



DECEMBER 1, 2019

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 12

Lubbock's Light

The Newsletter of Lubbock Masonic Lodge #1392

And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light — Genesis 1:3



THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LEGEND OF HIRAM ABIFF by Conrad Hahn, P.C.M.

This Short Talk Bulletin has been adapted from a speech given by the late Most Worshipful Brother Conrad Hahn, in 1972, while serving as the Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association.

The legend of "Hiram, the widow's son," is the foundation of Freemasonry's ritualistic drama of the third, or Master's Degree. While it would be improper to reveal the details of the drama as it is presented in the lodge room, or to make public the ritualistic secrets and symbolism which it contains, the story of Hiram is so well known and has been referred to in Masonic writings so frequently that it has become a part of the cultural heritage of civilized men everywhere.

Briefly stated, the Hiram legend is as follows: When Solomon, King of Israel, undertook the building of the Temple in Jerusalem, he sent to Hiram, King of Tyre, for materials and assistance. In exchange for agricultural products like corn and wine and oil, King Hiram sent Solomon cedar trees cut from the forests of Lebanon and a skilled and cunning worker in metals. These facts may be found in the Old Testament, especially in Chapter 7 of I Kings and Chapter 2 of 11 Chronicles, where the skilled artisan, named Hiram, is referred to as the "son of a widow of the tribe of Naphtali" whose husband was "a man of Tyre."

This much of the Masonic legend of Hiram comes from the Bible; but the story known to Masons has a tragically different develop-

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- From the East..... 4
- From the West..... 4
- From the South 4
- From the Secretary 5
- From the Sr. Deacon 5
- From the Steward 5
- Our Calendar 6
- Our Lodge in Action..... 7
- The Quarry 8

PROGRAMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



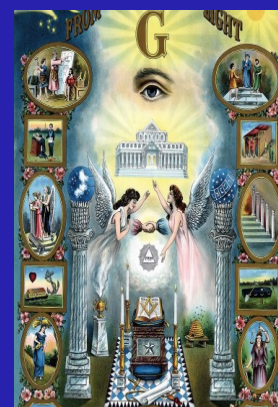
Start making plans now to attend the Grand Annual Conference which will be held in the Grand Lodge Building, in Waco, TX January 17 –19, 2019. There are rooms reserved in some of the area motels. Call Taylor, 254-753-7395, if you need a room (first come basis). If you live too far to travel on a daily basis, please make an effort to attend the Saturday events.

ON THE GRAND LODGE WEBSITE USING A CREDIT CARD OR DEBIT CARD. PAPER PRE-REGISTRATION FORMS OR ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE GRAND LODGE WEBSITE. THE DEADLINE TO PRE-REGISTER IS DECEMBER 28, 2019. PROXY FORMS SHOULD BE MAILED TO THE GRAND LODGE NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 28, 2019.

We also have a gun show to staff for next month.

MEMBERS CAN NOW PRE-REGISTER FOR THE 2020 ANNAUL COMMUNICATION ONLINE THROUGH THE MEMBERS PORTAL

“Remember not only to say the right thing in the right place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.”



THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LEGEND OF HIRAM ABIFF by Conrad Hahn, P.C.M.— *con't from page 1*



ment. Hiram, called Abiff (which is simply a Hebrew expression for "father," a term of respect), worked for King Solomon at Jerusalem, not only in casting all the metallic ornaments for the Temple, but also as a Master of the Works, a superintending architect.

More than 85,000 workmen were employed in the building of the Temple; it took approximately seven years to complete. To those workmen who labored faithfully on the project was promised the status of Master Workman, or Mason, upon its completion.

But some time before the Temple's completion, some of the workmen became dissatisfied and demanded the promotion which they had been promised. Not being organized like modern employees and being used to the harsher and more brutal modes of direct action characteristic of the more primitive times in which they lived, they sought the higher wages and fringe benefits of a Master Workman by conspiring to extort them from Hiram Abiff.

In spite of their violent threats, Hiram steadfastly refused to yield to their demands. Reminding them of their obligations to King Solomon and his God, he resolutely insisted that they honor the contracts by which he and they were bound. Three of them, more brutal than the rest, con-

spired to attack Master Hiram to force the concessions they were demanding; but he, being faithful to his trust, was more adamant in his refusal, and they in their wrath slew him in the unfinished Temple.

That, essentially, is the legend of Hiram which has become in Masonry one of the most impressive ritualistic dramas of all time. Historically-minded Brethren continue to wonder from whence it came and whose imagination and gifts of language transmitted it into the matchless drama which furnishes the core of "the sublime degree of Master Mason."

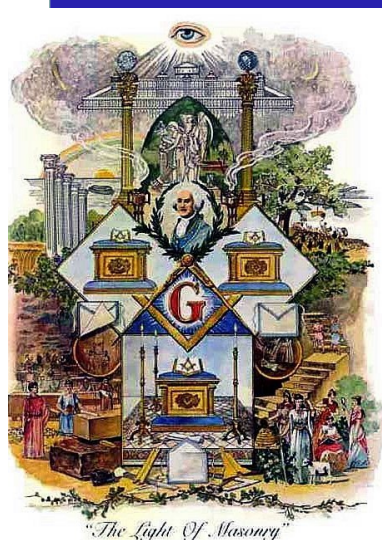
Certainly, the tragedy of Hiram is not to be found in the Bible. If only one Hiram is referred to in the Old Testament, the story of his assassination is not corroborated in either I Kings or 11 Chronicles; for there we read as follows: "So Hiram finished all the work he did for King Solomon on the House of the Lord."

Dr. Joseph Fort Newton, the most gifted and inspiring of Masonic writers fifty years ago, chose to believe that the tragic story of Hiram was long in the possession of operative Masons from the Middle Ages down to the dawn of Speculative Masonry in the 17th and 18th centuries. This I seriously doubt, since no mention of Hiram is to be found in any of the Old Charges and

Gothic Constitutions, or in any of the remnants of old ritualistic practices to be found in the records of operative lodges which date from 100 years or more before the founding of the first Grand Lodge, which marks the beginning of the era of modern Speculative Freemasonry in 1717. Had there been even a shred of evidence that the Hiram legend existed in Masonry before that date, I feel sure that Dr. James Anderson would have known of it and used it in the legendary history of the Craft which he published in *The Constitutions of the Freemasons* in 1723.

Furthermore, modern Masonic scholars have shown rather conclusively that there was no tri-gradual system of initiation during the period of operative Masonry, that there was no third or Master Mason Degree as a rite or ceremony before the creation of the Premier Grand Lodge in 1717. The first recital of the Hiram legend as the dramatic cornerstone of a third or Master Mason's degree appears in an expose of the ritual of Freemasonry entitled *Masonry Dissected*, written by a Samuel Prichard and published in London in 1730.

Consequently, it seems a logical conclusion to assume that the Master Mason Degree, and with it, the legend of Hiram Abiff, were introduced into Freemasonry when it became a specula-



"The grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race"

G. Washington

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LEGEND OF HIRAM ABIFF by Conrad Hahn, P.C.M.— *con't from page 2*

tive, or philosophic organization.

Just where did the legend of Hiram come from? No one really knows; scholars have yet to discover its origins and its introduction into Freemasonry. My own scholarly prejudices lead me to believe that it's a re-working of some mediaeval mystery play, whose original may yet be discovered in a private library or the rubbish of an ancient building.

Mystery plays were the most popular form of public entertainment in the Middle Ages. Each guild or trade had its own preferred dramas; most of them were Biblical in origin. They were produced, staged and acted by members of the guild, first in churches, and then in public squares, to which they were banished when the plays became too boisterous and irreverent for the sacerdotal authorities.

These dramas were called mysteries, not because they treated of witches, ghosts, or detectives, but because they were produced by craft guilds or "mysteres," which is variant of the French word "mestaire," a craft or guild. So the plays became known in England as mysteres, or mysteries, because they were produced by "mestaires," or guilds. The expression, "the mysteries of Freemasonry," therefore, originally meant the ritualistic ceremonies, or work of the Lodge.

To Masons who thirst for his-

torical certainty about Hiram Abiff and his position in Masonic ritual, I can only give a dusty answer. It's not really important.

It's a mistake to consider the Hiram legend as history. There was a Hiram Abiff in history, but our Third Degree is not interested in him as such. The drama of Hiram is a conflict of a man with other men, of an individual against evil forces embodied in other men.

Hiram Abiff is the dramatized symbol of the human soul-of mine, of yours, of every man. The work he was engaged in is symbolic of the work which you and I are committed to perform in the supervision, organization and direction of our lives from birth to dissolution. The enemies that Hiram meets are really symbols of those lusts and passions and failures of the spirit which in ourselves and others make war on our characters and spiritual aspirations.

In my opinion, this symbolic increment to the Hiram legend was added by one of the Speculative Masons of the early Eighteenth Century, by someone with the education and philosophical attainments of a man like Dr. John Theophilus Desaguliers or other Rosicrucian adept.

Hiram's death was also his triumph--as the resurrection of truth over ignorance is always a victory, in spite of its being buried for a while in the rubbish of scorn and deliber-

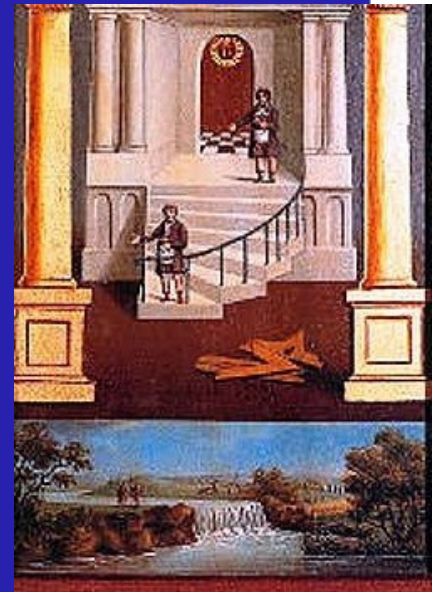
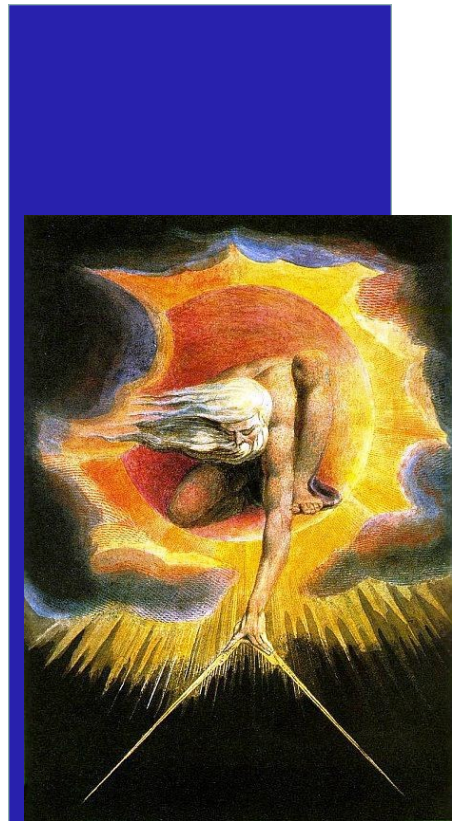
ate persecution.

This is the real importance of the legend of Hiram, that it still stirs men to serve the Truth by steadfastly maintaining the necessity of their noblest aspirations, even to apparent defeat in death, out of which can arise a more perfect Living Perpendicular!

Edwin Booth, the famous actor and loyal Mason, was no mean judge of the essence of tragedy; he evaluated the Hiram legend in these words: "In all my research and study, in all my close analysis of the masterpieces of Shakespeare, in my earnest determination to make those plays appear real on the mimic stage, I have never, and nowhere, met tragedy so real, so sublime, so magnificent as the legend of Hiram. It is substance without shadow the manifest destiny of life which requires no picture and scarcely a word to make a lasting impression upon all who understand. To be a Worshipful Master, and to throw my whole soul into that work, with the candidate for my audience and the Lodge for my stage, would be a greater personal distinction than to receive the plaudits of people in the theaters of the world."

And that should tell us, if we are Master Workmen, what we should do with the legend of Hiram when we work in "the mysteries of Freemasonry." We must make it truly sublime!

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"Take everything you like seriously, except yourselves."

Rudyard Kipling



WORSHIPFUL MASTER HEATH MORGAN
From the East

Brethren, I hope all of you had a wonderful time with friends and family this Thanksgiving. As is tradition with some, we went around the table saying what we were thankful for. And as tradition we got the family, friends, kids, and blessings received this year answers. However as I reflect on that tradition and the traditional answers I wonder if I should have replaced them with Freemasonry. The order has done wonderful things for me. I have a world wide brotherhood filled with great men. I have a home away from home in thousands of cities. My kids have joined affiliated organizations that are betting their lives and influencing them in positive ways. I

am thankful for our lodge and the good men that make it up.

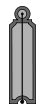
Please remember that we are going to need all hands on deck to start packing up the lodge to make our move to the York Rite building. May God bless you and yours this holiday season.



SENIOR WARDEN HENRY HOUSOUR
From the West

We have a candidate who finished his proficiency in the fellowcraft degree and is looking forward to receiving his master's degree. We did not have enough brothers to do it in the prescribed manner and are having trouble getting enough we need help from all our brothers to practice the up coming

degree. It looks like it will be necessary to get help from other lodges if we are to get enough members to do the degree in the proper manner.



JUNIOR WARDEN HARROLD LOVELESS
From the South

This Masonic year is flying by quickly. The December holiday season is upon us and I wish each of you a Happy Holiday and safe travels. Another reminder I need to mention is that Lodge dues are also upon us. Each brother should have received a dues notice by now from the Secretary. It is so easy to get caught up in the holiday festivities and forget about dues. According to the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, Chapter 18, Title II, Art.319, lodge dues are due and payable one year in

advance on January 1st of each year unless otherwise exempt. After January 1st, a brother is considered in arrears and if not paid by June 23rd of the same year, shall be automatically suspended for non-payment of dues and their name read into the Lodge minutes as suspended. So let us help out our Brother Secretary and get dues in on or before January 1st. Again, I wish everyone a Happy Holiday.

“Live in such a way that you would not be ashamed to sell your parrot to the town gossip.”

Will Rogers



FROM THE SECRETARY JERRY HENDRICK
Taking Care of Business

From time to time, we are asked to do the impossible and yet we are able to overcome the task. Dues are one of many obligations in support of your Lodge. Because without your support we can no-longer function as an organization, and keep our doors open to help those who express and interest in becoming Masons. I need every ones help so we can grow. Please provide me with your email address. I have several emails that I have re-

sponded to in regards to membership. With your help I am going to forward these names to you so that everyone has an opportunity to answer questions about membership, for those who are asking how to become Masons. Remember we all need each other's support to grow.



FROM THE SENIOR DEACON JASON JONES
Visiting Brothers and Prospects

We would like to thank all those who attended the November meeting.

Bob Chesser of Daylight Lodge #1443, Rolan Pirtle of Yellowhouse Lodge #841.

We hope to see you at our next stated meeting on Friday, December 13 th @ 7:30 P.M. Dinner will be at 6:30 P.M. We encourage anyone interested in getting involved with the degree team to attend floor practice on Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.

Brothers as the Holidays come around many lodges and appendent bodies are

holding Holliday celebrations, I believe it is important that we take the initiative to attend some of these events and represent our lodge.



FROM THE SENIOR STEWARD LUIS RAMOS
Food, Flowers & Frolic

Guide us, Great God, in learning to truly live lives of purification, illumination, and unification. Show us from Masonry's degrees, its "stages of initiation," the importance of developing conscience, mind, and soul. Make us aware of our nature as moral beings. Help us see the benefits of education and knowledge. Remind us of our interdependence upon each other, and upon You, O God. Grant us the perseverance to really be good Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts, and Master Masons. Amen.



Upcoming Menu for December:

- Deli platter
- Assorted cookies
- Assorted chips
- Assorted drinks

Let us endeavor so to live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry.

Mark Twain

LUBBOCK LODGE DECEMBER CALENDAR

 Lubbock Masonic Lodge #1392 Masonic Calendar Proxy Certificates are due the GS Office NLT December 28			<h2>December 2019</h2>			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3  WOFFORTH FRENSHIP	4	5	6  YELLOWHOUSE LODGE	7 <small>Pearl Harbor</small>
8	9   EMMA LODGE COMMANDERY	10  LUBBOCK OES FLOOR PRACTICE	11	12   CHAPTER RAINBOW GIRLS	13  STATED MEETING	14
15	16  CROSBYTON LODGE	17  MACKENZIE LODGE FLOOR PRACTICE	18  SCOTTISH RITE	19   SLATON LODGE FREEDOM OES	20	21  DAYLIGHT LODGE
22	23	24  CHRISTMAS EVE	25  CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27	28
29	30	31 NEW YEARS EVE				
		November 2019 S M T W T F S 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30			January 2020 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	

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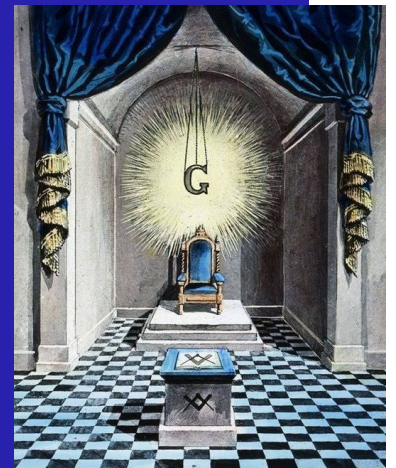
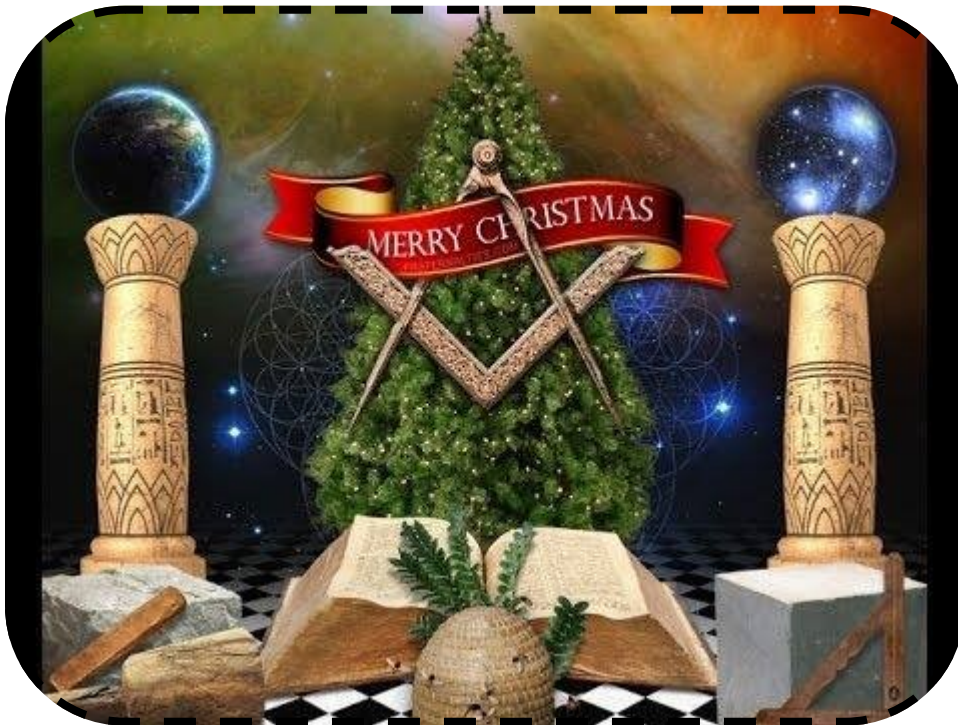
"There's only one corner of the universe you can be certain of improving, and that's your own self."

-Aldous Huxley

"Freemasonry is an institution calculated to benefit mankind"

Andrew Jackson

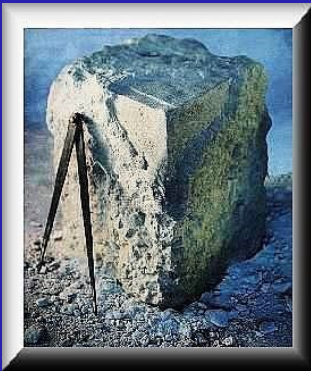
Season's Greetings



“To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society.”

Theodore Roosevelt

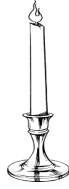
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#1392
MASONIC DIST 93-A



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lubbockmasoniclodge.org



SICKNESS AND DISTRESS



“The things a man has to have are hope and confidence in himself against odds, and sometimes he needs somebody, his pal or his mother or his wife or God, to give him that confidence. He's got to have some inner standards worth fighting for or there won't be any way to bring him into conflict. And he must be ready to choose death before dishonor without making too much song and dance about it. That's all there is to it.”

Blair Gable

This Month's Brothers' Birthdays

Alvie Ivey 12/6
Alton Utsey 12/18
Clyde Hildebrand 12/20
Christopher Yeoman 12/20
Randy Henson 12/26

4539 BROWNFIELD DR
LUBBOCK, TX
79410-1721

MEETINGS:
SECOND FRIDAY OF EACH
MONTH, 7:30 P.M.
MEAL: 6:30PM
FLOOR SCHOOL:



The Quarry: Our Esoteric Work By Bro. Coke Etgen, PM

THE CHARGE

At the end of the ceremony and instruction in each degree, the candidate is charged to perform his Masonic duties. The Charge given him explains these duties especially in their relation to the particular Degree. These Charges should not be ignored as mere conventionalities.

If you never remember anything else to explain to someone “What is Freemasonry” the charge in the first degree is quite complete.



E-Mail: admin@lubbockmasoniclodge.org