



Grand Lodge Bulletin

Chairman, Editorial Comm. W. J. Collett, P.G.M., 330 - 12th Ave. S.W., Calgary 3, Alberta.

EASTER AND THE MASON

R.W. Bro. F. G. Fox, Senior Grand Warden

To hundreds of millions of Christian peoples all over the world Easter observances are the most profoundly spiritual rites of their faith. Masons of the Christian faith, as individuals and members of congregations, share in the solemnities of Good Friday and the exultation inspired by the momentous events of that third day nearly two thousand years ago.

Christian masons, however, have an especial obligation when religious observances are concerned. It is to remember that the Masonic Order is not an exclusively Christian order, and that we have many thousands of brethren devoted to other faiths. Masons, then, would do well to think of the qualities of the man, Jesus, in a secular as well as a religious sense, and to consider some of the special qualities displayed by him that can be revered and sought after by every man of every faith, and especially by every man who seeks to become better than he is.

First of all, he had love for all men and faith that man could be rescued from his own weaknesses and follies. He cared not about nationality, race, wealth, or power. He cared not for colour or beauty of form, or any of the superficial differences that so often loom large in men's eyes. He saw all men, the high, the low, the rich, the poor, the weak and the powerful as brothers and children of God, all worthy of love, forgiveness and redemption.

The handmaidens of such love are compassion and understanding, patience and wisdom, faith and charity. These virtues have been sought and cultivated by masons for generations and must continue to stand before us as bright objectives ever to be sought though never wholly attained.

Jesus was a disciplined man. His personal tastes were simple, even austere, and in such ordinary matters as food, drink, and clothing he never had more than enough to meet immediate need. He had no possessions, no wealth. What he did have was a mission, an objective, and he pursued it with unremitting devotion. Personal discomfort and danger could not deflect him from his course. Even the certain knowledge that his life would be the price of his assaults on the evils

of the time did not shake his resolution. His disciplined approach to his mission and its challenges was not inspired or supported by any powerful institution or establishment; it derived entirely from his own faith and strength of character, his own inflexible fidelity to his trust.

He was a just man, and did not condone wrong doing in either the wealthy and mighty or the poor and weak. He knew that injustice could not be concealed either by silks or rags. He knew that justice comes not from a body of law but from the minds of men, and that it could be achieved only through the enlightening of men's minds and the warming of their hearts.

He was a man of resignation. He knew what his end on earth would be. But his was not the resignation that arises from despair, it was the calm acceptance of a destiny that he could not, and would not, change. He knew that the religious authorities of the day would stop at nothing to silence him. He knew too that although they could still his voice they could not recall a single word that he had spoken or eradicate a single one of the thoughts that he had planted among the people. He knew that his teachings would spread over the earth and long survive the power that would take his life.

These are qualities — love, self discipline, a just mind, and acceptance of that which cannot be changed — that every good man reveres. They are sought by conscientious adherents of every faith, but they are not sectarian and not even necessarily religious qualities; they have to do with the man.

Masons of every faith share a belief in one God and a belief that beyond this life there is another life. We do not know what kind of life it is but we know that it awaits all men, and that the way to it lies in constant striving to develop and expand these qualities in ourselves. At Easter time, when our minds turn to the death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, let us think of him not only as the distinguishing central being of a particular faith, but also as a man who is a majestic and unique figure in human history.

THE HIRAMIC LEGEND

Today, in our culture, man does not have to die for what he believes, at least in most instances he doesn't, there are rare exceptions in the martyrs of our time as we well know. But the strange and sometimes tragic commentary that can be made in this day, is that when a man does not have to offer his life for what he believes, it is also more difficult for him to live for what he believes. We face very few obstacles in our Masonic pilgrimage in these days, and even when we do, we do not treat them as matters of life and death. But this does not take away from us the imperative of the teachings of the Hiramic Legend, for they are readily translated into our times and into the living of these days, and are as fundamental to Masons and Masonry as they were when this story was first unfolded. Briefly: let us look at the three of them with a modern day application of thought.

First: his virtuous conduct. Virtue is not an "in" word in these days and smacks of that kind of hypocritical self-righteousness that most of us would eschew. The greatest thing that can be said of a man today is that he was a great and good man. Even the enemies of Hiram were able to say this. Virtuous conduct means much more than obeying the moral law in that limited and narrow sense. It means the exemplification of that kind of conduct in which anything that is worth doing is also worth doing to the best of one's abilities. This virtuous conduct first seen in this misty legend, finds a place for emulation in our own lives and anything that we have seen in those that we honour today that reminds of that conduct, we would do well to emulate.

The second quality of this man's life was his unfeigned piety to God. Today in cultures that are vastly different than our own, men practice what we are preaching. In the Christian world, private masses and prayers are offered, not dependent on any other motive than that this is the desire of their hearts. In all of these, there is this unfeigned piety, there is no sense of pretense at worship, neither is there any mode of pretention — but it becomes a part of the daily living.

And the last characteristic of this martyr of Masonry was his inflexible fidelity to his trust. In the turbulence of our times, we are constantly looking for that which is stable. That which has credible integrity, and certainly the principles of Masonry are universal in this respect. Tradition is only as valid as it is relevant for the mind that we are attempting to reach. The inflexibility comes in our fidelity to our trust and not the way in which we demonstrate it. The principles must become living principles within our society if they are to be valid at all.

We often hear that the object of Masonry is to take a good man and to make a better one, let me

Grand Master's Column

We, in the northern part of the province, have had what seemed like an extra long, cold winter with much more snow than usual. As a result the advent of spring is a thrilling and heart-warming experience. It is with real pleasure that we feel the soft warm winds and sense the stirring of new life all about us. It is good to be alive!

For Masons it is also the time for the Spring Workshop. The Committee has worked hard in preparation. We believe they have "laid on" a really good program for you all. It now depends on you. The active and keen participation of each man and each lodge is necessary to make it a truly great event. Remember M.W. Bro. Kendal's motto last year, "Participation!" The friendly atmosphere, the happy fellowship, the humour, the informal comradeship — here is provided the opportunity for broadening and deepening your masonic experience. We realize again that true friendship and brotherly love are like a breath of spring — to encounter them is a thrilling and heart-warming experience.

Plans are already in hand for the Grand Lodge Communication in June. It will be in Calgary, June 8-10th. Be sure your Lodge is represented.

See you in Banff!

Edmund J. Thompson
Grand Master

SUPPORT NEEDED

Contributions to the Higher Education Bursary Fund continue to lag far behind those of last year. Many Lodges have not reported contributions to the Fund up to date and, as a result, this very worthwhile Masonic Service Project faces some severe cut backs. The financial year for the Bursary Fund ends at the end of April so there is yet plenty of time for Lodges to send in contributions and for individual donors to send in their contributions. The support of every Mason is badly needed.

in the name of those who have truly been concerned in this area and are not now with us, carry this one step forward — the object then, of a good Mason, is to make Masonry better.

Masonry thanks the men of the past who have upheld its highest aspirations and Masonry looks to you today to carry forward that threefold thrust into its life in the only way it will be seen by our virtuous conduct, our unfeigned piety to God and our inflexible fidelity to the trust that has been placed in our hands.

(Excerpts from the Grand Chaplain's Address — Edmonton — June, 1970.)



Between the Pillars

Question — Why do the Grand Stewards wear red aprons when this is a Blue Lodge?

Answer — We asked our Grand Secretary, R.W. Bro. E. H. Rivers to answer this question which he did with his usual thoroughness. He refers our readers to the following authorities:

Signs and Symbols by Dr. George Oliver
Two papers by Bro. F. J. W. Crowe on Masonic Aprons —

- a. Vol. 5 Quatuor Coronatorium
- b. Vol. 2 British Masonic Miscellany

Bro. Rivers points out that the regalia and traditions of the Grand Lodge of Alberta have their source in the United Grand Lodge of England. The Grand Lodge of Alberta was formed by the Grand Lodge of Manitoba which in turn was formed by the Grand Lodge of Canada (in the Province of Ontario was added later). The Grand Lodge of Canada was formed in 1855 from the District Grand Lodge of the United Grand Lodge of England.

In the regulations of the United Grand Lodge of England published in 1727 are these words "The Grand Stewards to wear aprons and ribbons (collars) of Red silk, Jewels being silver."

In 1738 the regulations read "Office of Stewards (disused 1725-27) revived in 1728 and the number to be always 12, who should wear (1731) silver Jewels pendent to red ribbons round the neck and aprons lined with red silk"

The colour red comes from great antiquity as we read in Exodus 39:1: "And of blue, purple and scarlet, they made cloths of service". So Bro. Oliver says, "The apron worn by the Levitical Priesthood was composed of the three Masonic Colours blue, purple and crimson".

So it appears that the Grand Stewards in Alberta wear red aprons to fulfill their tasks of service for the Installation ceremony says, they are "to superintend the tables at the hour of refreshment and see that every brother is suitably provided".

The Grand Stewards, in good British tradition, then, wear crimson "cloths of service" even as their ancient brethren did in Biblical times.

By the way, Bro. Rivers wonders why the term "Blue Lodge" is used. He prefers the term "Craft Lodge".

FOCUS ON THE MAN

There is a destiny that makes us Brothers.
None goes his way alone
All that we send into the lives of others
Comes back into our own.
I care not what his temple or his creeds,
One thing holds firm and fast,
That into his fateful heap of days and deeds,
The soul of man is cast.

Edwin Markham

At a time when challenges are being hurled everyday at the base of those principles that built a strong nation and have kept it strong the need for true brotherhood and understanding is vital. By spreading the light of brotherhood which is basic to Freemasonry we are able to stem the tide which threatens to overwhelm us. The true philosophy of brotherhood will react not only to the betterment of Freemasonry but also to the world itself.

Indiana Freemason

A world "population clock" would show that, on the average, 3.9 babies were born every second in 1969, while just under 1.7 people died. This amounts to a gain of 2.2 persons per second, 132 per minute, 190,000 per day and more than 1,330,000 every week. On July 1st last year the clock showed a world population of 3,551 million. The increase in 12 months, 72 million, compares with only 20 million per year less than a half a century ago.

Royal Bank Monthly Letter

Don't expect perfection in a man just because he is a Mason. If you do you will be disappointed. Masonry makes men better, but no human agency makes them perfect. If he is a Mason, you have a right to presume he is a fairly good man, but do not condemn Masonry even if a few Masons turn out bad. Even the great Teacher himself had a Judas. The aim and purpose of Masonry is to receive none but good men, keep them good, and make them better. Judge the Institution not by a few failures but by the average of its successes. The average is high and it consequently gives standing to its members, but it cannot be an infallible guide.

Exchange

Question — In the work in the Second Degree, with reference to the story of the Ephraimites, the lecture says that in the ensuing battle forty-two thousand Ephraimites were slain. This reference is from the Old Testament, Judges 12:6. Does this number mean 42,000 or 2,040?

Answer — Those were blood-thirsty days and we question whether the ritual wishes us to dwell on the massacre. The ritual quotes the King James version of the Old Testament and the language used is confusing. The questioner should refer to his Hebrew Bible where he will find the original Hebrew words are "arbayim shenayim eleph" or, in English, 42,000.

Fifty Year Jewels

At a recent meeting of Zetland Lodge No. 83, M.W. Bro. W. J. Collett presented to Bro. Dr. Eber Rowles Upton a Fifty Year Jewel. Bro. Upton was initiated in Bow River Lodge No. 1 in 1921 and affiliated with Zetland Lodge in 1931. At the same meeting W. Bro. A. L. Swindells presented a Fifty Year Jewel to W. Bro. Albert Hamilton Warren who was initiated in Zetland Lodge in 1921 and was the Worshipful Master in 1938. W. Bro. Warren now lives in Vancouver. W. Bro. Swindells also asked W. Bro. Warren to present a Sixty Year Bar to Bro. Percy W. Johnson.

Corinthian Lodge No. 22 presented a Fifty Year Jewel and an Honorary Life Membership to Bro. Fred Dick at their meeting on February 2nd.

R.W. Bro. H. E. Bentley a member of Crescent Lodge now living in Kelowna, B.C., was presented with his Fifty Year Jewel by the District Deputy Grand Master R.W. Bro. Wallace Huffman in St. Georges Lodge No. 41, G.R.B.C., Kelowna, on February 12th, 1971.

Notes from other Jurisdictions

We notice in reading the Bulletin from the Grand Lodge of Manitoba that twin brothers have been elected as Worshipful Masters of their respective lodges. Bro. C. F. Cockerill is Master of Lisgar Lodge No. 2 and his twin brother, also C. F. Cockerill is Master of Starbuck Lodge No. 160.

There was also another item worthy of mention that at the election of officers of Acacia Lodge No. 111, G.R.M., Bro. Wm. Dewar was elected Secretary for the fifty-seventh consecutive year. This should be a record in all Canadian Jurisdictions. Hamiota Lodge No. 84, G.R.M., held a Past Grand Masters Night on November 24th, 1970, and conferred the Master Mason degree on three candidates.



which is presumably the year in which the work was done. Michelangelo lived from 1475 to 1564. The date is unusual since it contains two M's and our Grand Secretary wonders if anyone knows why it appears that way.

V.W. Bro. S. E. Thompson, P. Gr. St., Robert Burns Lodge No. 49 sent in this picture of the work of Michelangelo which he took in Rome during a tour he made in 1969. It is interesting to note the square and compasses and the year marked MMDCIX (1519)

LANDMARKS

A couple of months ago the column "Between the Pillars" answered a question to do with Landmarks in Freemasonry and recommended that the brethren read the scholarly paper written by M.W. Bro. S. H. Hardin which appears in the proceedings of the Banff Conference. It has now been called to our attention that the Grand Lodge Bulletin, March 1965, carried an excellent article on Landmarks. The author of the article was none other than our Grand Treasurer and past chairman of the Masonic Spring Workshop Committee, R.W. Bro. W. E. Bright. It does pay to keep a complete file of Grand Lodge Bulletins because they contain much valuable research.

CONFERENCES OF GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

Two important Conferences for Grand Lodge Officers were held in February. The first one was the Twelfth Biennial Conference of Grand and District Grand Lodges, usually called the All Canada Conference, in Montreal on February 18th and 19th. The President of the Conference was M.W. Bro. M. S. Speight, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick. The Grand Lodge of Alberta was well represented by our Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Secretary and the Assistant Grand Secretary. The subject under discussion was Craft Masonry. M.W. Bro. E. J. Thompson presented a paper entitled "Craft Masonry 1970, Retrospect and Prospect.

The Grand Master and Grand Secretary travelled on to Washington, D.C., for the second conference which was a Conference of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries from all over North America. R.W. Bro. J. S. Woods, the Deputy Grand Master, also attended the meetings. At the Grand Secretaries Conference, R.W. Bro. E. H. Rivers gave a paper on the use of Simplified Forms in Grand Lodge Offices.

MASONIC SPRING WORKSHOP

The Masonic Spring Workshop Planning Committee held its final planning session on March 2nd and made last minute preparations for the raising of the curtain on the latest version of the Workshop which will be held in the Banff School of Fine Arts on April 2, 3 and 4. The Workshop will be underway before many brethren receive this issue but there may be some who will make a last minute decision to attend and they will be made welcome. The registration on March 2nd was climbing towards the 500 mark so there should be a record attendance. The theme of the Workshop is "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity — A New Revolution?" and the first theme address is at 8:00 p.m., Friday, April 2nd.