

THE CRAFT FREEMASONRY NEWSLETTER No.20 OCTOBER 2007

TO THE GLORY OF THE GRAND ARCHITECT OF HEAVEN AND EARTH



THE MASONIC HIGH COUNCIL *The Mother High Council of the World*

TO THE GLORY OF THE GRAND ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE

The universe is a living body!

Speech delivered by the MW Brother Serge Bouthemy
Grand Maître Provincial Paris Ile de France

At the Grand Assembly of the Masonic High Council the Mother High Council Meeting in Ljubljana,
Slovenia on the 6th of October 2007

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Brethren All,

Before delivering to you my thoughts on some of the aspects of Initiation, I am anxious to ensure that it is appreciated that these thoughts represent little more than a foreword to this extensive and

comprehensive subject and that to comment on the total aspect of Initiation would take much more than the time I presently have at my disposal. I have therefore, limited myself only to some thoughts on initiation, and hope that it will still manage to maintain your interest and awaken your thirst for more knowledge on this truly beautiful Masonic subject.

What we have all witnessed together is an exceptional moment that truthfully very few people are lucky enough to experience. Away from the pressures of modern living, let us take some time to reflect on the meaning of life and more importantly to us, the reasons behind our wanting to knock at the door of the Temple and enter upon the mysterious journey of Initiation.

The universe is a living body. An essential identity binds and unites all mankind and no single expression of life can be isolated from all others. Man is at the centre of creation, the mirror in which the entire creation reflects itself. Reality can only be approached and experienced through inward contemplation.

Regular and traditional Freemasonry conveys through Initiation many rigorously determined conditions, which are highlighted by archetypal rituals and symbols. Masonic initiation is fundamentally different from all other initiations, being both unique and transcendental. This brings me to the Initiation. On what is it based?



To answer this question, I will quote Oupensky, a follower of Gurdjieff who states in "Excerpts of an unknown knowledge": -

"The ordinary man is constantly in an unconscious state as if he was sleeping. It's even worse because in his sleep he is totally passive whereas he can act when he finds himself in a waking state. But the consequences of his acts affect him and those around him although he is unable to remember them. He's just a machine. Everything may happen to him. He's unable to control his thoughts, his imagination or his emotions. He lives in a subjective world, that is to say a world made of what he believes he loves or doesn't, of what he desires or doesn't. He is ignorant of what is real, the genuine world is masked to him by the wall of his imagination. He lives in a kind of sleep.

In spite of my misgivings about the character of Gurjjeff, this still inspires me to think that the above quotation goes far beyond normal thinking.

It leads me to make this statement

The Initiation is based on the acknowledgement that profane man is sleeping in darkness. He is but the seed of a superior being that he has yet to know. The Initiation will be his awakening and acknowledgement of this superior being.

Although very much dependant on each individuals own inner abilities, the Initiation attempts to rally those inner forces which surely exist inside all of us, implying that the human being is capable of outstripping the external and rational appearance of everyday life and able to discover potent forces inside each and every one of us, which are just waiting to manifest themselves. The Initiation can release those forces by virtue of it's teachings and hopefully the man in darkness then becomes the enlightened man.

To fully understand what happens we need to look deeper into the core of one's own being to find this mysterious sleeping root, which is awakened by Initiation. It is a kind of golden flower, which the heart of man is only vaguely aware of prior to Initiation. It is crucial for man to reach a mental state beyond ordinary consciousness in order to fully understand what is happening. Initiation assists us by virtue of its teachings, to reach that mental state and to deeply reflect on the meaning of life. Initiation attempts to unlock our normal mental energy allowing us to devote time to study and understand it's teachings. It teaches us to understand it's teaching by inner self-reflection.

Has the author of "Glimpses on initiation" says:

The initiation secret is such because it can't be otherwise, since it consists exclusively in the inexpressible, which is necessarily continued by the incommunicable
He explains further:

Properly speaking, what is transmitted by initiation is not the secret itself as it is incommunicable but the influence the rites have as a medium.

We can all understand these words with a feeling of some fulfilment, having experienced our own private thoughts during Initiation. It hopefully will lead man on the slow but sure path to Masonic understanding by participation in all things Masonic after the Initiation.

What we have hopefully understood after Initiation is that Freemasonry and it's sacred teachings cannot be separated from the feeling of influence it gives, which is neither material nor rational in the accepted common sense of the word. We also are taught to acknowledge that this influence can only be transmitted through the medium of a ritual and sacred symbols. Everything is symbolic we ourselves are living symbols of a perfectly formed universe. These symbols are not logical in the sense of being understandable to the normal uninitiated mind. To them they hold no meaning or explanation. Only after the experience of Initiation is man able to comprehend to a degree that these symbols show us the way forward and, if we show enough humility, they will change and transform us into better beings.

This is perfectly illustrated in the following Masonic text:

"The symbol is unlimited, but what we get out of it is only what is within our range. It makes us richer and richer as long as our mental abilities are increasing. A symbol must be integrated and can be rationally understood. It must be a part of ourselves and not only make us think. It must find its place in our hearts more than in our minds."

Of course we can learn from reading books. A fundamental understanding of music can be learned through books but to be able to play music requires a much greater depth of research and learning. Understanding the symbol theory is the first major awakening Initiation brings to a new Freemason.

So Brethren, let us attempt to remain totally and perfectly humble in face of the genuine mysteries of life, eternity and the universe. It is not because we are incapable of learning that our knowledge is always limited. Were all knowledge known we would have little incentive to attempt the further gathering of it and all society would come to a grinding halt, for it is the thirst for knowledge and spiritual fulfilment which spurs us onwards as human beings.

Similarly if we continue to be imperfect human beings the Masonic Initiation can only assist in the attempted overthrow of that imperfection and channel the thoughts of every man fortunate enough to have experienced Initiation to the glory of the Great Architect and of his fellow man. The symbolic teachings, which Masonic Initiation brings, are the essential tools for the progression towards a perfect existence. They may be difficult or never achievable but always worth humbly aiming for. Our universe remains stable prior to and after Initiation, as a pond goes from calm through to ripples back to calm once a stone is thrown into it, so Freemasonry ripples at every Initiation and the pool reverts

to the pleasing calmness in the knowledge that another brother has entered and been shown the Masonic light.

In spite of our awakening through Initiation who are we to pass judgement on eternity? Masonic Initiation teaches us that we are never at the zenith of our potential and that there is always room for further learning, always!

As you see Brethren, this short and unpretentious essay has no other aim but encourage further thought on this unique and holiest of Masonic subjects, Initiation. Interpreted by many in countless ways, it is subject to the amount of effort we each put into understanding it. It is a genuine and unique tradition, which goes back through time to the very origin of man. It is however left up to each individual to find their own understanding of the symbols it presents in the hope that we all come to the same or at least similar conclusions!

These teachings were not given down in one piece but have cemented themselves into an understandable form of teaching only after many centuries of exploration into the subject. It was a very necessary teaching for as time has passed, thoughts have gradually hardened, intuition has been partially abandoned for the benefit of an exoteric science and materialism has expanded. Gradually we arrived at a complete spiritual destitution, brought about by the apparent absence of all creative light. This development seems to have been noticed with the introduction of the primitive, intuitive, and sacred revelations, that enlightened was an urgent requirement. What we had called progress or more precisely some form of progress had for a long time ceased to fool us and we reacted by embarking on the search for light through Initiation.

I have devoted myself to the search for this prestigious legacy and I invite you to dedicate yourselves to the study of the eternal science. Let us base our progress on the ideals of Truth, Beauty and Love upon which Pythagoras founded his harmony doctrine. Thus went forward the illustrious Knights in their quest for the Holy Grail, always prepared to fight in order to netter themselves in all of life's difficulties and dangers.

Does this not symbolise the type of life and passions against which we have to fight in order not to end up as victims?

Plato said: "All souls have a common desire for truth. It's this noble desire, which prop them in their swift passage when they are swept away in the eternal circular movement. But as soon as one of them comes out of this divine wake by the tragic distraction of its messenger, it then loadens up, feeds itself with something impure and losing the help from its wings, as if stuck by oblivion, it falls on the earth"

Here Plato highlights the myth behind the story of the original fall from grace!

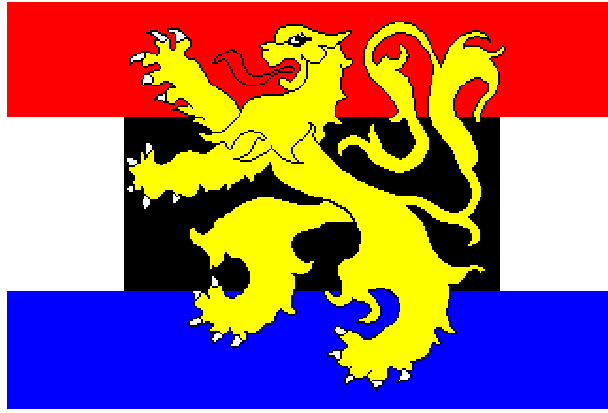
"Limited in his nature, unlimited in his wishes, Man is a fallen god who remembers the heavens".

Let the Grand Architect of the Universe give us strength and vigour for our own improvement in making us work on ourselves and develop within us the cult of beauty, truth and fairness.

So mote it be.



COMMUNICATIONS



MASONIC HIGH COUNCIL OF BENELUX

MW & RW Brethren, Officers of the MHC the Mother High Council of the World and Brethren:
We should like to heartily congratulate our Benelux Brethren on the, constituting of the Lodge Benelux and Lodge Sagittarius may the Craft Freemasonry Flourish under the auspices of the Masonic High Council of Benelux.



MASONIC HIGH COUNCIL OF BRAZIL

MW & RW Brethren, Officers of the MHC the Mother High Council of the World and Brethren:
We should like to heartily congratulate our Brazilian Brethren on the, constituting of the Regular Grand Lodge of Sao Paulo in a regular ceremony on the 29th of September 2007, may the Craft Freemasonry Flourish under the light and guidance of the newly formed Regular Grand Lodge of Sao Paulo.

Regular Grand Lodge of Sao Paulo

MW Bro. Uataú Brasil de Azevedo, Grand Master
MW Bro. Wagner da Silva Gênio, Deputy Grand Master
RW Bro. Agostinho Sábio Júnior, Senior Grand Warden
RW Bro. Alcides Vieira Filho, Junior Grand Warden

Founding Craft Lodges

ARLS Perfeita União Lodge No.1, Itatiba
ARLS Luz de Hórus Lodge No.2, Itatiba
ARLS Cruzeiro do Sul Lodge No.3, Jundiaí
Triângulo Maçônico Cavaleiros da Luz Lodge No.4, Taubaté



MASONIC HIGH COUNCIL OF GERMANY

There are some really positive developments to report in Germany, with one lodge and as many as 40 Brethren ready to make the break with the presently established "Masonry" in Germany and start up a new English Speaking lodge with the intention of eventually forming a Regular Grand Lodge of Germany.

There will be more details soon but interested brethren can contact brianmalcolm@fsmail.net for an update.

Brian Malcolm MHC



MASONIC HIGH COUNCIL OF THE USA

It is with honour that I submit this Report of the activities of the Masonic High Council of the United States of America. We are progressing our started work in peace and harmony for the betterment of the Craft in North America and Worldwide.

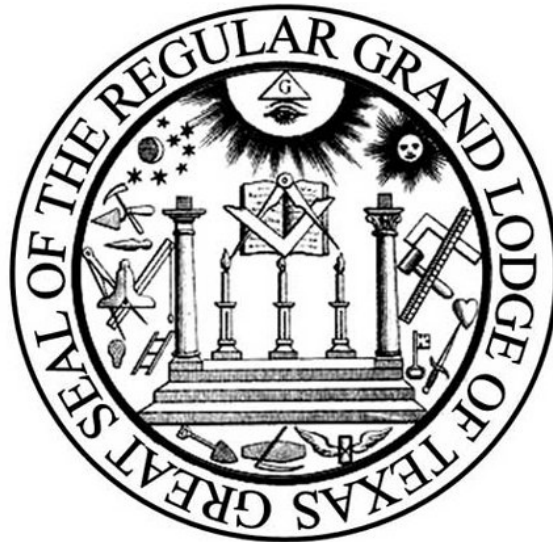
We are working on the applications addressed to this Grand Body and Supreme Authority of Craft Freemasonry in North America from several reaming States whishing to Regularize their Craft by joining the Regular Federation of Ancient Craft Freemasonry as only practised by the MHCUSA.

The States are:

OHIO – GEORGIA – ALABAMA - LOUISIAN – WISCONSIN

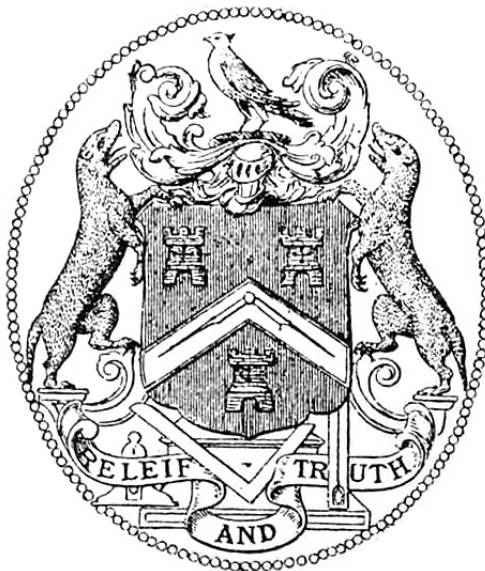
A Delegation of Grand Officers of the MHCUSA visited the Regular Grand Lodge of Texas last month during their Annual Grand Assembly, it was a very joyous occasion and the RGLT was blessed with many new members as a result of the rays of progressive light and brotherly love that was displayed.

MW & RW Brethren, Officers of the MHC the Mother High Council of the World and Brethren: The Masonic High Council for the United States of America, during its annual Grand Assembly in Chicago, Illinois, decided to consecrate the following Regular Grand Lodges on the 18th of August 2007.



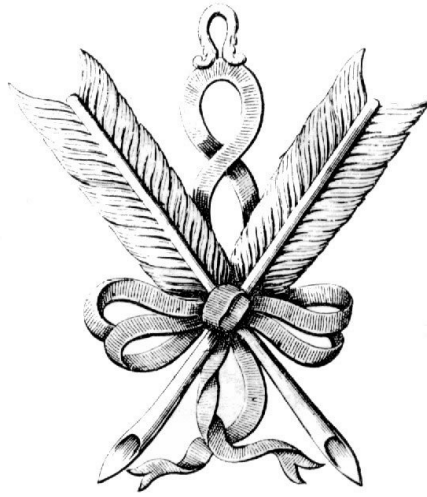
REGULAR GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

We should like to heartily congratulate the Texan Brethren in this occasion on the delivery of their Warrant of Constitution, accordingly to Ancient Costume and Regulations of Ancient Craft Freemasonry, has presented to MW Bro. Weston Jarvis, Grand Master Mason of the Regular Grand Lodge of Texas, which is now fully consecrated and established in the State of Texas.



REGULAR GRAND LODGE OF NEW YORK

We should like to heartily congratulate the New York Brethren in this occasion on the delivery of their Warrant of Constitution, accordingly to Ancient Costume and Regulations of Ancient Craft Freemasonry was presented to MW Bro. Daniel Bey, Grand Master Mason of the Regular Grand Lodge of New York, which is now fully consecrated and established in the State of New York.



Important News

Dear Brethren,

Our Grand Secretary's staffs are working hard to ensure that this newsletter is prepared and sent out to all of you on a regular basis. We urge you all to send in all items, which you may, feel are of interest to the thousands of brethren who receive this newsletter. Although we cannot always guarantee publication we can certainly promise not to if you do not send it! Although we will not publish your name if you do not wish us to, please give your details.

We look forward to receiving many of your items.

From the staff of the Office of the Grand Secretary, Regular Grand Lodge of England

All enquiries, submissions and articles should be sent to the attention of the:

**Secretary General
Masonic High Council**

e-mail: masoniccouncil@gmail.com

"We are unable to return material submitted by individual brethren. Any submissions which are not signed will not be considered for publication."

