

# DORIC LODGE NO. 140

## *Masonic Education Committee*

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this documentary evidence will suffice with no further need to continue in time consuming research. According to historical accounts, operative Masonry seems to have sprung up in almost all the continents of our ancient world. It is difficult to determine if the appearance of the Craft had an origin in one particular place or appeared simultaneously in individual continents. The discovery of plane geometry by the inhabitants of different areas of the globe would account for the lack of ancient records which may have had written evidence that a specific group of Masonic builders travelled to the far reaches of this earth. The interpretations of the symbols we currently use in our Craft are no different than the ones used by operative Masons of antiquity. The ancient builders of China, India, Babylon, Egypt, Greece and Rome had a common denominator. They possessed the wisdom to record their history for posterity. Other races reveal their building skills and the use of geometry by the archeological discovery of magnificent and complex edifices, however, no record of their accomplishments have ever been found. There is also compelling evidence that these ancient artificers met secretly in order to teach their chosen newcomers the art and science of building. They also chose certain individuals for promotion based on their skill to perform tasks on an upper level. Above all, they also met secretly to pay their adorations to their Deity. Historical accounts show that Masons in each of these countries and/or continents merged their scientific building skills with the religion of their country. It is no wonder that our Order is religious in nature.

A Master Mason seeking the truth must feel the desire in his heart and therefore labor intensely to receive it. The lesser truths will always lead to the greater truth. The journey towards finding what one seeks is not a difficult one if perseverance is utilized. When a man absorbs a certain amount of knowledge through vigorous effort, a change in his outlook and behavior in life will take place. His compassion for the less fortunate will be enhanced and he will do battle against any form of ignorance befalling man. This is called an experience which brings us closer to our Deity - The Grand Architect of the Universe.

*So Mote it be*

**Charles Rodriguez - Chaplain**

**Short Talk  
on  
"The Search for Truth"**

## *The Search for Truth*

In our quest for knowledge, we are confronted with many obstacles in our journey and search for the truth. It becomes frustrating when we find ourselves arriving at a "fork on the road" during this search, and become indecisive as to which way to proceed. This scenario is true for all those in pursuit of an answer they are seeking. Human experience being what it is will ultimately guide us in the direction we must take in order to reach what we conclude to be an answer to our inquiries. The question that arises is whether or not the conclusion reached is one that will satisfy our mind as to the validity, reality and factuality of the answer arrived at. Searching for the truth on something we read or are told, requires diligent study of written as well as orally made statements. This includes checking the references made by authors and/or speakers on their subject matter. The emphasis made on a topic by a writer or speaker, will more than determine the applied references he uses and that will insure the strengthening of said topic. This holds true if their are records that can be scrutinized and studied, but if their aren't written records, the only other way is to search for any and all types of evidence that is relevant to the subject matter. In any case, the seeker of information that wishes to assign validity on written or spoken words, must be prepared to differentiate between something that is factual and real as opposed to speculation.

Motivation is the key in our continuing search for more and further light leading to the achievement of knowledge and understanding. It is a mind set brought about by our thoughts and beliefs. Together with feelings and emotions, it leads to behavior. If the motivation is a positive one, the consequences will more than reward us by making us better persons among the world populace. Freemasonry is not dogmatic in any sense. If anything, it propagates the cultivation of the human being through the study of the arts and sciences. The result of obtaining the knowledge and understanding of ourselves and our fellow human beings ultimately leads to caring for one another. A member of our Craft is considered wealthy when he has reached the level of intellectuality of those before him.

It is the accumulation and sum of many truths that equals divine truth. Once we learn how to determine whether subject matters written in a book or presented by a speaker are meant to be factual or speculative, the search for validating the same is facilitated. By having advanced knowledge of the type of reference documents we need

said validation and authenticity can be concluded. As mentioned above, if the references to any works or discourse is not in document form, then it is up to the researcher to reach a logical conclusion based on collected evidence. It is this approach that is used today by scholars of many fields. An example of an attempted validation on the origin of our Craft is the conclusion reached by authors and historians that Freemasonry derived from the Knights Templar. The Templars contributed much to our current ritual, but not anymore than other ancient religions and/or mystery schools. When scholars from different countries agree on an element of history, that portion of history is taken to be true. We can come to the same conclusion as to the validity of the Regius Poem and the Cooke Manuscript. These manuscripts contain the necessary rules that both Masons and a Lodge should follow in order to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and perpetuate continuity and growth of Lodges. In addition, both these manuscripts agree as to when the Craft arrived in England. These documents are in agreement that Masonry arrived in England during the reign of King Athelstane. According to historical records found in England, the year of this arrival was approximately in 630 A.D. At this time, King Athelstans was proud of the skills possessed by these newly arrived builders. The extent of this pride led him to become a member of the Craft himself.

It has been agreed by historians and scholars that the Knights Templars were born as an Order on 1118 A.D. in Jerusalem. When we compare the date of Masonry arriving in England to the date of the formation of the Templar Order, it becomes obvious that our Craft did not originate from the Templars. However, it must be pointed out that when Templars arrived in Scotland shortly after their persecution, they had already been practicing rituals that they assimilated from other secret societies including Masonic rituals used by the builders that had been contracted to build their castles and fortresses. As mentioned above, there is no doubt about their contribution to the rituals we now use in speculative Masonry, as are the contributions made by the Teutonic Knights.

The above mentioned example somewhat reveals what can be accomplished by the utilization of historically accepted bonafide documents to support or reject an argument. In this case, the argument made that Freemasonry was created by the Knights Templars does not carry support because of the inconsistency of the