

A CONCISE EVALUATION OF FREEMASONRY

It's Claims and History

There are a number of secret societies in the UK, which are formed as an interdependent brotherhood with an emphasis upon fraternal philanthropy. These would include the Ancient Order of the Foresters, Old Friends, Druids, the Gregorians, the Jerusalem Sols, the Bucks, Oddfellows, Loyal United Friends, Knights of the Phoenix, The Independent Order of Rechabites and the Royal Antediluvian Order of the Buffaloes. However, the most widespread and powerful are the various orders of Freemasons, also known as: the Craft, the Brotherhood, the Order, the Fraternal Order, and the Lodge.

The main body of international Freemasonry derives from the British tradition, but there are now a number of unofficial associated groups which draw their membership from the higher degrees of Freemasonry; especially in the United States. Female relatives of Master Masons may join the Order of the Eastern Star; boys, the Order of DeMolay and the Order of Builders; and girls, the Order of Job's Daughters and the Order of Rainbow. English Masons are forbidden to affiliate with any of these organisations or quasi-Masonic societies, on pain of suspension.

The question is: IS FREEMASONRY AN INNOCENT SOCIAL AND CHARITABLE INSTITUTION, OR IS IT SOMETHING MUCH MORE SINISTER WITH SECRET AGENDAS? This is what this paper seeks to discover.

History¹

The traditional theories

- In Masonic ceremonies, Freemasons are told that Freemasonry was in existence when the masons who built Solomon's Temple were organised into Lodges. Indeed it is claimed to derive from creation and that Adam, Noah, Moses, David, Solomon, John the Baptist and the apostle John were all Freemasons.
- Many have tried to prove that Freemasonry was descended from the stonemasons of classical Greece and Rome or from the Egyptian pyramid builders.
- Other theories hold that it arose from bands of travelling stonemasons acting by Papal authority to build cathedrals and castles.
- Others still are convinced that Freemasonry evolved from a band of Crusaders known as 'the Knights Templars' who escaped to Scotland with the Holy Grail after the order was persecuted in Europe.

The historical evidence

- Firstly, there are no concrete historical facts that point to Freemasonry before the Middle Ages, and absolutely no links to Solomon's Temple.
- The evidence does strongly support the suggestion the Freemasonry could have developed from Guilds and Lodges of medieval masons. It appears to have emerged from the building industry generally throughout Britain, between the Black Death (1348) and the Wars of the Roses (1453).

¹ Sources: Wikipedia; article: *How Freemasonry Started, & Freemasonry*; Meridian Lodge No. 691, New York.; The United Grand Lodge of England, *Library and Museum of Freemasonry*.

- The first use of the word 'lodge' was in 1278 during the building of a monastery and appears to refer to the hut where the masons ate and slept. Eventually 'lodge' came to refer to the group of masons not the hut.
- The *operative* lodges constructed a lodge building adjacent to the work site where the masons could meet for instruction and social contact. Normally, this was on the southern side of the site (in Europe, the side with the sun warming the stones during the day.) The social part of the building was also on the southern side, hence the social gathering of the lodge is still called *the South*. Early *speculative* (for members not in the stonemason trade) lodges met in taverns and other convenient public meeting places, and employed a 'Tyler' to guard the door from outsiders.
- By 1352 there were elaborate rules governing masons connected with the lodge at York Minster, described as the '*ancient customs of the masons*'. The Master and Deputy Master were required to swear an oath that these would be adhered to. Fifty years later all masons were required to swear the same oath. Early significance was given to the square and compass as tools of master masons which became ceremonially symbolical. Initiation ceremonies no doubt developed into more complex rituals.
- The London Masons Company was formed in 1356.
- The earliest use of the word 'Freemason' appears in London 1376. Four men were chosen to represent the city's builders on the Common Council of Trades, this was the first time they had been represented. They were originally listed as Freemasons although the word is then crossed out and replaced with Mason. The possible reason for this error is significant. Much of the building in the South of England was done with a material called Freestone. This is a form of limestone which is soft and easily worked when freshly quarried but afterwards hardens and becomes very durable. And the men who worked it were of course, called Freestone Masons. There seems to be no evidence to link the prefix 'free' with freedom. The balance of probability seems to suggest that *Freemason* is indeed a contraction of *Freestone Mason*.
- John Wycliffe, writing about 1383, used the terms '*men of sutel craft, as fre masons and others*' he also refers to '*fraternytes or gildis*'. A Henry Yevele, a master builder who died in 1400 may have been described as a Freemason on his tombstone.
- In the early 1600s the Masonic lodges began to admit men who had no connection with the stonemason trade and were accepted as 'gentlemen' masons; eventually these took over the lodges.
- Elias Ashmole, the Antiquary and Founder of the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, records in his diary for 1646 that he was made a Free Mason in a lodge held for that purpose at his father-in-law's house in Warrington. He records who was present, all of whom have been researched and have been found to have no connection with 'operative' masonry.
- The first Grand Lodge was formed in London in 1717, while the first US lodge opened in 1733.
- The formation of the Premier Grand Lodge in 1717 had been followed, around 1725, by the Grand Lodge of Ireland and, in 1736, the Grand Lodge of Scotland. These three Grand Lodges, together with Antients (sic) Grand Lodge (originally a breakaway group mainly of Irishmen but reunited with the 'Moderns' in 1813), spread Freemasonry throughout the world so that all Grand Lodges throughout the world, ultimately trace their origins back to one, or a combination, of the British Grand Lodges. By 1730 the Grand Lodge had over 100 lodges in England and Wales under its control and had begun to spread Freemasonry abroad, warranting lodges to meet in Madrid and Calcutta.
- The election of Albert Edward, Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) as Grand Master in 1874 gave great impetus to Freemasonry. The Prince was a great supporter of and publicist for Freemasonry. He regularly appeared in public, both at home and on

his tours abroad, as Grand Master laying the foundation stones of public buildings, bridges, dockyards and churches with Masonic ceremonial.

- Famous English Freemasons have included: kings (George IV, William IV, Edward VII, Edward VIII, George VI); statesmen (Lord Randolph Churchill, Cecil Rhodes, Winston Churchill); explorers (Capt. Scott, Sir Ernest Shackleton); actors (Henry Irving, Donald Wolfitt, Peter Sellers); writers (Alexander Pope, Edward Gibbon, Richard Sheridan); charity workers (Dr Barnardo, Billy Butlin); performers (Jim Davidson, Tommy Trinder, Cyril Fletcher, David Nixon); sportsmen (Donald Campbell, Jack Dempsey, Harold Abrahams) and military men (Duke of Wellington, Earl Kitchener, Earl Haig).
- The Duke of Edinburgh was initiated into the Navy Lodge No. 2612 in 1952 while the Queen is the Grand Patroness of Freemasonry. Her cousin, the Duke of Kent, is the Grand Master of English Freemasonry. So far, Prince Charles has refused to join.
- In early 19th century America there was a distinctly Christian flavour to Freemasonry (unlike the UK). Many 'Christians' interpreted Masonic symbols in a Biblical way; Christ was the model for the master Mason. After about 1830 a number of incidents cast the craft into a negative light and many Christians left the order. In the resultant vacuum, Albert Pike spread his pagan interpretation of Masonry and reinterpreted the symbols. Only in the 1920s did many books emerge claiming pagan origins.

The two great schisms of Freemasonry (1753 and 1877)²

The PGLE (Premier Grand Lodge of England) later came to be known colloquially as the 'Moderns', to distinguish them from the newer, rival group, the 'Antients'. The Antients broke away and formed their own Grand Lodge in 1753, prompted by the PGLE's making changes to the secret modes of recognition. Tensions between the two groups were very high at times. Benjamin Franklin was a 'Modern' and a deist, for instance, but by the time he died, his Lodge had gone 'Antient', and would no longer recognise him as one of their own, declining even to give him a Masonic funeral.³

In 1809 negotiating committees were set up to heal the breach. They moved slowly and it was not until His Royal Highness Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex became Grand Master of the Premier Grand Lodge and his brother, His Royal Highness Edward, Duke of Kent, became Grand Master of the Antients Grand Lodge, both in 1813, that serious steps towards reunification were taken. In little more than six weeks the two brothers had formulated and gained agreement to the Articles of Union between the two Grand Lodges and arranged the great ceremony by which the United Grand Lodge of England came into being on 27 December 1813.

The competing Grand Lodges were amalgamated, by virtue of a delicately worded compromise which left English Masonry clearly not Christian, returned the modes of recognition to their pre-1753 form, kept Freemasonry *per se* as consisting of three degrees only, but which was ambiguously worded so as to allow the Moderns to think of the Antient Royal Arch degree as an optional higher degree, while still allowing the Antients to view it as the completion of the third degree.

Because both the Antients and the Moderns had 'daughter' Lodges throughout the world, and because many of those Lodges still exist, there is a great deal of variability in the Ritual used today, even between UGLE (United Grand Lodge of England) recognised jurisdictions. Most Lodges conduct their Work in accordance with an agreed-upon single 'Rite', such as the 'York Rite' (which is popular in the United States), or the 'Canadian Rite'

² This section is heavily indebted to Wikipedia, article: Freemasonry with additional material from an article by Meridian Lodge No. 691.

³ See *Revolutionary Brotherhood*, by Steven C. Bullock, Univ. N. Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, (1996).

(which is, in some ways, a concordance between the Rites used by the ‘Antients’ and ‘Moderns’).

The second great schism in Freemasonry occurred in the years following 1877, when the GOdF (French Masons) started accepting atheists unreservedly. While the issue of atheism is probably the greatest single factor in the split with the GOdF, the English also point to the French recognition of women's Masonry and co-Masonry, as well as the tendency of French Masons to be more willing to discuss religion and politics in Lodge. While the French curtail such discussion, they do not ban it as outright as do the English. The schism between the two branches has occasionally been breached for short periods of time, especially during the First World War when American Masons overseas wanted to be able to visit French Lodges.

In 1849, the GOdF followed the English lead by adopting the ‘Supreme Being’ requirement [*‘Let a man's religion or mode of worship be what it may, he is not excluded from the Order, provided he believes in the glorious Architect of heaven and earth, and practices the sacred duties of morality.’*], but there was increasing pressure in Latin countries to openly admit atheists. There was an attempt at a compromise in 1875, by allowing the alternative phrase ‘Creative Principle’ (which was less theistic-sounding than ‘Supreme Being’), but this was ultimately not enough for the GOdF, and in 1877 they went back to having no religious entrance requirements, adopting the original Anderson document of 1723 as their official Constitutions. They also created a modified ritual that made no direct verbal reference to the G.A.O.T.U.⁴ (although, as a symbol, it was arguably still present). This new Rite did not replace the older ones, but was added as an alternative (European jurisdictions in general tend not to restrict themselves to a single Rite, like most North American jurisdictions, but offer a menu of Rites, from which their Lodges can choose.)

Main beliefs and practices

1. **ITS OFFICIAL STATEMENTS** are that: *‘Freemasonry consists of a body of men banded together to preserve the secrets, customs and ceremonials handed down to them, from time immemorial, and for the purpose of mutual intellectual, social and moral improvement. They also endeavour to cultivate and exhibit brotherly love, relief and truth, not only to one another, but to the world at large. Freemasonry offers no pecuniary advantages whatever, neither does there exist any obligation nor implied understanding binding one Mason to deal with another, nor to support him in any way in the ordinary business relations of life.’*⁵ We will see that the latter part of this is a lie.
2. **THERE IS AN EXTERIOR CLOAK OF ALTRUISM AND PHILANTHROPY**; but this hides the real sinister, mystical and pagan purpose [see later]. If Masonry is merely a philanthropic fraternity, why the need for total secrecy under the threat of death? If it is a force for good alone, why are its motions kept in the dark? In fact, Finney claimed that there was no evidence of general or even specific benevolence in his time (early 19thc.). There was no full disbursement of the funds collected for charitable purposes and there was no evidence of widespread altruism outside of the brotherhood. Indeed, in his day Masons were racists, forbidding entrance to black people on account of their poor estate and low intelligence. Funds were instead used for the erection of Masonic buildings and the administration of the craft.⁶ A modern example is of a Shrine hospital programme in

⁴ Great Architect of the Universe.

⁵ ‘Information for Candidates’, from the *Universal Book of Craft Masonry*, App 1.

⁶ Charles G Finney, *Freemasonry*, Chap 14.

Florida. The *Orlando Sentinel* reported that 98% of the money raised by Freemasons did not go to the hospital.

3. **IT IS A SECRET SOCIETY.** Masons swear under horrible oaths never to reveal the secrets of the craft; therefore, any Masonic publication that purports to inform the public about their beliefs and activities cannot be trusted. In fact they swear to delude those outside. To find true facts we require the testimony of those who have renounced the order (there are many) and access to books written for the higher levels (these have been made available by those who have withdrawn).⁷
4. **THE OATH OF THE ENTERED APPRENTICE MASON:** *'I will always hail, ever conceal, and never reveal any part or parts, art or arts, point or points of the secrets, arts, and mysteries of Ancient Freemasonry which I have received, am about to receive, or may hereafter be instructed in ... binding myself under no less penalty than to have my throat cut across, my tongue torn out by the roots, and my body buried in the rough sands of the sea.'*⁸ In the first-degree secrecy alone in sworn; in the higher degrees additional promises are made at every step, including murder [see later]. In 1834, the General assembly of the State of Connecticut concluded that such oaths were: unlawful since they bound a person to violate the law, subversive of natural morals, opposed to the U.S. constitution and blasphemous. Many of the higher degree oaths are blasphemous, immoral, humiliating and harrowing.
5. **FREEMASONRY IS A RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION.** Masonic works claim that it is *'an eminently religious institution - that is indebted solely to the religious element which it contains for its continued existence, and that without this religious element it would scarcely be worthy of cultivation'*.⁹ *'Every Masonic Lodge is a temple of religion; and its teachings are instructions in religion.'*¹⁰ *'Masonry is a worship.'*¹¹ The primary work of the lodge is *'education, worship and charity'*.¹² This is confirmed by neutral scholars: *'A comparison of the moral, allegorical, and symbolic teachings of Freemasonry with these definitions of a religion reveals that the lodge is a theistic, non-Christian, man-centred, and universal religion.'*¹³ Furthermore, Freemasons state that: *'the religion of Freemasonry is not Christianity'*.¹⁴
6. **MASONRY HAS A GOD,** usually named by the initials G A O T U. The initials stand for the name 'Great Architect of the Universe.' Sometimes other names are applied to him, but according to Mackey, 'G.A.O.T.U.' is the technical Masonic name for him.¹⁵ The Masonic encyclopaedia contains articles on many of the pagan deities, but has none on the Lord Jesus Christ.
7. **THE LOWER ORDERS OF MASONS ARE KEPT IN THE DARK** about the darker secrets of Freemasonry and Masons deliberately mislead outsiders:
 - *'Masonry conceals its secrets from all except the Adepts and Sages, or the elect, and uses false explanations and misinterpretations of its symbols to mislead those*

⁷ It is mere madness to receive the testimony of men who are under oath, and under the most horrid oaths that can be taken - oaths sustained by the most terrific penalties that can be named to conceal their secrets and to deny that they have been published, and that those books contain them - I say it is downright madness to receive the testimony of such men, it matters not who they are. Charles G Finney, *Freemasonry*, Chap 3.

⁸ From Finney, op. cit. chap 4.

⁹ Albert Mackey, *The Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*; The Masonic Hist. Co. (1924), Vol 2, p618-619.

¹⁰ Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, the official book of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. (Charleston, S. C.: The Supreme Council of the 33rd Degree for the Southern Jurisdiction of the U.S.A., 1950), p213.

¹¹ Pike, op. cit. p218-219.

¹² *Indiana Monitor and Freemason's Guide*, 'Declarations and Principles', (1939) quoted in Decker, *The Dark Side of Freemasonry*, Huntington House Pub. (1994) p128.

¹³ Shildes Johnson, *Is Masonry a Religion?* Oakland, NJ: Institute of Contemporary Christianity, (1978), p21.

¹⁴ Mackey, op. cit. p618. See also: p641, 162.

¹⁵ Mackey, op. cit. p 290, 310.

*who deserve only to be misled; to conceal the truth, which it calls Light, from them, and to draw them away from it.*¹⁶

- *'Spiritual qualities are necessary before the real Masonic secrets can be understood by the brethren themselves.'*¹⁷
- *'The Blue [1st-3rd] Degrees are but the outer court of the Temple. Part of the symbols are displayed there to the initiate, but he is intentionally misled by false interpretations. It is not intended that he shall understand them; but it is intended that he shall imagine he understands them. Their true explication is reserved for the Adepts, the Princes of Masonry.'*¹⁸
- *'Masonry conceals its secrets from all except Adepts and Sages, or the Elect, and uses false explanations and misinterpretations of its symbols to mislead those who deserve only to be misled; to conceal the Truth, which it calls Light, from them, and to draw them away from it. Truth is not for those who are unworthy or unable to receive it, or would pervert it. So Masonry jealously conceals its secrets, and intentionally leads conceited interpreters astray.'*¹⁹
- *'The Secret Doctrine is the complete philosophy of Masonic symbolism ... [it] is not divulged even to the candidate .. the Secret Doctrine itself is not even acknowledged to exist ... Officially, the ritual is "all that there is" ... The seeking Mason [must start] his quest for the REAL SECRETS of the hidden mysteries of Freemasonry - and they are found WITHIN THE SECRET DOCTRINE!'*²⁰
- Charles Finney's conclusion after leaving the Masons was that *'my oaths had been procured by fraud and misrepresentation, and that the institution was in no respect what I had been previously informed that it was.'*²¹

8. STRANGE PRACTICES:

- There are various initiation ceremonies for the differing levels of brotherhood. In the early stages the brother performs rituals that are a combination of pantomime and nastiness. Features include: rolling up one's trousers, wearing one shoe, baring a breast and repeating a blood oath, swearing to be disembowelled and mutilated for betrayal of Masonic trust. The oaths are intended to instil fear of betrayal.
- As with other fraternal systems, there are various types of regalia, which famously feature aprons worn over normal clothes.
- There are various signs associated with Masonry. The most prominent being the square and compass; i.e. a joiner's set square at the base with a compass above, often with a letter 'G' (for *God*, or *geometry*, or *generation*) in the centre. At higher levels there are more signs and emblems, often taken from occult religions and magic (such as the sign for the Goat of Mendes, a pyramid, a pentagram, the Star of David, or the sign of Osiris - the all-seeing eye).
- There are various ranks within the lodge and one officer guards the door with a dagger to prevent the entrance of non-Masons.
- Many are aware of the different types of handshake whereby Masons identify themselves to other Masons. These handshakes vary for different degrees. There is no point going into greater detail about other ceremonies, oaths, regalia and rituals.

¹⁶ Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma*,

¹⁷ Manly P. Hall, *The Lost Keys of Freemasonry*; Richmond, Va.: Macoy Publishing and Masonic Supply Co., (1976), p69.

¹⁸ Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, p819.

¹⁹ Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, p104-5

²⁰ George Steinmetz, *The Lost Word: Its Hidden Meaning*, p10-1, 12-3; quoted in Decker, op.cit., p141-2, emphasis original.

²¹ Charles G Finney, *Freemasonry*, Introduction.

- Many ordinary Masons (1st to 3rd degrees) attend Lodges for a mixture of social activity and philanthropy; such folk would be shocked to learn about the higher degrees and the attendant agendas.
9. **FAVOURITISM.** Masons promise on oath to favour their own whenever they can. The Royal Arch degree mason swears: *'I will promote a companion Royal Arch Mason's political preferment in preference to another of equal qualifications.'* This leads to the complete infiltration of some institutions by Masons. For instance, it has been clearly documented that Scotland Yard is riddled with Freemasonry. Many magistrate benches have at least a third of its members being Masons. From time to time local councils, certain institutions, and even Parliament, establish registers of Masonic membership; but these are rarely completed honestly and they dwindle in use. There have been repeated cases when a Masonic judge has found ways of finding a Masonic defendant innocent, or declaring a mistrial, despite clear evidence to the contrary.²²
10. **MASONRY IS A CULT.** In other words, it is a religious group which claims compatibility with Christianity but which is heretical in doctrine and aberrant in practice. It is shown to be a cult from these features:
- It is a secret society outside normal social controls.
 - It abuses members in various ways (e.g. deliberately misinforming lower orders), or meting out punishments - especially for those who oppose or betray the society.
 - It discourages independent thinking.
 - There is authoritarian leadership. The Worshipful Master of a local lodge has supreme and total control, even down to who may enter and leave a room.²³ In the 7th degree initiation the candidate is told he is on holy ground since the Master of the Lodge claims to be the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
 - Propaganda is reinforced by threats of violence, even if supposedly figurative only. In fact, there is proven intimidation reinforced by physical, psychological or spiritual penalties. Most commonly these are being branded a traitor, loss of friends and alliances, and suffering in business.²⁴
 - Its mystical teachings harmonise with the religions of the ancient cults [see later].
 - Many of its rituals correlate with those of ancient occult religions.²⁵

Organisation

1. Governing Body - The United Grand Lodge (the usual form of local UK Masonry)

- **FIRST DEGREE:** Entered Apprentice
- **SECOND DEGREE:** Fellow Craft
- **THIRD DEGREE:** Master Mason (these form the largest proportion of Masons)
- These three degrees are sometimes called 'The Blue Lodge Degrees'.
- These meet in local lodges ruled by a chairman called a Worshipful Master.
- There are Provincial Lodges and the United Grand Lodge.
- The Grand Master of all England is only a supposed to be a Master Mason.

²² See Decker, *op.cit.*, p22-23 and 106 for several examples of this.

²³ Carl H Claudy, *Introduction to Freemasonry*, Vol 2, p89-92.

²⁴ *Every Mason knows that a broken vow brings with it a terrible penalty.... When a Mason swears that he will devote his life to [Masonry, and then violates his oath]... he is breaking a vow which imposes not hours but ages of misery.* Manly P. Hall, *The Lost Keys of Freemasonry*, p68.

²⁵ *The Masonic ritual has many elements which have come down from antiquity, and connect the modern institution with the cults of the ancients not so much in form as in doctrine ... not in exact identity of ceremony and symbol, but in the religious ideas, in the object of its adoration, in its conception and definition of the deity.* Martin L Wagner, *Freemasonry: An Interpretation*, (distributed by Missionary Service and Supply, Route 2, Columbiana, OH, 44408), p.283, 138, 252-3.

- There are 'Appendant Bodies' [like York Rite, Scottish Rite, the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine (Shriners), the Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm (Grotto), the Tall Cedars of Lebanon, and the Ancient and Heroic Order of the Gordian Knot] that have higher number Degrees. The York Rite and the Scottish Rite are the two main branches of Freemasonry.

2. Governing Body - a Supreme Council, HQ at 10 Duke St, St James', London SW1 (known as the 'Grand East') This is a secret society within a secret society.

The Thirty-three Degrees of Freemasonry (The Scottish Rite is here used as the key example)

SUPREME COUNCIL

- 33^o Grand Inspector General

CONSISTORY

- 32^o Sublime Prince (or Master) of the Royal Secret
- 31^o Grand Inspector Inquisitor Commander

COUNCIL OF KADOSH

- 30^o Grand Elected Knight Kadosh, (or Knight of the Black and White Eagle)
- 29^o Knight of St Andrew
- 28^o Knight of the Sun (or Prince Adept)
- 27^o Knight Commander of the Temple
- 26^o Prince of Mercy
- 25^o Knight of the Brazen Serpent
- 24^o Prince of the Tabernacle
- 23^o Chief of the Tabernacle
- 22^o Knight of the Royal Axe (or Prince of Libanus)
- 21^o Patriarch Noachite (or Prussian Knight)
- 20^o Venerable Grand Master (or Master of the Symbolic Lodge)
- 19^o Grand Pontiff

ROSE CROIX

- 18^o Knight of the Pelican and Eagle and Sovereign Prince Rose Croix of Heredom
- 17^o Knight of the East and West
- 16^o Prince of Jerusalem
- 15^o Knight of the Sword, or of the East, or of the Eagle

LODGE OF PERFECTION

- 14^o Scottish Knight of Perfection (or Perfect Elu, or Grand Elect, Perfect and Sublime Mason)
- 13^o Royal Arch (of Enoch or of Solomon or Knight of the Ninth Arch)
- 12^o Grand Master Architect
- 11^o Sublime Elect (or Elu of the 12)
- 10^o Elect of Fifteen (or Elu of the 15)
- 9^o Elect of Nine (or Elu of the 9)
- 8^o Intendant of the Building
- 7^o Provost and Judge
- 6^o Intimate Secretary
- 5^o Perfect Master

- 4^o Secret Master

BLUE LODGE OR RED LODGE

- 3^o Master Mason
- 2^o Fellow Craft
- 1^o Entered Apprentice
- The 4th to 33rd degree is called, 'The Royal Arch'.
- Britain's Grand Master is Prince Michael of Kent (33rd degree).
- With each Degree, the number of initiates diminishes. The 31st degree is restricted to 400 members; the 32nd to 180; and the 33rd to only 75 members. Some associated lodges (especially in France) established up to a 1,000 degrees. Each Rite has its own credentials, regalia, symbols, key words and handshakes. Men who are part of more than one Rite can be burdened down with a multitude of symbols, signs, regalia etc and ritual to be memorised. Aleister Crowley complained that an elephant would collapse under all the regalia conferred upon him.

According to Dr Robert A Morey, *'there were no degrees in Masonry two hundred years ago; and that the Master's degree is no more than 150 years of age. ... most Masonic historians now admit that it was the Frenchmen Desaguilliers or Dr. Anderson who invented the first three degrees. The few symbols introduced by these two Christian clergymen came from the Bible and were Christian in every sense.'*²⁶ This undergirds the claim that the original basis of Freemasonry in the earliest times was Christian, but the order was paganised over time and hijacked by occult mystics.

Masonic reactions to defection and attack

There are many examples of people who have been treated terribly when they have betrayed Freemasonry or opposed it. Many have been ruined, some have even been killed. It should be remembered that the oaths of the higher degrees condone murder and even treason as well as the covering up of each other's crimes.²⁷ They also swear to persecute to death, ruin the reputation and harangue anyone who violates Masonic obligation.²⁸ Instructions for higher degrees has the following: *'those who come to be initiated into our sacred mysteries through a motive of curiosity; and if so indiscreet as to divulge their obligations, we are bound to cause their death, and take vengeance on the treason by the destruction of the traitors.'*²⁹ Examples of various punishments will follow.

In his book, *The Brotherhood*, Stephen Knight tells of a meeting with a judge and a very senior civil servant who agreed to give information on the secrets of the UK Masons. There are more than half a million brethren under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge. If only 5% abuse their privileges for corrupt ends, there are 25,000 powerful people corrupting the social institutions of the UK. The civil servant stated that more than 12% were abusing the craft, which was originally run by good men, devoted to altruism and social stability.

Freemasonry provides a nation-wide organisation of men from most walks of life and thus affords the most efficient private intelligence network possible. Members are used to provide information through the various streams of contacts: police, Post Office,

²⁶ Robert A. Morey, *The Origins and Teachings of Freemasonry* (Southbridge, Mass.; Crowne Publications, Inc., 1990), p76.

²⁷ See Finney, op. cit. chap 7.

²⁸ See Finney, op. cit. chap 8.

²⁹ Bernard, *Light on Masonry*, eighth edition, page 269.

magistrates, solicitors, bankers, civil servants, doctors, industry etc. etc. Dossiers on any individual can be built up very quickly; mail can be copied, personal health details copied, civil infringements copied, criminal records copied, and so on. On garnering a picture of a person's full details, his vulnerabilities become exposed. Even decent members could be fooled to help, e.g. 'Brother Smith needs this to help the person involved'; the target being presented as a brother in distress. Historically this has been used for good purposes, bank details being supplied secretly to aid a brother in debt, or to help the widow of a dead brother.

After this, solicitors could get the target involved in a protracted legal case, running up massive bills. Masonic police can harass, arrest on false charges or plant evidence. A businessman could be arrested for child pornography or drug dealing. Banks can withdraw credit facilities, or telephone lines can be disrupted. Local authorities can dig up their drains resulting in huge bills. Masonic law Society or DSS employees could delay applications for aid. Even false medical certificates have been issued to ruin a job application. The worst thing is that the target's complaints sound like conspiracy theories or fantasy and the person has no idea whom he can trust. There is no defence. Some folk have committed suicide after harassment such as these.

In extreme cases there are accurate historical records of Freemasons murdering ex-Masons who divulged Masonic secrets. One such case was the killing of William Morgan in New York State. One of the three perpetrators confessed to this on his deathbed.³⁰ Justice was not done since the courts, the sheriffs, the magistrates and all civil authorities were at that time tied up with Freemasonry. As a result of the murder and the publishing of Morgan's book, Freemasonry was hit hard when 45,000 of the then 50,000 Masons left the brotherhood. No less than an ex-President of the US (John Quincy Adams) gave a scathing attack on the Masons when he later investigated the facts. Subsequently, this story has been surrounded with all sorts of defensive lies by Masons in order to protect their institution, including publishing a falsified edition of Morgan's book in order to pretend that it is erroneous.

Finney quotes ex-Mason Rev. Moses Thacher, then well-known, *'The institution is dangerous to civil and religious rights. It is stained with blood. I have reliable historical evidence of not less than seven individuals, including Morgan, murdered under Masonic law.'* Finney then says that many others have come to light.³¹

Freemasonry is incompatible with Christianity

FREEMASONRY'S ORIGINS LIE IN REBELLION. Mason's claim that Freemasonry has its roots in the rebellious move against God at the time of Babel, with principal esteem being saved for Nimrod as one of Masonry's founding fathers.³² In fact, Nimrod was a ruthless tyrant and hunter of men who turned people away from God and founded Babylon. Being deified (as many founders of cities were) Nimrod and his images were worshipped. After the confusion of tongues at Babel, the name of Nimrod underwent various changes in the different tongues, giving rise to the many names of sun-god deities in vogue in the ancient world. In the Bible some of these are: Bel [= Baal], Marduk, [= Hebrew 'Merodach'], Tamuz, Chemosh, Moloch. The original basis for all the secret signs was to avoid God's judgment of diverse tongues at Babel. The tower of Babel was *'a Masonic enterprise'*.³³

³⁰ See Finney, op.cit. chap 2.

³¹ Finney, op.cit. chap 9.

³² Mackey, *Encyclopaedia of Freemasonry*, art. 'Nimrod'.

³³ A.E. Waite, *A New Encyclopaedia of Freemasonry*, Vol I, p61-62.

*'Masonry is all that remains to us of the first world religion. [which flourished in ancient times] It was the first unified world religion. Today we are working again towards a world universal religion.'*³⁴

CHRISTIANS SHOULD NOT BE INVOLVED IN A SECRET SOCIETY. The believer is part of God's kingdom and this is an exclusive loyalty. There can be no submission to a different master other than God. The awful Masonic blood oaths bind a member to unswerving submission; such unlawful oaths are prohibited for believers.³⁵

FREEMASONRY DENIES THE UNIQUENESS OF THE BIBLICAL GOD. In fact, it upholds the gods of all faiths, *'For Masonry knows, what so many forget, that religions are many, but religion is one...therefore, it [Masonry] invites to its altar men of all faiths, knowing that, if they use different names for "the nameless one of a hundred names," they are yet praying to the one God and Father of all.'*³⁶ *'Freemasonry cares not... [what] God, Great Architect of the Universe, Grand Artificer, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge Above, Jehovah, Allah, Buddha, Vishnu, Shiva, or Great Geometer.'*³⁷ *'Masonry does not specify any God of any creed; she requires merely that you believe in some Deity, give him what name you will ... A belief in God is essential to a Mason, but ... any God will do, so [long as] he is your God.'*³⁸

FREEMASONRY DENIES THE DIVINITY OF JESUS CHRIST. Jesus is reduced to being a mere man like Aristotle, Plato or Mohammed. When his name appears in scripture quoted in Masonic rituals, it is omitted. This, in itself is a great sin (Deut 4:2). *'Masons believe in the Architect of the Universe, but positively not in Jesus the man as the only Son of God.'*³⁹

FREEMASONRY DENIES THE UNIQUENESS OF THE BIBLE. It upholds the validity of the scriptures of many faiths: the Koran, the Vedanta, the Bhagavad Gita etc. The early rituals for the Master Mason Degree were Christian in their overall meaning. According to Dr. Morey, Biblical phrases such as *regeneration, redemption, and heaven* were used and understood; but these were later eradicated, or rewritten in pagan forms, so as to avoid offending followers of heathen religions.

SALVATION IS ACHIEVED THROUGH SELF EFFORT: *'a Mason is evolved through ages of self-purification and spiritual transmutation.'*⁴⁰

ETERNAL LIFE IS (SUPPOSEDLY) ACHIEVED THROUGH MASONIC RITUAL: *'immortality of the soul ... is still the great design of the Third Degree of Masonry. This is the scope and aim of its ritual. ... By its legend [Hiram Abiff] and all its ritual, it is implied that we have been redeemed from the death of sin.'*⁴¹ The goal behind Masonic ritual is man becoming god.⁴²

³⁴ Foster Bailey, (husband of Theosophist Alice Bailey) *The Spirit of Masonry*, p29.

³⁵ Matt 5:33-37. In the interests of accuracy, it should be noted that the Grand Lodge of England removed blood oaths from the first three degrees and of Master Elect in 1986. They are still part of the other rites around the world.

³⁶ Joseph Fort Newton, *The Holy Bible: The Great Light in Masonry*, Nashville, AJ Holman, (1940), p3-4.

³⁷ Carl H. Claudy, *Introduction to Freemasonry*, vol. 2 (Washington: The Temple, 1984), p110.

³⁸ Carl H. Claudy, "Belief in God," in "A Master's Wages," in *Little Masonic Library*, vol. 4 (Richmond: Macoy Publishing, 1977), p32.

³⁹ SR Parchment, *Ancient Operative Masonry*, San Francisco, WB Conley Co, (1930), p35.

⁴⁰ Manly P. Hall, *The Lost Keys of Freemasonry*, p71-72.

⁴¹ Albert G Mackey, *Manual of the Lodge*, New York, Macoy & Sickles, (1862), p96. This section is quoted and used in Freemason's guides and Monitors.

⁴² *Kentucky Monitor*, XX, quoted in Decker, op. cit., p145. The source for this text is Joseph Fort Newton's *The Builders*, p183,

FREEMASONRY IS IDOLATRY.

- By its own statements it is a religion, as such, it is impossible for a Christian to partake in a different religion from the only true one.
- It claims that all religions are equal and must be tolerated. This is the heresy of universalism; it also prohibits Masonic Christians from evangelism. Jesus is equated with Krishna (India), Kioun-tse (China), Sosiosch (Persia), Dhouvanai (Chaldea), Horus (Egypt), Balder (Viking) and Hiram (Masons, see next).
- It upholds many religious myths which God tells us to avoid, e.g. the resurrection of Hiram Abiff (2 Tim 4:2). Worse still, Hiram is stated to be identical with Christ and the various sun-gods.⁴³
- There are many Masonic parallels with the Egyptian sun-god Osiris; in fact there is much dedicated to the worship of the sun-god. The sun-god or 'light-bearer' is identified in the Bible and Masonic writings as Lucifer (i.e. the Devil). *'When the Mason learns ... the mystery of his craft. The seething energies of Lucifer are in his hands.'*⁴⁴
- Initiates of the higher Royal Arch Degree invoke a god named *Jahbulon*. This is a composite word made from *Jah* (shortened form of Jehovah), the chief Canaanite god *Bul*, (alternative name for Baal) and the greatest Egyptian god *Osiris* (god of the underworld); thus comprising a universal deity of many faiths - completely opposed to the true God of the Bible.
- American Baptists were officially warned, *'A Christian Mason who takes the higher degrees of the Scottish Rite will be ... introduced to Egyptian deities Osiris, Isis, Horus, and Amun; to Scandinavian deities Odin, Frea, and Thor; to Hindu, Greek, and Persian deities; and to Jewish Kabbalism... It cannot be denied that some of the religions studied in these degrees are pagan and that their teachings are totally incompatible with Christianity.'*⁴⁵
- Some Masonic authors clearly teach both mysticism and pantheism (e.g. Manly Hall).⁴⁶ The Masonic scholars' claim that Masonry is ancient clearly refers to the ancient occultic and mystical practices of pagan religions; Masonry is *'the modern successor of, and heir to, the sublime Mysteries of the Temple of Solomon, and of the Temples of India, Chaldea, Egypt, Greece, and Rome, as well as the basic doctrine of the Essenes, Gnostics and other mystic Orders.'*⁴⁷
- In the 32 degree of the Scottish Rite, Masons swear to *'Allah, the god of Arab, Moslem and Mohammedan'*.

FREEMASONRY IS MYSTICAL AND OCCULT.

- Masonic lodges use books by authors like occultist Alice Bailey (who was married to a famous Masonic writer) of the Lucifer (Lucis) Publishing Company. She wrote that Freemasonry was the training school for the leaders of the occult world saying, *'It is a far more occult organisation than can be realised.'*⁴⁸ Masonic writers also praise books by people like Helena Blavatsky (co founder of the Theosophical Society) who worshipped Satan and attributed to him the ability to change a man into god.⁴⁹ Manly Hall called her works 'scripture'. Theosophy's first president was a Mason, as was the

⁴³ J D Buck, *Mystic Masonry*, Chicago, Charles T Powner Co., (N.D.) p133-134.

⁴⁴ Manly P Hall, *The Lost Keys of Masonry*, p48.

⁴⁵ *A Study of Freemasonry*, Atlanta, GA; Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (1993); p32.

⁴⁶ Manly P. Hall, *The Lost Keys of Freemasonry*, p64.

⁴⁷ Grand Lodge of Texas, *Monitor of the Lodge: Monitorial Instructions in the Three Degrees of Symbolic Masonry* (Waco, TX: Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F.&A.M., 1982), pxiii, xiv.

⁴⁸ Alice A Bailey. *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, New York, Lucis Pub. Co. (1957) p511.

⁴⁹ Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine*, London, The Theosophical Pub. House, (1893), p446, 220.

vice-president and many members. Annie Besant became head of the Theosophical Society in 1907; she was a 33rd degree co-Mason.

- Anton LaVey (high priest of the Church of Satan) says, *'Virtually every occult order has many Masonic roots.'*⁵⁰
- It is closely connected with the historical occult heresy of Gnosticism. *'The philosophical background of Freemasonry is a Gnosis or Wisdom-teaching as old as the world, one which has been shared alike by the Vedists of the East, the Egyptian, Chaldean and Orphic Initiation systems, the Pythagorean and Platonist Schools, and all the Mystery Temples of the past and present... The Churches, therefore, may be left to continue to discharge their proper ministry, whilst those who feel the need of a larger science, an alternative and perhaps richer fare than the churches provide, may find it in the ancient Gnosis to which Freemasonry serves as a portal of entrance.'*⁵¹ Manly P Hall (called the fraternity's greatest philosopher) identifies Masonry with the Mystery Schools of the first ages.⁵²
- Freemasonry supports the basic mystical concept that man has the divine source within him, which can be unlocked by various methods. [There is] *'a potential Christ in every man ... It is far more important that men should strive to become Christs than that they should believe that Jesus was the Christ'*.⁵³ This is called, 'finding the Lost Word of Hiram', which equates to finding the truth, to receiving Christ-consciousness [= Cosmic-consciousness = mystical union with the divine = salvation]. This all equates to the common mystical goal of all occult religions e.g. the Krishna-consciousness of Hare Krishna monks or the Cosmic Christ of modern Gnostics. *'The "Lost Word" is the Christ within, to which the Mason looks for redemption.'*⁵⁴ The process of finding the lost word is known as 'Initiation' and is compatible with 'Evolution', 'Divine Science', 'Science of Soul Development' and 'Soul Architecture'. Initiation is not a ceremony: *'Real Initiation means an expansion of consciousness from the human to the divine level.'*⁵⁵
- It encourages its members to delve into the esoteric meanings underneath the arcane rituals and symbolism. The system of philosophy and symbolism used by Masons is comparable with those of pagan and occult religions; especially the Cabala, Hinduism, Rosicrucianism and Hermetic philosophy. For instance the following Masonic statements could come right out of a Hindu cult's textbook: *'For those upon the path to real Initiation, meditation is essential ... Initiation always occurs when the physical body is in a state of trance ... when the temporarily liberated consciousness has been transferred to a higher level ... Initiation succeeds Initiation upon increasingly higher levels ... Initiation has no other end than this: conscious union between the individual soul and the Universal Divine Spirit.'*⁵⁶
- Many rituals are drawn from the mysticism of the Knights Templar. These crusaders brought Egyptian esoteric ceremonies, oriental mysticism, the Jewish Cabala and pagan Gnosticism into Europe. They reworked all these into their own form of religion, which included the wearing of aprons; something that goes back to the Essenes and Babylonian priestly garments.⁵⁷ The main emphasis was Gnostic - a secret, higher knowledge known only to adherents, passed from adept to disciple. The Knights

⁵⁰ A S LaVey, *The Satanic Rituals*, New York, Avon Books (1972), p78.

⁵¹ W.L. Wilmshurst, *The Masonic Initiation* (P.M. 275), (a Provincial Grand Registrar in West Yorkshire).

⁵² Manly P Hall, *Lectures on Ancient Philosophy*, p413.

⁵³ JD Buck, *op. cit.*, p57, 62.

⁵⁴ SR Parchment, *Ancient Operative Masonry*, San Francisco, WB Conley Co, (1930), p35.

⁵⁵ WL Wilmshurst, *The Masonic Initiation*, London, Percy Lund Humphries & Co. Ltd., (1924) p19.

⁵⁶ Wilmshurst, *op. cit.* p45, 87-88, 54.

⁵⁷ The symbolism of the apron is the covering of the 'Holy of Holies' - the groin. Decker *op. cit.* p167. The square and compasses sign is also a fertility cult symbol being a representation of generative organs (the legs of a man over the open legs of a woman).

Templar grew so rich and powerful that the Roman Catholic Church was forced to outlaw the movement and confiscate their lands. Some claim that Masonry emerged from this base, but it is more likely that later Masons merely lifted their ideas and rituals.

- Many Masons believe that their organisation will lead the world into a golden age of utopian development and occult enlightenment [see later].
- Manly P. Hall, a 33rd degree Mason, says that Freemasonry is a mystical, universal expression of the Divine Wisdom. *'The Masonic order is not a mere social organisation, but is composed of all those who have banded themselves together to learn and apply the principles of mysticism and the occult rites.'*⁵⁸ He continues, *'The true disciple of Masonry has given up forever the worship of personalities ... all forms ... are of no importance to him compared to the life which is evolving within ... the true Mason is not creed-bound. He realises with the divine illumination of his lodge that as a Mason his religion must be universal: Christ, Buddha, or Mohammed, the name means little, for he recognises only the light and not the bearer.'*⁵⁹
- *'Masonry is regarded as the direct descendant ... of the mysteries ... of Isis and Osiris in Egypt.'*⁶⁰ And of Babylon and earlier: *'The signs, symbols and inscriptions date from ... the Sumerian civilisations [i.e. those who rebelled against God and set up paganism under Nimrod]... We teach the same grand truths, the same sublime philosophies ... as those adepts of the ancient mysteries taught in their esoteric rites.'*⁶¹
- Freemasonry uses bizarre occult rituals, including drinking wine out of a human skull (30th level of the Scottish Rite).

FREEMASONRY IS WITCHCRAFT

- The rituals of Freemasonry are almost identical to many rituals of Wicca.⁶²
- Many Freemasons were also witches or magicians. For example, the infamous Satanist Aleister Crowley⁶³ was a 33rd degree Mason as was the founder of Wicca, Gerald Gardner. Others include: A E Waite (occult writer), Alex Sanders ('King of the Witches'), Annie Besant (Leader of Theosophy), Dr Wynn Westcott and SL MacGregor Mathers (founders of the Golden Dawn, an influential magic society⁶⁴), George Pickinohill (Grand Master witch of 19thc. England) and many more.
- CW Leadbetter was a 33rd degree Mason and leader in Theosophy with Annie Besant. He wrote showing that initiation into the different degrees brings with it demonic invasion. He even names and describes the demons at each level.⁶⁵
- Albert Pike explains that the light in Freemasonry is the Cabala (Jewish occult mysticism);⁶⁶ and Lucifer.⁶⁷ Hall claimed that much of Pike's writings were taken from

⁵⁸ Manly P. Hall, *The Lost Keys of Freemasonry*, p11-19.

⁵⁹ Hall, op. cit. p64-65

⁶⁰ Robert Freke Gould, *History of Freemasonry*, New York, (1884), 1:13.

⁶¹ Henry C Clausen, *Messages for a Mission*, The Supreme Council 33^o, A&ARFM, Mother Jurisdiction of the World, (1971), p5-7.

⁶² See Decker, op. cit. p164ff. for lists.

⁶³ Crowley was called 'the most wicked man alive'. All his wives and lovers ended up in insane asylums and his son died during a secret ritual. He called himself the 'Beast 666'. His depravity is legendary and includes calling for child sacrifices. He was also a homosexual and a drug addict.

⁶⁴ The Golden Dawn was heavily connected with Freemasonry and even used a Masonic building to meet in early on. This group was said to be the biggest influence in the explosion of modern occultism. Men involved wrote the foundational works on ritual magic and Satanism.

⁶⁵ CW Leadbetter, *The Hidden Life in Freemasonry*, Adyar, Madras; The Theosophical Pub. House, (1928) p326, 334, 336.

⁶⁶ Pike, *Morals And Dogma*, p741ff.

⁶⁷ Pike, *ibid*, p321.

the French magician, Eliphas Levi.⁶⁸ Foster Bailey declared that '*Masonry in its true and highest sense is magical work.*'⁶⁹

- Pike extolled the power and virtues of magic and Satanism. In talking about this power he says, '*It was adored in the secret rites of the [witch's] Sabbat or the [Egyptian] Temple, under the hieroglyphic figure of Baphomet or the hermaphroditic goat of Mendes.*'⁷⁰ Pike speaks much of '*the great work*', which is a universal term for witchcraft, as well as alchemy and Egyptian magic. He says, '*The Occult science of the Ancient Magi was concealed ... it is found ... in the Rites of the Highest Masonry.*'⁷¹
- Each degree of Masonry has its own secret signs, penalties and names. In the 17th level of the Scottish Rite, the Knights of the East and the West have the secret name given of *Abaddon*. In Rev 9:11 this is the name of Satan as the demon king of hell (lit. 'destruction'), the angel of the abyss (Greek: Apollyon).
- Masonry has taken on board many occult symbols: the pentagram, the Baphomet, the pyramid, the 'symbol of Solomon' (Davidic star) etc. For instance, the emblem of the Eastern Star lodge is the inverted five pointed star. This is the pentagram (or 'pentacle', sometimes pictured within a circle), the symbol of the goat of Mendes, the geometric symbol of the demon Baphomet (a form of Satan). This demon is also pictured by Manly P Hall in his book *Dark Secrets of All Ages*.
- The heart of Masonry is communication with demons pretending to be angels of light: '*The Master Mason ... is in communication with the unseen powers that move the destinies of life.*'⁷² J F Newton eulogised the Masonic writer Arthur Edward Waite and commended his books. Waite wrote many books on Black Magic and in one gives instructions for conjuring up '*Emperor Lucifer, master and prince of rebellious spirits.*'⁷³

Freemasonry's purpose is establishing a New World Order

FREEMASONRY HAS PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN ESTABLISHING ANTICHRISTIAN ACTIVITY IN WORLD HISTORY BY DESTABILISING EXISTING REGIMES

- It had a key part in the French and American revolutions which established an atheistic foundation to social life and politics.
- It has played a key part in revolutions in Mexico, Brazil and Italy.
- Masons can cause massive corruption, especially in politics. This is exemplified by the fascist Licio Gelli in Italy, Worshipful Master of P2 (Italy's secret Freemasons - Mussolini banned Freemasons in 1925). Gradually he assumed great power with 900 of the most powerful Masons under his control (including state officers, military heads, politicians, the Prince of Naples and the current Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, then not in politics). His goal was to destroy the country's constitutional order and the national security of Italy was undermined, as well as Western power in the Middle East. Even NATO was forced to support the attitude of corrupt Freemasons in the military. After the murder of Roberto Calvi in London in 1982, the Banco Ambrosiano collapsed, the Prime Minister was forced to resign, and the government brought down. A parliamentary committee was forced to investigate the scandal of a conspiracy to overturn the Italian Republic. The conclusion was that the Masonic order was a criminal secret organisation with links to Juan Peron and the CIA.

⁶⁸ Manly P Hall, *Lectures on Ancient Philosophy*, p413-414.

⁶⁹ Foster Bailey, *The Spirit of Masonry*, p96-98.

⁷⁰ Albert Pike, *Morals & Dogma*, p734.

⁷¹ Pike, *Morals & Dogma*, p639.

⁷² Manly P. Hall, *The Lost Keys of Freemasonry*, p57.

⁷³ Newton, *The Builders*, p59. A E Waite, *The Book of Black Magic*, York Beach, Maine, Samuel Weisner Inc., (1989), p244-248.

- Finney concludes that, *'the institution is highly dangerous to the State, and in every way injurious to the Church of Christ.'*⁷⁴

FREEMASONRY HAS PLAYED A FUNDAMENTAL ROLE IN ESTABLISHING THE USA ACCORDING TO ITS IMAGE

- The US was founded on Freemasonry principles and aided by French Masons.
- The Declaration of Independence was actually written on a Masonic white lambskin apron.
- The Statue of Liberty was financed by Freemasons, sculpted by a French Freemason (Frederic Bartholdi), and commissioned in a Masonic ceremony by the Grand Master of Masons in New York (W A Brodie).
- The laying of the cornerstone of the US Capitol (1793) was a Masonic ceremony with George Washington present in full Masonic regalia.
- Benjamin Franklin was also a Mason, as were other founding fathers.
- Every federal building has been prayed for and set apart by Masons in their ritual and the cornerstones are filled with Masonic artefacts.
- The reverse of the Great Seal of the US is a Masonic insignia of the 'all-seeing eye' (a symbol of Osiris & Lucifer) and also appears on one-dollar banknotes. The eye is atop an incomplete pyramid with the date of 1776 at the bottom. The pyramid is an old occult symbol and 1776 was also the year in which Adam Weishaupt founded the Illuminati (as well as the year of the Declaration of Independence).
- The design (by Masons) of the Congressional Medal of Honour incorporates the Masonic pentagram.
- The streets around the White House are laid out in the form of the Goat of Mendes, the square and the compass, and were designed by a Masonic architect.⁷⁵

FREEMASONRY FOLLOWS A NEW WORLD ORDER AGENDA

- Freemasonry continues to undergird Theosophy, occultism, Universalism, Globalism and the New World Order ideology. The purpose is to bring humanity to a new Utopian dawn in a global shared experience of occult mysticism, expressed in various ways. The New Age Movement is the vanguard of the overt wave of this; Masonry has been the secret supporter for over 200 years.
- Shoko Asahara, founder of the controversial Japanese Buddhist religious group AUM Shinrikyo, prophesied in some of his sermons that *'in the future, Freemasonry will merge into united stream'* with AUM Shinrikyo.⁷⁶
- The reason for its globalism and theological universalism is that Masonry, in reality, is seeking to establish a world-wide religious brotherhood over and above the divisions of world faiths. [This is part of the ancient plan of Satan to prepare for world domination via the 'false prophet' and 'second beast' of Revelation.] To achieve this it must accept the validity of all religions, while leading to a higher, more esoteric meaning (Gnosis) above religion — a truth Masons hope will unite all men in a common universal brotherhood - Freemasonry.
- Clear statements appear in Masonic writings such as Pike, *'the true Royal Secret, which makes possible, and shall at length make real, [is] the Holy Roman Empire of true*

⁷⁴ Finney, op.cit. Introduction.

⁷⁵ For further information see: Decker, *The Dark Side of Freemasonry*, chapter 3; Hancock & Bauval, *Talisman*, and for a synopsis see the article by Alan Morrison, *The Meaning of Freedom*: www.diakrisis.org. Morrison recommends the further reading of: *Proofs of a Conspiracy* by Prof. John Robison, *Secret Societies & Subversive Movements* by Nesta Webster and James Webb's *The Occult Establishment*, and *The Occult Underground*.

⁷⁶ Wikipedia, Article: *Freemasonry*.

Masonic Brotherhood.⁷⁷ The same thoughts are found in Hall.⁷⁸ *The Fraternity itself exists in order to keep fixed on a man a certain set of influences, and in order to bring about certain changes in the world*.⁷⁹

- Henry Clausen, former Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council, says: *'Today we are on the threshold of a new era ... We look forward toward a transformation into a New Age, using, however, the insight and wisdom of the ancient mystics ... This new world view is emerging because there has been a recent correlation between modern physics and the mysticism of Eastern religions'*.⁸⁰
- Thirty-third degree Foster Bailey, husband of Theosophist Alice Bailey, states: *'Masonry is the descendant of the first world religion which flourished in antiquity ... the first unified religion ... such symbols as the pyramids, both in Egypt and South America bear witness ... The ancient Mysteries were temporary custodians ... closely allied to the Masonic work of today.'*⁸¹ *'Masonry is the descendant of ... a divinely imparted religion which long antedates the prime date of creation ... [It] is all that remains to us of the first world religion ... It was the first unified world religion ... Today we are working again towards a universal world religion.'*⁸²
- Masonry is closely identified with New Age practice in that it utilises the same foundational witchcraft and philosophies. This is recognised by the heads of New Age thinking who see Freemasonry as the receptacle of occult mysticism and a universal religion. These figures include: Benjamin Crème, David Spangler, Helena Blavatsky and Alice Bailey.⁸³ Indeed Bailey claims that Freemasonry was created by Lucifer.⁸⁴ The goal of this practice is world domination by means of magic and witchcraft. When the world is ready a New Age spiritual 'Hierarchy' will appear and dominate the world (i.e. demons made flesh - the Antichrist and his government), as Alice Bailey explains, *'In the later stages ... [when there is] the definite restoration of the Mysteries that certain of the senior members of the Hierarchy will appear and take outer and recognisable physical control of world affairs ... [Their purpose is] Creating and vitalising the new world religion. The gradual reorganising of the social order.'*⁸⁵ *'The emergence into the physical plane [of the Hierarchy] will restore on the earth the ancient mysteries.'*⁸⁶ Masonry is working towards this goal; indeed Bailey states that the three degrees of Blue Lodge Masonry correspond to the three phases of man's restoration.⁸⁷

Christian Doctrines Denied by Freemasonry

- The uniqueness and sovereignty of God.
- The Lordship of Christ, God's only Son.
- The virgin birth and incarnation of Christ as the only saviour.
- The divinity of the Holy Spirit.
- The Trinity.
- The need for Christian evangelism.
- The way of salvation.

⁷⁷ Albert Pike, *Morals & Dogma*, p861.

⁷⁸ Manley P Hall, *Lectures on Ancient Philosophy*, Los Angeles, The Hall Pub. Co. (1929), p417.

⁷⁹ H L Haywood, *The Great Teachings of the Lodge*, New York, Macoy & Sickles, (1862), p96.

⁸⁰ Henry C Clausen, *Emergence of the Mystical*, The Supreme Council 33rd Degree, Ancient & Accepted Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, USA (1981), p19.

⁸¹ Foster Bailey, *The Spirit of Masonry*, Kent, Lucis Press, (1957), p30-32.

⁸² Foster Bailey, *The Spirit of Masonry*, p30-31

⁸³ See the quotes from these figures in Decker, *The Dark Side of Freemasonry*, p66ff.

⁸⁴ Alice Bailey, *Initiation, Human and Solar*, Lucis Pub. Co. (1970), p131-2.

⁸⁵ Alice Bailey, *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, p570, 700.

⁸⁶ Alice Bailey, *Esoteric Psychology II*, Lucis Pub. Co. (1980), p649.

⁸⁷ Alice Bailey, *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, p574-5.

- The depravity of man.
- The depravity of Satan and his demonic cohorts.
- The Second Coming and the Last Judgment.
- The means of grace.
- The sacraments.
- Biblical worship of God.
- Separation from idolatry.
- The authority of God's word.
- The requirement to tell the truth and to deal fairly with all people.

Conclusion

It should be crystal clear to readers that no genuine Christian can be a part of Freemasonry and remain loyal to Christ the Lord. All the key tenets (apart from a supposed altruism) are set in opposition to Biblical teachings; but worse is the published fact that Freemasonry's secret goal is the preparations for, and issuing in, of an esoteric, occult kingdom, which the Bible identifies with Antichrist.

Many of the people who established the occult basis of current Masonry were deluded Victorian idealists and mystics who were, no doubt, sincere in hoping for a better society. It is likely that they were not out and out Satanists but saw the Luciferic ('light-bearer') principle as divine light for mankind. When they wrote about harmonising mankind under a global experience of ancient mystery religion, they believed that this mystical principle was the earliest foundation of the current world's religions, and thus would be a means of reuniting a divided humanity. Christianity, consequently, had to be relegated to one of many faiths resulting from these 'original' ancient principles of mystery religion; thus the mix up of many religious ideas and symbols in Masonry⁸⁸. Sadly, they did not realise that if you ignore the true God of the Bible, the almighty creator and upholder of all things, you remove yourself from the only source of truth. Satan then will masquerade as anything to cause delusion. The Bible identifies Satan as one who deceives people into believing he is an angel of light (2 Cor 11:14). If the Luciferic light of the Masons is really darkness, how great is the darkness of submitting to him?

Some folk who write vilifying Masons, treating them all as devil-worshippers, do no one any favours. Most Masons don't know anything of what is revealed in these pages and would be horrified to learn of them. Christians should seek to explain these things as the Lord gives opportunity and seek to save some from the fire before they are too scorched. The truth is our weapon, not vile attacks; *and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free* (Jn 8:32). In the end, it is only the Lord Jesus who can rescue those who really seek him; our job is to explain his salvation to those who will listen.

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BONA FIDES OF MAIN FREEMASONRY SOURCES QUOTED

Frequently, modern Masons will explain away works like this paper and state that the rituals and philosophy is merely symbolic without meaning. They claim that the sources quoted are not representative of mainstream Masonry but are rogue, fringe elements. This is false.

ALBERT PIKE

Pike is the Scottish Rite's highest authority; indeed he authored the current practice. Joseph Fort Newton was a noted Masonic authority, he said of Pike that he was:

*'Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council, 33^o, [who] recast the old Scottish Rite rituals and brought them to their present state of beauty and perfection.'*⁸⁹

The Masonic Text Book states that, *'Brother Albert Pike, one of the most illustrious Masons in all ages, ... was an acknowledged authority upon all Masonic questions,*⁹⁰ Pike was also an honorary member of virtually every Grand Lodge on earth. He is the only Masonic authority to be entombed in the House of the Temple in Washington. There are more lodges in the world working under the Scottish Rite (jurisdiction) than any other.

⁸⁹ Joseph Fort Newton, *The Builders*, Richmond, VA, Macoy Pub. And Supply Co. Inc. (1944), p16a.

⁹⁰ *The Masonic Text Book*, 19th ed. The Grand Lodge of AF & AM of West Virginia (1919), p25.

ALBERT G MACKEY

Is the author of *The Encyclopaedia of Freemasonry* published in 1879. He was Past General High Priest and Secretary General of the Supreme Council, 33^o for the Southern Jurisdiction of the US (covering 35 of the 50 States). His work is considered to be one of the top two authoritative works on Masonry, along with Pikes' *Morals and Dogma*. The section, *Questions and Answers ... pertaining to the symbolism of Masonry*, which appears in the Masonic Bible, was compiled from Mackey's work.

MANLY P HALL

Was eulogised by the *Scottish Rite Journal* as being the fraternity's greatest philosopher.

FOSTER BAILEY

Husband of Theosophist Alice Bailey, was a 33^o Mason and noted author.

Glossary

Alchemy

Came to the West in about the 2nd century, and it flowered in the 4th. The writings of alchemy repeatedly allude to Hermetic philosophy and the legends of Osiris. Claims that it arose in ancient Egypt are disputed. Alchemy taught that metals had magical properties when in alloy forms. The great goal of alchemists was to transmute base metals into gold, a second objective was to find the elixir of life - a liquid which would confer immortality. Alchemy is often used as a figure for spiritual perfection and purity; however, New Agers use it as a term for the Old World order which manipulated the environment.

Animism

The belief that everything has a soul: animals, plants and minerals included. The fear of demons or evil spirits resulting in seeking knowledge or power from certain spirits to prevent harm from other spirits or to guarantee fertility. Witch doctors, shamans and magicians head up tribal actions in this, using spells, charms, potions, trances, dancing, prayers, drugs and such like. Animism is basic occultism.

Baphomet

This symbol of a winged, androgynous, goat-headed demon, was used by the Knights Templar to represent Satan. A torch between the horns symbolises spiritual illumination, so the figure also represents Satan as Lucifer, the light-bringer. Through the ages the symbol has been called many names including: the Goat of Mendes, The Black Goat, The Judas Goat, The Scapegoat. Baphomet represents the powers of darkness combined with the generative fertility of the goat. The symbol is placed on the wall above the altar of Satanic meetings.

Cabala (also Kabbalah, Kaballa, Kabbala, Cabbalah)

Jewish mysticism that began in the 12th century. It is a means of interpreting the law (Pentateuch) according to secret, esoteric knowledge. One of its key techniques is to discover hidden meanings in the words and letters of the Hebrew Bible. Cabala has greatly influenced various streams of occultism and Masonry.

Divination

Fortune telling by one method or another, seeking to know the future. Occult methods include: Tarot Cards, crystal balls, tea leaves, numerology, astrology etc.

Essenes

Mystical and ascetic Jewish sect based around the Dead Sea area in the 1st century.

Fertility cults

The veneration of reproductive energy. Animal, plant and human sexuality is worshipped, often as part of annual the cycle of seasons. Rituals often involve symbols of reproductive

organs and sex: wands, daggers, goblets, cauldrons; some cult ceremonies use sexual intercourse as part of the ritual.

Goat of Mendes

Satan assumes the form of a goat when he presides over the witch's sabbat. The goat's head is a direct symbol for Satan, which is also called a Baphomet figure.

Gnosticism

Gnosticism was a cultic heresy that plagued the early church and was particularly combated by the apostle John. It taught a blend of mysticism and ritual by which leaders imparted a special, revealed knowledge (Greek: 'gnosis') to disciples whereby one escaped this evil world of the flesh to ascend gradually to the spiritual world of God. The adepts thus had their divine spark fanned into a 'god-consciousness' by which they transcended material things (equated with evil) and lived in a spiritual world, which was the only true reality. Rituals included: hymns, repetitive chanting, drugs, meditation, ecstatic experiences and so on. Many aspects were similar to practices now found in the New Age variations. Full enlightenment was by a continual ascent up a never-ending path, requiring constant new experiences of revelation.

Hermetism, Hermetic Philosophy

- THE 'HERMETICA': 1st-3rd century writings of Greek and Egyptian origin concerning the Egyptian god Thoth and the Greek god Hermes (Mercury). They combine Greek philosophy (especially Platonic thought) with Oriental religions.
- 'HERMETIC CHAIN': In Theosophy, the idea that certain highly spiritual people have preserved esoteric teachings and passed them on to the next generation.
- 'HERMES TRISMEGISTUS': In Theosophy, the 'Thrice-Greatest Hermes' (a character in the Hermetica). A combination of the Egyptian god of wisdom (Thoth) and Hermes; a powerful deity who can stop the evil forces in the world.
- 'HERMETIC AXIOM': of Hermes Trismegistus - 'As above, so below'; i.e. the relationship between the earthly heavenly realm; the Platonic concept that the earthly corresponds to the ideal forms of the spiritual.

Hiram Abiff (also called Khir-Om Abi)

The supposed builder of Solomon's temple and hero of Freemasonry. He was murdered during the building work when he refused to share the secrets of a Master Mason. When he was raised from the dead by Solomon, the first word he uttered was used instead of the one that was lost [*Mah-hah-bone*]. This story is called 'The Legend of the Third Degree', where the Master Masonic candidate impersonates Hiram in his initiation ceremony. In the Bible this Hiram (Hiram) finished the work and there is no mention of his death or resurrection. The story of Hiram has more in common with the murder and resurrection of Osiris. This is confirmed by Pike.⁹¹

Isis

Moon goddess and wife of Osiris. She was reputedly a great magician who restored Osiris to life after he was cut up in pieces by his brother Set (Tryphon).

Lucifer (Latin for 'light-bearer')

In the Bible (Isa 14:12), it is the term of judgment for the king of Babylon, but is transferred commonly to Satan by extension, once the chief of God's angels who fell as a result of pride, the 'Son of the Morning'. For Freemasons, Lucifer is a principle or force; a magical agent that can be used for good or evil. The horned god Pan represents this force as a force of generation or fertility.

Magic

The art and science of causing a change to occur in conformity with one's will without any visible change in the environment. This is often done by using spells, rituals or incantations. The summoning up of demonic forces (often thought to be helpful spirits) is done to achieve greater power or knowledge.

⁹¹ Albert Pike, *Morals & Dogma*, p435.

Mother Goddess

The deity worshipped by many modern Witches, especially those in Wicca. She is seen in Artemis (Diana), Aphrodite, Isis, Hecate, Astarte and is the consort of the male god who is usually identified as Pan (the Horned God), or sometimes Lucifer. Pan is also equivalent to Adonis, Apollo, Baphomet, Cernunnos, Dionysius, Lucifer, Osiris, Thor etc. The Mother Goddess represents the moon while the Horned God represents the sun. Witchcraft ceremonies include the resurrection of Pan, who dies each year and is brought back to life. The Mother Goddess is also identifiable with the Earth goddess Gaia of the New Age.

Mystery Religion

A religion which hides its secrets from outsiders. Only the initiated (usually bound to secrecy) learn the doctrines and practices of the group. Very often, junior initiates are kept in the dark about the truths explained to higher adepts.

Mysticism

In essence, mysticism boils down to the belief that God is hidden deep inside man's being as a 'divine spark'. The various forms of mystical practice endeavour to fan this spark into a flame in order to achieve divine union, being lost in God, becoming divine. In mysticism knowledge of God is achieved immediately (i.e. without indirect means, such as scriptures) by spiritual experiences. Mysticism underlies all forms of occult religion.

Neoplatonism

arose after the third century in Alexandria and was developed by Plotinus and Porphyry. It was a system of thought which spurred on mystical ideas in various religions, however, as a model of intellectual methodology, it was utilised by many great Christian theologians such as: Basil the Great and Augustine. Essentially, it was a combination of Platonic dualism with oriental mysticism. God is above being, but revelatory light streams from divine perfection. Existence is a desire for the light hindered by irrational behaviour. The mind can overcome the hindrances of life by meditation or focusing to get a mystical illumination of the divine. This overcomes Platonic duality by direct union of the soul with God. However, there is always a separation of the material world and God; so Christ (as God) could not have a real body of flesh, but only appeared as a phantasm (in Gnosticism this common idea was called *Doceticism*).

Osiris

Foremost Egyptian deity and husband of Isis. In most mythologies, the sun-god is male and his consort is the moon-goddess. Osiris was said to have originally been a king of Egypt who brought agricultural prosperity to the land. He was also king of the Underworld. Pike states that the 'All-Seeing Eye' in Lodges is the symbol of Osiris.⁹²

Occult

Occult means 'hidden' and refers to secret, supernatural or esoteric (mysterious) knowledge. There are three branches of the occult:

1. *Fortune telling or divination.*
2. *Magic or magick* - manipulation of nature to serve one's purpose, usually by casting spells and harnessing spiritual powers; witchcraft, sorcery. [*Magic* without the *k* is sometimes used to refer to conjuring tricks].
3. *Spiritualism* - communing with demons; in the US the word *Spiritism* is more common.

Paganism

Non-Christian, usually polytheistic, nature religion. It usually incorporates pantheism or animism or fertility cults and always mysticism. Often it includes magic and shamanism. It is often similar to witchcraft but without the formal ceremonies, jargon and spells.

Pantheism

The doctrine that God is merely present in nature. This is also called 'Monism' - the notion that God is all and all is God. Matter is an extension of God. Pantheism underlies many

⁹² Pike, *Morals & Dogma*, p477

forms of mystical religion, especially Hinduism. It is a foundational idea within the New Age Movement.

Platonism

the belief in an ideal world of perfect, absolute forms (ideas) which exists above and beyond our changing material world (dualism). Morality must be derived from the perfect eternal principles of the ideal world, not from experience. Thus the body is inferior to the immortal soul, and subject to reincarnation. Everything in the material world corresponds to a key form, or blueprint / matrix, in the ideal world. [This is a simplified breakdown of a complex system of teaching developed by Plato (428-348 BC).]

Rosicrucianism

The secret fraternity of the Rose Cross allegedly founded by Christian Rosenkreutz (1378-1484), but more likely started in the early 17th century. A group teaching mysticism and other esoteric doctrines. It was essentially a blend of various religions, philosophies, alchemy, Hermetism, the occult and Paracelsian medicine. The main source of its teachings is the 'Fama', variously thought to be written by Francis Bacon (1561-1626) or Johann Valentin Andrae (1586-1654). Some think that Rosicrucianism had a direct influence of the beginnings of Freemasonry, certainly it has exerted a strong influence upon Masonic ideas.

Shaman, shamanism

One of the names used to describe practitioners of sorcery – the ability to manipulate or control the spirit world through Black Magick. Other names include: magician, wizard, witch, witch-doctor, warlock (male witch), sorcerer.

Theosophy

an occult movement founded in 1875 mainly by Madame Helena Blavatsky (1831-91) and continued by Annie Besant (1847-1933) and others. Its teachings are: the essential unity of all religions, the brotherhood of man, Hindu pantheism, a Gnostic view of knowledge and deity, Platonism and oriental mysticism.

Wicca

'White' or 'good' witchcraft. Wicca is a modern invention based on old ideas. It was built up mainly by Gerald B Gardner (1884-1964) and Aleister Crowley, who were both Masons. Gardner took the occultism he had learned in Asia, combined it with texts from the West on magic and created a new religion centred upon worship of the Mother Goddess.

Witchcraft

An occult or mystery religion that arose out of the fertility cults of the Ancient Near East. Witches can be polytheists (many gods) or monotheists, but even polytheists admit to a supreme deity. That deity is usually identified as Lucifer and personified as the 'light-bringer', 'the illuminator' or the sun-god. He is not identified as the devil. Not all witches perform magic, but simply worship their deity.