

# THE KEYSTONE



Publication of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia and Yukon

## Grand First Principal's Message

Volume 11, Issue 2  
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The Bible (Ephesians 5:20) tells us to give thanks for all things and that's an interesting concept. When something good happens it's always easy to be thankful, but not necessarily when bad things happen. Now why on earth should anyone be happy about bad things happening to them? One woman asked her Pastor to pray that she have patience, so he prayed she have lots of troubles. She stopped him saying she already had enough troubles, she wanted patience. To which he replied, the Bible says troubles make for patience. Remember, there are two great tragedies in life; one is not getting what you want and the other is getting it; but it's also important to know the difference.

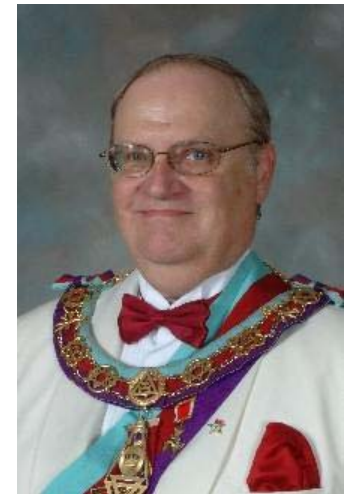
I just ready story about a man who was out cruising on his boat in the beautiful Caribbean. He was happy and thankful then suddenly he struck a reef and his boat went down. He swam to the shore of a beautiful little uninhabited island and prayed 'God please help me, rescue me from this island.' In a few days he gathered enough materials to make a nice little hut and a few things floated ashore to help with life on the island. One day, as he stood on the beach admiring the beauty and gathering objects, he saw smoke and a large fire. His little hut and all his meager belongings had caught fire and burned to ashes. As he wept he complained to God, 'If you couldn't save me, why would you let me lose everything I had.' Later as he looked through the ashes for anything still usable he suddenly saw a sailor walking toward him. The man told him there was a large ship waiting to take him home and the ship wrecked man was over joyed. 'How did you ever find me?' he asked. The sailor replied, 'We saw your big signal fire.'

I know of a man who having received his draft notice prayed asking God, what he should do. Should he get a deferment or take the chance of being sent to Vietnam? He felt God wanted him to serve his country, so he joined the army and was sent to Vietnam. While in country, he saw nothing to be thankful for and couldn't figure out why God would want him in the midst of such tragedy. One day, while his unit walked through a burning village; he looked down and saw a little book on fire. He extinguished the flames, picked it up and found it was a Bible written in Vietnamese. Suddenly, he understood, knew why

he was there and what God wanted. That man would spend the remainder of his life helping the injured people of Vietnam and rebuilding what the war had destroyed.

It's hard to give thanks when things just don't seem to be going right; but I can tell you some of the darkest moments in my life have led to some of the brightest. When things became so bad and I just said, "Lord why me?" "What have I done to deserve this?" All I could do was sit and pray until I was again thankful and trusted that the Lord knew what was best. Then suddenly everything turned around and as bad as things had been they became fantastic. I believe things like that happen because the Lord is building our character, strengthening our resolve and helping us become the people we should be.

One last story as a final illustration, apparently a farmer's old mule had fallen down an old dry well. The farmer felt sorry for the mule who although unhurt it brayed pitifully from the well. The farmer thought, if I throw dirt and garbage down the well I'll fill it in and it will be the mules grave. So he began to fill it in. Every time he threw dirt down the well it landed on the mules back and the old mule would panic braying loudly. Suddenly the mule had an idea. He shook off the dirt and



stepped up on top of it.

Dirt in, shake it off and step up became almost one action until the mule finally climbed out of the well unharmed.

Remember at times being thankful means shaking off whatever has happened in prayer, trusting in God and stepping up to meet the next challenge. Jesus has promised he would never leave us or forsake us so thankfully we will never face the challenge alone.

MEC Joel J. Chiri  
Grand First Principal

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## *Grand Chaplain's Message: The Meaning of Masonry*



Companions:

I cannot recall where I found the following story, but I have used it on many occasions, and I still find it poignant. It reminds me each time I read it to (a) continue to assist others in helping them understanding freemasonry, and (b) to remind myself of the need for my continued enlightenment.

“Does any brother have anything to offer for the good of Freemasonry or this Lodge in particular?”

Often heard and sometimes interesting comments do arise. A new Mason rose to his feet. “Worshipful Master, what is the meaning of Freemasonry?” The Master was somewhat taken aback. In past meetings, the questions or concerns raised in this portion of the meeting had been easy to deal with.

Why me, protested the Master to himself? Did we not give that answer? After all he was the last candidate to have degrees conferred upon him. Were not the lectures clear and fully understood? Surely we told him

that Freemasonry was a way of life? Shall the Master decide to ask him to see him after the meeting?

As it was, the Master remembered an event that took place when he was in college and taking a philosophy course. The professor wrote on the board one day, “What is the meaning of life?” and asked the class to put their thoughts down on paper for the next 30 minutes. After the papers had been collected, a student rose and asked the Professor, “Professor, what IS the meaning of life?”

The Professor said, “That is a fair question. I asked you, so you are entitled to ask me.”

He went over to the classroom window and took out a small pocket mirror. Holding it at an angle, he reflected the sun’s rays into the classroom, a light almost equal in brightness to that of the sun itself. He centered the light on a far corner of the room where sunlight never reached. “There’s the answer: reflecting light into dark places. The light represents knowledge, and the dark place, ignorance. I believe that is the meaning of life.”

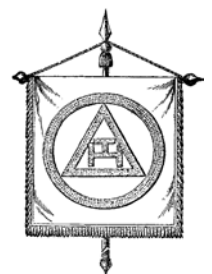
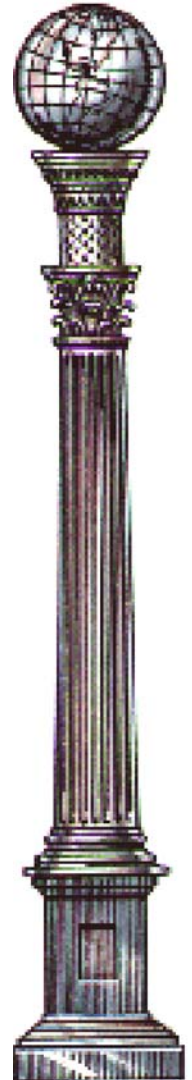
“My Brother,” the Master said, “perhaps that story is the clue to your question. The meaning of Masonry is the reflection of the light of Masonic philosophy and doctrine into dark places. In those dark places are ignorance, prejudice, inequality, injustice, and animosity. In the reflected light of Masonry, those evils are replaced with brotherly love, justice, prudence, faith and charity. It hasn’t always been easy: Sometimes the light fails. But Masonry isn’t discouraged: It is determined and persistent because its teachings are morally right.

The young Mason was still on his feet. “Then you mean that a Mason is supposed to reflect the light of Masonry so that the darkness called evil will be replaced by the good things of life?”

The Master spoke, “I couldn’t say it better myself.”

**Comp. Stephen Godfrey  
Grand Chaplain**

If anyone knows the true source of this story, I would appreciate knowing so that I can give the full citation to the work.



## *Leadership: Passion for What You Do*

This article revisits the topic of leadership and its many aspects which began in Volume 19, Issue 2. The resources, both printed and on the web, are many and varied. I use the list of Leadership basics, espoused by Warren Bennis, as an outline for the series.

Bennis saw the second basic ingredient of leadership being a **Passion** for what one does. The leader is passionate about the promises of life in general and has a particular passion for their vocation, profession or course of action. Perhaps more importantly, a leader communicates his passion to others, giving them both hope and inspiration.

Writing for the Harvard Business School, Jonathan Byrnes wrote: Leaders are people who leave their footprints in their areas of passion.

Patty Vogan cites Christopher Columbus and Leif Ericsson as examples of passionate leaders who inspired their followers to take on new challenges.

Boverie and Koth wrote an entire book on achieving trust, commitment and passion in the workplace. Their 5 Keys to Passion are:

1. The Discovering Process: Passionate people have discovered work that excites them.
2. The Designing Process: Passionate people find ways to make their lives exciting, meaningful and special.
3. Risking: Risk is an important part of living passionately.
4. Learning: Passionate people are always learning, reinventing themselves, and exploring new things.
5. Building Self-Efficacy: The belief that we have

about our ability to do something.

All of us have things about which we are passionate. The thing that turns that personal passion into a leadership tool is being able to instil some of that in others

Sources:

Bennis, Warren. 2009. On becoming a leader. Basic Books: New York, NY. 254 p.

Boverie, P.E. and Koth M. 2001. Transforming work. Perseus Publishing: Cambridge MA

Hbswk.hbs.edu

Vogan, P. 2006. 5 Key traits of great leaders AT entrepreneur.com



## *Ninety-third Grand Convocation 15-18 September, 2011 - Victoria, B.C.*

**Venue:** The Temple, 650 Fisguard Street, Victoria

**Accommodation:** Traveller's Inn-City Centre, Paul's Motor Inn, Laurel Point Inn

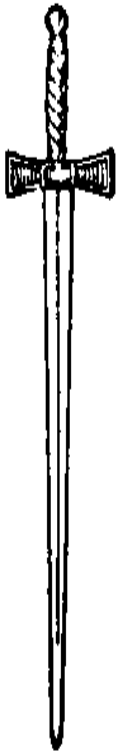
**Past Master Degree:** Thursday September 15

**OHP, Foundation, Informal Opening:** Friday September 16

**Opening:** Saturday, September 17

**Church Parade:** Sunday, September 18

## *Liberal Arts & Sciences: Logic*



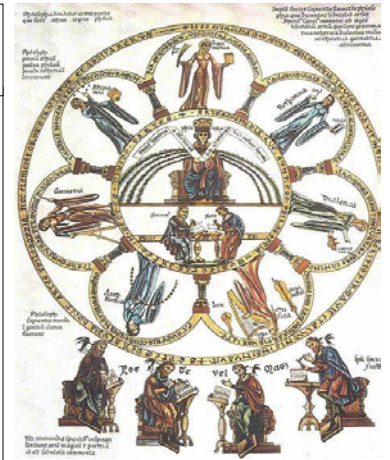
This article is the fourth in a series describing the seven Liberal Arts and Sciences and their context within Freemasonry.

The second of the *Trivium*, the part of the Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences concerning language, is Logic. It was Aristotle who established logic as a formal discipline. In defining Logic within the context of Freemasonry, Dr. Albert Mackey describes it as the power of right reasoning, that power which distinguishes the sane man from the madman or the idiot.

Logic as a field of study covers the principles of valid inference and correct reasoning. It examines the general form which philosophic arguments may take so

that one can determine which of those may be valid and which false. Often, the field of study is divided into inductive reasoning (generalizing from observations) and deductive reasoning (using accepted premises to prove what follows; e.g., if . . . , then . . . ).

In Freemasonry, we are introduced to Logic in the Fellow Craft Degree along with the other Liberal Arts and Sciences. Logic is the only one of the seven which fits in the modern realm of philosophy. As it directs us and guides us in our search for Truth, it is an essential tool of the fully equipped Freemason. By Logic, we are led to conclusions based on our knowledge.



Sources:

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en.wikipedia.org

Mackey, A.G. 1949. Lexicon and history of Freemasonry. T.A. Maclure: Philadelphia. 570.p.

Masonicdictionary.com

Masonicworld.com

## *All Things Beautiful*



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