

Nunc Licet

The Swedenborg Doctrine

The whole theology of Freemasonry pure and simple and can be summed up in two general doctrines confirmed by personal experience. First, the absolute truth of the existence of God; and second, the absolute truth of immortality.

It is the opening of a sixth sense through which a man actually feels his immortality with the same absolute certainty as he feels another object through the sense of touch. This sixth sense cannot be communicated from one person to another, it lies dormant in all, and it must be developed through spiritual exercises just as the ability to read and write is developed through special exercises. Through this sense God and the facts of immortality are actually seen. God and immortality are the fundamental tenets of Freemasonry.

Masonry is a system of exoteric teaching whereby the esoteric secrets of Masons in Freemasonry are veiled and also illustrated.

There it makes no difference whether thirty three members are elected within a century, for the hand of a single true Mason wields more power than the armies of whole nations combined. In the true Lodge are greater honors than any king, prince, potentate, or other dignitary can bestow. What Prince of the REAL Secret, what Invisible Helper in the True Holy Empire would exchange his knowledge and his right for the rank and title of an English noble or a Roman cardinal. The latter are clothed with the vestments of royalty and priesthood--the true Mason goes through life clothed in the humble garb of workman who is ever ready to serve the outcast on the wayside. The priest and the king are made by others --the Mason is a Mason. He gives his alms in secret, not letting the left know what the right doeth. He is unknown all except his own. He knows that worldly wealth and honor are as stubble compared that wealth and honor which one may gain a world where the moral needs of mighty empires are stilled like baby lips upon a breast.

The first lesson of exoteric Masonry seems be that a Mason needs no weapon, either offensive or defensive. Probably few of the brethren realize the greatness and sublimity of this lesson. Masonry needs no weapon; it is above and beyond anything that can offend it, and it has no need to defend itself. It is beyond reach of steel and tongue, of sword and pen, and its work is so sublime that kings and monarchs have exchanged the scepter for the trowel and their crown of jewels for the working tools of an Entered Apprentice. If those who in the goodness of their heart think it their duty to defend Masonry against the accusations of Hierarchy or against the influence of corrupt politicians would only think of this lesson, they would never, never to the eternal shame of their Order fall so low as to give an unfriendly answer to such inarticulate prayers for a glimpse of light in the dungeon of despair. They forget that they are Masons and

not politicians. The true Mason looks at attacks, these arrows shot in the dark without a goal in sight, as a modern soldier with a high explosive in his hand would look at the stone knife an ancient brother who came this way a thousand years before him. There is nothing in the Catholic Church or in any other institution that can in the least offend Masonry; on the contrary, their very attacks prove their helpless ignorance and their greater need of help. Even the Pope has his station in the Lodge and he must stand there whether he likes to or not.

The candidate who keeps his eyes open can learn much from the Masonic ritual. He is taught how the human race, which in its poor and blind and absolutely helpless condition can neither offend nor defend itself against the invisible powers, is led by the help of natural laws to the Silent Gate, where the reaper with the scythe demands the pass that all must give. There the candidate must wait until the Clock of Destiny strikes his solemn hour, before he can join that innumerable caravan that moves to that mysterious realm where each shall take his chamber in the silent halls of Death. There he meets that All Seeing Eye penetrating the inmost recesses of the human heart, and all his thoughts, words and acts which he has tried to conceal in a world where hypocrisy and deceit often parade as virtues, appear to the sight of all; for there is nothing secret that shall not be revealed.

True Masonry is a secret institution only to the initiate who has passed the Dweller on the Threshold. The Angel of Death seals his lips forever, and eternal silence is the only answer he can give to all questions of friends and relatives left behind. The true initiate is dead to this world; he has returned to the Lodge from whence he came, and the mysteries of Life, Love and Intelligence are kept inviolable within the repository of his faithful breast.

The real secrets of a Mason are known only to himself. Only the Mason knows the brother Mason. He needs no grips or signs to show where he came from; he knows his brother afar off, in the dark as well as in the light, and he can communicate with him in a language so perfect that hypocrisy and deceit are unknown. The true Mason has indeed a charmed life, but if you watch his charm closely, you will discover that it is no watch charm, and that he does not wear it where it can be watched. He has no desire to follow organizations in their good work. He appreciates the insight of the Government in refusing to allow Masons to take part in any service that would place Masonry on the same level with public charities. Masonry is a secret institution and not to be classed with the public charities through which it works. A Mason's charity is invisible, and any attempt to make it visible will lower it in its efficiency and in the estimation of mankind. If the lesson and the obligation of secrecy are not heeded in the Lodge they will be taught in public in such a manner that they cannot be misunderstood.

The deeper student of Masonry will find that he is on holy ground when he learns how the real secrets of Masonry have been sought from time immemorial and never been obtained except as a free gift to men able to keep them. They can neither be bought with money nor extorted through pain. The dead keep their secret.

As the vital parts are contained within the breast of the living, so are the most valued tenets of Freemasonry safely lodged within the hearts of the dead who have reached that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns. There no power on earth can reach them. There is seen the Wisdom, the Strength and the Beauty of Masonry. Death and the fear of death have passed away, love reigns and a peace that passeth all understanding. The Lost Word is found and with it realities that are beyond our wildest dreams. The conscious experience of immortality with new senses, new powers, new ideals, soon help the initiate to forget the temptations and troubles, the trials and afflictions which every man born of a woman is destined to endure while traveling through this vale of tears. There all things are made new. The truth of the Word of God and of its prophecies, which are the hope and inspiration of every man is wonderfully vindicated and fulfilled.

No, the real secrets of Masonry are not signs and grips and passwords, but spiritual powers through which the whole world is kept in order and without which nothing comes to pass.