

## MASONRY: FRATERNAL ORDER OR FALSE RELIGION?

In 1717, a group began which is now known as the Masonic Lodge, or the Masons. While they do not wish to be known as a religion, they are, by definition, clearly a religion – and a classic illustration of unacceptable worship.

The "Iowa Quarterly Bulletin" of April 1917 (p. 54), which is a Masonic publication, states:

"Masonry is a Divinely appointed institution, designed to draw men nearer to God, to give them a clearer conception of their proper relationship to God as their Heavenly Father, to men as their brethren and the ultimate destiny of the human soul." Now that's obviously a religion - even though they don't want to admit it! Albert Pike, who has been called by fellow Masons "one of the most distinguished Masons the Western World has produced," says in MORALS AND DOGMAS, page 23 (this is also found in HERTEL'S BIBLE, page 9, which is the Mason's edition of the Bible): "It (Masonry) reverences all the great reformers. It sees in Moses, the Lawgiver of the Jews, in Confucius and Zoroaster, in Jesus of Nazareth, and in the Arabian Iconoclast, Great Teachers of Morality, and Eminent Reformers, if no more; And allows every brother of the Order to assign to each such higher and even Divine Character as his Creed and Truth require ... We do not undervalue the importance of any Truth. We utter no word that can be deemed irreverent by anyone of any faith. We do not tell the Moslem that it is only important for him to believe that there is but one God, and wholly unessential whether Mahomet was His prophet. We do not tell the Hebrew that the Messiah whom he expects was born in Bethlehem nearly two thousand years ago; and that he is a heretic because he will not so believe. And as little do we tell the sincere Christian that Jesus of Nazareth was but a man like us, or His history but the unreal revival of an older legend. To do either is beyond our jurisdiction. Masonry, of no one age, belongs to all time; of no one religion, it finds its great truths in all. To every Mason, there is a God; One Supreme, Infinite in Goodness, Wisdom, Foresight, Justice, and Benevolence; Creator, Disposer, and Preserver of all things. How, or by what intermediates He creates and acts, and in what way He unfolds and manifests Himself, Masonry leaves to creeds and religions to inquire."

In other words, they say they believe in God, but you can decide who He is, what He wants, and how to get to Him.

When a person becomes a Mason, he's not allowed to speak certain secret words. If you have ever known a Mason, you are probably aware of the fact that he would never reveal any of those secret words. However, I would like to reveal them.

The most sacred word, assumed to be the word for God, is transmitted to the candidate as he is "raised" into the Master Mason Degree, as he assumes the position of the "five points of fellowship" (toe to toe, knee to knee, chest to chest, cheek to cheek, and mouth to ear). Whispered into his ear is the word MAH-HA-BONE. This "sacred" word, the candidate is told, must never be spoken aloud, never revealed, and always concealed. The Mason in the Royal Arch Degree (York Rite), a degree through which the Knight Templar is to pass on his way to the supposed "Christian Degree," has another secret name revealed to him at his initiation. The name of the True God, "rediscovered" is "Jah-Bul-On." This is the Royal Arch Masons' "Trinity." "Jah" is an abbreviation for the Hebrew name for God: Jehovah

(YHWH). "Bul" is the name for the Assyrian deity, and is mentioned throughout the Old Testament as "Baal." "On" is the Egyptian sun god.

Pike, in MORALS AND DOGMAS (pp. 854 ff.), says,

"To achieve it (salvation) the mason must first attain a solid conviction, founded upon reason, that he hath within him a spiritual nature, a soul that is not to die when the body is dissolved, but is to continue to exist and to advance toward perfection through all the ages of eternity, and to see more and more clearly, as it draws nearer unto God the light of the Divine Presence."

The cultic nature of Masonry could not be more clearly manifested than in the above statement.

In the Masons' Bible (p. 34), we find,

"In the opening of the lodge, the Great Architect of the Universe must be worshiped, and his blessings upon the work about to be done must be supplicated; at the same time, prayer should be offered for peace and harmony in the closing of the lodge."

This non-descriptive "Great Architect" must be worshiped. Who is he? Any god you design.

Pike also claims that at Masonic altars, "the Christian, the Hebrew, the Moslem, the Brahmin, the followers of Confucius and Zoroaster, can assemble as brethren and unite in prayer to the one God..."

In "Short Talk Bulletin" (Vol. 36, No. 8, p. 7), we read:

"The chaplain of the masonic lodge who prays as the voice of the lodge does not pray in the name of the Carpenter of Nazareth or the name of Jehovah or the name of Allah. He prays to the Grand Artificer or the Great Architect of the Universe. Under that title men of all faiths may find each his own deity. Failure to mention any deity by name is not denial, but merely the practice of a gracious courtesy, so that each man for whom prayer is offered can hear the name of his own deity in the all inclusive title of Great Architect."

Masonry is thus revealed as a satanic false religion. It says, "Yes, we believe in the true God," but reduces Him to a wrong form, and worships Him in a wrong manner, with a wrong heart attitude. It's unacceptable. Unfortunately, there are myriads of such unacceptable kinds of worship. They may think they're worshipping God – but they're not!