

Towards World Brotherhood of the Craft

Eric Keith Townsend F.C. Cairns -Gelling Lodge #176 U.G.L.Q.

Fellow Brothers,

In 1920, a book called "The Origin and Evolution of Freemasonry connected with the Origin and Evolution of the Human Race" was published. The author of this book was Dr. Albert Churchward. The final chapter, Chapter X, is titled "*Universal Brotherhood of Freemasonry, the only Effective Means for Permanent Peace throughout the World.*"

This chapter ten is here reproduced in a briefer form for your information.

As Dr. Churchward believed the above in 1920 and I believe the same in 2006, I submit this paper under the heading given by Dr. Churchward, in his very enlightening and detailed book.

Why have I submitted such a paper? I believe that Freemasonry and all of its allied orders and personnel hold the key to either a future balanced and cohesive world or a chaotic one where greed, ignorance and selfishness will predominate; where fanaticism and profiteering will supplant all the good work done by masons in the past. The real treasure chest of Masonry in the present, is the Craft itself, those elderly masons themselves and the knowledge they possess.

These masons, particularly those over 65 years old, are really worth their weight in gold but would not recognise or admit this; probably because of their humility and the fact they are good persons.

In ten years time, how many will be left to pass on their knowledge? How many young potential candidates or present younger masons will be deprived of their helping hand or knowledge of the past?

I believe the Universal Brotherhood at the highest levels must set new global parameters and act now for the good of all; whatever this action must be or cost.

The words of Dr Churchward are loudly ringing the alarm and the global situation warrants all masons to attend meetings and give strength to this decisive moment in world affairs with particular view to the spread and strengthening of the craft.

The decisions at the highest level must be taken and enacted with the number of masons we already have. There is little doubt about the urgency of the matter concerning World Peace and I agree that only Freemasonry can bring it about and forever maintain it under the guidance of T.G.A.O.T.U., Craft organisation and Masonic teachings.

There is no greater religion than Truth and either Freemasonry believes in itself or it doesn't. If you believe in something, you have to stand up for it, otherwise you are guilty through neglect, of its demise.

If World Peace and Good Global Government means anything to the Craft and Free-masons, then real action must proceed now to achieve it; otherwise it will have failed our future children and theirs. [In the Light of Truth and the Bonds of Brotherhood, Love and Light - Bro. Eric Keith Townsend]

(Ed.) Paragraphs have been numbered for the assistance of those making comments on the following paper.

CHAPTER X UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD OF FREEMASONRY THE ONLY EFFECTIVE MEANS FOR PERMANENT PEACE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

1. If the ostensible ends of the Peace Society are ever attained, they will be accomplished by the Universal Brotherhood of Freemasonry combined, as this is the only effective means for *Permanent Peace* throughout the world.

2. The difficulty is one that can be overcome only by the progressive evolution to a higher type of Homo, which is governed by the Periodic Laws of the Corpuscles¹. Thus man, depending on his evolution, will be advanced or retarded by the struggles between individuals and States obeying, or not, the fundamental Laws of Nature. These Periodic Laws of T.G.A.O.T.U. are true and immutable, and although we have dark and degenerate ages, decay and obliteration of erring nations in the world's history, yet we find that evolution of the human race is progressive.
3. Man ought to be ever striving to help the Divine evolution by becoming to the best of his ability well instructed and informed. True education in every sense of the word, with congenial and healthy surroundings and good food, would tend to produce a larger number of series of corpuscles with less inclination to part with one or more corpuscles at the terminal end of the normal series, thus producing a better balanced brain and mind. Civilizations made up of individuals who refuse to travel the road that leads to complete development, and by selfishness and greed reach seeming prosperity, only waste away and die without having grasped the duty of every race, namely, to receive and pass on to posterity the message of truth-these seek to dominate and control the life and conscience of the individual and subject him to tyranny and bondage.
4. If a nation permits a Socialistic, Bureaucratic Government to be set up at its head at this period of the evolution of the human race, there can be only one end; the principle of this kind of government is to augment official power, official members, with undue influence or authority; officials who govern by a rigid and arbitrary routine, causing delay, muddle, extravagance, red tape, corruption and scandalous waste: The people are not given a chance of developing on true human lines-that is to say, the laws of natural evolution of the development of the human race have been stultified; the system of education is to make the individual a unit in the machine of State, and the individual is merely an accessory part, all his best instincts are stifled, only blind obedience and servility being taught.
5. Freemasonry, on the contrary, teaches and inculcates those principles which, if followed, will build character, increase intelligence, foster self-reliance, promote independent thinking, abolish fear, annihilate superstition, spread love and goodwill everywhere; it possesses the highest and truest ethics which the world has ever seen. One of these has been, and is, the unfaltering, courageous and consistent championing of individual life, individual liberty, and individual happiness against the other force of Bureaucracy, which, with equal persistency, is seeking to dominate and control the life, intelligence and conscience of the individual, and subject him to individual bondage and servitude.
6. Unfortunately, many Freemasons have been, and are, assisting in this latter disastrous course, and, if pursued, Freemasonry will become a total failure. The question is whether our Brotherhood has learnt the bitter lesson that has already been taught in the past for the survival and continuation to a higher type of evolution of our race, and, therefore, the continuation of Freemasonry in this country to a higher standard; and for it not to be a failure, Brethren must learn to use, and not work against, those Laws which T.G.A.O.T.U. has given as a guide for our future welfare-the Periodic Laws of the Universe. If we still persist in supporting Socialistic Bureaucracy, we shall become a failure and go under. The penalty of sin is death, and the sin in this case is not only neglect, but actual active operation against the laws of evolution and the universe, which will, and must, lead to disaster and destruction of the British Empire², and, therefore, to Freemasonry in this country. However much some Brethren may differ from me in this opinion, which is founded upon the knowledge of the Periodic Laws of the Universe and the past history of the fall of all great nations, it is a fact, that Bureaucratic Governments, through want of knowledge and ignoring scientific truths, are producing such a state that there can be only one possible end to any country, and to Freemasonry in that country, where such fettered Governments are adopted. Freemasonry will not live in the future to perform its allotted task by simply being a charitable club and good-fellowship:
7. Freemasonry is something more than this. Thousands of years ago T.G.A.O.T.U. gave the old Wise Men of Egypt the written laws for life everlasting, as well as a "doctrine of final things." These the human race has never been permitted to lose, and the foundation of our Brotherhood was built on these solid rocks. Although we have travelled far and long since our "originals" were in existence, and we therefore have many innovations in our Rituals on account of compilers of latter days not understanding the originals, yet the "substance" has never been lost.

8. In these laws not only have we the spiritual side, but our duties regarding our country and fellow-men are laid down as a guide for our future actions. We have the experience, and therefore knowledge, given to us for the causes of the fall of all great nations in the past, and with their fall we know how the learned Brethren of each country were murdered, or driven forth to other countries, there to rise again and form great nations. As long as a nation has continued to follow the Divine and immutable Laws of the Universe, T.G.A.O.T.U. has prospered and assisted that nation to advance to a higher state of evolution. *Wars will never cease until the whole of the human race has attained that higher evolution*; if the lower³ type of man will not progress in the way the Divine Creator has appointed, he will be destroyed. and if one nation which has risen to the highest state of evolution then ignores and acts against these laws, it is acting against T.G.A.O.T.U., and the result will always be the same - destruction and disintegration, and another nation will rise and take its place. Freemasonry, therefore, which has risen to a higher and better state of evolution in this country, is now in the balance. But let no Brother think for one moment that Freemasonry will be destroyed universally as that will never be.
9. If we fail here to perform our allotted task, Freemasonry will progress in another nation and be carried to a higher point in evolution If the Brother who feels he needs further direction in order to obtain a stronger faith and a larger hope will remember the origin, study the laws, carry out these, together with the tenets taught in his Lodge. in his daily life, he need have no fear for the future, but he should make himself acquainted with all the so-called Degrees in Freemasonry, because in the Craft and R.A. Lodges he has only part of the Ritual and his duties unfolded to him; whereas in all the Degrees the duty of man to himself and the world, as well as to all his Brethren, is set forth, and although some of these are apparently of modern origin, such is not really the case : they are but innovations made to supply the part of the " Ritual of the Resurrection of Life"⁴ which has not been known to the modern compilers. It is for the Brotherhood of Freemasons to recognize the Laws of the Universe and follow them as T.G.A.O.T. U. has ordained, if they do not wish to be scattered over the, face of the earth and water again. If the peace of the world and universal brotherhood is to be attained, it will be done through and by Freemasons, and not by *Socialism and Bureaucracy, for these latter are responsible for the destruction of every great nation that has perished, without any exception*, as the past history of the world proves, and are directly opposed to the Periodic Laws.
10. If Freemasonry is not to be a failure, the Brethren must follow and practise those teachings outside the Lodge that they are taught inside. It will not be sufficient to subscribe to the Institutions and be a "good fellow." Freemasonry is more than that. It is the old true religion of the world. without dogmas or sects, and to preserve Freemasonry from failure it must be acted on and taught as such in our lives. If we fail to obey the Laws of T.G.A.O.T.U., we must not complain or be surprised if He destroys us. It would he we have failed, and not Freemasonry or the " Ritual of Resurrection and the Life to Come." That still stands good where it did 300,000 years ago and more.
11. If Masonry needed to be justified for imposing political as well as moral duties on its initiates, it would be enough to point to the sad history of the world. It would not even need that she should turn back the pages of history to the chapters written by Tacitus : that she should recite the incredible horrors of despotism under Caligula and Domitian, Caracalla and Commodus. Vitellius and Maximin.
12. She need only point to the centuries of calamity through which the French nation passed : to the long oppression of the Feudal Ages, of the selfish Bourbon Kings :, to those times when the peasants were robbed and slaughtered by their own lords and princes like sheep : when the lord claimed the first-fruits of the marriage-bed: when the captured city was given to merciless rape and massacre: when the State prisons groaned with innocent victims, and the Church blessed the banners of pitiless murderers and sang *Te Deums* for the crowning mercy of the Eve of St. Bartholomew, and when the Pope's Nuncio and the Cardinal de la RocheAyman. devoutly kneeling one on each side of Madame du Barry. their King's abandoned prostitute, put the slippers on her naked feet as she rose from the adulterous bed. Then, indeed, the people were beasts of burden. Why has France risen again in all her glory ?
13. Because France has seen that man is supreme over institutions, and not they over him. Man has natural empire over all institutions. They are for him, *according to his developments* : not he for them. Man owed it to himself to be free. He owed it to his country to seek to give her freedom and to maintain her in that possession. It made tyranny and usurpation the enemies of the human race. It created a general

outlawry of despots and despotisms, temporal and spiritual. The sphere of duty was intensely large. Patriotism had henceforth a new and wider meaning. Free government, free thought, free conscience, free speech—all these came to be inalienable rights, which those who had parted with them, or been robbed of them, or whose ancestors had lost them, had the right to retake. Civil and religious freedom must go hand in hand. Free government grows slowly, like the individual human faculties. Liberty is not only the common birthright, but it is lost as well by non-user as by mis-user. It depends far more on the universal effort than any other human property. France has to thank Masons for the freedom she possesses now, and France will rise to a higher, freer, and happier state, the individuality and independence of her people will assert themselves, and Freemasonry will flourish in France more than it ever did before in all her history. In her Lodges she has recognized T.G.A.O.T.U., but she has obliterated for ever the Church dogmas. And what of Italy? The trite tale is the same Rome, more intolerant of heresy than of vice and crime, came to fear the Templar Order. It has always deemed philosophical truth a dangerous heresy, and has never been at a loss for a false accusation to try to crush free thought.

14. One has only to mention all the persecutions that the Brotherhood have suffered from Rome. But they have at last risen to be a free and independent people, with Masonry as the foundation of their faith. One has only to consider the teachings of Masonry. In the whole teachings there is not a single false principle of ethics, there are no fetters to break. Science and Masonry *are necessary to checkmate the secret and well-understood effort now being made to gain control of and to subvert the original purpose of our dearly-won freedom*,
15. From the dawn of civilization to the present moment, two active and opposing forces have been engaged in deadly conflict over the destinies of human intelligence. One of these Freemasonry, has been the unfaltering, courageous, and constant champion of individual life, individual liberty and individual happiness. The other has, with equal consistency and persistency sought to dominate and control the life: intelligence and conscience of the individual, and subject him to individual bondage and servitude. The one has dignified and emphasized the individual intelligence and appreciated its value, both to itself and to society. The other has persistently ignored the great fundamental fact in Nature that the individual in his own right, as such, is vested with certain indefeasible attributes and certain inalienable rights, privileges and benefits which must be respected. The profound philosophy and science locked up in the symbolism of Freemasonry has come down to us from the Eschatology of Ancient Egypt. It was the common bond and the religion of the human race all over the world 300,000 years ago. Through the dark ages of the last 5,000 years its temples had been thrown down, its blazing star had been eclipsed, and the old Brothers had been put to fire and sword; but Freemasonry has risen again, its Brothers have fought for the freedom of the world, and that great stronghold of Freemasonry, the United States of America, joined the Allies to fight for right, justice, morality, truth, and freedom for humanity from tyranny and oppression⁵.
16. The Masonic force to-day finds its nucleus for a universal undogmatic and unfettered manifestation in our world-wide Institution. Against this there is another force, its field of operation being in an organized body that seeks to maintain itself without regard to the largest measure of individual liberty and enlightenment. Upon one side stands an Institution that has from time immemorial and through a succession of ages' given light to all its votaries. Upon the other side are entrenched Socialism and Bureaucracy, an organization that champions ignorance, superstition and fear, and that dominates and controls the reason and conscience of its communicants.
17. How many of the Brotherhood throughout the world are working, truly trying to carry out the duty that is morally imposed upon them as Freemasons, to attain this higher evolution of the Brotherhood and the human race?
I say unto every Brother, of every clime and of whatever creed, that this is a duty which devolves upon him by the Laws and Tenets of our Order.
18. Let all those who doubt me attend the full Ceremony and Working of the Ritual of the 4° - "The Secret Master"—and those other higher Degrees which unfortunately in many places are "confirmed" on the Brother and not worked *in extenso*.

- 19 I believe that this is the reason and cause why many Brothers do not know or comprehend that this duty is taught and imposed upon them as Freemasons. But let that be no excuse for a Brother; he should make himself acquainted with the whole Ritual of Freemasonry and the meaning of the same. If this were done, it would be a convincing proof of that which I write.
20. The unfortunate attitude observed by the governing bodies of Grand Lodges renders a closer union of a universal Brotherhood for the government of the world, and obviously universal peace, still remote. But, Brethren, this will come, because there are many Freemasons who are working out the destiny and will of T.G.A.O.T.U. to this end. Because we have many Brothers at the head of our grand Institution who are ignorant of the origin and meaning of our Ritual, even unacquainted with many parts of the whole Ritual of Freemasonry and the working of the same, that is no reason why we should despair or be downhearted.
21. Will those Brothers who govern the Craft seize this opportunity (in these I include all the Grand Lodges of our Empire and those of all our Allies)?⁶ And I say such an opportunity for unity and the discussion of such world-wide problems which have now arisen may never occur again. Alas! I am afraid we shall look in vain to those who govern the Craft and to whom we are told to look for guidance and direction; we shall have to wait for more enlightened men-men who do not set their faces against the very laws they are supposed to support and uphold. Brothers, these are strong words, but it is the truth, we want truth, and truth always. Let Brothers judge my words after attending the full working of the 4°. That part of the Ritual alone is proof of what I have written. But Brothers are beginning to take more rational and comprehensive views of our Ritual. We are not; we cannot in the nature of evolution of things be, what our fathers were: we are no more like the men of one hundred years ago, there is a change, and at present a very bloody change, taking place. This change does not end in nothing; therefore see you guide that movement which you cannot stop. Fling wide the gates to that force which else will enter through the breach. Then will it still be, as it has been hitherto, the peculiar glory of our Constitution to add to our titles of glory the noblest and purest ethics of the attainment of universal peace. Men are apt to deride what they do not understand, and the ignorant, being aware of the weakness of their minds, condemn that which they ought most to venerate.
22. And what is there to prevent the combination of a Universal Brotherhood who will say, "There shall be no war now, or at any future time"? Nothing that could not be easily overcome. There should be, in the first place, One *Grand Lodge* for every country. However many Provincial or State Grand Lodges there may be, it would not matter provided they were all under the jurisdiction of the One Grand Lodge of that country.
- 23 Secondly, no Lodge shall admit any Brother who does not profess to believe in T.G.A.O.T.U., and no Lodge shall be included in the Universal Brotherhood which does not acknowledge T.G.A.O.T.U. To do so would at once shatter the corner stone of the very foundation upon which the Brotherhood has been founded, and to which it owes its existence— not only now, but from its very inception 300,000 years ago. The very foundation of Masonry is the belief in T.G.A.O.T.U. and an after-life, which we know does exist; if, therefore, materialists were admitted, the whole structure on which it has been built becomes a foundation of sand only. We at once do away with the Great Creator of All, and He would do away with us. It has been only because we have believed in Him and kept to His Divine Law that we have prospered and become again a Great Brotherhood.
24. Therefore, if each country formed One Grand Lodge, holding jurisdiction and alliance over their Provincial or States Grand and other Lodges, it would not be difficult to arrange for all "Grand Masters," with a certain number of G.O's., to meet at given intervals and decide the best method of procedure..
25. I think if the U.S. of America would follow what I have suggested (supra) and form One Grand Lodge for the U.S., representing all other States' Grand and other Lodges at once, it would be a great inducement for other countries to do the same, and one of the principal difficulties would disappear. It would be founded then as on the principles of the G.L. of England. If this union of the Brotherhood were accomplished, and I see no reason why it could not be quietly accomplished, it would be worth all the navies and armies in the world, and universal peace could be insisted on for all time.⁷

26. The *majority* of Freemasons know nothing really of what Freemasonry represents. To them it is a charitable Brotherhood, a kind of semi-religious social club. There are others, however, who are striving to learn and to know their conscience tells them that there is something more in this great, wonderful Brotherhood than charity and social club, which holds them together in one firm bond. Let them continue their studies. Light will be given them. But nothing comes to him who does not work and strive to gain knowledge. The gaining of the true conception of what Freemasonry was and is will strengthen their belief in the Divine Creator, because they will begin to understand His Laws, and, therefore, His wishes; it will further induce them to carry in their daily lives, outside our Temples, and act with regard to their, other fellow-creatures, all those grand principles and tenets that are taught inside the Temples. It will teach them that Socialism, Bureaucracy and *Anarchy* are all tyranny, and must be put down if they wish to attain a higher state of evolution; because all these phases of Socialism are diametrically opposed to the Periodic Laws, which are the Laws of the Divine Creator- and you cannot serve two masters ; you must be true to yourself, to your God, and to man, or you will fail, and ultimately be destroyed morally and spiritually, although probably you may gain much gold but what will that serve you eventually? You are born naked into the world, your material life is very short, only a few years at most, and then what for eternity? I tell you all, my Brothers, because after forty years of hard study I have been permitted to know and learn these Divine Truths, both as regards this material world and also the Divine Laws of the Spiritual and Everlasting State, and I therefore write for you the TRUTH.
27. If the League of Nations be formed, *that will not prevent the repetition* of the " Great Horror" in fifty or one hundred years hence, although it would be an excellent work and might have the desired effect for many years. But no guarantee as such " an international combination" could last one hundred years. The Treaty, and even the action, of the League would be treated as " a scrap of paper " or be broken, because the necessary cohesion of all nations could not exist so long on that alone. Greed and other interests would overcome the weakest.⁸
28. Whereas with the Brotherhood it will be for ever growing in strength and insuperable ; there are no opposing principles or interests; all the ties would be strengthened and become firmer. There could be no divergent opinions or interests in any way or any form. Our Laws have been laid down for us from the first, and these are God's Laws. There would always be the one great sacred tie for the life here and hereafter, for the good of all the Universal Brotherhood; this would be an imperishable bond, with every link forged of the sacred " Ba metal," unbreakable and untouchable as long as this world lasts.
29. Now all should unite in one great river and amalgamate in the " Pool of Universal Brotherhood" to erect amidst the waters that "Great Lighthouse " which has been so long required to brighten the dark and turbulent sea of humanity, so that they may travel in their " Barque of Life " for ever in Peace and safety. Brothers, do not be deceived into thinking that cultivating a regular attendance at rehearsals, memorizing the Ritual, paying visits and feeling that by the degree of culture to be obtained through painstaking adherence to these practices you may hope not only to become familiar with the forms and routine of the Lodge, but also to be enabled with confidence to make a speech- is Freemasonry; unfortunately, this, in brief, is the limit to be obtained according to the views of many Brothers, and also this is in accordance with the modern tendency to regard Freemasonry from an external standpoint, with the result that a false value is placed on perfection of ceremonial and individual adeptness. Viewed in this light, our Brotherhood can hardly be said to differ from a charitable and social debating club, or any other gathering where harmony and self-improvement are cultivated.
30. This is not Freemasonry, and the little rivers that follow this course will flow in the desert sand and be lost there.
31. I have given you the origins, evolutions and meanings of the Brotherhood of Freemasonry, and I trust I have inculcated in your brains the great Divine principles you have inherited from your old Ancestors- a priceless gift ; and it rests with you- every individual Brother- to assist and carry out the great truths and principles with which you are so well acquainted, and to assist in forming that "one great Universal Brotherhood again," which once existed thousands of years ago, for procuring the Peace of the World, and as His servants and instruments establishing a higher evolution of Humanity, as T.G.A.O.T.U. has decreed.

32. But, mark well, that Universal Brotherhood cannot include members of the Craft who do not believe in T.G.A.O.T.U.
33. *It cannot include all those members of the Craft who support those who practise tyranny and oppression. and all those who seek to dominate and control the life., intelligence and conscience of the individual and subject him to personal bondage and servitude so vividly depicted in Socialism and Bureaucracy.* There can be no compromise between these and the Brotherhood who are fighting for freedom for the human race, for their self-reliance, their independent thinking, their individual liberty and happiness, and the spread of love and good will everywhere, for that higher evolution and that freedom without which true Brotherhood amongst men could not survive. To compromise with such would at once destroy the very fundamental principles upon which Freemasonry was founded. Against such it is our duty to fight, to destroy their very existence as pestilent evils to humanity; there cannot be any association between the two, it would be as incomprehensible and incompatible as the blending of good spirits with evil ones.
34. No, Brothers; we must be true to our obligations, true to our principles of morality, true to all our tenets, and ever fight against those evils which impose tyranny, thralldom of body or mind, and oppression in every form. Thus acting, we can assist as His servants and instruments in raising the poor human to a happier and higher state of evolution, and once more become the great governing body throughout the world for this end as of old, for 300,000 years, before Socialism and Bureaucracy destroyed it.
35. The ethics of Freemasonry teach the gnosis to obtain the everlasting Spiritual Life, which ethics were first promulgated by Taht Aan in *The Ritual of Resurrection of the Egyptian Book of Life*, and these have been carried down through the past ages of time by the so-called Speculative Freemasons, time and circumstances being the causes of substituting the innovations in place of those fragments which have been lost; or as yet have not been found; and the inability of the compilers of our present *Ritual* to understand the Hieroglyphic and Sign Language in which the *Ritual* is written. That *Ritual of the ' Resurrection, arid the Life to Come* still stands good to-day as it did 300,000 years ago or more.

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1. Probably a reference to corpuscular philosophy, dealt with earlier in Churchward's book, and which is described in the Encyclopaedia Americana. The student may wish to explore this aspect further, However, briefly, it may be regarded as an ancient form of Atomic Theory, which today we know follows strict laws based on the ionization of all substances.(Ed.)
 2. It is noted that, while the British Empire is now non-existent, its successor, the Commonwealth survives, built somewhat upon, from all reports, the Freemasonry in the members of the British Commonwealth.(Ed.)
 3. Refer to paragraph 4. 'lower' in this context, would scent to be those lower in the bureucratic scale. (Ed.)
 4. e.g. the third degree.(Ed.)
 5. & 6. This book was written soon after the end of World Wan I. the war to end all wars". Much of the thrust of the book is devoted to this context in time. (Ed.)
 7. The recent emergence of fundamentalist Islam would seem to put it spoke in the author's aims. As with all religions. the fundamentalist teachers preach intolerance. [Ed.]
 8. The WWII successor to the *League of Nations* viz *The United Nations* has in fact been little more successful than the former. Perhaps the jury is still out in regard to its effectiveness to prevent wars. (Ed.)
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Towards World Brotherhood of the Craft Part II

**Bro. Eric Keith Townsend M.M.
(Cairns - Gelling Lodge #176 U.G.L.Q.)**

This article follows on from that published in the Lectern Vol. 16 No. 4 of September 2006.

As a means of introduction to this PART II, I quote directly from the previous article viz Part I " I believe that Freemasonry and all of its allied orders and personnel hold the key to either a future balanced and cohesive world or a chaotic one where greed, ignorance and selfishness will predominate; where fanaticism and profiteering will supplant all the good work done by masons in the past. The real treasure chest of Masonry in the present, is the Craft itself, those elderly masons themselves and the knowledge they possess.

These masons, particularly those over 65 years old, are really worth their weight in gold but would not recognise or admit this; probably because of their humility and the fact they are good persons.

In ten years time, how many will be left to pass on their knowledge? How many young potential candidates or present younger masons will be deprived of their helping hand or knowledge of the past?

I believe the Universal Brotherhood at the highest levels must set new global parameters and act now for the good of all; whatever this action must be or cost."

Concept 1. The Grand Lodge of Australia

Each country should establish a National Supreme Lodge to which all lodges in that country are subordinate, and which could represent it internationally. Each existing lodge should be run as it does at present but the various State Grand Lodges should allow for the establishment of the National Lodge and allow the ability of each lodge through the National Lodge, to have a voice internationally.

For Australia, the National Grand Master and his officers are to be elected in a way that the lodges of the country as a whole decide (e.g. Grand Lodge of Australia officers could be chosen by officers of the various State and District Grand Lodges who then elect the Grand Master). The National Grand Lodge could be situated in present State Grand Lodge premises, for example, in the United Grand Lodge of NSW, 279 Castlereagh St. Sydney. This CBD address is suggested as the headquarters, as Sydney is the biggest city in Australia and well known internationally. Names suggested for the National Grand Lodge

- Grand Lodge of Australia
- Australian Grand Lodge
- Australia Grand Lodge
- United Grand Lodge of Australia
- Australian United Grand Lodge
- Australia United Grand Lodge
- United Grand Lodges of Australia
- Australian United Grand Lodges
- Australia United Grand Lodge

This is to be the Supreme Authority representing Australian Masonry but each lodge will continue as at present with its individual and independent operative ability.

Some individual Lodges in State jurisdictions could amalgamate, where numbers are too few to manage or can form united area or regional affiliations e.g. 3 or 4 lodges within an hour from each other by car, could rotate monthly meetings, so that all members of an area attend one location each month. This is to give the strength of numbers in attendance and give hope and better assistance to new candidates.

Concept 2. (International Round Tables) It is imperative that in this day and age, each country be represented masonically internationally at biannual world meetings. A suggested name for these meetings

could be Masonic Round Table Conferences. There would be two meetings per year, one in the northern hemisphere and one in the southern hemisphere. The best season to meet would be the respective summers or springs for the reason of comfort and travel. These Round Table Conferences would bring about World Brotherhood in a more coordinated way allowing difficulties being perceived in each country to be aired and solutions found as well as assistance given if required.

Stronger and more experienced National Grand Lodges should help less experienced masonic Grand Lodges to expand and prosper. Financial assistance, management expertise and cooperative projects will assist those needing help thus extending our masonic purpose of bringing peace and harmony to the world; setting up a "World Wide Web" of cooperation and true brotherhood.

The Grand Master and Grand Secretary of each National Lodge would represent that country at Round Table Conferences paid for by contributions from all Lodges in that country. Where the Grand Master was unable to attend, my suggestion is the Senior Grand Warden of the National Lodge take his place. If the Grand Secretary could not go, then the Grand Treasurer might take his place. The suggestion of Secretary and Treasurer is made because these personnel should have the administrative and financial ability required.

The Round Table Conferences should represent World Masonry and from discussions a Global Organisation of viral substance should emerge truly representative of Masonic aspirations and purpose.

A hope of this proposal is that an organisation will be cemented that has power and persuasive effect on the world stage, whose proposals will truly have a lasting effect regarding the obvious problems existing in the world. Some of the problems that are obvious are world pollution, over-population, global warming, health, ignorance and, of course lack of true charity because of selfishness.

These matters may be further addressed in a future paper, Part III.

If Brotherhood, Relief and Truth means anything, we must unite globally with these things in mind. You cannot eradicate malaria, if you let the mosquito that carries the virus, breed. You cannot solve hunger if you destroy the soil. You cannot support democracy if you allow despots to prosper.

Strength as well as kindness is required to allow wisdom to balance mercy. Sometimes, severity is required to balance wanton desire. If we are weak, we achieve nothing. The old saying, 'United we stand, divided we fall', is the purpose behind Masons uniting to attain Global unity, strength of purpose and a strong, sustainable, financially viable organisation through reason and logic. Hopefully better administrative and organisational minds than mine can and will start the ball rolling.

The seed being sown in this article of National Organisation in all countries, international cooperation, assistance and advice, requires fertilising and cultivating to grow into the beautiful sturdy oak tree that is its potential.

Solomon's Temple can be built; Paradise can be regained; but who will help? Is yours the strong and fearless hand required to turn the first spadeful of earth? Do we have the Masonic fortitude to put into practice globally our Masonic principles or will this seed fall on dry land, to wither away through neglect and lack of purpose. The round table may have to be rebuilt. Have we the mettle and the steady hand, the courage to choose and the wisdom to do?

Concept 3. Charity?

I am going to make a suggestion, which some will think this word is lightly used but I say charity starts at home. Charity, you might say, starts in the heart and is given by the hand in the form of money from the pocket. This is somewhat true but again there are those who donate or give for purposes that have little to do with charity.

There is a charity, for the want of better words that has to do with consideration, empathy even love; it even has something to do with mercy. For some reason, Masonic benevolence is deemed unfair if it is given to a mason! It doesn't seem to matter if a mason might have given many years of service!

Somebody told me that, some years ago, Grand Lodge Queensland decided that masonic units in nursing home accommodation and any other Masonic benefit should only be given to a mason on some kind of needs basis and that just about anybody else in the community having never given or having never done

anything to provide the service or accommodation, could reasonably expect to receive favourable consideration before a mason or his family members.

In other words, to give anything, any benefit to a mason or his family would be un-masonic and given grudgingly as a last resort. If charity starts at borne, Masonic purpose is to assist each other (Brotherhood, Relief and Truth) and we are together a united masonic family. What is wrong with rewarding a mason or his family with, as *a priori*, the results of his own dedicated honourable service.

Sure, many masons(or their beneficiaries), will never need the kind of masonic assistance I am talking about, particularly masonic units, Nursing Hon-le assistance and accommodation. Also, many masons in need would be too proud or humble to ask for it even if they were desperate. However, why should we as a Brotherhood deny them or their family members FIRST CHOICE.

The fraternity would be nothing without its individual members. All Masonic brethren are Brothers; shouldn't we help our Brothers? There is a symbol - two knights riding one horse -they carry a flag usually showing a lamb or sometimes a red cross. In the words of an old but popular song,

*Do you think I would leave you dying,
When there's room on my horse for you.
Come up here beside me, I can ride
Just as fast as with two.*

I may have the words a little wrong but Rolf Harris sang it. The two boys grew up as mates, then went to war, one saved the other. Isn't that Brotherhood?

There is nothing wrong with Masons giving charity to Masons. I am not writing this for personal gain hut I want to see every mason and his family members given as much masonic help as possible as a priority. If we make our mates stronger, it will make Masonry stronger and we can serve the wider public better. If we weaken ourselves, our Masonic impact locally and globally will also be weakened; perhaps we will fade away, having given our last piece of bread away and having starved ourselves. Charity!

Let me tell you a story, that you probably all learned at school. The story is called "The Little Red Hen".

The little red hen woke up one morning and decided to bake a cake. First she said, I will need some corn. "Who will help me plant the corn", she asked of all the farm animals? Alas they were all too busy. "Then do it myself", she said and so she ploughed the farm with the help of her chicks and planted the corn.

"Who will help me reap the corn?"

"Who will help me grind the corn?"

"Who will help me make the cake?"

All too busy.

When the cake was cooked by the Little Red Hen, and the beautiful aroma swirled about the farm, all the farm animals were already hanging about the Little Red Hen.

"Who will help me eat the cake?", she said and of course, each of the animals replied, "I will".

The Little Red Hen then said, "No you won't. I and my chicks will eat it!" and they did.

That was fair justice but these days many educators would expect the Little Red Hen to share most of the cake with the lazy animals, foregoing most of it herself. Perhaps they would even expect the chicks to go without as well; this sacrifice on the chicks part, might teach them the rewards of their charity!

When should you give and when should you receive? Is the giving always the receiving? What has happened to the idea of reward for effort, making hay while the sun shines, putting away for the rainy day. Even though Masons (The Little Red Hen), and their families (the chicks) may not ask for charity, don't they deserve it?

Concept 4. Dues !

Everyone must pay their dues, hopefully we also say receive their dues.

I have heard this brother or that brother has not paid his dues, therefore they must be excommunicated until they do. Some brothers may have paid their dues on the dot for fifty years but we have to be fair to all, so you're out brother!

Do we consider the embarrassment or hurt our brother is feeling, the loss of Brotherhood, the gradual isolation from that he once loved to participate in? What are we doing as a Brotherhood denying a brother his Brotherhood? Do you think anyone would deliberately not pay dues if he had the means to do so? I wasn't born yesterday, so I do realise there are some people here and there that might dodge a financial responsibility deliberately but I haven't met a mason yet who would or has. From what I see, most brothers give generously as to their ability to give. If I am naive in this, let any brother in question look to his conscience.

Therefore it saddens me to see a brother "tossed out" because of failure or inability to pay his dues.. This could happen to anyone anytime; strokes, heart attacks, financial misfortune can happen to us all. On the other hand, Masonic Organisation costs money and time. Let us think about the latter word "time". The now unfortunate brother that cannot afford his dues has usually given plenty of time to Masonry, his lodge and the community. You cannot as a lodge buy that time and it was given freely and usually with good heart by the brother.

The lodge will have to spend a lot of 'time' training or teaching the next apprentice. Who will teach the new candidate if there is no one giving his time attending the lodge?

How will the lodge grow if all the old-timers in particular stop attending the lodge; or giving their time which a candidate appreciates and respects? It is obvious we do not want to lose brothers because they cannot afford dues, and to some, this is a real issue.

Therefore I would like to suggest no freemasons are 'tossed out' because they feel they cannot pay their dues. Their Masonic knowledge, time given in lodge meetings, is appreciated, so we should give them the opportunity to pay by donation, whatever they feel they can afford. Any shortfall if occurring, could be made up from the Benevolent Fund, when applied for by the Lodge. We should offer them this hand of charity, as it is not only a proof of True Brotherly Love but it is also beneficial to ourselves to do so. The more brothers attending Lodge meetings, the better, as each brother brings his own unique qualities with him to lodge and candidates are assisted by all.

It would also be a brotherly gesture of respect and appreciation of the brother, if he be in a sad situation of personal health or other disability, that we inform him his dues are fully paid up 'for good' and thank him for his service to Masonry.

No brother should be forced out of Masonry because he cannot pay dues. Strongly financial lodges can offer financial and other support at times to lodges they are made aware of, as having a hard financial time.

This policy could extend to all or any lodges, crossing state boundaries, becoming National Practice; particularly in view of the forming of a Grand Lodge of Australia, which can coordinate difficulties being experienced by various lodges Australia-wide. This would extend Internationally as well as a part of World Round Table Conferences.

Let us each help the other so that all will be united in the true friendship and mateship known as Brotherhood.

Concept 5. 21st Century Technology Versus Fading Memories, Forgetful Feats, Unbearable Efforts.

Please do not even think I am having a go at anybody and that I do not respect and appreciate the time taken and superb efforts made by individuals to remember and recite their lines but does this all need to be suffered in these modern times?

Yes, it does strengthen the individuals resolve when a supreme effort is made to accomplish something. My view is the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft should pass their examinations but should the other lodge officers have to remember their parts? Sure, many find it a fair test of their abilities and are happy to

demonstrate the superb quality of their memories. However, there are many who forget lines, muffle phrases and are embarrassed at their own lack of performance.

There would be many good brothers who shy away from office because the ordeals are too painful for them to carry out. The task for some, particularly the more elderly, sick or disabled, is too much to have to endure.

I envision modernising the Lodges so that the working can be screened, viewed and read by the officers carrying out their duties. The brethren can read the work as well. All would be continually learning the work by reading as well as learning. This overcomes the problem of bad memories, stress and the difficulties of carrying out the various different office duties; the print can be enlarged to help those that have difficulty reading.

I am not saying we can't keep muddling along in some of the lodges as we are but my view is that many of the newer candidates will not seek higher office because they do not have the time to learn these parts. Many of the existing officers of lodges have many years of experience and years of learning the various roles and degrees.

Many of the older brethren came from a time when private time was not so involved with viewing videos, T.V's and computers. The electronic age is upon us and many younger candidates learn or experience by viewing more than rehearsing and remembering. Knowing every word and being able to recite them, is not as important as the individual's sincerity and his ability to understand the working.

Spending long hours memorising words will not achieve as much in these modern times for Masonry as doing the work itself efficiently, with clarity and less stress leaving more time for all to get on with the business of expanding and teaching Masonry. The words can be projected on screens or floor scrolls placed appropriately and read. Microphones that work should be used when officers are speaking; there is nothing worse than trying to follow instructions you cannot hear, if you are one of the brethren, or, trying to understand inaudible mumblings, if you are one of the public on occasions when the lodge is open to the public! Doesn't the lodge have the money or the ability to instal efficient sound systems in the lodges that need them? Where these systems have been installed, why not use them?

All lodges should be updated with suitable electronic equipment, if they are not already so equipped. This is for purposes of training, teaching, recruitment and information sharing. Such electronic equipment should include microphones, speakers,, projectors as well as computerised pictures and other information aids as necessary; all should be of good quality.

We should be able to show, record and study material of interest in our lodges to interest and educate new candidates and the Brethren generally.

Ideally, we should interest lodges state-wide and nationally in each other and exchange pictures and material of interest, even to the extent of attending other lodges electronically.

An exchange between brothers of different lodges Australia-wide on computers and other electronic lodge equipment during lodge meetings would arouse interest between the brethren and assist new brothers to get to know the extent of our Masonic organisation.

International exchange between lodges should occur during special occasions, pictures between lodges nationally and internationally should be screened in the lodge and brothers speak to each other across Australia and internationally. If we invest sensibly in extending our ability to communicate world-wide, interest in Masonry will double throughout the world and more than pay for itself by the recruitment, training, education and the retaining of our fellow brethren. Let each Lodge adopt a "Sister" Lodge nationally and internationally.

Brothers, we must awake and understand collectively the TREASURE that we share, and though keeping our inner workings private, begin to truly share it with the world. That TREASURE is of course MASONRY.

Concept 6 .World Brotherhood

Working towards World Brotherhood begins in the hearts of each of us, as does becoming a mason. We know freedom can only exist through eternal vigilance and maintaining the strength to protect what is yours and that which you love.

Each country needs a Grand Lodge; each Grand Lodge needs to be represented at world meetings (Round Table Conferences) twice yearly. All lodges nationally and ultimately internationally should be able to communicate electronically with each other, particularly visual communication of brethren, their families and communities.

Charity must start with the family, the Masonic Family, Brethren and their families having first choice of any masonic benefits if they should feel the need.. Charity starts at home and will strengthen the masonic family aiding it to be of service to others.

Poor and distressed masons must be assisted to return home to their loved ones should they so desire not be left to their own resources. A mason may desire to return but not be able to either afford the fare or make the journey on his own. For Brotherhood, Relief and Truth to be upheld, this is a MUST.

If that poor and distressed Mason has no home but desires one, if it be in its power materially to do so, Masonry, as a *priori*, must provide him and his family with one. Masonic Units or Nursing Home Accommodation as appropriate can be allotted in such cases. Any poor or distressed Mason must be able to attend lodge at any time with dues waived until he can afford any payment, with assistance given to attend lodge if possible.

Lodges financially strong should assist lodges requiring financial and other assistance. This should apply Nationally as well as Internationally.

One of my oaths was to assist any other mason at all times and in any way possible as long as I was not endangering myself in doing so. if I might put it absolutely directly and bluntly, perhaps the lodge itself should be reminded to do the same.

We might raise millions for public projects, Masonic Units, Nursing Homes etc and provide benevolence in that manner but if we neglect to show charity to ourselves, then we haven't even started to learn what the word means.

Grand Lodges should assist the brethren and their families first, grow strong from within, and demonstrate benevolence to their own as *priori*. When the Great Oak Tree of Masonry grows strong, it can extend its protection and charity to all those who wish to shelter under its generous branches.

If Grand Lodge is accepting government funding on the condition it distribute this funding on a needs basis, the government funding, no matter how much or how tempting, should not be accepted. Government financial grants should only be accepted on an "unconditional" basis. If governments don't like that, let them keep the money. The moment we let government start dictating to us, through our Grand Lodge hierarchy, this is the moment Masonic virtue begins to crumble.

The Church Schools made this same error by accepting conditional government grants and are now basically nearly 'rubber stamps' to State education policies. These schools cannot accept and employ teachers unless they are registered with a State Teacher Registration Authority. Whether the teacher being so employed believes in the school's religious base becomes less and less relevant and whether the teacher is really qualified to teach or not is decided by a State qualification, which in many cases has been granted purely because the teacher has passed a course of education to the current satisfaction of the education body; the standard of pass and the relevance of subjects studied often of doubtful value and quality.

The independence of Church Schools is thus limited as they grow more and more dependent on government financial grants. Churches and church schools should never accept conditional financial grants nor should Freemasonry. Does Masonry need to accept government financial grants? No!

If we have to curtail many of our charitable operations, so be it. The State will have to do the work, provide the money for it and pay those who do it. Governments would soon find a large costly hole to fill if Masonry goes ON STRIKE! The same would occur if Church Schools went ON STRIKE!

If we threaten to sell off all our nursing homes and the masonic units, we do not wish to retain; if we cease running our nursing homes, retirement villages and sell it all to the private market, except those we wish to retain; if we fix up our own problems with the money received housing only our masonic brothers and/or their families; if we make our premises acceptable to the training and retaining of present brothers and the better recruitment of many more; if we invest our monies into our masonic future and its growth of World Masonic Brotherhood, we might better serve Masonry rather than gradually becoming a cripple doing the bidding of various State, Federal and International Governments and their respective temporary cronies.

We can use our knowledge, organisation, investment and management skills to buy and sell for profit on the open market. Building private hospitals, nursing homes and aged care facilities for profit and sale to private operators. We have thus provided the service but do not need government favours or money. We should only build for the good of the communities and only retain property in times of low economic conditions, except for housing Or nursing our brothers and their families, OR we can accept only UNCONDITIONAL FINANCIAL GRANTS.

Will the governments of the day, one day tell us who is qualified to become a Mason as they presently tell the churches who will teach in their schools? No amount of government grant is worth the price!

This matter of accepting CONDITIONAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS OR NOT is crucial to the INDEPENDENCE OF OUR MASONIC ORDER. Once again, CHARITY STARTS AT HOME with our WORLD MASONIC FAMILY.

We cannot afford anywhere to be dictated to by any government, whether well meaning or not. Remember a certain Philip IV 1285-1314,(the Fair) of France tried to dictate to our order. Even at the cost of his life, in the most painful way, one of our greatest brothers, Jacques De Malay would not renege on his responsibilities and obligations! We are, each of us, obliged firstly to the GAOTU and secondly to our order and brothers. We are not responsible to governments although we will live peacefully under them. We do not have to do their work or carry out their responsibilities. We are bound to our freely given oaths and we must keep our collective independence.

Concept 7. Books on which we swear Loyalty and Fidelity arid, Promise Sincerity.

We swear our oaths generally in Australian Lodges on the Volume of the Sacred Law (The Holy Bible) We are told other books can be used as well. In Singapore, apparently there are many books present in lodge on which candidates may swear their oaths.

This is nor a bad thing as it unites all kinds of individuals from different cultures, however, there appears to be an obvious anomaly here. Where any book to be placed in a lodge and to be used for sacred lodge purposes, has within its pages verses which are fundamentally opposed to the intent of the verses in the Volume of the Sacred Law, shouldn't this book be deemed unsuitable for Masonic purposes.

The first requirement to become a mason is to believe in a Supreme Being, whose name is not at point. We call this Supreme Being, the GAOTU.

Islam calls the Supreme Being Allah and this is fine. However, some of the verses in the Islamic Holy Book called the Koran, on which the Islamic brethren would swear within the lodge, state clearly that Muslims should kill non-Muslims (unbelievers). As a non-Muslim, I am an unbeliever according to Islamic brothers. Therefore I can only surmise that they are swearing within the lodge, to kill me.

Now this may not be their intent nor wish but according to their professed belief, it is their obligation. When will this obligation be enacted? A person who is conditioned in a particular way is hard to un-condition. When there is a majority of Islamic brothers in a lodge could that lodge change its *raison d'etre*? Could that lodge become at divergent purposes from its original purpose? May it therefore not be destroyed from within, without a shot fired?

My view is this anomaly can be overcome and that is by removing the offending verses from the Koran used within the particular lodge where it is considered required.

The following verses in the Koran are just a few examples of which I draw attention:

Sürah (Chapter) 2. Verse 191

191. AND KILL THEM WHEREVER YOU OVERTAKE THEM AND EXPEL THEM FROM WHEREVER THEY HAVE EXPELLED YOU, AND FITNAH(DISBELIEF) IS WORSE THAN KILLING. AND DO NOT FIGHT THEM AT AL-MALJID AL-HARÄM UNTIL THEY FIGHT YOU THERE. BUT IF THEY FIGHT YOU, THEN KILL THEM. SUCH IS THE RECOMPENSE OF THE DISBELIEVERS.

Sürah 9 Verses 20-30

29. FIGHT THOSE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE IN ALLAH OR IN THE LAST DAY AND WHO DO NOT CONSIDER UNLAWFUL WHAT ALLAH AND HIS MESSENGER HAVE MADE UNLAWFUL AND WHO DO NOT ADOPT THE RELIGION OF TRUTH [I.E. ISLAM] FROM THOSE WHO WERE GIVEN THE SCRIPTURE -[FIGHT] UNTIL THEY GIVE THE JIZYAH(TAX) WILLINGLY WHILE THEY ARE HUMBLLED.

30. THE JEWS SAY, "EZRA IS THE SON OF ALLAH"; AND THE CHRISTIANS SAY, "THE MESSIAH IS THE SON OF ALLAH". THAT IS THEIR STATEMENT FROM THEIR MOUTHS; THEY IMITATE THE SAYING OF THOSE WHO DISBELIEVED BEFORE [THEM]. MAY ALLAH DESTROY THEM; HOW ARE THEY DELUDED?

Sürah 9 Verse 73

O PROPHET, FIGHT AGAINST THE DISBELIEVERS AND THE HYPOCRITES AND BE HARSH UPON THEM. AND THEIR REFUGE IS HELL, AND WRETCHED IS THEIR DESTINATION.

Sürah 9 Verse 111

INDEED, ALLAH HAS PURCHASED FROM THE BELIEVERS THEIR LIVES AND THEIR PROPERTIES [IN EXCHANGE] FOR THAT THEY WILL HAVE PARADISE. THEY FIGHT IN THE CAUSE OF ALLAH, SO THEY KILL AND ARE KILLED. [IT IS] A TRUE PROMISE [BINDING] UPON HIM IN THE TORAH AND THE GOSPEL AND THE QUR'AN. AND WHO IS TRUER TO HIS COVENANT THAN ALLAH? SO REJOICE IN YOUR TRANSACTION WHICH YOU HAVE CONTRACTED, AND IT IS THAT WHICH IS THE GREAT ATTAINMENT.

Sürah 47 Verse 4

SO WHEN YOU MEET THOSE WHO DISBELIEVE [IN BATTLE], STRIKE [THEIR] NECKS- UNTIL, WHEN YOU HAVE INFLICTED SLAUGHTER UPON THEM, THEN SECURE THEIR BONDS, AND EITHER [CONFER] FAVOUR AFTERWARDS OR RANSOM [THEM] UNTIL THE WAR LAYS DOWN ITS BURDENS ETC. (There are literally dozens of verses which exhort the believer in Islam to fight and destroy the unbeliever)

This is a serious danger to Freemasonry. In fact there should be a world-wide movement to point out, through tact and diplomacy, these offending verses to the Islamic leadership all around the world, including Australia, with the aim of having them permanently removed. When any reprint of the various Koran publications occur, they should be reprinted minus the verses which are of a major offence and danger to all non-Muslims. Until or unless these verses are removed, the Koran should not be allowed in a masonic lodge and it certainly should not be allowed to be sworn on as a sacred book for masonic purposes.

The candidate MUST be aware of this before being considered for candidature and MUST freely agree to swear on the amended Koran which no longer contains several verses. If the would-be candidate cannot agree to this his candidature would not be considered.

Present Islamic Masons should then be re-sworn on the amended Koran after the matter has been explained to them as diplomatically as humanly possible. If they will not swear on the amended Koran in a new brief ceremony within the lodge, their memberships as Masons should be terminated with the explanation that the

two holy books, the Koran and the Holy Bible are incompatible as the Koran stands at present. They should be told that no mason has objection to them being masonic brothers as long as we are all brothers and that should they, at some future date wish to swear on the amended Koran, within the lodge, they will be heartily welcomed back.

The real issue is, where is our first allegiance? My first allegiance is to GAOTU and my masonic brothers. If an Islamic brother's first allegiance is to Islam, as it is presented at the moment in the Koran, then there is a distinct possibility of a huge problem in future years for the Craft if there is a confrontation of religions brought about by fanatical Islamic followers. If the Islamic brother is freely prepared to swear on the amended Koran as should be the case, if his heart is in the right place, there should be little difficulty with the change.

The problem should be faced now as 'better late than never' certainly applies to this case.

If there are any words found to be in the Old and New Testaments that purport to the killing of Islamic Brethren, these words should likewise be removed from our sacred Volume of Law to show True Brotherhood is at Heart. It should be shown to our Islamic Brethren that we have freely removed them., 'For they were made of Old and New Love Has Come.'

Perhaps as a temporary measure, a general statement might be sworn on, indicating that any offensive words have been considered removed.

A suggested amendment to the 'obligations' is as follows:

I, (name in full), make my Oath upon this Holy Book (or other chosen Work), believing the intent of this Sacred Work is to form a true and loving relationship between all humankind irrespective of colour, race, religion or creed; I will uphold as *a priori*, that all persons are born equal, that equality of opportunity is a right of all and that True Justice by all and each to each and all is the natural birthright of every individual.

I make my Oaths on this Sacred and Holy Book (or other chosen Work), believing only Love and Light shall Reign Supreme, forgoing any selfishness of thought and any self-righteous belief in personal or collective supremacy.

To the World, I grant and devote my best and honest intentions, selflessly and in the greatest sincerity for the Universal Good, Honour, Respect and Love of all.

This dedication has been sworn freely and in Good Conscience, in the Light of Truth and in the Bonds of Brotherhood, Love and Light.

N.B. This can be used, regardless of the Holy Book sworn on or that Work used, which is considered sacred to the individual if a Holy Book is not used.

Concept 8. Temples or Meeting Centres

To be forced to call our meeting places, Masonic Centres is another nail in the masonic coffin. Apparently we have been ordered to so call our meeting places Masonic Centres because some of the religious sects complained that we called our meeting places Temples.

Why have we buckled to this 'moaning' of any religious sect? We can call our centres Temples if we wish. This would have been the case from time immemorial, so why change now to placate the 'moanings' of particular groups and try to be popular with whoever complains. We are what we are and should stand proud so to be. I will always refer to my meeting place as my Temple, whether that be in a lodge, in my heart or my mind.

Is the change in order to accept money in the form of government handouts; are we appeasing those in various authorities or what? I know some think it better to avoid argument, disenfranchisement or unpopularity about a name; after all, would a rose smell any different if called by another name? No, but why once again should 'others' dictate and endeavour to weaken that which is strong within many masons. Although my heart is my Masonic Temple, wherever I meet with my masonic brethren, there shall be my physical Masonic Temple.

The name Masonic Centres should be reversed to Masonic Temples. These Temples should be considered sacred places and be revered for the blood, sweat and tears that has gone into building, maintaining and loving them. I can go to a squash centre, a shopping centre or a sports centre anytime. I can only attend a Masonic Temple if a brother or if invited.

Concept 9. GAOTU., GGOTU, GOD, SUPREME BEING or WHO?

Collins Cobuild English Dictionary for Advanced Learners Major New Edition 2001.

Religion: 1. Is a belief in a God or gods and the activities that are connected with this belief, such as praying or worshipping in a building such as a church or temple.

2. A religion is a particular system or belief in a god or gods and the activities that are connected with this system.

How can anyone say we are not a religion? Does it matter that we call God the Supreme Being and refer to him as the GAOTU or GGOTU? NO!

We are a religion, even if many are pragmatic about it, ashamed or scared of it for the sake of popularity. I have seen candidates kiss the Volume of the Sacred Law. Are they religious and bent on fidelity to the GAOTU or are they faking? Doesn't look like faking to me!

There is a saying: "There is no religion greater than Truth!" What then about Brotherhood, Relief and Truth!

Do we deny we believe religiously in Truth? Many of our worthy brothers have died in an attempt to keep to it as best they can make it out to be. Do we not believe in a Supreme Being? What is God, if not a Supreme Being? There are billions of people in the world who believe in God by various names, therefore in the Supreme Being: if we wanted to be popular, is it more popular to be called a religion or not to be called a religion? I leave this answer up to you but popularity shouldn't come into it!

I personally do not care whether we call ourselves a religion or not, although I truly believe we are a religion, but it struck me as odd when I heard a Grand Master recently on a Masonic occasion open to the public explaining to the public gathered there within a Masonic Temple that Masons do not believe in God and that we are not a religion. Who was he trying to impress: Was there any need to say it at all? Perhaps we should explain ourselves better to the public; that we believe in the making of a better world for all through selflessness, good works and the application of reason; that we acknowledge the equality and respect of all, regardless of race, colour or creed, that we endeavour to build and develop the divine man within and that we look to guidance of the Supreme Being, whom we all call the Great Architect of the Universe, to bring about Good Governance through Good Conscience, Love and Light.

To neglect to do so, don't you think this might be another nail in the masonic coffin?

10. Conclusion:

In the words of Dr Albert Churchward as quoted in my previous article Part I,

"Man ought to be ever striving to help the divine evolution by becoming, to the best of his ability, well instructed and informed."

However much some Brethren may differ from me in this opinion, which is founded upon the knowledge of the Periodic Laws of the Universe and the past history of theft & of all great nations, it is a fact, that Bureaucratic Governments, through want of knowledge and ignoring scientific truths, are producing such a stale that there can be only one possible end to any country., and to Freemasonry in that country, where such fettered Governments are adopted. Freemasonry will not live in the future to perform its allotted task by simply being a charitable club and good-fellowship:

The Masonic force to-day finds its nucleus for a universal undogmatic and unfettered manifestation in our world-wide Institution. Against this there is another force, its field of operation being in an organized body that seeks to maintain itself without regard to the largest measure of individual liberty and enlightenment. Upon one side stands an Institution that has "from time immemorial and through a succession of ages" given light to all its votaries. Upon the other side are entrenched Socialism and Bureaucracy, an organization that

champions ignorance, superstition and fear, and that dominates and controls the reason and conscience of its communicants.

How many of the Brotherhood throughout the world are working, truly trying to carry out the duty that is morally imposed upon them as Freemasons, to attain this higher evolution of the Brotherhood and the human race?

I say unto every Brother, of every clime and of whatever creed, that this is a duty which devolves upon him by the Laws and Tenets of our Order,"

IN THE LIGHT OF TRUTH

AND

IN THE BONDS OF BROTHERHOOD, LOVE AND LIGHT.

Bro. ERIC KEITH TOWNSEND

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