



MASONRY IN MANITOBA

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OUR VISION

Freemasonry in Manitoba will be the pre-eminent fraternal organization committed to improving good men through fellowship, leadership and education.

OUR MISSION

To teach and perpetuate a fraternal way of life of high moral standards through self-improvement, brotherhood, community involvement and benevolence.

THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

 Breetings Brethren,

Most of us can hardly wait for all the snow to disappear, however, it seems that those "famous groundhogs" were right and it will still be a few days before the tulips come up.

We would like to congratulate RW Bro. Kris Goodman on his presentation of the Manitoba Masonic "*Just a Buck Campaign*" for the Canadian Museum for Human Rights at the Conference of Grand Masters of North America held recently in Anaheim, California. His presentation was very well received and it is to be hoped that this will translate into dollars. Since his return, he has been contacted by a number of jurisdictions regarding more information and possible presentations.

There were fifty-eight Grand Masters along with the Deputy Grand Masters and Senior Grand Wardens from most of those same jurisdictions in attendance. There were also approximately 15 jurisdictions from other parts of the world represented including the countries of Spain, England, Philippines, France and Russia among others. The Conference presentations give one a much broader sense of the scope of Masonry throughout the world. An interesting presentation was on MasoniChip International which explained how the Child Identification Program has technically advanced and that it is now being used in a number of jurisdictions in the United States and Ontario.

The Grand Lodge would like to sincerely thank RW Bro. Al Brock for arranging the luncheon for the Manitoba Historical Society. Approximately 40 members of the Society enjoyed the afternoon presentation on the History of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba using the Archive displays. The guests found it of great interest that a number of the founding fathers of Winnipeg and Manitoba were Masons. Also, thank you to Bro. Ken Blatz for his assistance.

Congratulations Acacia Lodge on your 100th Anniversary. We were happy to be part of the wonderful celebration on February 11th and look forward to attending the celebrations taking place on the weekend of May 1st.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba Website Webmaster, Bro. Scott Wiles and his assistant Bro. John Baptista. Our thanks to RW Bro. Chibu Usun for his arrangements in bringing the reorganization of this project to fruition.

We were pleased to have approximately 70 Brethren attend the amalgamation of Windsor and Beaver Ionic Lodge on March 4th. We wish newly installed Master W Bro. Wayne Hadfield, the Officers and Brethren of the new amalgamated Lodge named Beaver Ionic Lodge No. 25 every success as they move forward in their Masonic life.

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Again, we would like to see all Lodges participate in the "Just a Buck Campaign" and would encourage you to contact RW Bro. Goodmanson if you would like to have a presentation made to your brethren.

Keep in mind the Ceremony of Consecration of the Fil-Can Cabletow Lodge No. 189 will be held on April 28, 2009 at MMC.

Be sure to mark your calendar and plan to attend the 134th Grand Lodge of Manitoba Communication being held June 4, 5 and 6th at the Hilton Suites on Wellington Avenue. Your ladies are invited to attend the opening of the Communication on Friday morning, June

5th and then to participate in the Ladies Program.

We have enjoyed visiting with many of you however there are still a few brethren that we haven't had the opportunity to meet so please submit your request for an Official Visit by the Grand Master to the Grand Secretary in the near future

Fraternally,
Ted

*"Coming together is a beginning--
Keeping together is progress
Working together is a success"*



THE MYSTERIES

Foreword: Masonic ritual, which proclaims itself to be veiled in allegory and which also calls upon its adherents to draw aside or penetrate that veil, seeks to have its inner meanings discovered. Personal interpretations however must remain simply that — one man's concepts of those great mysteries which have intrigued man since he became capable of rational thought. Grand Lodge, while encouraging its brethren to 'seek for that which was lost', will officially neither comment upon those interpretations nor endorse their conclusions.

Each of us have knocked thrice and been led through the door into the Lodge room, hoodwinked, neither naked nor clothed, barefoot nor shod and totally dependent upon our guide. Our last candidate aptly described this as being totally vulnerable yet feeling secure. There we knelt and from the darkness a voice, which we would later identify as belonging to the Chaplain, invoked a blessing from The Great Architect of the Universe. We realized it was offered on our behalf and was most profound in its wording: "Endue him with a competency of Thy Divine Wisdom, that, assisted by the secrets of this our Masonic art, he may be the better enabled to display the beauties of true godliness." Later upon reflection we would realize how far 'out of the box' this concept really is! Being 'competent in divine wisdom' and 'displaying godliness' we are led to believe is not a possibility for a mere mortal man but that's what is written in the ritual. Later we are shown the rough and perfect ashlar with their implied lesson of striving for perfection. The Volume of the Sacred Law, in Genesis, tells of a conversation between God and Abraham in which God tells Abraham to "Walk before me and be perfect." How similar these instances are - as man is here given the seemingly impossible task of acting godly. Perhaps the Egyptian Pharaohs who became immortal gods served as an example for these concepts. There are other explanations. Those who composed our ritual almost 300 years ago undoubtedly were familiar with the writings of Hermes Trismegistus. Originally thought to be a contemporary of Moses, historians now date him to the third century. He is considered to be a fictional character embracing Thoth from Egypt, Hermes from Greece and in this incarnation is known as Hermes, thrice great or Trismegistus. A collection of his works known as the Corpus Hermeticum was discovered about the time of Columbus

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GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY

APRIL 2009

2	Fenwick Lodge	Masonic Temple, Brandon	8:00 pm	OV
3	Capitol Lodge	East Kildonan Temple	7:45 pm	OV
7	Carberry Lodge	Carberry Masonic Building	8:00 pm	OV
13	Millennium	MMC	7:30 pm	OV
17	Board of General Purposes	MMC	7:00 pm	
23	Mound Lodge	Masonic Hall, Pilot Mound	8:00 pm	OV
24	Royal Arch Masons Open Installation	Holiday Inn South	2:15 pm	
25	Scottish Right Open House	MMC	10:30 am	
28	Consecration of Fil-Can Cabletow Lodge	MMC	7:00 pm	OV

MAY 2009

2	Acacia Lodge 100th Anniversary Dinner	Canad Inn, Club Regent		OV
8	Pine Falls Lodge	Pine Falls MB	8:00 pm	OV
12	Kilcona Lodge	E.K. Masonic Temple	7:30 pm	OV
21	Scottish Rite Installation of Officers	MMC		
23	Beaver Ionic Breakfast	MMC	9:00 am	OV
25	Order of the Eastern Star	Canad Inn Polo Park	7:00 pm	OV

JUNE 2009

2	Carberry Lodge	Carberry Temple	6:30 pm	OV
4 - 6	Grand Lodge Annual Communication	Hilton Suites, Winnipeg		

Requests for Grand Master's Official Visits must be made in writing to the Grand Secretary.

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and was eagerly translated. Its underlying theme dealt with the deification of man as opposed to the church's perceived role of redemption. Let's look at the lessons of the white lambskin apron with which we are invested. We are challenged to lead a lifestyle so that we may hereafter stand before the Great Architect of the Universe "unstained by vice and unspotted by sin." We are not looking to have our sins forgiven but are to lead a life without sin!

Pythagoras (c. 580-500 BCE) too is an important figure in Masonic mystery. Freemasonry, we are told is based upon a Pythagorean system. The three level steps by which we approach the Altar are a multiple of his right angled triangle as is the jewel of the Past Master. But his real impact upon our mysteries is not his geometric and mathematical discoveries but in his concepts of soul which inspired Plato (427-347 BCE) and later Greek philosophers. Plato's doctrine of the souls first introduced the notion that man possesses a soul which survives the death of the body.

Probably most men are somewhat surprised by the 'religious' nature of the ritual although we later realize that the more general term 'spiritual' better describes its aura which transcends the narrow limits of the former. After being restored to light and seeing the Three Great Lights, the Lodge is darkened and the Three Lesser Lights are revealed. Here is the first reference to the East, in the third candle which represents the Worshipful Master who rules and directs his Lodge. As the evening progresses the East assumes more importance. The Junior Warden points out that learning originated in the East, that the Tabernacle of Moses and the Temple of Solomon were aligned to the East from whence the Sun, the Glory of the Lord, appears every day. Again we have an Egyptian connection with their sun god, Ra. One need only look at the Grand Master's apron to see the importance we place upon the sun. At installation each Worshipful Master is charged to imitate that glorious luminary of nature, which regularly diffuses light and luster to all within its sphere.

For most of us that lecture delivered in the northeast angle of the Lodge is the charity lecture and it presents that lesson in a dramatic and unforgettable manner. We are all charged to practice that virtue we then professed to admire and indeed that is one of the defining tenets of the Craft. But there is a line at the beginning which is more important in pointing out the true aim or 'end' of the Craft. "From the foundation laid this evening may you raise a super-structure, perfect in its parts and honourable to the builder." The temple we began on that evening is our personal temple and it is based upon the temple in our ritual, the Temple erected by King Solomon. What is unique about this temple is that rather than being a structure in which to worship God it was the earthly dwelling place of the Jewish god, Yahweh. Therefore the temple we are building should also be designed to be the dwelling place of God and indeed that is a part of the lesson presented.

The image of Jacob's Ladder is overly simplified. It really consisted of 72 rounds or staves and he saw angels ascending and descending from heaven. It speaks to the link between heaven and earth, between God and man. Being created in God's image does not mean that we physically look like God but that He is present within each of us.

Perhaps the reason for including the concept of the sun being at the center of our solar system which is included in the Entered Apprentice's proficiency now becomes apparent. It speaks to Freemasonry's willingness to seek for the truth and boldly state it, not swayed by the unwavering doctrine of the church in Rome. That simple statement only a few hundred years ago would have been considered heretic and punishable by death. It points out graphically that other official positions taken by Rome may also be in error, should not be accepted at face value but be studied and

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questioned. As we make daily advancements in Masonic knowledge we may well uncover more ancient concepts or truths (?) regarding man and his relationship with his Creator.

Some may find this offensive as it does not coincide exactly with their religious views. Freemasonry abandoned its purely Christian nature in 1717 and is designed to present a universal approach. We are taught to be tolerant of every man's view of his Creator and to respect his right to hold differing views to our own. A meeting of world religions in Chicago in 1993 drew up a "Golden Ethic" stating in part that religious people should be a major resource in a resistance movement designed to combat the evils which threaten the world today instead of being the catalyst which promotes much of the violence which man inflicts upon his brothers. There are widely diverse beliefs with possibly The Golden Rule, which is included in the Charge to the Entered Apprentice, being one common denominator. Yet many similarities do exist. There is an emphasis on the Spirit (God active and present) common in most religions. Indigenous peoples the world over speak of it: the Polynesians Mana, the Qi (pronounced "chee") of ancient Chinese and Japanese traditions, the Atman of Hinduism, the light and fire of Zoroastrianism and the Great Spirit or Manitou of the North American natives. The aim of Hinduism is to realize one's union with Brahman - "Go where you will - until you have found God in your own soul, the whole world will seem meaningless to you." Buddhists believe that all things possess Buddha-nature; "Seek, therefore, think own Wisdom within thee." A classic Buddhist mantra is "Om Mani Padma Hum" (Hail to the Jewel in the Lotus). St. Paul said: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God and that the spirit of God dwelleth in you." The Zohar (Divine Splendor) explains the Jewish Kabbalah which teaches that a pious soul, through serving God can achieve union with the Divine.

Can we find then, concealed within our ritual, a message which resonates with all of these diverse views of man, our Creator and our place within the universe?

- MW Bro. Don Beattie

A CHALLENGE

A little while ago Keystone Lodge had the honour and privilege of hosting our Grand Master and several other Lodges at our regular meeting. RW Bro. Kris Goodmanson, under the 'good of the order' spoke about the "**Just a Buck**" campaign that he is spearheading. As most of you know, Brother Kris is hoping to collect one dollar from each of the brethren from not only our jurisdiction but is including North America and other interested jurisdictions around the world. His vision is to make a major contribution on behalf of the Freemasons to the Canadian Museum of Human Rights which will be located at The Forks in Winnipeg. The brethren received Bro. Kris' idea enthusiastically and W Bro. Ludo Groll, the WM of Millennium Lodge announced that they will be donating one thousand dollars over the next three years. Not to be outdone, Bro. Jim Devlin, our SW and I decided to match their pledge of \$1,000 in supporting this special museum. This museum's concept brings into focus all the ideals which we as Freemasons stand for. I am excited to be contributing to this unique project and would like to put the challenge out to all the other lodges in Manitoba to match our contributions. This is a terrific opportunity for us as Freemasons to aid in the promotion of human rights and equality for the world. It is also an opportunity to showcase the impact which the Craft with its tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth has had upon the promotion of human dignity, integrity and rights throughout our long history.

Fraternally,

W Bro Daniel R. Garroni, Worshipful Master, Keystone Lodge No 185

LEADERSHIP COURSE

The book that MW Bro. Bob Conley uses as a text for his leadership training is a real gem. Authored by John Maxwell it is the 10th edition of "The 10 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership." The foreword is by Stephen Covey whose 'The Seven Habits Of Highly Effective People' is a must-read for anyone interested in self improvement. He points out that every chapter has examples of well-known individuals or companies where these laws were either practised or ignored and the results speak to their worth.

The first lesson is the Law of the Lid. He tells the story of Dick and Maurice McDonald who transformed their small restaurant into a 'car hop' operation and later refine it into today's 'fast food' assembly line. They were content with one small building and a little neon sign that said: "McDonald's Hamburgers." It was a man named Ray Kroc whose organizational and leadership skills transformed it into the incredibly successful business it has become! He also uses sports teams as an example. A team's success largely depends upon the coach's ability to motivate his players as much or more than their actual skills. This law speaks to setting out a vision of what the organization wants to achieve.

Let's skip ahead several chapters to the 'Law of the Inner Circle.' Leaders do not succeed alone, they are part of a team. We probably all remember Simon Whitford's impressive effort in achieving a silver medal in the triathlon in the China Olympics. An important part of his victory was the man who paced him through the cycling portion of the race. Similarly Lance Armstrong has a large team who have supported him in his unprecedented seven straight wins in the Tour de France. So, too, leaders of organizations have an 'inner circle', a team dedicated to achieving the goal, each of whom brings a particular talent and ability to the table. Effective leaders and organizations are continually developing their inner circle to enable them to accomplish their aims.

Let's look at one more example - the 'Law of Empowerment.' Theodore Roosevelt explained it: "The best executive is the one who has sense enough to pick good men to do what he wants done and self-restraint enough to keep from meddling with them while they do it." Mark Twain once remarked that great things can get done when you don't care who gets the credit. The Ford family failed to utilize this law. Both Henry and his grandson felt threatened by effective executors, humiliated them and eventually promoted less competent individuals into their positions. Ford never was able to regain the early prestige he once enjoyed. We see this too within the fraternity where weak leaders undermine the efforts of others in an effort to make themselves look better.

Wouldn't it be a wonderful world if we were all able to practice those proven leadership skills, live up to the high standards of the Craft and subdue our human frailties, ego and passions? Dare we hope for a brighter tomorrow?

We recognize that leaders are not born but are made. Grand Lodge's plan to provide leadership training is an exciting way to develop a strong cadre of talent who will lead us to places we never even dreamed possible! Plan to take advantage of this course when it is offered in your district.

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MW Bro. Ted Jones (ex officio)

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