

How God Made the Mason

In January we began this series of thoughts with a single 'Living Stone'. I now have shared enough of my Masonic thoughts to have a small pile of stones....and tonight I want to add one more. Allow me to tell you a story of how God made the Mason...at least from my point of view. In the silence of Heaven the order of creation was envisioned and set in motion according to God's own divine plan. As I'm sure you are aware, there are reasons for everything that exists. These reasons have defied the close scrutiny of the 'intellectuals' of every age. Since the world was created according to God's program – it's God's will, and not the will of man, that will prevail.

When God made the Mason, He chose a man. The angels wept....and then inquired of God why He had chosen a man over a woman, when she is more loving, more tender and caring. God said that the Mason has to play a finite and very trying role in life...and therefore the Mason had to be a man.

The first thing that God gave the Mason was the volume of the Sacred Law to be the rule and guide of his faith. HE instructed the Mason to search it, commit it to memory, and live by it so that he will be better equipped to help God accomplish HIS designs. After convincing Himself that His instructions were properly received, HE gave the Mason the Square and Compasses.

The angels, of course, knew the reason for the Volume of Sacred Law, but inquired of God, why the Square? Why the Compasses? God replied that the Square and the Compasses form an important part of the working tools that the Mason needs to perform his work. The Square reminds a Mason that he has to regulate his life within the bounds of morality and virtue; the Compasses, were to be used to circumscribe his desires and keep his passions within due bounds, ultimately toward all mankind.

Then, to prevent further interference from those inquisitive angels, God explained the use and meaning of the other tools and paraphernalia HE gave to the Mason. To remind them that God gave all his children just 24 hours in the day, HE gave the Mason a 24 inch gauge which he was taught to divide into three parts – a part for service to God and his distressed worthy brothers, a part for his usual vocation, and a part for refreshment and repose.

The common gavel was given for the Mason to divest his heart and conscience of all vices and superfluous things of life. Yet another tool was given to the Mason in the form of a plumbline, to remind him to pursue the honest and upright course in life.

God handed him a white and spotless lambskin apron to be the identifiable badge of a Mason. Emblematic of purity, it's to remind him of the unblemished purity of life and rectitude of conduct. HE then mandated that the Mason be given, and practice FAITH, HOPE and CHARITY. God told the angels that BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF and TRUTH are the principal tenets of his profession, with TEMPERANCE, FORTITUDE, PRUDENCE and JUSTICE to be known as the cardinal virtues that he will inculcate.

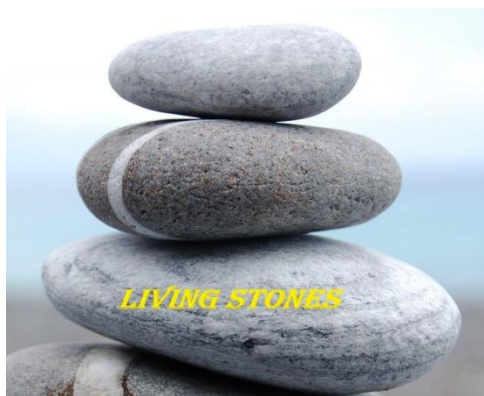
God stayed late that night, as he was prone to do, working to add a couple of finishing touches to His creation. He endowed the Mason with a benevolent heart, a firm and authoritative voice, complete physical limbs, and keen eyes and ears to see and hear everything. And before HE gave HIS final blessing, God reminded the Mason to be calm and tolerant, to adjust himself and progress with the changing times, but never to alter or amend the distinguishing landmarks of his most honored profession.

Lastly, God gently held the Mason's chin, looked deep into his eyes and said "Go forth in peace, and be a good and faithful servant of your Father". And as if it were the postscript to a hand written letter, just as the Mason was about to depart from home to start his mission in life, God stopped the Mason, took him by his shoulders and gave him tears.

Now, smiling with confidence, and with a slight twinkle in HIS eye for a job well done, God turned to the angels with raised eyebrows and said, "Now, are you satisfied that the Mason I have created can love, and be as tender and as caring as a woman"? The angels bowed their heads, smiled and in one thunderous voice that shook the rafters of Heaven, replied "AMEN"!

Brethren, that's my version of the story of how God made the Mason. Let us hope that as Craftsmen, we will never fail to set forth the plans and designs of the Great Architect of the Universe, and we will be worthy and deserving of all His blessings.

I have been working in the 'Quarry' for 42 years, some of you have been here longer than I, and perhaps some are just beginning your journey as a Mason. But if you are like me you will discover that we all have 'work' to do; be tolerant and benevolent to all the Brethren.....after all, we are all working on that temple not made with hands. And God said...'AMEN !'



Living Stones - Masonic Thoughts for Today's Mason
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