

The First Round - A Commentary on Faith and Trust

By Bro. Marc Decorte

The recent lectures by W. Bro. Rob Lund on the veiled meaning of the Degree rituals has provided us with a platform to begin a dialogue on these deeper meanings, how they resonate with the individual, how they may create new opportunities for us to consider, and reflect upon our own Masonic experiences. It is just this opportunity I would take, and encourage others to contribute as well.

As a Mason, I describe my experiences as my Masonic journey. I began this journey many years before being initiated into the craft. For some time, I have been interested in world religions and history, and had pursued these interests as a layperson, usually just skimming over philosophies or eras out of curiosity rather than a quest for knowledge. I have not had formal training, or education in these areas but I have always kept myself busy with reading and considering new ideas. As my readings progressed, I began to discover new and alluring paths of interest. As I followed these paths I became aware that many of our western myths and stories have a common theme and allegorical structure with many other religions and ancient civilizations. It is that inter-connectedness that guides my interest now. Discovering how our western folklore, stories and characters have similarities with others, I believe, may provide some insight into our own questions regarding our faiths and religions.

It would seem that our different beliefs and faith structures often create barriers for people to explore new concepts. To re-interpret our texts is to change our history. But as we have seen recently with new technology, archeology and research, our understanding of history is changing all the time. The common themes, however, remain. The search for truth; the human quest for enlightenment; and discovering in ourselves, a deeper meaning and understanding of our faiths, beliefs and purpose.

Searching for our own deeper meanings in this life means beginning with a “leap of faith”, so to speak. As we know faith is an important element within our societies, we have built social constructs that employ this model of trust or faith. We place faith in the people who guide and instruct our communities. There are places of worship to fortify our beliefs and to explore their mysteries. Places of gathering and community to exchange ideas and develop new models of life, leisure and government. Places of commerce to create opportunities of investment and return. We use trust in businesses, with capital interests. We trust in spirit, by “having trust or Faith.” in God, our neighbours and in ourselves.

By employing trust in our everyday lives, either with our family or friends, or in matters of business, we create the mechanism or foundation for our faith. By practicing trust we are practicing faith. By helping one another and by investing in that ideal, I believe we can experience the tangible reality of that trust. That “Leap” of faith becomes more of an extension of faith, and having faith or trust in one another gives us real everyday results. We can achieve win/win agreements, we can benefit on both sides of a goodwill gesture, by lending a helping hand, for a job well done.

For all successes and worthwhile endeavors in life, we must strive to attain them. Some may come easier than others but all require preparation and practice. As masons, we know the value of practice. As humans we inherently know the value of trust.