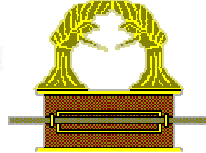




THE WORKMAN



Teddy Hammack, Grand High Priest

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California

January 2011

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year Anniversary plaque. It will be the second 150 year plaque I have presented this year. They have quite a celebration planned; more will come out at a later date so put it on your agenda.

Remember the CRUISE.

Fraternally,

Teddy G. Hammack
Grand High Priest

YORK RITE CRUISE

Up to this point in time 17 cabins have been reserved. The next release of cabins will occur on January 31st, so cabins may still be available. But if the type you would prefer is not, or if you need help with the online processing, call Rosalie at 510-581-8234, and she will be happy to help. It is important to act now, if you wish to go on this trip, which is a Fundraiser benefiting Royal Arch Philanthropies.



Five days leaving from San Diego, CA, on Sunday May 1, 2011 and sailing to Vancouver, BC, Canada on Friday May 6, 2011

GHP MESSAGE

Companions:

Marianne and I hope you had a joyous and restful holiday season. We enjoyed being with family and friends, and of course our Blue Lodge Christmas party.

We have made the turn and are heading for home in our year of service as your Grand High Priest this year. What a ride it has been so far. We have met many of the Companions and their ladies who for various reasons are no longer able to attend Grand Sessions. What a pleasure to see the love in their faces when we visited their Chapters. Royal Arch Masonry is truly special to all of us in the Grand Chapter Family and will never be forgotten by us.

The next major function coming up for me will be at Stockton # 28 in March when I present their 150

Day	Destination	Arrival	Departure
1	San Diego		05:00 PM
2	At Sea		
3	At Sea		
4	Astoria, Oregon	08:00 AM	05:00 PM
5	Victoria, B.C.	12:00 PM	11:59 PM
6	Vancouver, B.C.	08:00 AM	

Cruise Line: Holland America Line
 Ship Name: Westerdam
 Group Leader: Rosalie Woergoetter
 Email: yourhappytrails@sbcglobal.net
 Contact Phone: 510-581-8234

Accommodations: Log on to www.yourhappytrails.net, click on the “Groups” tab at top of the page and click “View Details” to select one of the four cabin options and make your deposit of \$300.00. The final payment is due February 7, 2011. (Please note: Use Firefox or Explorer as Google Chrome may not open “Details”). Cabins range from \$842.98 to \$1,342.98, double occupancy. \$25 per person will be donated to the York Rite Philanthropies.

THE SYMBOLISM OF THE VEILS

By Dennis Dyer

This article has been adapted from an AMD paper presented by Dennis Dyer in 2010.

Freemasonry has been often described as a system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols. An allegory is a story within a story, as in Milton’s Paradise Lost, Gulliver’s Travels, and the Hiramic Legend. A symbol is a thing that represents or stands for something else, especially when a material object represents an abstract concept. In Masonry we are surrounded by symbols, and yet we rarely seem to try and look beneath the surface for the abstract meaning. We look, but do not SEE the moral lesson intended – let him see who can see, and let him hear who can hear.

Such is the case with the symbolism of the four veils of the Royal Arch Degree. These veils allude to the four principal tribes of Israel, whose emblems were the Lion, the Ox, the Man, and the Eagle. Let us look a little deeper than the obvious meaning seen by the majority of Royal Arch Masons. The same four creatures are present throughout the Bible, Old and

New Testaments alike. They appear in “Ezekiel’s Vision” and again in the Book of Revelation.

Further symbolism of the four creatures is noted by Edward R. Graham in his book “The History and Symbolism of Royal Arch Masonry”. The four signs of the Zodiac are associated with these creatures, the Lion (sign of fire) representing LEO; the Ox (sign of Earth) representing TAURUS; the Man (sign of Air) representing Aquarius; and the Eagle (sign of Water) representing SCORPIO. In addition, biblically it has been said that the four principal Banners have the following associations:

Dan: Blue- Friendship- Eagle- Gospel of John- Passage through the symbolic degrees

Reuben: Purple- Union- Man- Gospel of Matthew- Mix of spirit and emotion

Ephraim: Scarlet- Zeal- Ox- Gospel of Luke- Patience and Self-Control

Judah: White- Purity- Lion- Gospel of Mark- Cleansing from Sin

The signet of the Royal Arch represents TRUTH and its possession indicates one is in search of Divine Truth. The names Jeshua, Zerubbabel and Haggai are emblematic of the complete Man, consisting of Body, Soul and Spirit. Passing the fourth Veil symbolizes that one is entering the Holy of Holies, where abides the perfect Man of divine truth. The four creatures are represented on church portals and apses as surrounding Jesus.

According to Mackey, the Veils present obstacles to the neophyte in his advance to the most Holy place, where he may receive spiritual illumination and be invested with the true Divine Name. Mackey summarizes by saying that passing the Veils represents the laborious, but at last successful, search for TRUTH. Hence, with a little effort we can now “see” or understand that the Veils, which we casually observe as Chapter ornaments, actually hold great significance – if we are prepared spiritually to receive the messages.

To conclude, www.masonicworld.com offers the following about the meaning and purpose of Freemasonry: Although Freemasonry is in essence a ceremonial method of approach to Truth, the meaning and purpose of its ritual is but little understood by the majority of our brethren. Many

brethren treat the Lodge as a mere social club with quaint little rituals and costumes, rather than a hallowed shrine of wisdom in which the deeper mysteries of nature and of life are unveiled to the earnest seeker. We forget the third grand principle of Freemasonry of search for the truth and the study thereof. ... Freemasonry has been transmitted to us through the operative guilds of the Middle Ages; has a spiritual lineage traced back to the ancient mysteries which is found in the heart of every great religion of the world including Christianity. The goal of the study of the mysteries was deification, where man was led step by step from the ordinary life of the world until finally raised into the conscious connection with the Almighty.

THE LODGE ROOM OVER SIMPKIN'S STORE

By Lawrence Greenleaf

Grand Master of Masons in Colorado, 1880

The plainest lodge room in the land was over
Simpkin's store,
Where Friendship Lodge had met each month for
fifty years or more.
When o'er the earth the moon, full orb'd, had cast her
brightest beam
The brethren came from miles around on horseback
and in team,
And Ah! what hearty grasp of hand, what welcome
met them there,
As mingling with the waiting groups they slowly
mount the stair
Exchanging fragmentary news or prophecies of crop
Until they reach the Tiler's room and current topics
drop
To turn their thoughts to nobler themes they cherish
and adore
And which were heard on meeting night up over
Simpkin's store.

To city eyes, a cheerless room, long usage had
defaced
The tell-tale line of lath and beam on wall and ceiling
traced.
The light from oil fed lamps was dim and yellow in
its hue
The carpet once could pattern boast, though now
'twas lost to view;
The altar and the pedestals that marked the stations

three
The gate post pillars topped with balls, the rude
carved letter G,
Were village joiner's clumsy work, with many things
beside
Where beauty's lines were all effaced and ornament
denied.
There could be left no lingering doubt, if doubt there
was before,
The plainest lodge room in the land was over
Simpkin's store.

While musing thus on outward form the meeting time
drew near,
And we had glimpse of inner life through watchful
eye and ear.
When Lodge convened at gavel's sound with officers
in place,
We looked for strange, conglomerate work, but could
no error trace.
The more we saw, the more we heard, the greater our
amaze
To find those country brethren there so skilled in
Mason's ways.
But greater marvels were to come before the night
was through,
Where unity was not mere name, but fell on earth like
dew,
Where tenets had the mind imbued, and truths rich
fruit age bore,
In the plainest lodge room in the land, up over
Simpkin's store.

To hear the record of their acts was music to the ear,
We sing of deeds unwritten which on angel's scroll
appear,
A WIDOW'S CASE--Four helpless ones--Lodge
funds were running low--
A dozen brethren sprang to feet and offers were not
slow.
Food, raiment, things of needful sort, while one gave
loads of wood,
Another, shoes for little ones, for each gave what he
could.
Then spake the last: "I haven't things like these to
give-- but then,--
Some ready money may help out" and he laid down a
ten.'
Were brother cast on darkest square upon life's
checkered floor,

A beacon light to reach the white--was over
Simpkin's store.

THE CLOTHES LINE

Like scoffer who remained to pray, impressed by
sight and sound,
The faded carpet `neath our feet was now like holy
ground.
The walls that had such dingy look were turned
celestial blue,
The ceiling changed to canopy where stars were
shining through.
Bright tongues of flame from altar leaped, the G was
vivid blaze,
All common things seemed glorified by heaven's
reflected rays.
O! Wondrous transformation wrought through
ministry of love--
Behold the LODGE ROOM BEAUTIFUL!--fair type
of that above.
The vision fades--the lesson lives--while taught as
ne'er before,
In the plainest lodge room in the land--up over
Simpkin's store.

A line of Jackets for our York Rite bodies continues to be available at MP. ENTERPRISES. The price for red and blue is great -- \$75.00 plus tax and shipping, for sizes 34 to 49 in short, regular and tall; and \$87.00 plus tax and shipping for sizes 50 to 60, also in short, regular, and tall. Purple Jackets are little more expensive at \$95.00 for the smaller and \$107.00 for the larger. Also available are Men's and ladies' vests, tuxedos and shirts, pins, patches, and flags, and OES T-Shirts. Contact Patsy Baker Luy at her office: (510) 527-5728, or cell: (510) 502-3224; or email at maxluy@hotmail.com.

ENCOMPASSER

By the time you read this the **January 2011** edition of the Encompasser will be available on the website. Go to <http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org> and click on The Encompasser on the left hand toolbar. Advance information about Grand Sessions 2011, with Registration and Souvenir Program Ad forms, is now available. And additional details on the Cruise are also printed in this new edition. And information about the Grand Commandery Easter program is also included

GRAND CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIPS

If you have the resources, please consider making a significant donation on behalf of our Masonic Youth. Send any excess cash (!) to the Grand Chapter Scholarship Program at 801 Elm Ave, Long Beach, CA, 90813.

Remember that all donations to the Scholarship Program are Tax Deductible, so keep this in mind as you plan your annual giving and when you pay your dues.

PETITIONS

New petitions and brochures about the Chapter are available on the website at:

<http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/royalarch/royalarch.htm>

Simply scroll down to the lower half of the page.

GOLDEN STATE RESEARCH CHAPTER

The Research Chapter hosts a website at: <http://www.goldenstatechapter.org/>, which is well worth your while accessing.

The Research Chapter has also prepared a publication of the Grand Orations and Vesper Services message given at the Grand Sessions in April. Copies were distributed at the meeting and are available for a suggested \$5 donation by sending a request to the High Priest.

For information about membership, contact

ARTICLES FOR THE WORKMAN

Junior Past Grand High Priest Phil Hardiman will continue to edit this newsletter. If you have items of interest, especially pictures of Scholarship presentations, please send them to him at philipandnancy@aol.com. Copies of the Newsletter can be downloaded at the Grand York Rite website: <http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/royalarch/GHP%20Newsletter.html>.

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GRAND HIGH PRIEST ITINERARY

13-Jan	Imperial Valley	Reception, 760-352-8487
March 2011	Stockton	150 th Anniversary Presentation

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