



Grand Lodge Bulletin

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Editor, M.W. Bro. ROBERT L. COSTIGAN

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THE COMING OF THE LIGHT

V.W. Bro. J.M. Lynas, Grand Chaplain

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined." (Isaiah 9,2).

Light and Darkness form a great contrast. We often speak of "things being as different as day is from night." By this saying we mean that things are as different as they can possibly be. There are no greater polarities than Light and Darkness.

We are indebted to the Persian religion of Zoroaster for filling us in on the great struggle between the Forces of Light and Darkness, for the domination of the world, Zoroaster's teachings were spread by the conquering armies of Cyrus the Great and Darius the Great of Persia. Zoroaster lived around 600 B.C. His religion was monotheistic, and for that reason Jews paid attention to his teachings.

The members of the Qumran Community, the people of the Dead Sea Scrolls, were also greatly taken up with this conception of the world as the battle ground between the Forces of Light and the Forces of Darkness.

The Gospel of St. John hints at a similar belief. It states, "Men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." (John 1,5); also "The light shineth in the darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." (John 1,5).

St. Paul puts the gigantic struggle for mastery of the world, and in particular for the souls of men, in another way. He says, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Ephesians 6,12).

This ancient belief lies behind the success of such modern films as Star Wars and The Empire Strikes Back.

Let us now contrast life under the two regimes. First let us think of Life under the Forces of Darkness.

Certain words come to mind, and the first is DOUBT.

The writer of Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament was under the sway of the Forces of Darkness. It is difficult to know why this book was ever included in the Old Testament at all. It is so negative, so depressing, so full of doubt and despondency and gloom. My old principal wrote, "It shows how deep and sore was the need of a Redeemer, and how welcome would be the

'Tidings of Great Joy'." Ecclesiastes describes what it was like to live in the Kingdom of Darkness. Men today are still living in this Land of Shadows. For them life is meaningless.

The next word that comes to mind is DESPAIR.

Dr. J.S. Stewart of Scotland writes in his book, The Life and Teaching of Jesus Christ, "the idea of an ancient world happy and innocent and lighthearted and morally at peace is simply a myth. If you want the real truth about the world, you will get it not in Swinbourne but in St. Paul, in the terrible picture that stands forever for all future ages to read in Paul's first chapter to the Romans a world that was sunk in moral hopelessness. Everywhere the best spirits were in despair."

And there is much despair in this modern world. The present Nuclear Confrontation leads many to despair. We are still in the clutches of the Kingdom of Darkness.

Another word comes to mind - DISASTER. In Wilderness Revolt the authors writing about the beliefs of the late Bishop Pike describe the doctrines of the Qumran Sect - the Dead Sea Scrolls people. They taught the doctrine of Two Ways - The Way according to the Forces of Light and The Way according to the Forces of Darkness. The latter, they maintained, are responsible for evil in the world and they disturb the harmony and balance in nature. According to this teaching it is the Forces of Darkness that cause natural catastrophes such as earthquakes, floods and fires. They create disease in mankind and keep it bound by ignorance and separated from God, the source of truth. Therefore, all natural disasters they would credit to the Forces of Darkness.

And following on the heels of Disaster comes DISEASE.

We can go back to the days when Israel was in Egypt's Land and to the Calamities that Jehovah sent upon the Egyptians to force them to let His people go free. These disasters were attended by plagues and diseases, and today the same diseases follow swift on the heels of disasters. Where possible today, when disasters occur, the surviving victims are inoculated against the spread of diseases.

The final word to describe life under the Forces of Darkness is DEATH.

(Continued on Next Page)

(Coming of the Light, Continued)

This is the outcome of Disaster and Disease. It may well be physical death, but it always is spiritual death. St. Paul puts it this way, "The wages of sin is death." (Romans 3, 23) John states in his Gospel, "Men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." (John 3, 19) John also says God sent His son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish. (John 3.16)

BUT THANK GOD THIS IS WHERE THE MESSAGE OF ADVENT COMES IN. "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined." (Isaiah 9,2).

To serve under the Forces of Light brings **HAPPINESS.**

In the very next sentence of Isaiah we read, "thou hast multiplied the nation, Thou hast increased its joy; they rejoice before Thee as with joy at harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil."

This happiness or joy springs from certainty. There is no room for doubt here. Job, serving the Forces of Light, can say, "I know that my Redeemer liveth, and though worms destroy this body of mine, yet in my flesh shall I see God." And St. Paul echoes this sentiment in the New Testament, "For I know in Whom I have believed and I am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed to Him against that day." (2 Timothy 1,12).

True happiness comes when we encounter The Light of the World.

To serve under the Forces of Light brings **HOPE.** It is the hope that does not make us ashamed of where we stand. This Light brings grounds for renewed hope of life and immortality.

The opposite of despair is hope and our hope is as an anchor for our souls. Jesus Christ has fulfilled the Prophecies of Old, and in Him is our hope, for He came as the Light of the World, and if we follow Him we shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life. (John 8,12). The paraphrase runs:

"O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek;
To those who fall how kind Thou art, how good to those who seek."

Another word comes to mind - **HARMONY.**

Light brings harmony to nature and our lives. When God said, "LET THERE BE LIGHT!", harmony came into the universe, and order, and understanding and knowledge. This was why the angels sang for joy, and all the sons of light rejoiced. Harmony has been introduced into the world through blessed Light.

The great need for us today is to walk in close harmony with nature. This is what the term "conservation" really means. The native Indians lead the way in this respect. They are closer than us to nature and pay more attention to the leading of The Great Spirit. Chief Dan George prayed:

O Great Spirit, may I walk in beauty. Make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. Make my hands respect the things that You have made, and by ears sharp to hear Your voice. Make me wise so that I may know the things that You have taught Your children, the lessons that You have hidden in every leaf and rock. Make me strong, not to be superior to my brothers, but to be able to fight my greatest enemy - myself. Make me ever ready to come to You with straight eyes, so that when life fades as the fading sunset my spirit will come to You without shame.

Yet another word comes to mind in the service of the Forces of Light - **HEALTH.**

The Qumran Community taught that the Forces of Light stand for the good and well-being of men and the stability of the universe. The prophet Malachi exclaimed, "Unto you who fear my name (reverence me) shall the sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings."

Jesus Christ never treated disease as part of God's plan for the world, but as an alien force and a challenge to overcome, like the enemy who sowed weeds in the farmer's grain while he slept.

Which way will it be for you and me - The Way of Light bringing happiness, hope, harmony and health or the Way of Darkness bringing doubt, despair, disaster and disease?

G.M. ADDRESS

Since this short message is being written at the close of the old year, I will take the opportunity of wishing all the brethren of this Grand Jurisdiction the Compliments of the Season - may the New Year bring the fulfilment of all your hopes and wishes. It is at this time, as the year ebbs and wanes, that we tend to think in retrospect of all that has just passed. We relive our little triumphs, our disappointments, and our mistakes. If we take note of these mistakes, and are honest with ourselves and resolve in the future to avoid them, then we cannot help but be better men.

There is one point I would like to put before you at this time, that you all as Freemasons should try to elevate the tone and language of your ordinary conversation, especially in regard to its substance, subject and structure. The art of polite conversation is nearly dead, as you will readily realize if you listen to many of the modern youths or even older men. It need not be so among Freemasons, they have a great mission in life - the elevation and formation of character - and if you wish Freemasonry to aid you, and others in this, you will find that conversation of a considered and appropriate character will prove to be of invaluable assistance.

CLAUDE R. A. GREEN
GRAND MASTER

A GREAT MAN

Once there was a Mason who found it really hard to learn the ritual and he never was much help in conferring the degrees. He was extremely self-conscious and had no real ability to fill positions of authority; he was not officer material and he never held a lodge office. He never achieved financial success and so could not be one of the larger contributors to lodge charities or the building fund. In all these respects he was a rather insignificant Mason.

He did attend every lodge meeting he possibly could, always arriving early enough to assist the Tyler and Stewards in getting things ready.

He was a steady and hard worker on the building and grounds committee; he mowed grass, repaired seats, patched the roof, helped paint the lodge, set out shrubbery, unstopped the plumbing - no task was too distasteful.

He visited the sick and the widows. He went to see and talked with that brother who had suddenly stopped attending lodge. He made sure that each visiting brother was never made to feel a stranger. He praised the officers, encouraged new members, put his arm around the shoulders of any who were troubled or discouraged, and he had a smile and a cheery 'Hello my brother' for all he met, every time.

Eventually he died. The church could not hold all those attending his funeral. Even the cemetery was crowded. The next meeting of the lodge was just not the same; every member missed him, terribly.

An insignificant Mason?

Certainly not! He was a GREAT Mason! Perhaps no greater has ever sat in Lodge.

Who was he?

Nobody in particular. Most lodges have known him, or his like. And he, or someone like him, is still around, still attending his lodge, still doing all those little things. Are we treasuring him and honouring him? Certainly we ought to, for he is a great Mason!

Reprinted from Ikwezi Morning Star
(Natal Masonic News)

DWIGHT L. SMITH HONORED

On June 29, 1984, word came by transatlantic telephone that Dwight L. Smith, Past Grand Master and Past Grand Secretary had been elected to full membership in Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076, at London, England.

Known as the premier research Lodge in the world, it was granted a warrant on November 28, 1884. It was Brethren, all of whom were noted scholars, including such well known names as R.F. Gould and W.J. Hughan.

The name Quatuor Coronati, which in Latin means "Four crowned Ones," was chosen because of its close connection with the craft of the operative stonemason. The Four Crowned Ones were stonemasons who were martyred on November 8, A.D. 400 to 1600.

From the first, the Lodge has been limited to a membership not to exceed 40 at any one time, but that number never has been reached. Usually the roster contains between 28 and 32 names. Membership is by invitation and has been extended only to Brethren who have done important work in the field on Masonic study or who were distinguished in art, literature, or the sciences.

Quatuor Coronati Lodge meets five times a year, usually in Freemasons Hall on Great Queen Street, London. It publishes annual Transactions, known as *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum*, in which may be found research papers presented at meetings and many other contributions.

Soon after the Lodge was constituted, a Correspondence Circle was formed, with membership in the Correspondence Circle open to all Master Masons in good standing with Grand Lodges recognized by the Grand Lodge of England.

The only other full member of Quatuor Coronati Lodge in the United States is Brother Alex Horne of Oakland, California, a member since 1962; author of *King Solomon's Temple in the Masonic Tradition*, *The York Legend in the Old Charges*, *Sources of Masonic Symbolism*, etc.

Professor Wallace McLead, of Victoria College, Toronto, Ontario, also is a full member and served as Worshipful Master of the Lodge in 1983.

A.J.B. Milbourne, of Knowlton, Quebec, was a full member from 1949 until his death in 1976.

Dwight L. Smith is the only Indiana Freemason ever accorded the singular honor of full membership in Quatuor Coronati Lodge, in this century of existence.

Brother Smith's contributions to Masonic literature are legion. Among the best known are *Goodly Heritage*, *Whither Are We Traveling?* and *Why this Confusion in the Temple?* He is an internationally-known author and lecturer. Raised a Master Mason in May, 1934, in Pennville Lodge No. 212, he is a past Master of Salem Lodge No. 21.

Editors Note: M.W. Bro. Smith has been guest speaker at our Banff Spring Workshop.

AN ATHLETE'S PRAYER

Dear Lord, in the battle that goes on through life,
I ask but a field that is fair,
A chance that is equal with all in the strife,
And courage to strive and to dare.

And if I should win, let it be by the code,
With my faith and my honor held high,
And if I should lose, let me stand by the road,
And cheer as the winner goes by.

LES ISLES, P.G.M., MANITOBA POEM - TERM IN OFFICE

The book of my year is ending,
Its pages more precious than gold.
Are full of familiar faces
Of friends - both the new and the old,

I may have accomplished but little,
but my efforts were true and sincere.
And so, with these memories I'm closing
My book of a happy year.

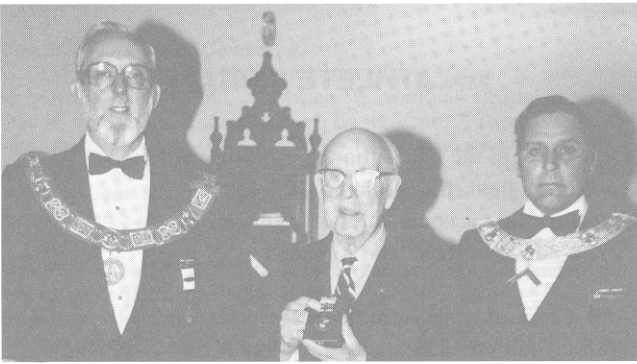
THE MAN IN THE GLASS

When you get what you want in your struggle for gain
And the world makes you king for a day,
Just go to the mirror and look at yourself,
And see what that man has to say.

It isn't your Father or Mother or Wife,
Who judgement on you must pass,
The one whose verdict counts most in your life,
Is the one staring back in the glass.

You may be the one who got a good break,
Then think you're a wonderful guy!
But the man in the glass says you're a fake,
If you can't look him straight in the eye.

You may fool the whole world, down your pathway of years,
and get pats on the back as you pass
But your final regard will be heartache and tears
If you've cheated the man in the glass.



The Worshipful Master recently presented a 70 year bar to Bro. W. Heath, longtime member of Strathcona Lodge No. 77 Edmonton. Bro. Heath was born 1890 and initiated into Freemasonry 1914. Congratulations Bro. Heath and may you enjoy many more years of Masonic Friendship.



MASONRY'S IMAGE OUTSIDE THE LODGE

Bro. Bob Arkley of Concord Lodge No. 124 has been named "Sportsman of the Year" by the Calgary "AA" Hockey Council.

Bro. Arkley has devoted over 50 years as player, coach, manager and member of the executive. Other sports that he has been involved in are lacrosse, soccer, baseball, football and curling. Congratulations Bro. Arkley, keep up the good work.

Photo, Left to Right

W. Bro. Ken Ferguson - Bro. Bob Arkley - W. Bro. Byron Birch, Worshipful Master of Concord Lodge - Bro. Ed Burvill.

THAT FREEMASONRY has enemies undoubted. That they can do the Fraternity but little harm has been demonstrated.

That Freemasonry has within itself those who injure it by carelessness, by inattention, by a failure to revere it, is too true to be pleasant.

The remedy is not to be found without but within the Fraternity, by a return to a greater valuation of the privileges of Freemasonry and higher regard for its great purposes, its philosophy, and its religion.

He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

- Carl H. Claudy, 1938



Astra Lodge No. 179 Cold Lake, Alberta. Celebrates 25th Anniversary. M.W. Bro. D.D. McQueen instituted this lodge and M.W. Bro. D. Little issued its Charter. A large turnout of Astra Lodge members and visitors from Elk Point and Forestburg made this a memorable occasion. Several Grand Lodge officers were in attendance.

Photo, Left to Right (rear)

R.W. Bro. R.E. Juthner J.G.W. - M.W. Bro. S.H. Hardin P.G.M. - R.W. Bro. K.G. Lawrence D.D.G.M. District No. 10 - V.W. Bro. A.S. Berg J.G.D.

Left to Right (front)

R.W. Bro. R.G. Robinson (charter member) - W. Bro. D.D. Thomson Worshipful Master - Bro. Austin Knapp (charter member).



Lodge Renfrew No. 134 in August, 1984 Presented a long time member Bro. Alex Mason with a Life Membership at the Bethany Care Centre in Calgary. Born in Doncaster, England February 15, 1906 Bro. Mason was raised as a Master Mason May 1949 and became master in 1958. A hard worker in Renfrew was justly rewarded.

FREEMASONRY doesn't try to "sell" itself by advertising gimmicks. Freemasonry refuses to solicit men for membership. While her contacts with the world are numerous and extensive, Freemasonry works quietly and modestly to promote her great ideals of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. A candidate must have demonstrated the willingness to pursue such ideals before he is ready for admission into the fellowship of Masonry. He must be duly and truly prepared.

- Conrad Hahn, 1960

**A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND THE HAPPIEST OF NEW YEARS TO ALL
FROM THE STAFF OF THE GRAND LODGE OF ALBERTA**

Al Aylesworth (Grand Secretary)
Margaret Horne (Office Assistant)
Cathy Sundberg (Office Assistant)