



ON KNOWING NAMES

"I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU FOR HALF AN HOUR AND YOU HAVEN'T MISSED CALLING A BROTHER BY NAME," SAID THE NEW BROTHER TO THE OLD TILER. "HOW DO YOU DO IT?"

"REMEMBERING NAMES IS MY BUSINESS. AS TILER I AM SUPPOSED TO KNOW ALL THE BRETHREN OF THIS LODGE. I GET PAID FOR BEING A TILER. IF I DIDN'T KNOW MY JOB I WOULD BE TAKING MONEY UNDER FALSE PRETENSES."

"HOW DID YOU LEARN NAMES? I HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THIS LODGE FOR NEARLY A YEAR. AND I DON'T KNOW MORE THAN A DOZEN MEN BY NAME. HOW DO YOU DO IT?"

"HOW DO YOU NOT DO IT?" COUNTERED THE OLD TILER.

"DON'T YOU EVER KNOW ANYONE BY NAME IN ANY

ORGANIZATION YOU BELONG TO?"

"WELL, ER- I- "

"I VISITED IN ONE LODGE ONCE," INTERRUPTED THE OLD TILER, "WHERE THEY USED THE SCHEME DEVELOPED IN SO MANY LUNCHEON CLUBS. THE MASTER STARTED AN AUTOMATIC ROLL CALL, IN WHICH EACH BROTHER STOOD, GAVE HIS NAME, ADDRESS AND BUSINESS AND SAT DOWN. IT SMACKED A LITTLE OF THE COMMERCIAL TO ME. TO HEAR A CHAP SAY, 'MY NAME IS BILL JONES, AGENT FOR THE SPEEDMUP CAR, IN BUSINESS AT 1567 MAIN STREET,' MAY BE VERY INFORMING TO THE BROTHER WHO DOESN'T KNOW IT, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE ADVERTISING. I PRESUME THE SCHEME WORKED; EVERYONE IN THAT LODGE GOT TO KNOW EVERYONE ELSE BY NAME IN TIME.

"IN ANOTHER LODGE EVERY BROTHER WEARS A BIG, ROUND CELLULOID NAME PLATE WITH HIS NAME PRINTED ON IT IN BIG LETTERS. THE TILER, POOR CHAP, HAS CHARGE OF A RACK AND IS SUPPOSED TO SEE THAT EVERY BROTHER ENTERING THE ROOM HAS HIS BUTTON ON AND THAT NONE WEARS IT HOME! THIS SCHEME WORKS; YOU CAN READ A BROTHER'S NAME AND CALL HIM BY IT, AND PROBABLY REMEMBER IT NEXT TIME. "READY-MADE BROTHERHOOD IS THE DREAM OF THE PROFESSIONAL MASON; READY-MADE ACQUAINTANCE IS THE THING HE STRIVES FOR WITH HIS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIS CELLULOID BUTTONS.

"I DON'T REGARD THE USE OF A NAME AS ESSENTIAL. IT IS PLEASANT TO BE CALLED BY NAME, AND NICE TO BE ABLE TO REMEMBER THEM. BUT A NAME, AFTER ALL, IS AN ARTIFICIAL DISTINCTION, CONFERRED ON US BY OUR PARENTS AS A MATTER OF CONVENIENCE. A ROSE SMELLS JUST AS SWEET IF YOU CALL IT A SUNFLOWER, AND A MAN IS THE SAME WHETHER YOU CALL HIM JIM OR JONES. NOT VERY LONG AGO A MAN SAID TO ME: 'I DON'T KNOW YOUR NAME BUT YOU ARE TILER OF MY LODGE. MY UNCLE IN THE COUNTRY HAS JUST SENT ME A CRATE OF STRAWBERRIES. I CAN'T SE 'EM ALL AND I'D LIKE TO GIVE YOU SOME. WILL YOU WRITE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ON A CARD SO I CAN SEND THEM?'

IF HE HAD KNOWN MY NAME HE COULD HAVE SENT THEM WITHOUT ASKING FOR THE CARD. BUT WOULD THEY HAVE TASTED ANY BETTER? I HAD A WARM FEELING AT MY HEART; MY BROTHER HAD REMEMBERED MY FACE AND WHO I WAS,

AND WANTED ME TO SHARE HIS GOOD LUCK. THAT HE DIDN'T KNOW MY NAME DIDN'T SEEM TO MATTER. HE KNEW ME. "IT'S FRIENDLY TO CALL A MAN BY HIS NAME. WE ARE ALL MORE OR LESS EGOCENTRIC. (DOC PALMER TELLS ME THAT THE WORD MEANS THAT WE REVOLVE ABOUT OURSELVES!) WHEN PEOPLE REMEMBER OUR NAMES WE THINK WE HAVE MADE AN IMPRESSION. IT TICKLES OUR VANITY. HALF A DOZEN MEMBERS IN THIS LODGE COME ONLY ONCE A YEAR. WHEN I CALL THEM BY NAME THEY SWELL UP LIKE POISONED PUPS. BUT THEY WOULDN'T IF THEY KNEW MY SYSTEM. ONE OF THEM HAS PROMINENT EARS; SO HAS A JACKASS. A JACKASS EATS THISTLES. THIS MAN'S NAME IS NETTLETON. ANOTHER CHAP HAS A NOSE THAT LOOKS AS IF IT GREW ON A BROBDINGNAGIAN FACE. HIS NAME IS BEEKMAN. IT'S NO TRICK TO REMEMBER THEM, BECAUSE OF THE IMPRESSION THEY MAKE OF UGLINESS. I REMEMBER YOUR NAME AS AN EARNEST YOUNG BROTHER TRYING TO LEARN. I REMEMBER THE PAST MASTERS BY REMEMBERING THEIR SERVICES,. I KNOW JOHN AND JIM AND GEORGE AND ELLY AND HARRY AND JOE AND FRANK AND THE REST BECAUSE I KNOW THE MEN, KNOW WHAT THEY DO, HOW THEY DO IT, WHAT THEY STAND FOR IN THE LODGE AND IN MASONRY; IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S THE BROTHER I KNOW FIRST, AND IN MY MIND I TACK A NAME TO HIM. TO REMEMBER A NAME AND TACK A FACE TO IT IS THE TRICK ACCOMPLISHED BY THE CELLULOID BUTTON, THE AUTOMATIC ROLL CALL, BY ALL SCHEMES TO MAKE MEN KNOW EACH OTHER'S NAMES WITH THE IDEA THAT THE NAME AND NOT THE MAN IS IMPORTANT.

"YOU HAVE BEEN HERE NEARLY A YEAR AND KNOW A DOZEN MEN BY NAME. IF YOU KNOW A HUNDRED BY SIGHT TO SPEAK TO, YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN FILLING YOUR MEMORY WITH NAMES. BUT IF YOU KNOW ONLY YOUR DOZEN BY SIGHT AND NAME, AND NO OTHERS EITHER BY SIGHT OR NAME, THEN THERE IS SOMETHING THE MATTER WITH YOUR IDEA OF FELLOWSHIP. "IN LODGE, BROTHERS LEARN TO KNOW EACH OTHER; IF THEY LEARN EACH OTHER'S NAMES IN THE PROCESS, WELL AND GOOD. BUT IF THEY LEARN TO KNOW EACH OTHER AS HUMAN BEINGS WITH FRIENDLY FACES, IT DOES MAKE LITTLE DIFFERENCE WHETHER THEY HAVE GOOD OR POOR MEMORIES FOR NAMES.

"OUR MASTER IS A FINE, LOVABLE MAN. EVERY DOG HE

MEETS ON THE STREET WAGS ITS TAIL AND SPEAKS TO HIM, AND HE SPEAKS TO THEM ALL. I DOUBT IF HE KNOWS THEIR NAMES. HE HAS A POOR MEMORY FOR NAMES, YET HE NEVER FORGETS A FACE. I KNOW NAMES AND FACES BECAUSE IT'S MY JOB, BUT I'D MAKE A POOR MASTER."
"I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT YOUR BEING A POOR MASTER!"
"WELL, I AM! DON'T CONFUSE A GOOD MEMORY, A GOOD MASON AND A GOOD MASTER. I TRY TO HAVE THE FIRST AND BE THE SECOND!"

A MASONIC SPEECH

"OLD TILER, I AM IN A JAM!" THE NEW BROTHER SMILED, SO THE OLD TILER DID NOT FEEL TOO WORRIED. "IF YOU DON'T HELP ME OUT, I WILL BE UP AGAINST IT."
"WHAT'S THE TROUBLE NOW?" THE OLD TILER PUT DOWN HIS SWORD TO TAKE THE CIGAR THE NEW BROTHER HELD OUT.
"MUST BE SOMETHING VERY BAD OR YOU WOULDN'T START ME OFF WITH SO GOOD A CIGAR."
"I HAVE TO MAKE A MASONIC ADDRESS."
"THAT HAS BEEN DONE, AND THE ADDRESSER- YES, EVEN THE ADDRESSEES- LIVED TO TELL THE TALE," COUNTERED THE OLD TILER.
"I DON'T WANT JUST TO GET BY. I WANT TO MAKE 'EM REMEMBER IT. I WANT TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING THEY HAVEN'T HEARD BEFORE. I'VE LISTENED TO MANY MASONIC SPEECHES, AND MOST OF THEM BORED ME TO TEARS."
"THERE ARE RULES FOR MAKING A GOOD ADDRESS," MUSED THE OLD TILER. "THE THREE GREAT RULES ARE, HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY- SAY IT- SIT DOWN. SOMETIMES THEY ARE STATED 'STAND UP, SPEAK UP, SHUT UP.' TERMINAL FACILITIES OF ADEQUATE PROPORTIONS ARE NEEDED BY RAILROADS AND MASONIC SPEAKERS."
"THAT'S JUST IT!" CRIED THE NEW BROTHER. "I WANT TO KNOW WHAT TO SAY AND HOW TO SAY IT."
"MEANING YOU WANT ME TO MAKE YOUR SPEECH FOR YOU, OR TO YOU, BEFORE YOU MAKE IT IN THERE?"
"WELL, ER, NO. NOT EXACTLY. BUT CAN'T YOU, ER, SUGGEST SOMETHING?"
"I COULD, BUT I WON'T. I'LL SUGGEST A METHOD OF HANDLING YOUR SUBJECT, HOWEVER. MOST MASONIC SPEECHES SUFFER FROM LACK OF PREPARATION, AND OF CLEAR THINKING ABOUT

WHAT THE SPEAKER WANTS TO SAY.

"I CAN'T PREPARE YOU. I CAN'T MAKE YOU THINK CLEARLY. BUT I CAN TELL YOU THE ESSENCE OF APPEAL. IT IS DRAMA. IF YOU WANT YOUR HEARERS TO HANG ON YOUR WORDS, DRAMATIZE YOUR SUBJECT. IF YOU TALK ABOUT THE ROUGH AND PERFECT ASHLARS, BRING YOUR WORKMAN BEFORE YOUR HEARER; LET THEM HEAR THE STROKES OF THE Mallet ON THE CHISEL, LET THEM FEEL THE CHIPS OF STONE AS THEY FALL TO THE GROUND. IF YOU TALK OF THE PLUMB LINE, MAKE THEM SEE THE LORD ON HIS WALL, WATCH THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL GATHER AROUND, WONDERING AT HIS PUTTING A PLUMB 'IN THE MIDST' OF THEM, THAT HE WOULD NOT PASS BY THEM ANY MORE. WHEN YOU TELL OF BROTHERHOOD, DON'T HAVE IT AN ABSTRACTION, A THEORY, A HOPE; MAKE IT CONCRETE. TELL SOME STORIES ABOUT IT. SHOW ONE BROTHER HELPING ANOTHER; IF YOU DON'T KNOW ANY STORIES, MAKE THEM UP. BUT BRING THE LIVING THOUGHT, ALIVE, INTO THE LODGE ROOM; MEN ARE NOTHING BUT CHILDREN GROWN UP. WE ALL LIKE STORIES.

"A MOST ENTERTAINING SPEAKER MADE A TALK ON MASONIC CHARITY. ONE BY ONE HE BROUGHT VIVIDLY BEFORE THE LODGE A CHILD IN A MASONIC HOME, AN OLD BLIND MASON WHO WAS HELPED TO BE SELF-SUPPORTING BY A LODGE, AN OLD MOTHER OF A MASTER MASON WHO KEPT HER HOME, THINKING IT WAS SUPPORTED BY WHAT HER SON HAD LEFT HER; HE HADN'T LEFT A CENT. THE LODGE PRETENDED HE HAD, AND PAID IT DURING HER LIFE TIME. HE MADE US SEE THESE PEOPLE; WE LIVED AND GREW UP WITH THE CHILD; WE SHUT OUR EYES TO SEE HOW THE BLIND MAN FELT; FROM A WINDOW WE SAW THE WORLD GO BY, HAPPY THAT OUR SONS HAD KEPT US FROM WANT, AS HIS SIMPLE WORDS BROUGHT THESE THINGS BEFORE US.

"THE SPEAKER SPOKE QUIETLY, RESTRAINED, CALMLY. HE DIDN'T MAKE THE EAGLE SCREAM; THERE WAS ALMOST NO APPLAUSE DURING HIS ADDRESS. BUT HE MADE US VISUALIZE THE SWEETNESS OF MASONIC CHARITY, AS DISTINCT FROM THE COOL IMPERSONALITY OF MERE GIVING. HE MADE US PROUD THAT WE BELONGED TO AN ORGANIZATION WHICH WORKED. HE DRAMATIZED CHARITY, AND MADE US SEE ITS LIVING HUMAN ASPECTS, NOT ITS ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE, OR ITS RELIGIOUS DUTY ANGLE.

"THAT'S THE ANSWER OF 'HOW SHALL I MAKE ANY MASONIC SPEECH INTERESTING,' MY BROTHER. MAKE IT SIMPLE. MAKE

IT HUMAN. MAKE IT DRAMATIC. THERE IS DRAMA IN ALL THE FRATERNITY; ANY SYMBOL, ANY TENET, ANY PART OF MASONRY HAS A DRAMATIC ANGLE.

"I DO NOT MEAN MELODRAMATIC. I DON'T TELL YOU TO PUT BATTLE, MURDER, SUDDEN DEATH, IN YOUR SPEECH. MELODRAMA IS ACTION WITHOUT CHARACTER; DRAMA IS ACTION WITH CHARACTER. A RAILROAD ACCIDENT IS MELODRAMA. THE MOTHER WHO SAVES FOR A VACATION AND GIVES HER SON THE MONEY TO BUY A SET OF GOLF CLUBS IS DRAMATIC.

"FIND THE CHARACTER BEHIND THE SYMBOLS; GET THE HUMAN SIDE OF THE CRAFT INTO ITS TEACHINGS; TELL THEM IN TERMS OF PEOPLE AND ACTION, OF THE THINGS THEY KNOW ONLY AS THEORIES, AND YOUR AUDIENCE WON'T WALK OUT ON YOU. TALK WITHOUT IDEAS, AND YOU'LL SPEAK TO EMPTY BENCHES."

"I THINK," BEGAN THE NEW MASON, "I THINK-"

"THAT'S ALL THAT'S NECESSARY," SMILED THE OLD TILER.

"I THINK YOU'D BETTER MAKE THIS SPEECH FOR ME,"

"YOU THINK IN MELODRAMA," LAUGHED THE OLD TILER. "IT'S YOU TROUBLE, NOT MINE."

THE FORGOTTEN WORD

"NEVER HAVE I BEEN SO GLAD TO GET TO LODGE AS TONIGHT!" BEGAN THE NEW BROTHER TO THE OLD TILER IN THE ANTEROOM. "SOME ONE HERE OWE YOU SOME MONEY OR SOMETHING?" ASKED THE OLD TILER.

"NO INDEED! BUT LYING AWAKE LAST NIGHT, THINKING ABOUT MASONRY, I TRIED TO RECALL THE WORD OF A MASTER MASON... AND I COULDN'T! IT WAS A LOST WORD FOR ME, SURE ENOUGH! I COULDN'T SLEEP ALL NIGHT, TRYING TO REMEMBER. I COULDN'T REMEMBER TODAY AND IT BOTHERED ME A LOT! SO I WAS GLAD TO COME TO LODGE TONIGHT AND GET INSTRUCTED!"

"I SHOULDN'T HAVE WORRIED OVER THAT," ANSWERED THE OLD TILER. "OUR MEMORIES PLAY STRANGE TRICKS. YOU DIDN'T NEED IT, DID YOU?"

"NO, BUT A MASON OUGHT NOT TO FORGET IT. IT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN MASONRY. IF WE DON'T HAVE IT WE CANNOT VISIT AND WORK AS A MASTER- AND EVERYTHING!"

"SO WE ARE TOLD," ANSWERED THE OLD TILER. "YET DON'T

YOU MISTAKE THE MEANING? THE SYLLABLES YOU ARE TAUGHT TO PRONOUNCE ARE NOT IMPORTANT."

"WHY, OLD TILER! HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?"

"BECAUSE IT IS TRUE," ANSWERED THE OLD TILER. "IS IT IMPORTANT WHAT PARTICULAR PIECE OF CLOTH IS PUT IN AN APRON? IS IT IMPORTANT WHAT PARTICULAR PIECE OF IRON IS USED TO MAKE A PILLAR, OR WHAT PARTICULAR COPY OF A MILLION BIBLES IS ON THE ALTAR, OR WHAT PARTICULAR PIECE OF WOOD IS USED IN THE GAVEL? ISN'T IT IMPORTANT THAT WE WEAR AN APRON AND KNOW WHY, THAT WE HAVE A PILLAR TO TEACH A LESSON, THAT WE REVERE THE GREAT LIGHT IN MASONRY, THAT WE HAVE A GAVEL FOR OUR CONTROL? THEN ARE THE SYLLABLES OF THE WORD IMPORTANT, OR IS THE SPIRIT, THE MEANING, THE SYMBOLISM IMPORTANT?"

"MASONS MUST KNOW THE WORD, THE MODES OF RECOGNITION, THE SIGNS AND TOKENS. BUT ALL THESE MAY SLIP FROM MEMORY AND STILL A BROTHER HAVE FREEMASONRY IN HIS HEART. THEY ARE AUDIBLE SYMBOLS OF SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE.

"WE ARE TAUGHT THAT IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD. DO YOU READ INTO THAT STATEMENT SOME PARTICULAR WORD? OR IS THE WORD HERE USED IN THE OLD JEWISH SENSE OF THE TRUTH, THE LIGHT OF KNOWLEDGE FOR WHICH MAN MAY STRIVE?"

"MASONRY'S SEARCH FOR THE LOST WORD IS FOR FAR MORE THAN A SYLLABLE, MY BROTHER. THE SUBSTITUTE WORD IS MORE THAN AN EXCLAMATION. IT IS AN INWARD KNOWLEDGE OF ONENESS WITH THE GREAT ARCHITECT, FOR WHICH ALL MEN OF ALL AGES HAVE SEARCHED. NOT ALL SEARCH IN VAIN; MANY FIND THEIR WORD. EVEN THE SUBSTITUTE WORD COULD ONLY BE GIVEN UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; DOUBTLESS THOSE EARNEST SEEKERS WHO FOUND THE REAL WORD COULD NEVER ASSEMBLE THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH IT, TOO, MIGHT BE GIVEN TO HUMANITY.

"BUT WE CONTINUE TO SEARCH. SLOWLY BUT SURELY MAN HAS COME UP FROM BARBARIANISM. THE WORLD IMPROVES WITH AGE. EXCEPT IN WAR MEN ARE LESS CRUEL NOW THAN CENTURIES AGO; MEN KNOW MORE THAN THEY DID CENTURIES AGO. WE ARE ALL BRUTES UNDERNEATH, BUT TO BE UNDERNEATH CONNOTES SOMETHING ABOVE. IN OUR LONG STRUGGLE AFTER THE LOST WORD WE HAVE PUT SOMETHING ABOVE THE BRUTE. ON THAT WE CLIMB, AND ARE BY SO MUCH NEARER THE WORD WE SEEK.

"IT IS THIS WHICH IS IMPORTANT. LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED IF THAT STRANGEST PART OF ALL GOD'S WORKS, THE HUMAN MIND, PLAYS A PRANK ON YOU. BETTER MEN THAN YOU AND I HAVE FORGOTTEN THEIR OWN NAMES. NOW AND THEN ONE FORGETS THE NAME OF DEITY. BUT IN THE END WE REMEMBER, IN SOME FAR PLACE WHERE ANGELS SEE THAT OUR MEMORIES WORK! ALL YOU NEEDED WAS CONVERSATION WITH ANY BROTHER WHO HAD SAT IN LODGE WITH YOU. IF YOU DESIRE, NOTHING PREVENTS YOU FROM GIVING AND RECEIVING IT AS MASONS ARE TAUGHT TO DO.

"YOUR ONLY CAUSE FOR WORRY IS THAT YOU FAIL TO KEEP ALWAYS BEFORE YOU THAT MASONRY IN MEN'S HEARTS SEARCHES FOR A WORD WHICH NO MAN HAS YET PUT INTO WORDS. THE TENDER LESSON OF THE MASTER MASON DEGREE HAS BEEN A SOLACE TO MILLIONS. THE WORD, SUBSTITUTE THOUGH IT IS, HAS MEANT MUCH MORE THAN THE SCHOLAR TRANSLATES. IT IS THIS WHICH YOU MUST NEVER FORGET, EVEN WHEN YOUR MEMORY TEMPORARILY TAKES FROM YOU THE RECOLLECTION OF THE LETTERS AND THEIR PRONUNCIATION."

"YOU SHOULD BE A TRAVELING LECTURER!" CRIED THE NEW BROTHER.

"YOU MEAN THAT AS A COMPLIMENT, BUT I'D RATHER SIT STILL AND TILE."

"BUT YOU CAN'T GET ANYWHERE!" CRIED THE NEW BROTHER.

"NEITHER CAN A SIGN POST BY THE ROAD," SMILED THE OLD TILER. "YET IT POINTS THE WAY."

LEARNING THE WORK

"IT SEEMS TO ME," BEGAN THE NEW BROTHER, OFFERING A CIGAR TO THE OLD TILER, "THAT WE MAKE UNNECESSARY DEMANDS ON A CANDIDATE."

"THANKS," ANSWERED THE OLD TILER. "SUCH AS WHAT, FOR INSTANCE?"

"A CANDIDATE WHO HAS RECEIVED THE ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE MUST PERFECT HIMSELF IN IT BEFORE HE GETS HIS FELLOWCRAFT. AFTER HE IS A FELLOWCRAFT HE MUST LEARN THAT RITUAL BEFORE HE CAN BECOME A MASTER MASON. I CAN SEE THE REASON WHY ALL BRETHREN MUST UNDERSTAND THEM AND BE ABLE TO TELL ABOUT DEGREES, BUT I DON'T SEE WHY WE MUST LEARN WORD FOR WORD AND

LETTER FOR LETTER. LAST MEETING WE TURNED BACK A YOUNG FELLOW BECAUSE HE HAD NOT LEARNED HIS ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE. IF HE DIDN'T LEARN IT BECAUSE HE DIDN'T WANT TO HE WASN'T WORTH HAVING, BUT IT SEEMS HE JUST COULDN'T. REFUSING HIM WAS AN INJUSTICE. HE'S ONLY ONE-THIRD A MASON, AND NOT LIKELY TO GET ANY FARTHER."

"YOU SURE THINK OF A LOT OF THINGS MASONIC TO FIND FAULT WITH!" COUNTERED THE OLD TILER. "BUT WE WOULD GET ALONG FASTER IF YOU DIDN'T MIX YOUR QUESTIONS."

"HOW DO YOU MEAN, MIX THEM?"

"IN ONE BREATH YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY MASONRY REQUIRES LEARNING DEGREES BY HEART, AND DON'T I THINK IT WAS AN INJUSTICE TO A CERTAIN YOUNG FELLOW BECAUSE WE WOULDN'T ADMIT HIM TO FULL MEMBERSHIP WHEN HE COULDN'T OR DIDN'T, ONLY YOU DON'T THINK IT AN INJUSTICE BUT A RIGHTEOUSNESS IF HE COULD AND DIDN'T. YOU AGREE THAT ONE OF THE SAFEGUARDS OF MASONRY WHICH KEEP IT PURE IS WHAT WE CALL THE ANCIENT LANDMARKS?"

"I AGREE."

"AND YOU KNOW ONE OF THE LANDMARKS IS THAT MASONRY IS SECRET?"

"OF COURSE."

"IF WE PRINTED THE WORK WOULD IT BE SECRET?"

"CERTAINLY NOT. BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO PRINT IT."

"NO? BUT IF WE CAN'T PRINT IT AND WON'T LEARN IT, HOW ARE WE TO GIVE IT TO OUR SONS?"

"OH!" THE NEW BROTHER SAW A GREAT LIGHT. "WE ALL LEARN THE WORK AND SO KNOW WHEN MISTAKES ARE MADE AND CORRECT THEM IN THE WORKERS, AND OUR SONS HEAR THE SAME WORK WE DID AND LEARN IT AND TRANSMIT IT. BUT WOULDN'T IT BE ENOUGH IF ONLY A FEW MEN LEARNED THE WORK- THOSE WELL QUALIFIED AND WITH GOOD MEMORIES? HOW WOULD THAT DO?"

"IT IS GOOD MASONRY AND GOOD AMERICANISM THAT THE MAJORITY RULES. MASONRY IS NOT A DESPOTISM BUT A DEMOCRACY. IF A FAVORED FEW WERE THE CUSTODIANS OF THE WORK WOULD NOT THE FAVORED FEW SOON BECOME THE RULERS OF MASONRY, JUST AS THE FAVORED FEW HAVE ALWAYS RULED THE LAZY, THE IGNORANT, AND THE STUPID?"

"IF THAT HAPPENED WE'D JUST PUT THEM OUT OF OFFICE."

"AND PUT IN MEN WHO DIDN'T KNOW THE WORK? THEN WHAT BECOMES OF YOUR LANDMARK?"

"YOU ARE TOO MANY FOR ME," LAUGHED THE NEW BROTHER.

"I GUESS THERE IS A REASON WHY WE HAVE TO LEARN THE

WORK. BUT I STILL THINK WE MIGHT MAKE AN OCCASIONAL EXCEPTION WHEN A MAN JUST CAN'T MEMORIZE."

"IF YOU READ THE BIBLE, YOU KNOW THAT A LITTLE LEAVEN LEAVENS THE WHOLE LUMP. ONE BAD EGG WILL SPOIL AN OMELET. THE MAN WHO WON'T LEARN IS NOT FIT TO BE A MASON, SINCE HE IS NOT WILLING TO TREAD THE PATH ALL HIS BRETHREN HAVE TROD. THE MAN WHO CAN'T LEARN THE WORK HASN'T CONTROL ENOUGH OF HIS BRAIN TO ENABLE HIM TO APPRECIATE MASONIC BLESSINGS. THIS IS NO QUESTION OF EDUCATION. A BROTHER OF THIS LODGE HAS HAD SO LITTLE EDUCATION THAT HE BARELY READS AND WRITE. HIS GRAMMAR IS FEARFUL AND HIS KNOWLEDGE OF SCIENCE SO FULL OF THINGS THAT ARE NOT SO THAT IT IS FUNNY WHEN IT ISN'T PATHETIC. BUT HE IS A GOOD MASON FOR ALL THAT, AND BRIGHT AS A DOLLAR AT LEARNING THE WORK. IT'S ONLY THE STUPID, THE LAZY, THE INDIFFERENT AND DULL-WITTED, THE SELFISH AND FOOLISH MAN WHO CAN'T LEARN OR WON'T LEARN MASONRY. THEY ADD NOTHING TO IT; IT IS BETTER THEY ARE KEPT OUT. TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION MERELY WOULD BE TO LEAVEN OUR LUMP WITH SOUR LEAVEN."

"BUT, OLD TILER, MANY WHO LEARNED IT ONCE HAVE FORGOTTEN IT NOW."

"OF COURSE THEY HAVE! YOU CAN'T DO A QUADRATIC EQUATION OR TELL ME THE PRINCIPLE CITIES IN GREENLAND, OR BOUND POLAND, OR DO A LATIN DECLINATION. YOU LEARNED IT AND FORGOT IT. BUT YOU HAD THE MENTAL TRAINING. IF I TOLD YOU A QUADRATIC WAS WORKED WITH AN ADDING MACHINE, THAT POLAND WAS IN CHINA, OR THAT HOCUSPOCUS MEANT CAESAR'S LIVES, YOU'D KNOW I WAS WRONG. SAME WAY WITH RITUAL; LEARNING IT IS MASONIC TRAINING, AND THOUGH WE OFTEN FORGET IT WE NEVER LOSE IT ENTIRELY, AND THROUGH THE WHOLE OF US IT IS PRESERVED TO POSTERITY."

"OH, ALL RIGHT! I LEARNED MINE, ANY WAY. HAVE ANOTHER CIGAR, WON'T YOU?"

"THANKS," ANSWERED THE OLD TILER. "YOU HAVE LEARNED RATHER WELL, I'LL ADMIT, THAT I LIKE YOUR CIGARS!"

GEOMETRIC BULL

"THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS IN MASONRY," BEGAN THE NEW BROTHER TO THE OLD TILER.

"BRAVO!" CRIED THE OLD TILER, SARCASTICALLY. "WHO TOLD YOU ALL THAT?"

"AND SOME OF THEM," CONTINUED THE NEW BROTHER, "ARE MORE OR LESS BULL. I YIELD TO NO ONE IN MY LOVE FOR THE ORDER, BUT I SEE ITS FAULTS. AND WHEN I AM EXPECTED TO LEARN THE SCIENCE OF GEOMETRY AS A PART OF MASONRY I KNOW I AM BEING BULLED. THERE IS NO MORE SENSE TO INCLUDING GEOMETRY IN THE SECOND DEGREE THAN THERE WOULD BE INCLUDING PALEONTOLOGY OR..."

"I LOVE TO HEAR A MAN SAY HE CAN SEE THE FAULTS OF MASONRY," INTERRUPTED THE OLD TILER, "BECAUSE THEN I AM IN THE PRESENCE OF A MASTER MIND. GENERATIONS OF PHILOSOPHERS HAVE MADE MASONRY WHAT IT IS. WHEN A NEW BROTHER CAN PLAINLY SEE ITS FAULTS HE IS GREATER THAN ALL OF THESE."

"OF COURSE I DID NOT MEAN IT THAT WAY. I JUST MEANT THAT I, ER, YOU KNOW..."

"DO I? WELL, THEN I SUPPOSE I'D BETTER NOT MINCE WORDS ABOUT IT. TO SAY THERE IS NO SENSE TO GEOMETRY IN THE SECOND DEGREE IS TO ADVERTISE THE FACT THAT YOU KNOW NOTHING AND CARE LESS FOR THE SYMBOLISM OF THE ORDER. TAKE FROM MASONRY ITS SYMBOLISM AND ALL YOU HAVE LEFT IS A CENTRAL THOUGHT WITH NO MEANS OF EXPRESSION. IMAGINE A GREAT MUSICIAN, DEAF, BLIND, AND PARALYZED, HIS HEART RINGING WITH WONDERFUL MELODIES AND HARMONIES, YET UNABLE TO GIVE THEM EXPRESSION, AND YOU HAVE A MENTAL PICTURE OF MASONRY WITHOUT SYMBOLISM. SYMBOLISM IS MASONRY'S MEANS OF EXPRESSING THOUGHT, AND GEOMETRY, IN THE SECOND DEGREE, IS NOT AN ARITHMETICAL STUDY, BUT A SYMBOL.

"GEOMETRY WAS AN OUTGROWTH OF THE FIRST SCIENCE. THE FIRST GLIMPSE BRUTE MAN HAD THERE WAS AUGHT IN NATURE BUT HAPHAZARD CHANCE OR THE CAPRICIOUS DOING OF A SUPERIOR OVERLORD WAS WHEN HE LEARNED THE STUPENDOUS FACT THAT TWO AND TWO ALWAYS MAKE FOUR.

"FROM THAT HUMBLE BEGINNING AND RECOGNITION OF THE MASTER LAW OF THE UNIVERSE-WHICH IS, THAT LAW IS UNIVERSAL, UNCHANGING, AND INVARIABLE-GREW THE STUDY OF THINGS; THEIR SURFACES, THEIR AREAS, THEIR ANGLES, THEIR MOTIONS, THEIR POSITIONS. MODERN METHODS HAVE GONE FARTHER THAN EUCLID, BUT HIS WORK WAS PERFECTLY DONE AND EUCLID'S GEOMETRY STANDS TODAY AS A PERFECT THING, AS FAR AS HE TOOK IT.

"GEOMETRY IS THE SCIENCE OF ORDER. REACHING BACK TO

THE FIRST RECOGNITION THAT THERE WAS ORDER IN THE WORLD, IT MAY STAND FOR ANYONE WHO HAS EYES TO SEE, AS IT DOES STAND IN MASONRY, FOR MAN'S RECOGNITION OF GOD IN THE UNIVERSE. IT IS A SYMBOL OF UNIVERSALITY. BY GEOMETRY WE KNOW THAT NATURAL LAW ON EARTH IS NATURE'S LAW FOR THE STARS. THERE HAVE BEEN FEW ATHEISTS IN THE WORLD, BUT I VENTURE TO SAY THAT NONE OF THEM HAVE BEEN GEOMETRICIANS OR ASTRONOMERS. THEY KNOW TOO MUCH TO DENY THE EXISTENCE OF THE GREAT GEOMETER WHEN SEEING HIS WORK.

"GEOMETRY IS EVERYWHERE. IT IS IN THE SNOWFLAKE'S MEASURED LINES OF CRYSTALLIZATION. THERE IS GEOMETRY OF THE HONEYCOMB AND A GEOMETRY OF THE CONE OF A FIR TREE. MOUNTAINS STAND OR FALL AS THEY OBEY OR DISOBEY THE LAWS OF GEOMETRY AND THE SPIDER IN HER WEB AND THE PLANETS IN THEIR ORBITS ALIKE WORK ACCORDING TO THE UNIVERSAL LAWS OF GEOMETRY.

"'I THINK GOD'S THOUGHTS AFTER HIM,' SAID THE GREAT ASTRONOMER KEPLER, LOOKING THROUGH HIS TELESCOPE AND THINKING OF THE GEOMETRY OF THE SKIES.

"IF WE KNOW TWO ANGLES AND ONE DIMENSION, WE CAN FIND THE OTHER DIMENSION. MAN HAS ANGLES AND DIMENSIONS; AND IF WE KNOW ENOUGH OF THEM WE CAN FIND THE REST. ONE OF A MAN'S ANGLES IS HIS LOVE OF MASONRY. GIVEN A REAL LOVE OF MASONRY AS ONE ANGLE, A WILLINGNESS TO LIVE HER PRECEPTS AS THE OTHER AND WE CAN TELL WHAT SORT OF A MAN HE IS NOW, USED TO BE, AND WILL BE IN THE FUTURE.

"IT IS A REAL GEOMETRY THE SECOND DEGREE COMMENDS TO YOU, MY BROTHER, BECAUSE IT IS A SYMBOL OF LAW AND ORDER, OF DEITY, OF UNIVERSALITY. BUT IT IS SPIRITUAL GEOMETRY WHICH YOU SHOULD STUDY RATHER THAN THE PROPOSITIONS OF EUCLID, BEARING IN MIND THAT THEY ARE SYMBOLS OF THAT WHICH MASONRY MOST VENERATES, MOST WISELY TEACHES, AND MOST GREATLY LOVES.

"OUR ANCIENT BROTHER PYTHAGORAS DISCOVERED THE WONDERFUL DEMONSTRATION OF THE GREAT ARCHITECT WHICH IS THE FORTY-SEVENTH PROBLEM OF EUCLID. AND SO WHEN I HEAR A YOUNG SQUIRT OF A MASON, WITH HIS EYES BARELY OPENED TO THE LONG PATH WHICH IS MASONRY WINDING THROUGH THE STARS TO GOD, SAY THAT THE GEOMETRY IN THE SECOND DEGREE IS BULL, I WISH I WERE YOUNG ENOUGH TO TAKE HIM OUT IN THE BACK LOT AND TREAT HIM AS I WOULD A SMALL BOY WHO FOUND HUMOR IN CHURCH AND FUN IN

SACRED THINGS, AND..."

"OH, STOP!" CRIED THE NEW BROTHER. "I WAS WRONG. I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND. SAY, WHERE CAN I GET A GEOMETRY BOOK? I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THAT FORTY-SEVENTH PROBLEM."

"IN THE READING ROOM," GROWLED THE OLD TILER. "AND, SAY, SON, WHEN YOU GET IT IN YOUR HEAD, COME BACK HERE AND EXPLAIN IT ALL OVER AGAIN TO ME, WILL YOU?"
BLUFF

"YOU ARE THE ONLY MAN IN THE LODGE I CAN TALK TO AND SAY WHAT I THINK!" ANNOUNCED THE NEW BROTHER TO THE OLD TILER.

"DO YOU THINK ME THE ONLY ONE WITH UNDERSTANDING, OR AM I THE ONLY MAN STUPID ENOUGH NOT TO TAKE EXCEPTION TO YOUR REMARKS?" SMILED THE OLD TILER.

"I DON'T EXACTLY KNOW," CONFESSED THE NEW BROTHER.

"YOU ARE NOT OFFENDED WHEN I SAY THAT WHICH YOU DON'T AGREE. FOR INSTANCE, I THINK THERE IS A LOT OF BLUFF ABOUT FREEMASONRY. YOU WON'T GET OFFENDED WITH ME; YOU'LL PROBABLY CONVINCE ME I DON'T KNOW WHAT I AM TALKING ABOUT."

"ASSUREDLY I AM NOT OFFENDED," ANSWERED THE OLD TILER, "BUT GIVE ME SOME EXAMPLES OF MASONIC BLUFF. TO ME, THE FRATERNITY SEEMS HONEST, UPRIGHT, ABOVEBOARD, SIMPLE, SINCERE."

"OH! IT INTENDS TO BE," REJOINED THE NEW BROTHER, IMPATIENTLY. "BUT IT DOES BLUFF. FOR INSTANCE, WE PRATE ABOUT 'MASONIC LIGHT,' 'FURTHER LIGHT,' 'MORE LIGHT,' YET MASONRY NEVER GIVES IT TO YOU!"

"DON'T YOU MEAN IT NEVER GIVES IT SO AN IGNORANT AND UNINTELLIGENT MAN CAN UNDERSTAND IT? I HAVE BEEN TILER FOR MORE YEARS THAN YOU HAVE LIVED. I HAVE GROWN OLD AND GRAY IN MASONRY, ALWAYS GETTING A LITTLE MORE LIGHT THROUGH ITS GENTLE MINISTRATIONS. NOW YOU TRY TO TELL ME IT IS ALL A BLUFF!"

"THERE, THERE, OLD CHAP, DON'T GET SORE! I AM PUZZLED AS TO WHY WE PROMISE SO MUCH AND GIVE SO LITTLE."

"I THINK WE PROMISE MUCH AND GIVE MORE!" RETORTED THE OLD TILER. "WE GIVE THE PATH AT THE END OF WHICH THE LIGHT SHINES IN GLORIOUS BRIGHTNESS. MASONRY IS NOT A SCHOOL, A COLLEGE, A UNIVERSITY. IT DOESN'T ATTEMPT TO HOLD CLASSES, TO USE TEXTBOOKS, TO PUMP THE YOUNG AND UNINFORMED MIND FULL OF INFORMATION. IT VEILS ITS TRUTHS AND THEIR APPLICATION IN SYMBOLISM AND ALLEGORY."

MASONRY POINTS THE WAY TO STUDY, TO NEW VISTAS, TO A NEW BEAUTY TO LIFE, A NEW TRUTH TO PHILOSOPHY, A NEW MEANING TO RELIGION.

"THE SIMPLE FACTS AND THE SIMPLER FAITH OF THE RITUAL ARE LEARNED IN A COUPLE OF LESSONS. BUT THE INNER MEANING REQUIRES MANY LESSONS. EARNEST STUDENTS HAVE SPENT THEIR LIVES TRYING TO REACH THE BOTTOM OF THE WELL OF INFORMATION WHICH IS MASONRY, NOR EVER PLUMBED ITS DEPTHS. MASONRY TEACHES MEN HOW TO THINK, AND TO THINK FOR THEMSELVES. MASONRY TEACHES MEN THE REAL BEAUTY OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN AND THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD. MASONRY INSTILLS INTO MEN'S MINDS A NEW CONCEPTION OF GOD. IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE WHAT RELIGION YOU FOLLOW, MASONRY AMPLIFIES IT, CLARIFIES IT, HELPS YOU TO UNDERSTAND IT. NO MAN WITH A HEART IN HIS BREAST AND A BRAIN IN HIS HEAD CAN STAND BEFORE A MASONIC ALTAR WITHOUT A NEW CONCEPTION OF HIS RELATIONS WITH HIS FELLOW MEN. IF HE HEARS WITH DEAF EARS HE IS A MASON IN NAME ONLY.

"MASONRY'S RITUAL IS A KEY BY WHICH TO READ THE SYMBOLS. IF YOU ARE LAZY, OR UNABLE TO THINK, MASONRY SAFEGUARDS HERSELF BY REQUIRING EFFORT OF YOU. IF SHE WROTE EVERY TRUTH SHE HAS, SHE WOULD CAST THE PEARLS OF HER WISDOM BEFORE THE SWINE OF BRETHREN WHO CANNOT APPRECIATE HER. THE WINDING TORTUOUS ROAD OF KNOWLEDGE IS DIFFICULT; MASONRY'S WISDOM IS ONLY FOR THOSE WITH THE BRAINS AND THE PERSEVERANCE TO PURSUE HER SECRETS THROUGH HER SYMBOLS INTO THE BROAD LIGHT OF UNDERSTANDING."

"YOU MEAN THAT IF I FIND THE 'FURTHER LIGHT' OF MASONRY A BLUFF THE FAULT IS IN ME AND NOT IN MASONRY?"

"ABSOLUTELY! THAT SO MANY LEARNED MEN DEVOTED THEIR LIVES TO FATHOMING MASONRY SHOULD SHOW THE YOUNG MASON THAT WHEN HE IS ENTITLED TO WEAR THE SQUARE AND COMPASSES HE HAS JUST BEGUN! MASONRY HAS VAST KNOWLEDGE, BUT ONLY FOR THOSE WHO LOOK. MASONRY GIVES A WONDERFUL REWARD, BUT ONLY FOR THOSE WHO ARE WILLING TO FOLLOW WHERE SHE LEADS.

"THE BLUFF IN FREEMASONRY IS IN THE MINDS OF BRETHREN WHO EXPECT ALL AND GIVE NOTHING; WHO TRY TO APPEAR MASTER MASONS WHEN THEY ARE BUT LODGE MEMBERS. THE BLUFF IS NOT IN THE SYSTEM OF PHILOSOPHY WE CALL MASONRY, BUT IN THE UNTHINKING, DULL-WITTED,

UNIMAGINATIVE, AND NON-USEFUL MEMBERS OF THE LODGE WHO ARE MASONS IN NAME ONLY!"
"OUCH!" CRIED THE NEW BROTHER, "I SHALL GO AWAY FROM THIS COMPANY TO HUNT THE LIBRARY!"

ON SECRETS

"SOMEONE SHOULD SPEAK TO BROTHER FILMORE," SAID THE NEW BROTHER, THOUGHTFULLY, SITTING BESIDE THE OLD TILER.
"PEOPLE DO SPEAK TO HIM- I SPEAK TO HIM MYSELF," COUNTERED THE OLD TILER.

"I MEAN SPEAK TO HIM SERIOUSLY."

"I SPEAK TO HIM SERIOUSLY. I ASKED HIM TONIGHT HOW HIS WIFE WAS," ANSWERED THE OLD TILER.

"OH, YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN! I MEAN ADMONISH HIM."

"ABOUT WHAT?"

"ABOUT HIS CARELESSNESS OF MASONIC SECRETS. HE RUNS THE LANTERN AND LEAVES THE SLIDES OUT WHERE ANY PROFANE CAN SEE THEM. HE TAKES THEM HOME SOMETIMES AND HIS CHILDREN CAN GET THEM AND..."

"I APPOINT YOU A COMMITTEE OF ONE TO SEE THAT HIS CHILDREN ARE ALL PROPERLY MURDERED. NO CHILD SHOULD LOOK AT A MASONIC SLIDE AND LIVE."

"NOW YOU ARE KIDDING ME."

"BOY, YOU ARE KIDDING YOURSELF. THE ONLY SECRET ABOUT A MASONIC LANTERN SLIDE THOUSANDS OF MASONS HAVE TRIED TO FIND, BUT NONE EVER HAVE. IT IS NOT TO BE REVEALED BY LOOKING AT THEM."

"I DON'T UNDERSTAND..."

"NO SECRETS OF FREEMASONRY ARE TO BE LEARNED FROM A MASONIC LANTERN SLIDE. THEY ARE SOLD TO ANY ONE WHO HAS THE PRICE. IF THERE WAS ANYTHING SECRET ABOUT A LANTERN SLIDE, MAKING IT WOULD BE AGAINST MASONIC OBLIGATIONS."

"BUT YOU SAID THERE WAS A SECRET..."

"SURE, BUT NOT A MASONIC SECRET. GENERATIONS OF MASONS HAVE TRIED TO LEARN WHO DESIGNED THEM THAT THEY MIGHT SLAY HIM WITH CEREMONY AND AN AXE. THE HARM DONE LEAVING MASONIC LANTERN SLIDES WHERE THE PROFANE MAY SEE THEM WILL COME FROM THE POOR OPINION THE PROFANE GETS FROM THE MASONIC SLIDE CONCEPTION OF CHARITY AND BROTHERLY LOVE AND TRUTH AND

RELIEF. SOME SLIDES REPRESENTING TIME COUNTING THE RINGLETTS IN THE HAIR OF THE VIRGIN GIVE ANYONE WITH THE SLIGHTEST IDEA OF ART THE NOTION THAT MASONS ARE ALL CUBISTS! WE ARE TRIANGLISTS OR RIGHTANGLISTS, MAYBE, BUT NOT CUBISTS! THOSE ILLUSTRATIONS OF BROTHERLY LOVE IN WHICH ONE FAT MAN LAYS A HAM-LIKE ARM LOVINGLY ABOUT THE BULL-LIKE NECK OF A MISSHAPEN ROMAN GLADIATOR WOULD SCARE ANY CHILD WHO SAW IT INTO SUCH A FEAR OF THE FRATERNITY HE WOULD PROBABLY WEEP EVER TIME DAD WENT TO LODGE... BUT AS FAR AS GIVING AWAY ANY MASONIC SECRETS IS CONCERNED- PIFFLE!"

"YOU HAVEN'T THE SAME REVERENCE FOR THE SACREDNESS OF MASONIC IDEAS AS I HAVE."

"WHOA! BOY, YOU HAVE THINGS UPSIDE DOWN. MY REVERENCE FOR REAL MASONIC SECRETS IS SECOND TO NONE. YOUR REVERENCE IS INCLUSIVE; MINE ONLY FOR WHAT IS REAL. YOU WOULDN'T GO HOME AND TELL YOUR WIFE THAT A LODGE ROOM HAS A CHAIR IN THE EAST, WHERE THE MASTER SITS, THAT THERE IS AN ALTAR IN THE CENTER OF THE LODGE, OR THAT CANDIDATES TAKE AN OBLIGATION, WOULD YOU?"

"CERTAINLY NOT!"

"I WOULD! THE SCRUBWOMEN SEE THE LODGE ROOM. IF THEY CAN BE PERMITTED TO VIEW ITS SACRED OUTLINES, I SEE NO REASON WHY MY WIFE SHOULDN'T. IN LODGE ENTERTAINMENTS WE DON'T MOVE THE ALTAR AND WOMEN HAVE ENTERTAINED US AFTER THE LODGE WAS CLOSED, MORE THAN ONCE. ANY CATALOGUE OF MASONIC PARAPHERNALIA ADVERTISES HOODWINKS, AND OURS ARE REGULARLY SENT TO THE LAUNDRY, ANYHOW!"

"THE REAL SECRETS OF FREEMASONRY MEAN SOMETHING FOR YOU AND ME, WHICH IS NOT FOR THE UNINITIATED. BUT THEY ARE NOT UPON LANTERN SLIDES, IN THE SIZE OF THE ROOM, THE HEIGHT OF THE CEILING OR EVEN THE PLACE WHERE A WORSHIPFUL MASTER HANGS HIS HAT! CIRCUMSPECTION IN SPEAKING OF THE THINGS OF THE LODGE, AS OPPOSED TO THE SPIRIT OF A LODGE, IS NECESSARY ONLY THAT NO FALSE IDEA BE GIVEN THE OUTSIDER. IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO PHOTOGRAPH MEN RECEIVING THE FIRST DEGREE, THE PROFANE MIGHT LAUGH, UNAPPRECIATIVE OF THE SYMBOLISM THEY SAW. BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK THE VALUE OF MASONIC SECRETS WOULD BE DECREASED BY SUCH AN EXHIBITION?"

"A NUMBER OF MEN HAVE WRITTEN EXPOSES OF MASONRY. HALF TRUE, HALF MANUFACTURED, NO ONE IS INTERESTED IN THEM. IN SECOND-HAND BOOKSTORES YOU CAN PICK THEM

UP FOR A FEW CENTS. THEY ARE IN EVERY MASONIC LIBRARY. IF WHAT THEY CONTAINED REALLY HARMED THE FRATERNITY, WOULD THE LIBRARIANS NOT DESTROY THEM?"

"THE SECRETS OF FREEMASONRY ARE CARRIED IN YOUR HEART; THEY ARE NOT WHAT YOU SEE WITH YOUR EYES OR TOUCH WITH YOUR FINGERS. THERE IS NOTHING SECRET ABOUT AN ORGAN, OR THE MUSIC BOOKS THE CHOIR USES, OR THE GAVEL THE MASTER HOLDS IN HIS HAND, NOR YET THE BOOKS IN WHICH THE SECRETARY RECORDS WHO HAS PAID HIS DUES. THE SHAPE AND FORM AND FURNITURE OF A LODGE IS NOT A SECRET, NOR THE TIME OF MEETINGS NOR THE NAME OF THE CHAPLAIN! THE LANTERN SLIDE CONCEALS NO SECRET WORTH KNOWING, NOR DOES THE CHART TO WHICH THE LECTURER POINTS NOR EVEN THE CARPET LAID DOWN THE SECOND DEGREE. THESE ARE ALL BUT A MEANS OF PUTTING A PICTURE IN YOUR MIND AND IT IS THE MEANING OF THAT PICTURE WHICH MUST BE SACREDLY KEPT, NOT THE MEANS WHICH PUT IT THERE."

"THEN YOU DON'T THINK SOMEONE OUGHT TO SPEAK TO BROTHER FILMORE SERIOUSLY!"

"NO, BUT THERE WAS A BROTHER IN THIS LODGE WHO HAD TO BE SPOKEN TO SERIOUSLY. I DID IT.."

"WHY, WHO WAS IT?" ASKED THE NEW BROTHER ANXIOUSLY. "YOU!" SAID THE OLD TILER.

THOSE DISCLOSURES!

"I HAVE JUST VISITED THE MASONIC LIBRARY," BEGAN THE NEW BROTHER, EXCITEDLY, "AND I AM MUCH DISTRESSED."

"IT IS A SHAME," ANSWERED THE OLD TILER, SYMPATHETICALLY. "IT IS THE BEST WE CAN DO, AS WE CAN ONLY AFFORD JUST SO MUCH AND SO WE HAVEN'T ALL THE BOOKS WE WANT. EVEN SO THERE IS A LOT OF GOOD READING THERE AND..."

"THAT ISN'T THE TROUBLE!" CRIED THE NEW BROTHER. "WHAT WORRIES ME IS THE APATHETIC ATTITUDE OF THE AUTHORITIES OF MASONRY WHO PERMIT SO MANY BOOKS TO BE WRITTEN ABOUT OUR SECRETS! I SKIMMED THROUGH SOME AND ALL A MAN NOT A MEMBER OF THE LODGE NEED DO IS READ A FEW AND HE WILL KNOW MORE MASONRY THAN I DO!"

"THAT IS PROBABLY TRUE!" SMILED THE OLD TILER. "BUT WHAT OF IT? HE WILL THEN BE A WELL-INFORMED MAN. YOU WILL

REMAIN ILL-INFORMED. SURELY IT IS BETTER TO HAVE WELLINFORMED PROFANES AND ILL-INFORMED MASONS THAN HAVE BOTH PROFANE AND MASON BADLY INFORMED!"

"BUT THE PROFANE WILL LEARN OUR SECRETS! WHERE WILL WE BE WHEN WE HAVE NO SECRETS? HOW CAN GRAND LODGE AUTHORITIES ALLOW BROTHERS TO PUBLISH WHAT THEY HAVE SWORN NEVER TO REVEAL?"

"OH! WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THESE BOOKS CONTAIN SECRETS?"

"WHY, I READ THEM! THERE WAS ONE BOOK WHICH HAD AN ACCOUNT OF THE GREAT LIGHTS, AND ANOTHER WHICH TALKED ABOUT JACHIN AND BOAZ, AND ANOTHER WHICH REFERRED TO THE DRAMA OF HIRAM ABIF, AND ANOTHER WHICH QUOTED OLD OBLIGATIONS AT LENGTH TO SHOW THE GENESIS OF MASONIC OBLIGATIONS AND..."

"YOU ARE SOMEWHAT IN THE DARK REGARDING THE SECRETS OF FREEMASONRY," OBSERVED THE OLD TILER. "YOU CAN READ OF JACHIN AND BOAZ, AND HIRAM IN THE BIBLE AND THE OLD OBLIGATIONS WERE PRINTED LONG BEFORE THEY WERE INCORPORATED IN FREEMASONRY. THE SECRETS OF FREEMASONRY ARE NOT DISCLOSED IN THE PRINTED WORKS OF MASONIC STUDENTS. YOU ARE NOT TO REVEAL ANYTHING NOT PROPER TO BE MADE KNOWN. YOU ARE NOT TO DESCRIBE THE MASONIC INITIATION. YOU ARE NOT TO DIVULGE THE MODES OF RECOGNITION. BUT NOWHERE IN ANY OBLIGATION OF ANY DEGREE IN FREEMASONRY WILL YOU FIND ANY PROHIBITION AGAINST TEACHING THE PRINCIPLES OF MASONRY, OR EXPLAINING THE SYMBOLISM BY WHICH MASONRY REVEALS HER GENTLE TEACHINGS.

"IN BOOKS LEARNED MASONS HAVE EXPOUNDED FOR YOU AND ME SOMETHING OF THE MEANING OF FREEMASONRY; WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT, WHAT IT TEACHES, WHY IT EXISTS, WHAT IT CAN ACCOMPLISH. IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO MAKE A SECRET OUT OF KNOWLEDGE. IT IS NOT NECESSARY THAT MASONRY KEEP TO HERSELF THE PHILOSOPHY OF CONDUCT, MORALITY, UPRIGHT LIVING, BROTHERHOOD, SHE HAS DEVELOPED. THAT IS FOR THE WORLD TO READ IF IT WILL. THE PITY OF IT IS THAT SO FEW WILL; THAT SO MANY ROB THEMSELVES OF THEIR MASONIC BIRTHRIGHT AND REFUSE TO READ WHAT HAS BEEN WRITTEN FOR THEM.

"MASONRY IS A FAR GREATER SUBJECT THAN MOST MEMBERS OF THE FRATERNITY KNOW. THE MAJORITY OF US TAKE THE THREE DEGREES AND STOP. NOT FOR US IS THERE SYMBOLISM. NOT FOR US IS THERE AN INTIMATE INTERTWINING

BETWEEN OUR ORDER AND THE WISE MEN, THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE PAST. NOT FOR US IS MASONRY A WELDING TOGETHER OF THE UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES WHICH ANIMATE ALL RELIGION, WITH THE DOGMA LEFT OUT. NOT FOR US IS THERE A LITERATURE, A TRADITION, A HISTORY. WE LET IT ALL GO BY THE BOARD, CONTENT TO WEAR A PIN AND PAY DUES AND VOTE FOR A NEW MASTER...AND CALL OURSELVES MASONS.

"BUT A FEW OF US IN EVERY LODGE ARE NOT SATISFIED MERELY TO BE MEMBERS; WE WANT TO BE MASONS IN OUR MINDS AS WELL AS THE RECORDS OF THE LODGE. SO WE READ AND STUDY. AND ONCE IN A BLUE MOON IS BORN A PIKE OR A POUND, A HAYWOOD OR A NEWTON, A MACKEY OR A MCBRIDE, WHO INTERPRETS THROUGH THE GREATNESS OF HIS VISION THAT YOU AND I MAY CATCH AT LEAST A GLIMPSE OF THE VASTNESS WHICH IS FREEMASONRY.

"THEY DO THAT IN BOOKS, BUT NONE TELLS WHAT HE HAS SWORN NEVER TO REVEAL... WHY SHOULD HE? BUT HE EXPLAINS THE MEANING OF THAT WHICH IS HIDDEN, SO THAT WE WHO HAVE THE KEY MAY UNDERSTAND. THE TROUBLE WITH OUR MASONIC BOOKS IS NOT THAT THEY TELL WHICH SHOULD NOT BE TOLD, BUT THAT WE ARE NOT RICH ENOUGH IN OUR LODGE TO BUY ENOUGH OF THE EXPOSITIONS OF FREEMASONRY TO EDUCATE ALL OUR BROTHERS.

"GO BACK TO THAT LIBRARY. TAKE ONE OR TWO BOOKS HOME WITH YOU. READ AND REFLECT. WHEN YOU FIND THE MASONIC AUTHOR WHO HAS VIOLATED HIS OBLIGATION, SHOW IT TO ME, BECAUSE I AM AN OLD, OLD MAN AND I HAVE HEARD OF THIS FORSWORN AUTHOR ALL MY LIFE, BUT I HAVE NEVER FOUND HIM!"

"I'M GOING," ANSWERED THE NEW BROTHER, "I WISH I HAD MORE SENSE!"

"I DON'T!" CAME THE SMILING ANSWER. "IF YOU KNEW MUCH THERE'D BE NO POINT IN TALKING TO YOU, AND THINK OF THE FUN WE'D BOTH LOSE!"

INVOLABLE

"JONES DIDN'T GET THROUGH, I KNEW HE WOULDN'T," SAID THE NEW BROTHER, SITTING DOWN IN THE ANTEROOM. THE OLD TILER HITCHED HIS SWORD TO BE MORE COMFORTABLE. "SOME OF YOU YOUNG MASONS SURE DO KNOW A LOT."

"I KNEW HE WOULDN'T GET THROUGH BECAUSE I KNOW TWO BROTHERS WHO WERE GOING TO BLACKBALL HIM," DEFENDED THE NEW BROTHER.

"I HAVE HEARD THAT BEFORE, TOO. DON'T TELL ME WHO YOUR

FRIENDS WERE. PERHAPS THEY TRY, ONCE IN A WHILE, TO BE GOOD MASONS. BUT THEY DON'T SUCCEED VERY WELL."

"WHAT DO YOU MEAN? THEY ARE SPLendid FELLOWS, BOTH OF THEM. THEY KNOW THIS FELLOW JONES OUGHT NOT TO BE MADE A MEMBER AND SO THEY KEPT HIM OUT. ONE OF THEM IS..."

"WAIT A MINUTE SON, WAIT A MINUTE. THE SECRECY OF THE BALLOT IS ONE OF THE GREAT GUARDIANS OF THE MASONIC FRATERNITY. EVERY BROTHER HAS A RIGHT TO VOTE AS HIS CONSCIENCE TELLS HIM HE SHOULD. NONE HAS THE RIGHT TO TELL OTHERS EITHER HOW HE WILL VOTE OR HOW HE HAS VOTED. WHOEVER DOES SO TEARS DOWN THE FRATERNITY TO SOME EXTENT. IF EVERY MASON TOLD HOW HE WOULD OR HAD BALLOTTED THERE WOULD BE NO SECRET BALLOT. IF THE BALLOT IS CONTROLLED BY OUTSIDE INFLUENCE, MASONRY IS NO LONGER UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE HEARTS OF ITS MEMBERS.

"IF I KNOW YOU WILL VOTE AGAINST MY CANDIDATE, I ARGUE WITH YOU. I PLEAD WITH YOU. I REMIND YOU OF THE FAVOR I DID YOU. I WORK UPON YOUR FEELINGS AND PERHAPS, FOR MY SAKE, YOU LET INTO THE LODGE A MAN I LIKE BUT WHOM YOU BELIEVE UNFIT FOR MEMBERSHIP. IF I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU WILL VOTE, I CANNOT ARGUE WITH YOU, AND YOUR VOTE IS DICTATED, AS IT SHOULD BE, ENTIRELY BY YOUR CONSCIENCE."

"BUT..."

"NEVER MIND THE 'BUT' JUST YET. AFTER MY CANDIDATE GETS IN BECAUSE OF YOUR AFFECTION FOR ME, IN SPITE OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF HIS UNFITNESS, THEN WHAT? ISN'T THE LODGE WEAKER THAN IT WAS? EVEN IF YOU ARE MISTAKEN AND A GOOD MAN THUS GETS IN, ISN'T YOUR TELLING THAT HE ISN'T A GOOD MAN A WEAKENING INFLUENCE? ARE YOU NOT APT TO VALUE IT A LITTLE LESS BECAUSE YOU WEAKENED IT? THE HARM, ONCE DONE, MAY PERSIST FOR YEARS- AND ALL BECAUSE YOU OPENED YOUR MOUTH AND LET OUT A FEW WORDS OF YOUR INTENTIONS BEFORE YOU BALLOTTED."

"SUPPOSE I WANT ADVICE AS TO HOW TO BALLOT? HOW CAN I ASK YOUR ADVICE WITHOUT TELLING YOU WHY I WANT IT?"

"YOU CAN'T. BUT THERE IS A REMEDY PROVIDED FOR SUCH CASES. MASONRY DEMANDS THAT EVERY APPLICATION BE INVESTIGATED BY A COMMITTEE A MONTH PRIOR TO THE BALLOT. YOU HAVE AMPLE TIME TO GO TO THE COMMITTEE. IF YOU KNOW ANYTHING AGAINST A PETITIONER IT IS YOUR DUTY TO TELL THE COMMITTEE. IF YOU HEARD SOMETHING AGAINST THE APPLICANT, TELL THE COMMITTEE. LET THE COMMITTEE FIND THE FACTS. IF WHAT YOU HEARD IS AN IDLE RUMOR, THE

COMMITTEE WILL LEARN IT. IF THERE IS A FOUNDATION TO THE GOSSIP, THEY WILL LEARN THAT, TOO. THEN YOU CAN BE GUIDED BY WHAT THE COMMITTEE REPORTS."

"ISN'T THAT TO SAY THAT ALL BALLOTING SHOULD BE DONE BY THE COMMITTEE?"

"NOT AT ALL!" ANSWERED THE OLD TILER. "THE COMMITTEE DECIDES FOR YOU AS TO THE FOUNDATION OF THE RUMOR OR THE MALICE BEHIND THE GOSSIP. IF YOU KNOW ANYTHING WHICH IN YOUR MIND JUSTIFIES A BLACKBALL YOUR COURSE AND YOUR CONSCIENCE ARE CLEAR. YOU ASKED ME WHAT YOU SHOULD DO WHEN YOU NEEDED ADVICE."

"BUT COMMITTEES ARE OFTEN PERFUNCTORY."

"THAT'S YOUR FAULT!" WAS THE SHARP ANSWER.

"MY FAULT? HOW DO YOU MAKE THAT OUT?"

"IF YOU THINK A COMMITTEE HAS MADE A PERFUNCTORY INVESTIGATION, TELL THE MASTER YOU WANT A NEW COMMITTEE APPOINTED. IF YOU THINK A COMMITTEE ISN'T DOING ITS DUTY, ASK ITS MEMBERS WHAT THEY HAVE DONE. IF THEY WON'T TELL YOU, NOTIFY THE MASTER THAT YOU WISH MORE TIME. HE WON'T REFUSE IT; HE KNOWS SUCH A REQUEST MEANS A BLACKBALL IF IT IS REFUSED. NO MASTER WANTS ANY GOOD MAN KEPT OUT, OR ANY UNFIT MAN IN. FINALLY, GET YOURSELF ON A FEW COMMITTEES- THE MASTER WILL BE HAPPY TO HAVE YOUR REQUEST FOR SUCH WORK. THEN BY EXAMPLE SHOW THE OTHER COMMITTEES WHAT A REAL COMMITTEE CAN DO."

"I SEE!" SAID THE NEW BROTHER. "I WONDER WHY ALL THIS ISN'T TOLD TO US WHEN WE FIRST COME INTO LODGE?"

"HUMPH! 'ALL THIS.' BOY, THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF BOOKS WRITTEN ABOUT MASONRY. DO YOU EXPECT SOMEONE TO TEACH YOU THE CONTENTS OF THEM ALL? THE SHOE IS ON THE OTHER FOOT."

"HOW DO YOU MEAN, OTHER FOOT?"

"WHEN YOU FIRST CAME INTO THIS LODGE, WHY DIDN'T YOU ASK?" RESPONDED THE OLD TILER, AS HE ROSE TO ANSWER RAPS ON THE DOOR.