we were discussing the curious step which the Candidate is required to take before he is 'entrusted' by the W.M., who later informs him that the particular step is the position in which the Signs of the degree are communicated. Why that particular step? G.W. District 123

A very difficult question, because there is absolutely no early evidence of any kind on this matter. In the dozens of catechisms, exposures and other documents available, I could not trace any instruction that the

candidate is to step or stand in a particular way as a preliminary to the "entrusting".

As late as 1800, in Preston's First Lecture, which gives an enormous amount of detail about the Initiation, the candidate at the 'entrusting' stage, was simply asked to 'advance one step' with no mention at all of how the feet were to be placed....

It is my turn to ask for any knowledgeable contribution on the subject – from any of our readers – who might have the right answer to your question. Follow up in this column, as I will publish any supplementary information we receive.

To the Library and the Pillars of Light,

As I understand it, "Landmarks are those fundamental principles which characterize Masonry; and freemasonry is defined as a 'peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols'. Since "illustrating by symbols" constitutes an integral part of the 'peculiar system,' would I be right in saying that symbolism is a Landmark?

If you were willing to take a fairly loose definition of the word "Landmark", you could make some kind of argument to prove that our "Working Tools are symbols and 'therefore' Landmarks. We do symbolize them when we say, for example, that the "square teaches us to regulate our lives and actions.." But in such cases the **tool** is the Landmark, *not the Symbolism*.

I do not believe that the Tools are Landmarks, because they have changed since the foundation of the First Grand Lodge and we now have the "Skirret" – for example – which was unknown as a Speculative Craft Tool in 1717.

Another reason why Symbolism cannot be a Landmark is simply because Symbolism is not precise, it is not an exact science, and how could you make a Landmark out of something which changes every time it is used?

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Our Initiation

By RW Bro G. H. Levenston

In order to understand the important role of Masonry and its significance in the achievements of its members, it is necessary to know just what is meant by the term "Initiation."

Since the beginning of recorded time, all the great religions have been founded on Initiation. The ceremonials performed in the old temples were designed to portray the essential features of the work entailed in taking each of the three successive steps or degrees of spiritual attainment leading to Mastership.

These three steps are variously designated: In Masonry they are termed: EA, FCF, and MM. The inner development according to these degrees is covering respectively: Purification, Illumination and Self-Mastery. Humanity can be divided into two principal groups, in respect to their spiritual development. The first and by far the smallest in number, is the group of those who have entered into the deeper mysteries of life that lead to Illumination, or Initiation. The other group embraces the larger number of those who have not attained to this stage of development. Only as an individual develops the insight and understanding to penetrate beneath the surface of the external representation and only after he has become familiar with symbols, rituals and ceremonies, does he become qualified and worthy to be taught the deeper Mysteries.

Masonry is founded upon the truths that come to light with Initiation. These truths conform to the most

inner structure of man as part of the Universe. Adopting this system of philosophy and making it a way of life through continuous Study and improvement of self Masonry is established on a foundation that oversteps religious barriers, racial differentiations. It is fundamentally universal in spirit and outlook.

In his monumental work "Egypt the Cradle of Ancient Masonry", Norman Frederick de Clifford stresses the ageless truths embodied in Masonry. "They were studied in the hoary ages past." he writes, "under the dawning Light of a New Age and a New Race, by peoples whose visions were illuminated from the dying embers of the Atlanteans, a race that has passed away, but who have left behind the signs of their ancient knowledge and civilization."

The oldest Initiation we know about, occurred in the caves of India. In "Morals and Dogma" Albert Pike writes of early Indian Initiations: "The Indian Mysteries were celebrated in subterranean caverns and grottos and the Initiates adored the Deity symbolized by the Solar Fire, and after long wandering in darkness wanted Light."

Following the attainment of Initiation, the successful candidate addressed himself exultingly in praise and adoration to the Supreme God of Light. A vow was then taken to forever thereafter let the soul control the outer form, to be obedient to his superiors, to keep his body pure, to govern his tongue, and to observe a passive obedience in receiving the doctrine and traditions of the Fraternity. After having been sprinkled

with water, a rite corresponding to baptism, his shoes were removed, some magic words were whispered in his ear and he encircled the cavern three times.

All initiatory ceremonialism is formulated in accord with the three aspects of Divinity. Christianity knows the Divine Trinity. In India the trinity comprises Brahma, Vishnu and Siva; in Egypt, Osiris, Isis and Horus. These three divine aspects and their manifestation are represented in the lodge in the three offices of the Master, the Senior and the Junior Wardens.

Masonry being founded on the universal truths belonging to Initiation, recognizes the one Source whence has come spiritual Light for the guidance of all. This Light has found various expressions in several Sacred Scriptures. These several revelations have been adapted to the people to whom they were given and were in accordance with the time of their release. Therefore, Masonry places on the pedestal of its Lodges the Volume of the Sacred Law, being the Book of one's faith. The supreme tenet to which all masons subscribe is a belief in God, the Great Architect and Supreme Ruler of the Universe. Theological differences are left to the individual's own interpretation.

The principles, on which Masonic Mysticism is founded, are therefore as wide and as inclusive as all of humanity. They rest on the initiatory truths that have been given to man since the beginning of time for his progressive development and for world betterment.

(To be continued in the next issue)

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If your lodge is without degree work, we offer to help with talks or even...with talkers.

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VWBro Rabbi Dr Samuel Tov-Lev, GChap

THE FESTIVAL OF PASSOVER

Passover (in Hebrew Pesach) is the first of the three Festivals of Pilgrimage to Jerusalem. It begins (according to the Jewish calendar) on 15 Nissan (during April). The traditional interpretation of the Hebrew name is from the root "pass over". The Festival is observed for 7 days (8 days outside Israel). On the eve of the Festival, all LEAVEN (CHAMETZ) is cleared from the home and it is prohibited to eat or possess leaven for the duration of the Festival during which only unleavened bread (Matzah) is consumed. It is a happy Festival. Family and friends gather together on the first and second nights for the SEDER (Passover Eve ceremony) and conducting it from the Haggadah (the Seder liturgy). It tells the story of Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt, singing the appropriate special songs and having before the main meal some special items, each symbolizing the hardship and suffering of the



Israelites in Egypt.

The story of Passover, in brief, tells us that about 3000 years ago, the descendants of the Israelites, who were, originally, well settled and prospered in Egypt when Joseph (Jacob's son) became

the vice ruler of Pharaoh in Egypt, their fate later on has been changed under the decree of the new ruler Pharaoh Ramses II. The Almighty appointed Moses to free the Israelites from their slavery, using ten marvellous miracle acts backed by the Almighty to convince the Egyptians to obey the Almighty command and send the Israelites on their way to the Promised Land. The Almighty was actively involved in guiding and protecting the Israelites during their long journey (40 years) from the enemies and nature survival difficulties.

The story of Passover is the most encouraging and inspiring history in the Jewish calendar. It emphasizes that freedom of body and soul is elementary for human being and it is a free gift from the Almighty for people to cherish.

It is described in the Book of Exodus as a good reminder for all people not to subdue any human beings with the burden of servitude and not let human cruelty surpass human dignity, as all were created in the image of G-d.

VW Bro Dr. John Frederick Hely, CBE GChap

AN EASTER MESSAGE FORGIVENESS: A MASONIC VIRTUE!

We profess that Freemasonry is an organisation of men who strive to live by the fundamental principals of integrity, goodwill and charity.

How seriously have we, as Masons, considered the significance of "forgiveness" as a virtue?

Masonic education is the process whereby each individual Mason is taught, inspired and assisted to understand the

nature and philosophy of Freemasonry, and to apply it to his daily life. In our Masonic role as "Mentor," and as we reach out into the community to demonstrate the deep philosophy of Freemasonry, we are encouraged, especially in this "Easter Season", to give attention to the role of forgiveness.



Forgiveness is a liberating, therapeutic experience for those who forgive and for those who are forgiven.

It is one of the most generous acts we ever perform. It helps us realise that other people can be valued and accepted with all their shortcomings and frailties.

When we demonstrate forgiveness as a Masonic virtue, then the practice of the fundamental principles of Freemasonry will be significantly strengthened.

May we suggest to the Brother Secretary that it would be greatly appreciated if he could include regularly our link:

www.uglnsw.freemasonry.org.au/Library/Default.htm

in the Notice Paper sent to the members of the Lodge.