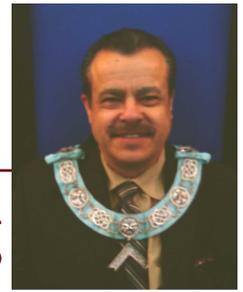




From The Chair



Our Lodge is Growing

Brethren,

I'd like to start by acknowledging, first of all, our visitors from Kilwinning 64: W. Brother Jonathan Barker and his entourage of brethren from London. We had an excellent evening of friendship and Brotherly love with the visitors from our sister Lodge in London.

Secondly, I wish to acknowledge our very own Bro. Phil Horrigan for, once again, having gone the extra mile on the dinner (you've outdone yourself once again Brother Phil).

Thirdly, to our newest initiates Bro. Kevin Young and Bro. James Low for their excellent performance on their Initiation. It was a privilege to be the initiating Master of such fine candidates.

Earlier in March we initiated Bro. Yovany Morett and Bro. Nebojsa Stanojevic.

To all our new Brethren: Welcome to the family.

Finally Brethren, I, along with your-

selfs I'm sure, am looking forward to a few new Master Masons being Raised in April and May. The following brethren are scheduled for these significant events:

- Bro. Tihomir Dimitrov
- Bro. Raul Cobas
- Bro. Keith Thomson
- Bro. Adam Louro

All are very well prepared candidates to become Master Masons.

Sincerely And Fraternally,
W. Bro. Joe Lisi
Worshipful Master



Who is Yovany Morett?

At our Emergent Meeting in March, Yovany Morett was initiated in Masonry.

Yovany originally comes from Cuba, and makes a living as a network engineer—currently working at Data Centre Configuration in Fujifilm Canada.

He has a wife and an 18 month old son, and likes everything related to cars and computers. He currently lives in Mississauga.

Welcome Brother—we hope you enjoy your Masonic journey.



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Special points of interest:

- *What's been happening*
- *Educational Articles*
- *Book Review*
- *What's coming up?*
- *Esoteric meets Science*
- *Recipe*

The Alchemical Keys to Masonic Ritual by Timothy Hogan

This is the first book which establishes a direct link between the rituals of Freemasonry and the practice of both chemical and spiritual alchemy.

Albert Pike understood that the symbolic degrees of Freemasonry contained alchemical secrets, but he never put the whole pattern together nor showed how. This book shows these connections for the first time. This book is a must for any Freemason who wants to understand the secret meanings behind Symbolic Craft Lodge ritual.

Timothy Hogan is an author and lecturer within the Western Mystery school tradition. He is a Past Master within several different spiritual and initiatic traditions, including many bodies in Freemasonry (AF&AM) and of Rosicrucian lineages. He is the current Grand Master for the Ordre Souverain du Temple Initiatique (a Knight Templar lineage), and he runs CIRCES International. Timothy Hogan has lectured all over the world in both public and private venues, and has appeared on numerous television programs world wide. He is also author of: *The 32 Secret Paths of Solomon*; *Revelation of the Holy Grail* (written under the pen name of Chevalier Emerys); *Entering the Chain of Union*, and he is author of *Novo Clavis Eso-*

terika. He has also written for several periodicals over the last decade, including *L'Initiation*, *Ariadne's Web*, *Living Stones Magazine*, the *New Equinox Journal*, the *Scottish Rite Journal*, and *Heredom*.

Alchemy is or was a science that took a substance of lesser value and, by a physical process, transmuted it into something of a greater value.

Timothy Hogan describes the basic processes in alchemy and provides its terminology. Many of these terms are reflected in the symbols of Masonic ritual, to a surprisingly large degree and, even more so in Scottish rite Masonry,

He states that freemasonry incorporates symbolism from sacred Geometry and ancient teachings, such as the Kabbalah. Alchemy drew on this same symbolism.

I was sceptical before reading this book, but the number of connections was enough to make me give this book a lot

more attention.

While this is a very short book, at fifty pages, it will prove very interesting to all Masons.

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The Alchemical Keys To Masonic Ritual BY TIMOTHY HOGAN



Did you know.....?

- Gordon Cooper, in his Mercury space capsule, carried a Masonic coin and a blue Masonic flag on his 22 orbit flight, which he later presented to his mother lodge.
- Warren G. Harding (29th US President) was initiated on June 28, 1901 and it took him 19 years to complete the other two. He died in office after a short illness - perhaps only completing his Masonic journey prior to his final voyage.

Ecclesiastes 12 by W. Bro. Rob Lund

In a previous article, I wrote about the meaning of Psalm 23, which is used in some American Masonic ritual. In the third degree of the Ontario working, a part of Ecclesiastes 12 is included from the King James version:

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain: In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened, And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of musick shall be brought low; Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets: Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

Some Masons may have given thought to this passage to try and understand it. To others it may be too cryptic. It is a poem that is about realizing that we will all grow old, and we will all die.

I provide below my own interpretation.

Give thought to the Creator now, while you're young. Don't wait until bad times or until you grow old: when you have no pleasure in life anymore, when your sight starts failing and you can't distinguish the sun from the moon or blue skies from grey; when your hands tremble from weakness or are bowed with infirmity, and you cannot chew because you've lost your teeth; when you cannot see out the window; when your neighbours don't want your company anymore; when you don't sleep for long; when you grow deaf and cannot hear music anymore; when you are afraid of height, or obstacles; when the hair turns white, and when food has little taste; when you cannot carry the lightest objects; when you have no libido; and your friends and neighbours have been buried; or you lose your mind or the brain doesn't work anymore; or the heart starts to fail. Then, the spirit is released from its bodily vehicle, and the body becomes dust and is returned to the earth again, and the spirit returns to where it came from.



The Five-Pointed Star

By W. Bro. Rob Lund

I was asked recently about the significance of the five-pointed star, or pentacle, in Masonry. The person asking me had seen it on the regalia of a Grand Lodge officer. I was surprised at myself for not being able to provide an immediate answer. Of course, I then set out to find out more about this mystery.

The five-pointed star, pentagram, or pentacle, also known as the pentalfa by the Pythagoreans, is an ancient symbol having a great many symbolic and mystical meanings in many cultures and organizations. The pentagram is a polygon (as shown in the jewel above), while the pentacle is drawn by five straight lines (as shown below in the Pentacle of Moses).

In ancient Mesopotamia, it was symbolic of imperial power.

To the Egyptians, Greeks, and Pagans, it represented the underworld.



Used by the Christians until medieval times, it was a secondary symbol of their faith, and represented the five wounds of Christ on the cross. This is also in use by the Rosicrucians.

To the Jews it , represented the Pentateuch—the books of Moses.

To the Pythagoreans, it represented perfection because it incorporates the number 5.

Hermeticism refers to the Star of Hermes which was meant to brighten the path for seekers of light.

It can provide the Golden Ratio, used by Architects for designing perfect proportions in buildings, and it may have been used by Stone Mason guilds.



Continued on page 4

Links

- **Lodge Website:** kilwinning565.com

This site has back issues of the newsletter

- **District Website:** www.torontowestmasons.com

Educational articles can also be found on the District web site

An inverted pentacle is considered “evil” by some - as a symbol of Satanism, although this is a relatively new idea—it was interpreted as such by Eliphas Levi in the nineteenth century.

So, what about Freemasonry?

In perusing the rituals of the three degrees, I found only two references to a star that is shown in the lodge as five-pointed (I am discounting the reference to the seven stars). In the first degree,

the candidate is shown the star in the centre of the mosaic pavement, where it is a symbol of Divine Providence. I have read that this is meant to be a six-pointed star. In the third degree, there is reference to the bright morning star. This relates to Venus, which has a relative path, over forty years, that traces out a five pointed star.

So there you have it.



Bobotie - recipe by W. Bro. Rob Lund

I would like to present the national dish of South Africa.

Ingredients:

1 Kg ground lamb or beef	2 medium onions, sliced thin
2 Tbsp vegetable oil	1 Tbsp curry powder
1 tsp turmeric	2 Tbsp vinegar, or lemon juice
1/2 tsp each salt & pepper	1 Tbsp sugar
6-12 blanched almonds	2 bay leaves
1 slice white bread (3 cm)	6 lemon leaves, or bay leaves
2 eggs	1 cup milk
2 cups water	1/3 cup raisins, or dried blackcurrants
3 Tbsp fruit chutney or fruit relish	Grated rind of 1 lemon

Method:

Soak the bread in the milk then squeeze dry. Set the milk aside. Chop onions and fry in oil until golden, then add curry powder and turmeric. Fry for about 2 minutes, stirring continuously to prevent burning.

Add the vinegar or lemon juice, sugar, salt, and pepper. Crumble the meat into a pan with the water and cook for 5 to 8 minutes, until browned.

Combine the meat, bread, and onion mixture, 1 egg, raisins, chutney or relish, 2 bay leaves, and lemon rind, and pack into a greased casserole or baking dish.

Cover and bake in preheated oven at 350 deg F for 90 minutes.

Remove from oven and insert the almonds and lemon (or bay) leaves (standing upright) into the meat. Combine remaining egg with milk (top up to 1 cup of the mixture). Pour the mixture over the meat using the back of a spoon. Ensure that meat is all covered.

Return to the oven and bake uncovered at 300 deg F for another 30 minutes, or until the egg mixture is set and browned.

Remove the lemon/bay leaves.

Serves 6.

Serve with chutney or relish on yellow rice (see below).



Yellow Rice

Ingredients:

350 g Basmati rice
50 g butter
1/2 cinnamon stick, or 1 tsp ground cinnamon
6 cardamom pods, shelled and seeds crushed (optional)
1 tsp turmeric
5 Tbsp sultanas (white raisins), or raisins

Method:



Combine all ingredients into a large saucepan with 1/2 tsp salt and 500 ml water and heat until boiling and butter is melted.

Stir, cover, and leave to simmer for 6 minutes. Take off the heat and leave, still covered, for a further 5 minutes.

Fluff up and tip into a warm serving bowl.

Upcoming Events

- Apr 6—Wardens' Association
- Apr 10—Installation: Runnymede 619
- Apr 11—Installation: Connaught 501
- Apr 11—District divine Service
- Apr 15—Installation: Mount Moriah 727
- Apr 16—Lodge of Instruction
- Apr 26—Official Visit: Chinquacousy 738
- Apr 29—District Meeting

Everything Is Connected

By W. Bro. Rob Lund

Theosophy, the ancient and ageless wisdom teachings, the perennial philosophy, the Divine Wisdom, also known as the Secret Doctrine, teaches certain basic principles. One of these principles states that: *the universe, and all that exists within it, are one interrelated and interdependent whole; every existent being, from atom to galaxy, is grounded in the same universal life-creating Reality; this Reality reveals itself in the purposeful, ordered and cyclic processes of nature, and in the deepest recesses of the mind and spirit; this Reality is all-pervasive, but can never be summed up in its parts, since it transcends all its expressions.*

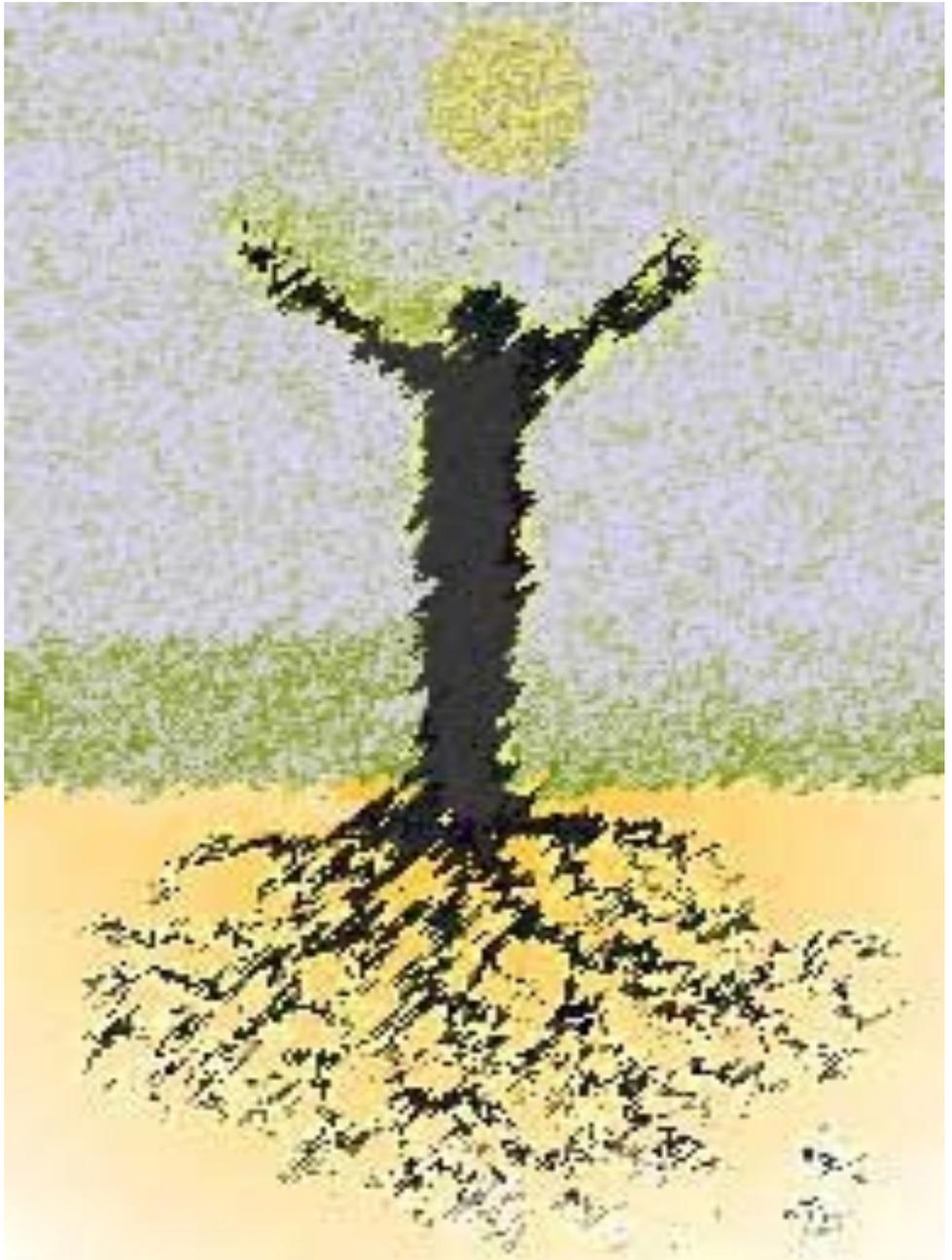
This basic idea implies that there is no differentiation between matter and consciousness, and that everything in the universe is conscious and connected. That is to say: everything (mineral, vegetable, animal, human, and beyond) has its own kind of consciousness and its own kind of perception, and is related in some way to everything else.

An interesting philosophy, you might say. Well, I am suggesting that it is an interesting truth, and that this truth is backed by science, and the more that science learns of our universe, the more it adds to this truth.

Let me try to explain my thinking behind this statement:

Humans and animals are obviously conscious: of themselves; and the world around them.

Plants, we know, can detect their environment, and adapt to it. If you've watched enough Nature videos, you'll know that plants have a kind of intelligence. That "intelligence" may not be the same as animal intelligence, but could still be defined as a kind of consciousness and perception.



What about mineral? Consider that all matter in the universe consists of particles. We may think of atoms as being these particles but, as we now know, there are much smaller particles than at-

oms. There are sixty one elementary particles defined, such as protons, electrons, neutrons, quarks, leptons, gluons, hadrons, fermions, neutrinos, photons, and more, right down to the Boson-Higgs particle. We know that these particles all have energy. Consider the atom again: it has a vibrating nucleus with electrons spinning around it. Now consider a rock: it is composed of molecules, which are various atoms in different configurations. With all that energy in the atoms, we then should not think of the rock as being void of life—since it's full of energy. A rock, being mineral, can also have a chemical reaction with some other matter (such as water) and produce something different, or a substance with the molecules in a different configuration. We know that a chemical reaction is the exchange of electrons between different atoms – not just any atoms: they have to be compatible. With the ability to change configuration in a selective way, we could consider this as some type of consciousness and perception, albeit low level. Extend this idea to the whole Earth and other planets, to the sun and other stars, to galaxies. Everything has energy, and can interact and therefore, everything is conscious, to some extent.

Think of the whole universe, everything, as one vibrating energetic mass. We are part of that vibrating mass. The individual atoms and molecules in our body are separated by vast distances, relative to the size of the atoms, and yet they work together to operate as a whole. Our molecules are constantly interacting. Planets, stars, and galaxies are separated by vast distances of space. We know, however, that space is not empty. There are particles of various kinds constantly moving around, there are electromagnetic waves and rays of various kinds (infra-red, ultra-violet, gamma, etc.) constantly travelling billions of light years across the universe. Some of these interact with the Earth, creating chemical reactions even in plant and animal life.

As we ingest food, water, and air, we are taking in molecules and atomic elements. Chemical reactions occur, and provide building blocks for new cells. Old and dead cells are expelled from our bodies, together with other waste. This waste is returned to the earth and is made use of by other organisms. Plants may absorb them in order to grow. These plants may become food for animal life, and becomes part of another cycle. The body that you have

now is not the one you were born with – so many cells have been newly created, expelled, died and replaced, that you have been “refreshed” several times over. You are part of the earth and, therefore, part of the universe, and the universe is part of you.

We use electromagnetic waves to communicate information across vast distances (radio, television, cell phones). We also use light, photons, to communicate (laser, fibre-optics). Science is only now learning how to use some of the other particles to communicate information. This science is called Quantum Mechanics. Then there is the strange phenomenon of Quantum Entanglement. For those who do not know what this is, I will try to briefly describe it. Sometimes an action on one particle can manifest that same action on another particle, instantaneously, even at a distance, without sending any messages between them. Einstein called this “spooky action at a distance”. He didn't like this phenomenon because it went against the laws of known physics. However, this phenomenon exists and is currently still unexplainable. I am of the conviction that soon Science will be able to explain phenomena such as telepathy and telekinesis using quantum physics. Based on the above, everything in the universe has the ability to communicate with everything else.

So, if we look again at the Theosophic principle stated at the beginning of this article, we can see that those principles are, in fact, supported by science. We have seen that particles can interact and interrelate physically, chemically, electromagnetically, and through entanglement. If waves and particles are constantly in motion, then these ideas provide a physical or quantum framework for communication between any two things. A world-wide experiment called the Global Consciousness Project, run out of Princeton University, seems to support this idea to some extent, as does the study on Morphic Resonance by Rupert Sheldrake.

This means that the idea of everything being connected is not just a fanciful philosophy, but a true scientific fact. This realization has made me look at the world, indeed the whole universe, in a whole new light. Hopefully, you will too.

