

BOOK REVIEW

Uriel's Machine - C. Knight & R. Lomas

Hardback, 466 pages, £17.99. Published by Century ISBN 0 7126 8007 1.

This is the third book by these authors - The Hiram Key and The Second Messiah were the others. I have to confess that I was not impressed by their previous two titles; while I acknowledge that they were read enthusiastically by many masons and the general public. However, there is a lot in this effort that impressed me. It is subtitled 'The Prehistoric Technology that Survived the Flood', and that is a pretty accurate description of the contents.

Briefly, the authors present evidence that there was a reasonably advanced civilization before the Flood; and that there are echoes of this passed down through the Bible, folklore - and masonic ritual!

First was there a Flood? Evidence is presented that there could well have been two - in both cases caused by comets striking Earth and causing giant waves. Waves many kilometres high. This, it seems is why we have so much evidence of sea shells and the like on the tops of mountains that have been air-bound for millions of years. Sounds logical to me.

What survived? According to Knight and Lomas, what survived was a procedure or 'machine' for reading the heavens in order to help with agriculture. (essential for an emerging civilization).

The 'machine' in question was described in the Bible by the angel Uriel to no less than Moses; the authors, with this information, constructed a working model of Uriel's Machine - and found that it worked.

Although all this might seem of marginal interest to masons, we keep bumping into the likes of Enoch, Rosslyn Chapel, the Druids, the Knights Templar, the Old Charges and what the authors term the 'higher degrees'.

In essence, the authors seek to demolish the traditional theory that civilization as we know it exploded into action some 10,000 years ago. Instead, they suggest that the people of 10,000 years ago were armed, in part with knowledge remaining from a catastrophe that demolished most of a previous civilization. I think they might be right.

Incidentally, and really nothing to do with the main thrust of the book, the authors detail, at the end of Appendix 1, some of their personal ideas of why Freemasonry is not thriving - and what they think should be done to reverse the trend. One idea is pretty controversial. I have passed this information on to the editor to comment if he wishes.

An interesting, informative read.

Jack Chisholm

(The Masonic Publication *The Square* is acknowledged with this contribution)

Ed.. Needless to say, your editor has purchased a copy of the paperback version and is devouring the script at this time before passing it over to the rest of the lodge. "To expand on the comment on Appendix I above, Knight and Lomas have set forth three main challenges to the craft viz.

1. *Preserve the ancient teaching and reinstate the old rituals so that we can learn from the past.*
2. *Attract intelligent and thoughtful young people in the lodges, both male and female, so that they can learn the true purpose of the Order and share in it's beliefs and values.*
3. *Move to a system of authority which is acceptable to today's society. This will involve a change to election rather than appointment.*

(N.B. It is to be noted that one of the most vexed questions being posed on the net in Carpentaria at the moment involves No. 3, where at least one senior Freemason has proposed an exercise of the democratic principle of election instead of appointing the deputies of GM's and Dist.GM's. My paper in the March issue also referred to the outdated system of bureaucracy still plaguing the Craft.
