



Pillars of Light



Compiled by the
Editorial Team of the
Grand Lodge Library

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Editorial

Lately I have been confronted with two aspects of the Pillars of Light. One of my valued collaborators keeps repeating to me: 'Keep the Pillars of Light simple Joe, keep it easy to read and understand so that it remains a pleasure each month. On the other hand, our publication is thought by some to be 'too academic, too difficult to understand by our average reader.'

The medium, balanced line between simplicity and academic is, most probably the level that will best attract our readers.

I am convinced that we have attained this level. I know that simplicity combines sweetness and wisdom. It is plainness of mind and intellect. It means freedom from strenuous thinking and complicated thoughts. It means explaining to our readers the most complicated ideas in a straightforward, simple manner.

It is not always easy to explain complicated subjects in a simple manner!

Sometimes I have needed to go back to previous issues and read an article and I have always found that it was presented in simple terms. But you, the reader, are the judge of this publication.

You the reader can ask for greater simplicity or greater erudition. You the reader can ask for deeper insight or simpler speculation. We publish for you and we want to offer you the material that you want to read and that you expect us to offer. So, this is the right time to tell us what you think. Is the material we publish, too complicated or is it easy to read? Do you enjoy reading the Pillars of Light or is it difficult to read? Is the material adequate or would you prefer something else?

Do not forget that our only aim is to create a publication that will be enjoyable and attractive to you and in which you can find the items of interest that you need to advance your Masonic knowledge.

Write to us about your feelings and give us the benefit of your thinking, so that we can improve the Pillars of Light and make it even more pleasant to read.

J.V. Haffner

From the Desk of the Grand Librarian

"This generation's

Quest for Meaning"... (continued from last issue)

The theory of Masonic progress is that every member admitted to the Order enters in a state of darkness and ignorant of our teachings. In other words, he enters the Craft symbolically as a rough ashlar and it remains for him to develop his character and his understanding so that, ultimately, after learning and practising, he may become a perfect ashlar, a finished and perfect cube, ready to take its place in the building of the great edifice of Humanity, which we strive to erect. The meaning of our Masonic system is not obvious. Unless our minds are properly prepared and our perceptions carefully trained, we are unlikely ever to participate in the real mysteries of Freemasonry however often we may watch the performance of ceremonial or however proficient we may be in memorizing rituals and instruction. We should not forget that Freemasonry is a system intended to supply answers to the three great questions that demand our attention. These questions are the fundamentals of all great philosophies: What am I? Where do I come from? Where am I going? It is safe to say that as we ponder, we feel the need for reliable, valid answers to these questions. In a larger sense, the Masonic candidate is presumed to enter the Craft, in search of light on, or in answers to, these questions; a light that he most probably, has not succeeded in finding elsewhere. He is searching for MEANING...

On the other hand consider the 'unworthy candidate'. He may be motivated by impulse. His search for knowledge may be lukewarm, insincere. He may not be attracted by a sincere wish to render himself more serviceable to his fellow creatures. We encounter in Lodges brethren who have joined for so many different reasons.

Most of the younger generation of Masons seems to be attracted firstly by the mysteries and the philosophies offered in the Craft and only secondly by the spirit of camaraderie or the social aspects of our Meetings. They seem better informed, studious and educated, prepared to embrace more complicated formulae of behaviour and interpretation. They have a deeper understanding of symbolism and this often triggers a quest for fresh interpretations of Masonic traditions.

They recognize the vast amount of esoteric knowledge found in our literature and having reached some preliminary conclusions direct their studies to a deeper analysis of our philosophies. The Lodge becomes for them the symbolic centre, the source of a new light, which was not clearly visible to them before. But they want more and expect more. Perhaps through their efforts brotherly love will deepen and expand and embrace all of society in TRUE friendship.

These young candidates meet socially – in a non-Masonic context - and involve their families in their Masonic activities. This involves much more than the annual Ladies Night or the occasional BBQ. They understand and accept the universal character of the Craft and they want to see Freemasonry become the catalyst that creates a true understanding and acceptance of all cultures.

After years of limited vision we are beginning to see the emergence of new Masons with new ideas and new objectives who will undertake the task of rebuilding our institution. They deserve our encouragement, support and mentoring.

If we succeed in encouraging and supporting this new generation of Masons then Freemasonry may become a working philosophy for all those enrolled under its banners.



The Worshipful Master's role from a new IPM's perspective

What tools are provided for a first-time WM to assist him to become an effective leader in the Craft? Very few in my opinion. In terms of ritual he is advised that he must remove his gloves before administering an Obligation or shaking hands, he is instructed not to delegate certain parts of the ritual, to receive prompts only from the D of C, to acknowledge salutes, and other assorted useful information! Very little information or training appears to be readily available to assist him to become an effective WM.

I have just completed my year as a first timer and it is useful for me to record some idle observations. The WM's ritual knowledge requirement is extensive and to prepare him for this, many senior members of the Lodge, my own Lodge included, are happy to put in many hours of rehearsal with the WM-elect to prepare him for his Installation. But is that all that is required of a WM? Well, actually, no.

Somehow he is expected to become, overnight, a top flight business manager; a financial administrator (in some Lodges he is responsible for funds equivalent to those of a small to medium sized business); a functions organiser; a public relations expert; a public speaker; a media mogul; a lawyer; an accountant and a politician. He must be erudite in Masonic and esoteric knowledge, a mentor and a teacher, and in the unhappy event of the loss of a Lodge member during his term of Office he must be well versed in the presentation of the Masonic Tribute and in the role of counsellor to grieving family members.

It is a tall order to become an overnight success and an effective leader as WM.

From my own experience, I decided before my Installation that:

I couldn't do it all alone, and I needed an overall operations plan for my year in office.

As a small businessman I needed to allow myself sufficient time to continue to run my business without going broke but still to allocate sufficient time to Lodge matters to prevent the Lodge from falling over. Accordingly, before going into the Chair of King Solomon, I sat down and prepared my business plan as follows:

I needed a group of people around me whom I could rely on to share the load. I picked a number of Lodge members to form an Executive Committee that could

handle (in my opinion) various administrative responsibilities. They included: my successor (the SW), the Secretary, the Treasurer, our D of C and, later in the year, our JW. Yes, that's all. I did not want our precious time together during our monthly meetings to be diluted by the time wasting caused by waffling on by numerous committee members, some of them, dare I say it, with preconceived ideas about the Management of the Lodge.

I prepared a rough programme for the year specifying the number of meetings that would be dedicated to ritual and degree work, the number of lecture meetings, the number of fraternal meetings, the number of social meetings and special meetings (such as the ANZAC meeting). As it turned out we actually predicted our programme for the year very accurately.

I prepared a budget for the year (I had inherited a financial mess) and I now believe we have our Lodge finances on a sound footing.

I set out objectives for the year (such as number of initiates, FCs and MMs to be processed during the year, the re-introduction of harmony into the Lodge, the improvement of the standard of ritual work, etc.) and these were largely met.

In truth I cannot say that I met all the requirements or responsibilities expected of a new WM. But I can't help feeling that most new WMs do not have any idea what they are letting themselves in for by accepting the Chair and that much more training should be available to prepare them for the complicated role they have undertaken.

I recommend that consideration be given by Grand Lodge to the Master's role being divided into two positions: WM (ritual) and WM (administration). This would ease the load on a new Master and help train him in the effective running of his Lodge. Perhaps we should consider the WM's term as a 2 year commitment with year 1 being WM (ritual) and year 2 WM (administration); once he has found his feet.

(Contributed by a recent Immediate Past Master)

Editor's Note – The above article does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editorial Committee.

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.



Websites of Masonic Interest

Presented in no particular order and with limited guarantee of relevance to the subject researched, the Library of the UGL of NSW & the ACT has prepared a list of the following websites for your perusal:

www.quatuorcoronati.com	The QC Lodge no. 2076; Premier Lodge of Masonic Research .
www.freemasonry.dept.shef.ac.uk	Centre of Research into freemasonry.
www.msana.com	Masonic Service Assoc. of North America.
www.srmason-sj.org/web/heredom.htm	Heredom, Transactions of the Scottish Rite Research Society.
www.srmason-sj.org/library.htm	Library and Museum of the Supreme Council 33°.
www.tsmr.org/	TSMR :Toronto Society for Masonic Research.
www.freemasonry.org/	Philaethes Soc. Masonry universal maintained by WebMason@freemasonry
www.zen-ti.com	An Italian Masonic site on symbols, hermeticism and esoterism.
www.freemasons-freemasonry.com/	Pietre Stone's Review of Freemasonry.
www.freemasonrytoday.co.uk	Freemasonry Today a publ. for those interested in F.M.
www.masonic-network.com	Global Fraternal Network under the auspices of the GL of New York.
www.geocities.com/billbenhamosm	Grand Conclave of the Ord. of the Secret Monitor of Australia and Papua New Guinea
www.masons.start4all.com	Index of Masonic websites.
www.uglnsw.freemasonry.org.au	UGL of NSW & the ACT .
www.uglnsw.freemasonry.org.au/Library	UGL of NSW & ACT - Library access to the "Pillars of Light"



Enlightened Pillars of the Grand Librarian

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

Dear Brother Haffner,

I hope this email finds you well. I have not been able to find an answer to some questions so I thought I would run them by you if you have the time. Recently I noticed that the Grand Master of the Knights of Malta passed away. Being a Catholic myself, I did some research of this order online. I had never heard of it until now and the title "Grand Master" pricked my ears.

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/07477a.htm>

Whilst researching the Knights of Malta on the Catholic Encyclopaedia I found that they were handed all the assets and work of the Knights Templar after the Catholic Church disbanded the Knights of the Temple. As I understand the article (I may have misunderstood), the main reason given by the Church at the time for disbanding the order appears to be the secrets held by members, however they admit that in reality it was a grab for the order's assets and to restrict its power. <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/14493a.htm>

A passage from the article:

"All that was required of a new member was a blind obedience, as imperative in the soldier as in the monk. He had to declare himself forever "serf et esclave de la maison" (French text of the rule). To prove his sincerity, he was subjected to a secret test concerning the nature of which nothing has ever been discovered, although it gave rise to the most extraordinary accusations. "

Here are some questions that I would love to have some light shed on:

Is the secret testing mentioned above Masonic?

Are the Knights Templar of Freemasonry the same Knights of the Temple? Did the Knights Templar live on in Freemasonry or were they already part of it? I am very much looking forward to entering the Royal Arch when I am able to and find this topic of great interest as I wait my time to be eligible to enter. I look forward to hearing from you very much when you have the time.

Yours fraternally,

David Taylor Pyramid – Highleigh Lodge No. 161 H

Reply:

My dear Bro. David,

Thank you referring these questions to me.

Firstly I have to admit that the questions are quite legitimate. Nevertheless the short answers to your three questions is a thrice No, No, No.

a) The "secret testing" which in fact never existed, has never been applied, used or included in any ritual, and it became one of the capital accusations made against the Templars. Suffice to say that it has to do with an abomination of which the members of the Order were falsely accused.

b) The Knights of the Temple - were so called because their designated encampment, when arriving in Jerusalem, was on the Temple Mount (Mount Moriah), more precisely; on the very spot where the much later build Al-Aqsa Mosque, stands today. The Order of The Knights Templar is a Masonic Order which adopted certain ideas but was created separately and Centuries later.

c) The Knights Templar are - as said before - a more recent creation of a vehicle which serves the purpose of exemplifying and teaching the lessons of false behaviour, betrayal and disloyalty of some and the unlimited abnegation and sincerity of others. The conclusions of these teachings represent 'what to avoid in our own life'.

General note: my intention is not to refute completely any relation between the "poor monks-soldiers" and the Masonic Order of the Knights Templar, but instead to clarify that if such a relation exists, it was only created by the need of the exemplification itself.

Now, as far as the Royal Arch is concerned, there is definitely no relation between its legends and teachings and the Templars which existed as an order of chivalry 2000 years later.

I hope that this short answer satisfies you and I wish you a lot of pleasure in discovering the beautiful philosophies of other degrees.

J.V. Haffner

Are you in love with our traditions and the richness of our heritage?

Are you thirsty to delve into the Hub of Knowledge, your Library?

Would you invest a few hours a week and be recognized

as a valuable member of our volunteers team?

All you need is a true love for the Craft, its literature & a Masonic heart that is ready to offer, and glean the satisfaction of serving the Order.

Contact the Grand Librarian RW Bro. Joseph V. Haffner Ph. (02)9284 2825

E-mail: library@uglnsw.freemasonry.org.au



FUN...FUN...FUN...

So that we do not appear to some too academic, included for your enjoyment, are some extracts from *Fun Among the Masons* by George M Martin, published in 1931 by David Winter and Son, Dundee.

These little stories illustrate our need as ritualists to speak clearly and distinctly so that candidates understand the message being delivered.

A certain Master of a Lodge would always insist upon referring to a "wilfully **purged** individual."

Another Master declared that severe punishment would follow offence, even to the extent of having his **coat** cut across.

A J.W. informs us that a square is an **angel** who has **taken 90 degrees!** Are we to infer that an angel who has taken 90 degrees is a super arch-angel?

Freemasonry is a peculiar system of **mortality**, illustrated by **thimbles**, (!!!!)

The spectacular 3rd degree lends itself to many faux pas such as "Wiping from his head the blood and **prespiration**," and telling the candidate "you are to **solicit** the chastity of those nearest and dearest."

In a mid-Scotland Lodge the candidate, who had just joined Her Majesty's Forces was commanded to salute the V.S.L., which he promptly did by squaring himself up and saluting the Book in true military fashion.

In rendering the Charity Charge, an office bearer stated "and like **the Sisters of Mercy**, is twice blessed."

A Master in impressing an initiate with the caution necessary to preserve what has been taught him now or which may be communicated to him in the immediate future said-"All that will be communicated to you in the **hereafter**."

Lodge in country district opening in the 2nd degree. "With what implement used in **agriculture** will you be proved?"

A very voluble and much bejewelled Brother of the English Constitution arrived late at the Lodge-room of a small country Lodge whose Tyler, one of the old school, could hardly understand the dialect of his English brother. Giving the usual knocks, the Inside Guard requested to know who seeks admittance, to which query the Tyler answered, "Judgin' by his speech and the amount of jewellery I think it is The Great Architect himself." IG: "Admit him if properly clothed."

The apron charge has always been considered one

of the finest opportunities for bringing out the elocutionary ability of the speaker and many slips of the tongue occur in its presentation, but surely the prize must be awarded to the Brother who stated that "the badge with which you have been **investigated** is more honourable than the Garter or **any other garter** in existence."

A Gem

Sometimes I hear men say that Freemasonry is a way of life.

I think it better termed "A way of living".

In other words, let us remove it from the abstract, and make it personal.

By making it personal, we may perhaps discover what it is

Poetry

Our guiding Cable Tow

Sometimes we hardly know it's there,

Our guiding cable tow.

If we go down the paths of right

Its hold we'll never know.

But if we start the way that's wrong

It has a sudden way that's strong

And makes us heed its strength to lead

Down paths we ought to go.

An yet, how good a thing to feel

How fine a thing to know,

That when the baser actions seek

To wreck and overthrow

When worldly appetites deprave

Or lower passions would enslave

We then can feel like gripping steel

Our guiding cable tow.

Annals of Times Past

Actuality of Past Events

Vol. 2 No. 20

(supplement to the Pillars of Light inspired by Chronicles—Jerusalem)

953 B.C.E.

After hundred years of unity, the nation splits.

Shechem, Ziv. – Today all but two of Israel's twelve tribes joined the Elders of Shechem in proclaiming Jeroboam, son of Nebat, as their king. Only Judah and Benjamin remained loyal to King Rehoboam and the House of David. The Ceremony took place only a few hours after King Rehoboam rejected the assembly's demand for tax-relief. This rejection provoked a riot in the course of which Tax Commissioner Adoram was killed by a furious mob. The King himself was forced to flee to Jerusalem. The proclamation and coronation of Jeroboam by the rebels, ends all hopes for reconciliation between the North and South. Soon after his coronation, Jeroboam chose Shechem as his capital.

Historical associations give Shechem a further claim to recognition : It was not far from here that God promised the Land of Canaan to our ancestor Abraham: when Jacob returned to the Promised Land, after an absence of 22 years he bought a piece of land here: and here also Joseph's body was buried. Shechem was also the scene of a great convocation at which all the tribes assembled and, with Joshua officiating, renewed their

bond with God's Law. The ground, therefore, is considered eminently suitable for the capital of the newly created kingdom. On the other hand the tragic division of David and Solomon's Kingdom will leave its mark on the nation. Israel's tribes were united under King Saul and this unity was strengthened by David and Solomon to form one family, one Nation. Now, once again, the Kingdom is divided.

Jerusalem – is outside the new kingdom. Jerusalem – our first national capital, Jerusalem – the holy city on whose soil, a few years ago, there rose the Sanctuary of the Almighty – is outside the new kingdom

Jerusalem is not just the place where all the people come together, three times a year, on their pilgrimages to the Temple. It is the place where the tribes feel most strongly the ideals that hold them together, where the ancestral heritage carried through the ages finds its loftiest expression. Therefore, Jeroboam may move the capital of the northern tribes to Shechem; the centre of the spirit of Israel is, and will remain, Jerusalem.

Political Prospects

Will Judah sign an alliance with Aram?

Government circles speculate on the future political line-up in the region. No doubt the split of Israel's mighty Empire will have a profound effect on international relations. The questions that arise are: "What alliances will be formed and to what extent will those alliances deter, or encourage, the territorial and other ambitions of the nations affected?"

From a geographical point of view, one is tempted to say that Judah will go with its southern neighbour Egypt, and Israel will join with Aram, to the northeast.

The puzzle is not as simple as it appears at first sight. A lot of political ferment within our divided nation will determine the moves that will shape the region. And we will have to wait and pray for peaceful solutions, wait and pray that the Almighty will enlighten the region's leaders and that much needed peace will be maintained.

Assyrians – the danger from the East

Ashur – The Assyrian army stands poised on the Euphrates to strike westward and regain an outlet to the sea. Assyria's victory over the Arameans paves the way for such a move, which may be expected in the near future. Israel has been blocking Assyrian ambitions for many years. The situation creates cause for alarm and there is fear that Jerusalem and its Temple will become the target of a foreign power at a time when our own forces are divided and remain inferior to those of the Assyrians. *'Almighty God of Israel, enlighten the minds of our leaders and bring about a common stand in the face of the invader*

Letters to the Editor

Sir, Who are those men who style themselves "prophets" and who speak to the people 'in the name of the Lord'? Are we to believe, as such men as Achiah and Shemaiah would have us believe, that the Lord actually wants Israel to be divided against itself, and that there is nothing anybody can do about it? How do we know these are genuine men of God and not false prophets preaching a false doctrine? Elijah Ben On – Hebron

-The Torah tells us the acid test of the true prophet is the fulfilment of his prophecies. Achiah, for one, has passed this test. – The Editor