

What better words can we have to start this little talk than these...

Taken from "The Widow at Windsor" 1892, and written by Bro Rudyard Kipling

Their's to the sons 'o the widow,

Wherever, however they roam,

Ere's to all they desire, and if they require,

A speedy return to their home.

and these few words from "The Mother Lodge, The Seven Seas (1893)

We met upon the Level and we parted on the square,

And I was Junior Deacon in my mother lodge out there.

Rudyard Kipling was born 1865 -1936

This fine poet and an admirable writer of stories was not only a Craft

Mason, having been initiated at the age of 20 in the Lodge Hope and

Perseverance No 782 of Lahore Punjab, but is also believed to have

belonged to Royal Arch, Mark, Royal Ark Mariners and Rose Croix, although

he did not pass through the in any degree, he wrote the minutes of the

meeting at which he was himself raised. He was appointed Poet Laureate of the

famous brigate Kilwinning (No2) in which by tradition Robert Burns had

previously served in a similar capacity.

Mozart (1756 -91) This great composer arrived in Vienna in 1781 and three

years later was admitted to the craft. This was during the heyday of Austrian

Freemasonry, since neither the Papal Bull of 1738 nor that of 1751 had

been promulgated in that country, and the craft was protected by the

Emperor Joseph II. (The freemason without and apron) . He was a friend of

Haydn . Freemasonry permeated Mozarts music, and one of his better known

Masonic compositions was "The Magic Flute" which I am sure is well known

to you. The second act in particular teems with allusions to the craft

and the scene is laid in the Temple of Isis and Oriris whose mysteries were ~~the~~ then believed to have been the origin of Freemasonry.

Antiquity of Freemasonry... Many of the doctrines of <sup>R</sup>Freemasonry belong to the vast traditions of humanity of all ages and all parts of the world. Nevertheless, not only has no convincing evidence been brought forward to prove the lineal descent of our craft from any ancient organization which is known to have, or even suspected of having, taught any similar system of morality, but also, from what we know of the Craft in the few centuries prior to the formation of the first Grand Lodge in 1717, it is excessively unlikely that there ever was any such parentage.

At various times, however, many ancient bodies claimed as the ancestors of Freemasonry; these included The Druids, The Culdees, The Rosacrucians etc. The fact is that the craft, as we know it, in all probability had its origin among the operative Masons of Britain. No doubt it incorporated from the earliest times shreds of ritual, folk lore, and even occult elements of time immemorial antiquity. But it is <sup>B</sup>almost certainly of British origin.

Here is something about Freemasons Hall.....

About the middle of the 18th century the <sup>G</sup>Grand <sup>L</sup>Lodge (Moderns) began to work for a meeting place of their own. Funds were raised by subscriptions and a tentative scheme and in 1774 the <sup>A</sup>first Freemasons Hall in Great Queen St. was projected. The Hall was dedicated on the 23rd May 1776. The Craft soon outgrew the first modest building, and new buildings with the Masonic portion apart from the Tavern (as in the previous one) was completed in 1867. A disastrous fire ruined the Temple in 1883, but it was reopened two years later and further extended in 1900 when the Library, Museum and extra offices

*were provided*



Again the growth of the Craft outstripped accommodation and it was decided in 1919 to erect a new Temple as a Masonic Peace Memorial. The foundation stone was laid by the Duke Of Connaught, Grand Master, in 1927 and the building was dedicated by the Duke in 1933. It stands on more than two acres of ground and the Grand Temple, 120 feet in length, 40 feet in width, and 62 feet in height, is about three times the size of the old temple, and there are 15 Lodge Rooms, in addition to Board and Committee Rooms, the Library and Museum, (four times the size of the former) It is a Masonic Home in every sense, but, alas is already inadequate.

#### Napoleon I. (1769 -1821)

There can be no doubt now that Napoleon was initiated between the years 1795 -1798 before he came Emperor and probably in the body of an Army Philadelphic Lodge of the Primitive Rite of Narbonne. Not only so, but five out of six of his Grand Council of Empire and 22 out of 30 Marshalls of France were also Masons, many of them Grand Officers of the Orient. Moreover, his Empress Josephine was initiated into Maçonnerie 'd Adoption in 1804 -5. At one time Napoleon's initiation was believed to be Malta.

#### Negro Masonry...

Prince Hall ( Prince was his christian name) who lived for many years in Boston, Mass. where he died in 1807. In 1775, he and fourteen other Negroes were initiated in a military Lodge attached to one of the British Regiments under the command of General Gage. Hall served in the American Army during the War of Independence, but the Military Lodge gave him and his associates a sort of dispensation to meet at a lodge with permission to do nothing but walk on St. Johns Day and bury their dead in manner and form. In 1784 a warrent was issued by the Moderns Grand Lodge to the African Lodge 459

It was three years later that this warrent reached Prince Hall and according to Lane, the Lodge made its last payment to Grand Lodge in 1797, and was erased in 1813, although it is possible some communications had gone astray. In 1797 some Negroes living in Philadelphia, who had been initiated under the English and Irish constitutions, formed a lodge under permission from Prince Hall and a third Lodge was formed at Rhode Island. A year after Prince Hall's death, the three Lodges formed themselves into the African Grand Lodge. There are now Prince Hall Grand Lodges and Lodges in most of the States as well as in Canada Liberia, but they have never been reconized by the white Lodges or by England and the Prince Hall Lodges must be regarded as separate bodies.

#### Apron..

The present day apron is directly descended from that worn by the operative Mason, and in the early days of Grand Lodge, was not dissimilar. The essential apron is that of the S.A. - and several of the American Grand Lodges are faithful to the plain white apron. In 1731, the Grand Master, his Deputy and the Grand Wardens (then the only Grand Officers) were permitted to line their white leather aprons with blue silk, Masters and Wardens of particular Lodges were permitted to line theirs with white silk and stewards for their year with red silk. In the last third of the 18th century a custom grew up with having aprons decorated with all sorts of Masonic devices, but the present designs of English aprons were adopted after the Union of 1813 and their use enjoined by the constitution of 1815. In Scotland, while the Grand Lodge colour is green the subordinate Lodges are permitted to wear their special colours. Fanciful explanations of the apron are occasionally delivered, but one writer said "The apron is an important symbol but much nonsense has been talked about its symbolism,

Read Long blawing Page 51. 15<sup>th</sup> degree



## Religion...

Freemasonry is not a religion, but a system of morality. Its members are free to profess what religious faiths they choose, provided they believe in the G.A.O.T.U.. It was not always so. The old Charges show that the operative and early speculative Mason's were necessarily Trinitarians. Old Charges e.g. Grand Lodge No. 1 of 1583 m/s. reference to the Saints (All Hallows) was omitted. The real change came in 1723, in the first Charge (Concerning God and Religion).. ~~XXXXX~~ A Mason is obliged, by his tenure, to obey the moral Law; and if he rightly understand the Art, he will never be a stupid Atheist, nor an irreligious Libertine... it is now thought more expedient only to oblige them (Masons) to that religion in which all men agree leaving their particular opinions to themselves; that is, to be good men and true, or Men of Honour and Honesty, by whatever Denominations or Persuasions they may be distinguished...

The second half of the above passage from the first Charge was changed in 1815 to read; let a man's religion or mode of worship be what it may, he is not excluded from the order, provided he believe in the glorious architect of heaven and earth, and practice the sacred duties of morality, in which form it stands to-day. A later Charge, the sixth, is echoed in the Charge after initiation, in which it states that all topics of political or religious discussion are forbidden in Lodge.

## Sir Walter Scott.. (1771 - 1832)

The famous poet and novelist entered Freemasonry in 1801 in the Lodge St. David, now No. 36. (Edinburgh), of which his father and elder brother had been members before him. He was initiated, passed and raised the same evening. He attended frequently, as was attested by the Secretary in 1841, when proposing that the name of the Lodge be altered to Sir Walter Scott. The proposal was defeated. Scott refers to Masonry in many of his novels.

Solomon Third King of Israel (937 -B.C.)

King Solomon is supposed to preside, in the person of the Master (or his equivalent), over Lodges of the Craft and of some of the Additional Degrees. As magician, as wise man, and as builder, he has always been a dominating figure in tradition. It is the third aspect that he is his place in Freemasonry. The building of his Temple is the main event of the Biblical account of Solomon. Josephus (A.D. 37) in his Antiquities of the Jews tells the story at length with some legendary accretions. A Christian writer of the 2nd century mentions his marriage to a daughter of Hiram of Tyre, from whom he acquired an architect called Hyperon; the latter had a Jewish mother. Historically, King Solomon employed his Masons on other great buildings besides the Temple - his two Palaces, the Temple Mount etc....

Masonic Songs...

Music and singing played a very definite part in Masonic meetings even those of Grand Lodge - in the early days of organized Masonry. The earliest Masonic verse recorded and which we possess is a rhymed anagram in York (1600) The first official set in 1723, which contained not only the Entered Apprentices Song, but also the Master's and Wardens Song as we know them to-day. By (1775) a collection of songs had risen to ten odes, four anthems, 33 songs and amongst them Robert Burns's Farewell.

Son of the Widow

Freemasons are often<sup>so</sup> called because of the biblical account of Hiram Abiff as the son of a widow woman of the tribe of Naphtali (2I Kings vi 13)

Square..

In our ritual "Square is used in two allied senses. In one it is an angle of 90 degrees



In one is and angle of 90 degrees; in the other it denotes the important implement with which an operative Mason gauges right angles in his work. Its use is at least as ancient as Tutankhamens tomb (1353 B.C.) As we know it is one of the Greater Lights and the moral application are well known to us, in conjunction with the compasses it is often used as an emblem of Masonry itself.

#### ✓ Squaring the Lodge..

One well known writer suggests that on the squares, levels, and perpendiculars principal everybody moving about a lodge room should square the Lodge, making every turn a right angle. This rule is generally observed in Lodges in England particularly the North, but in many parts and countries, it is considered sufficient if it is adhered to in the course of ritual perambulations.

#### ✓ Pythagoras.. (582 B.C.)

Greek philosopher it is said mathematics begins with him. about (529) after much travel, he settled in Crotona in Italy, founded a school half religious, half philosophical. He found the first principal of the Universe in number, by which the harmonies of music, the proportions of architecture, the movements of sun, moon and stars, were determined. His principals, the Pythagoreans, were bound by very strict rules. Some writers have considered without evidence, that their brotherhood, with its grades and secret signs, have much in common with Freemasonry. The Fort seventh proposition, makes one wonder. The proof of this famous theorem of Euclid (that in a right-angled triangle the square of the hypotenuse is equal to the sum of the squares of the other two sides) is attributed to pythagoras. It is called the "Foundation of Masonry" sacred, civil, and military ,

✓ A 440-year old Masonic relic now forming one of the antient treasures of the

Antient Lodge of Limerick NO. 13~~IC~~IC. and antient square discovered during the excav excavation of the foundations of the Baals ~~B~~ Bridge over the River Shannon. The wording on it runs, .... Upon the Level, By the Square, I will strive to Live, With love and care.... From this we may conclude that Freemasonry had its place in Ireland in the early part of the 16th century; we cannot be certain that it was already partly speculative, yet it even had an ethical symbolism for its working tools. It is not without significance that the precious relic was discovered under the eastern corner of the northern land pier, in other words "in the north east corner"

Blue Breeches and Yellow Jacket...

A fanciful description of a Mason's attire

relating to the brass and steel of a pair of compasses. It is found in the early catechisms (1730) Have you seen your Master to-day? .... Yes... How was he clothed?

In a Yellow Jacket and pair of Blue Breeches... N.B. The Yellow Jacket is the compasses and the Blue Breeches the Steel points..... Blue Masonry the name sometimes applies to the third degrees in Craft masonry, the blue represents the canopy of heaven.

Bone Box an expression, now obsolete, used as a reprimand, relates to too much mouth

Gloves...

(Maybe you have often wondered why we wear Gloves? The gloves which, like the aprons, form part of our regalia nowadays, were originally a necessary part of the operative mason's protective clothing, the gloves being specially important to prevent injury. Early records show that they were supplied by the employers. At Eley in 1322 the Sacrist bought gloves for the new work and at Eton College in 1456 five pairs were provided for layers of the walls, at York in 1423 1423 pairs were supplied at eighteen pence a pair. These records relate to mason's



on the job. But for the masons in their lodge there were other sources of supply. From 1599 onwards ~~there~~ there is evidence that masons were obliged to supply or furnish a pair of gloves to each of the brethren on the day of their official entry into the lodge, as part of their admission fees. When a lodge presents a pair of gloves to the candidate it is receiving a custom practiced in Britain since 1724, if not earlier, but some of the glove customs go back over 600 years' into the very beginnings of English Craft history,

### Inner Guard...

A question was asked some time ago - What in life does the Inner Guard represent in/ when he admits a candidate? The answer given by some stated - it may be suggested that he may represent humanity and its resistance to revolutionary change. There was a time when the candidate at the door would have been received by a Warden, or, by the most junior member of the degree that was going to be conferred. They discharged the duties of the present day I.G. Another line of thought, and indeed an opinion is - that the symbolism attaches NOT to the I.G. but to the particular task which he performs (with his tools) in each of the degrees conferred. Thus the point of is usually explained as a warning never to improperly reveal. To find your own interpretation of our symbols is the very best kind of masonic exercise. The only danger is, that it may lead you too far from the normally simple explanation.

### Working Tools...

It is said that those used in blocking out stones ~~appropriately~~ appropriately belong to the apprentice; those used in joining stones to form walls, buildings etc. are assigned to the Fellow-crafts, while those requisite for the architect to lay out his ground and draw plans are assigned to the Master Mason. But in actual Masonry even the apprentice is required to employ far more than the 24" gauge, gavel, and chisel, so the division in the three degrees must be regarded as simplified and conventional.

Read "Moral Tendencies" Page 74 5<sup>th</sup> Section of 1<sup>st</sup> Lecture  
gives fuller illustration of the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree symbols

## Wands...

As an emblem of power, dignity, and significance, the wand derives from ancient times, it is the Kingsceptre, the Bishops staff, the speakers mace, the silver stick, the Black Rod. And so the D.C. and A.D.C. or the Deacon derives his authority by virtue of carrying the wand that has been placed in his hand by the W.M. Crossing the wands is believed to have been in use at least as far back as the 18th century. It is now regarded as symbolic of a gateway through which the candidate passes to a new life, or as representing the ~~triangle~~ triangle, the emblem of Deity.

## George Washington (1732 - (99)

Hero of the American War of Independence and first President of the United States. Initiated in Virginia 1752. Lodge 227 I.C. When during the war the regiments Masonic chest was captured, Gen Washington ordered its return with an escort of honor. In 1789 for the ceremony of swearing him in as President of the U.S. America he used the Bible of St. John's Lodge, when he laid the corner stone of the Capitol in Washington in 1793 he was described as the official General Grand Master. There is a fine portrait of Geo. Washington in his apron and collar in the Smoking Room in Freemasons Hall London

## Tyler, Inner Guard,

Call it what you will, originally known as "garder" outer guard, Officially styled in 1738, Garder of ye Grand Lodge. We first find the word Tyler mentioned in 1732. Whence comes the name, which seems confined to Freemasonry (and speculative Masonry at that). Some authorities see it an extension of the meaning of the old operative tiler ... who kept roofs covered, others would derive it from the French "Tailler" a stone cutter.. take your choice....

*change after Raising Page 170*

*Also your 2nd 912*



## Symbolism....

This is perhaps the most difficult branch of Freemasonry, and the one about the most nonsense has been talked and written. The work of the operative builders was replete with symbolism, which may partly be recalled by a visit to a medieval Church, but the symbolical explanations and moralizings upon working tools familiar to the ritualist to-day are of relatively recent introduction. The ritual of early Grand Lodge days was comparatively simple, and though working tools were mentioned they were not mortified upon. The change appears to have come about 1770 with the elaboration of ceremonial and the commissioning of decorative aprons and breast plates which are common from this period till 1813. A writer has said "There is nothing so destructible as a symbol but nothing as capable as so many interpretations. The only advice one can give is to read and think intelligently. Freemasonry is full of symbols. But where so much genuine symbolism exists, it is not necessary to repeat against the pseudo-mystical school..... With much parade of philosophical jargon we are invited to accept a host of deeper meanings and hidden symbolisms. We are expected to believe without questioning. Yet we know full well that most of this pseudo-mysticism is so much preposterous nonsense.

## Sir Christopher Wren.... (1632 -1723 )

The question whether the great designer of St Pauls was or was not a Freemason has been fraught with controversy. It is said in 1738 and provides him with a full Masonic career with his being G.W. and ending with his Grand Mastership 1685 -95 and again in 1698, it appears there is no foundation to these claims, The Post boy and another new sheet reporting his death describe him as a worthy Freemason. (1723) Another source said he attended Antiquit Lodge now NO 2 he had attended lodge regularly for 18 years. During the building of the Cathedral and presented it with three candlesticks and the mallet which the King levelled the foundation stone of St. Pauls. These relics

These relics are still teasured by the Lodge. An old minute of the Lodge dated "Queens Arms June 3rd 1723 reads as follows "The three mahogany Candlesticks presented to this Lodge by its worthy old master Sir Christopher Wren ordered to be deposited in a Wooden Case lined with Cloth to be immediately to be purchased for the purpose....

In conclusion, we started with Kipling and let me finish with a quote from Banquet Night.

So it was ordered and so it was done,  
And the hewers of wood and the Mason's of Mark,  
With foc'sle hands from the Sidon run  
And Navy Lords from the Royal Ark,  
Came and sat down and were merry at meals  
As Fellow -Craft - No More and No Less.

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