

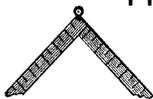


Kendall Masonic Lodge No. 897 A.F. & A.M.
897 East Blanco Road • Boerne, Texas 78006



February 2017

From the East



Greeting Brethren,

We have the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Texas which governs the workings of our lodge, yet the real meaning of Masonry is determined by the path we chose to follow.

How do we get from San Antonio to Dallas? Well there is 281 or IH35 or we could take IH10 to Houston and turn left on IH45. Regardless of the path we still get to the destination. Therefore, we could surmise that it is not the path we take but the “journey”.

We all have firm opinions on masonry, regarding the origin, reason for the fraternity and the direction in which we should move in this century. It is only with the study of the past that we can determine the future of the fraternity.

There are some that believe that philosophy will eventually disappear and we will become nothing more than a social organization. However, there’s a great deal of philosophical progress in masonry that is very difficult to comprehend.

It is difficult to comprehend because we see

with it. We have incorporated masonic philosophical thought into our way of viewing the world. It is that philosophical argument that first introduce the arguments of truth, relief and brotherly love.

This philosophy provides us an insight into the significant and often invisible progress that masonry has made. When we encounter an epistemological question, we need to research a wide variety of writings not just the one we have on our book shelf. With the internet, many of these resources are available at www.gutenberg.org or www.sacred-text.com, as well as university web sites.

Research provides a background to enable a philosophical discussion regarding masonic thought and principles both ancient and modern in nature.

By challenging our point of view, we develop the ability to respect and gain understanding of others that will provide an insight into our everyday life. I am no smarter than my peers, but I have one tool that many refuse, I listen, rather than defend a concept, to gain an understanding of what they believe. Masonic philosophy teaches us to respect one’s views even when we don’t agree with them. Philosophy teaches us to ask questions, analyze, and contrast viewpoints, and draw our own conclusions.



Philosophy is the foundational discipline of the fraternity. As it is can be highly theoretical and practical, philosophical thinking is reflective and conceptual activity concerned with some of the most enduring and challenging fundamental questions about the nature, meaning and possibilities of Masonry. It provides a venue to think critically, challenge our point of view. To develop our ethics and moral compass, which we develop a framework to apply to our daily lives and interpret things in the “*profane world*”.

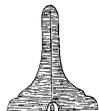
This philosophy cannot be learned by rote or from a book, it must be read, digested using critical and systematic techniques and evolving our own thoughts and precepts. Developing our own Masonic Philosophical ideas and thoughts must be a continuing effort not a one day affair or short talk bulletin, we must continue the study to advance the fraternity in this century.

“A persistent tradition affirms that through the ages, and in every land behind the systems of faith accepted by the manner an inner and deeper doctrine has been held and taught by those able to grasp it.” Joseph F. Houston

Stephen L Hill	43
Thomas I. Pipes	42
Gaylin E. Kinsey	40
Michael R. Arthur	39
Gary M. Coffey	38
Alfred C. Gray	37
David K. Clerico	33
Lennox W. Stewart	31
John D. Rritchett	29
Jay M. Miller	19
John J. Vidas	16
John E. Davis	6
Gabriel H. Garner	3

<i>February Birthdays</i>	
Brother	Date
Robert L. Carpenter II	2/3
Scott A. Davis	2/7
John J. Vidas	2/7
Steven C. Marsh	2/9
Edward J. Vogt	2/11
Frank W. Lieck	2/14
Robin L. Scheel	2/14
William H. Mayo	2/16
Kenneth L. Fitzpatrick Jr.	2/19
Sermet D. Agolli	2/19
Josue' M. Martinez	2/20
Lyle B. Schichner Sr.	2/22
Scott D. Hoibert	2/23
Roy E. Thomas	2/28
Charles L. Clark	2/28
Robert F. Todd	2/28
Gary M Coffey	2/29

<i>February Service Anniversary</i>	
Brother	Years MM
Carl E. Prael Jr	51
John L. Eaton	47
Gary D. Lawson	45



FROM THE WEST

From the West

“In the name of God and the Holy Saints John.”



We hear these words every time we attend lodge, but what do we really know about the Holy Saints John? We know that they were Saint John the Baptist and Saint John the Evangelist. Let's take a short look at each of these great men and get to know them a little bit better.

Saint John the Baptist

Saint John the Baptist was the cousin of Jesus Christ, and is spoken of in almost the exact same language in all four of the Gospels of the New Testament:

“A voice crying in the wilderness,” whose purpose was to, “Prepare the way of the Lord and make his paths straight.”

In the book of Luke, Christ goes as far as to say, “Among them that are born of women, there has not risen any greater than John the Baptist.”

High praise indeed. As we look at this man, it becomes more clear why the Mason should hold him in high regard. Called the Baptist because as he preached, he baptised believers in the waters of the Jordan, he lived a simple and devout life, preaching single-minded righteous living and a change of character. His message was that man must live in a holy manner and that deviation from that manner was unacceptable.

John was imprisoned and beheaded by King Herod for his refusal to change his message and for his devotion to Jesus. His heroism, fidelity, and integri-

ty are echoed in the legends of Jacques DeMolay and Hiram Abif, which give us more insight into his inclusion as a Patron Saint of Masonry.

Next month we will take a look at our other Patron, Saint John the Evangelist.

Masonic Humor

Bob and Bill were brother masons and great friends for most of their lives.

Each had agreed that when one of them passed on to that Grand Lodge above, he would attempt to make contact with the other and tell him all about what heaven was like.

As so happened, Bill went to heaven, first.

One night Bob was just drifting off to sleep when he heard Bill's voice calling to him.

"Is that you, Bill?"

"Yes, Bob. I am honoring our agreement."

"Oh, MY,... what's it like?" Bob asked with some anticipation.

"It's like nothing you could ever imagine. The lodge here is fantastic,... better than any lodge we ever saw on Earth."

The meetings are always well attended, the ritual is letter perfect, the friendship nights always have tons of new people just itching to join, and the spirit of fellowship blankets the entire place."

Bob's eyes teared up.

"Oh, my, it's just like we'd hoped. I'm so happy for you. But I have to ask,... that sounds really great, but you didn't really seem all that excited. What's wrong?"

"Well, I have some good news and some bad. The good news is that we're raising a fellow to the third degree next Wednesday."

"That's fantastic. What's the bad news?"

"Your name is on the list to be the Senior Deacon."



From the South



Brethren,

This month we will be covering the last of the major Abrahamic religions, the Islamic faith, and the virtues held within. The Islamic faith is of relatively late antiquity, with most historians placing its forming at the beginning of the 7th century in Mecca and Medina. It is important to note here, that historically speaking, it began to take shape in the 7th century, but was not established until the 11th century. In regards to the history, there is much that ties the three religions together, and as always, I would encourage you brethren to do your own research here regarding such. Just like Judaism, Islamic virtues were many, too many to cover in a short article, but as I continued to do research a theme began to stand out, one that seemed all too familiar: Islamic ethics, like that of Judaism, seem to have largely been formed or interpreted with a significant Greek influence. This made me dig a little deeper to see if I could find a unique take on Islamic ethics outside the Greek/ Western influence; sure enough I found it and will briefly summarize it later in the article. There are three subjects that I will present in this article that are really one in the same, the core Islamic virtues (Greek/ Western), the Five Pillars of Islam and lastly the Islamic virtue of righteousness as a standalone virtue, all for the purposes of understanding the virtues within Islam.

There was an enormous list of virtues within Islam that I had to sort through to find what I would consider the core virtues, as they were the ones most commonly listed across my research. In no particular order these virtues are: justice, prudence, temperance, perseverance/ courage (fortitude), gratitude, generosity, humility, charity and contentment. At the very top of all the lists was the virtue of righteousness, which I will get to separately. Aside from the virtues listed every believer is required to observe what is called the Five Pillars of Islam.

The Five Pillars of Islam are acts that are required

to be performed and are the core foundation of the Islamic faith. The first pillar is that of faith, that there is no God but God and Muhammad is his prophet. Daily prayers is the second pillar. The act required here is that those of Islamic faith are required to pray five times a day toward Mecca. The third pillar is alms-giving, a required act of charity toward those less fortunate within their communities. The fourth pillar is fasting during Ramadan. Ramadan is the 9th month in the Islamic calendar and Muslims are expected to fast from dawn to dusk. The last of the pillars is the pilgrimage to Mecca. This occurs on the 12th month of the calendar and is expected to happen at least once in an individual's life if they are physically and financially capable. Something of interest to note regarding the Five Pillars is that if practiced these acts build many of the listed virtues within an individual therefore creating such.

At the top of all the lists, with no variation, was the virtue of righteousness. During my research I found a few articles that presented this virtue as a standalone virtue of the Islamic faith. This was in clear separation from the usual lists of virtues that we tend to see or read of in typical Greek/Western philosophy/ ethics. So how is righteousness defined that it would be the only one needed? That answer is to be found in the Qur'an, 2:177: "It is not righteousness that you turn your faces towards the East and the West, but righteous is he who believes in Allah, and the last day, and the angels and the Book and the Prophets, and gives away wealth out of love for Him, to the near of kin and the orphans and the needy and the wayfarer and to those who ask, and sets slaves free and keeps up prayer and pays the alms; and those of honor or fulfil their contracts when they make a contract, and remain patient in distress and affliction and in the time of panic and conflict. These are they who are truthful and these are they who are God-fearing". Within this "definition" of righteousness we find a true core of Islamic virtues as follows: faith, charity, kindness, and perseverance/ courage (fortitude). One definition, many virtues, seemed very comprehensive, clear and unique.

Please join us this month brethren at our monthly conclave for fellowship, food prepared by our Stewards, and to dispense with Lodge business.



SECRETARY'S CORNER



Brethren... We're started off the new year right. We've had an Entered Apprentice and a Fellowcraft Degree in January. However there is still a lot of year left and things to do. So before we get ahead of ourselves, here are some of the things going on this month.

Also... to be in good standing in 2017 you need one of the dues cards which say, "Exp Date 12/31/2017" in your wallet. If you don't have that, then send your dues to me. Please take the time to do that now.

February is a short month in days only. Here are a few things to put on your calendar:



We will have our **Sweethearts Luncheon on Saturday, February 18th** beginning with fellowship at 11:00 AM. So if you know of a widow of a passed Brother, ask her if she received her invitation. If she didn't receive one, then invite her to come and you can bring your Sweetheart as well.



Monday, February 20th, will be our **February Stated Meeting** with Dinner starting at 6:15 PM, Food and Fellowship lasting until 7:20 PM or so, and our Stated Meeting starting at 7:30 PM. Some of our wives stay in the Banquet Room during the meeting so bring your wife and/or other family members and come to the dinner and meeting.



Please note that during this Stated Meeting Dinner at 7:00 PM we will draw the winning ticket for our Fall Raffle. The prize is a **His & Hers Handgun Set** with a semi-automatic **Glock for him** and a **Taurus Ladies Revolver for her** along with a case and CHL class

for each. This is a win – win situation. You win because you're in the raffle with chances to have your ticket drawn and high school seniors in Boerne and Comfort win as some of them will be given scholarships to earn a higher education.



No date set yet, but we approved by a ballot of the lodge for one petitioner to receive the degrees and have a committee investigating another petitioner. **That means that there will be one Entered Apprentice degree and possibly another in the next few months.** One of our EA's also gave his proficiency during our Stated Meeting in January and **will have his Fellowcraft Degree soon.** Come and give us a hand. According to our 1905 Charter the primary reason we are here is to... instruct candidates to learn, improve, and become Master Masons in every sense of the word.



On Monday, February 23rd, we will have our Fellowcraft Education Night presented by our Junior Warden Matt Archilla. Brother Archilla's presentations are always thought provoking and interesting. Plan on being there.

PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR:

Monday March 6th at 6:30-8:30 PM there will be a **Philosophical Round Table** held by Senior Deacon Matt Archilla at **HillBillyz of Texas** at 1931 FM 473, Brother Billy Lieck has invited the Brethren to come out to his establishment and enjoy food and an evening of Masonic discussions. We've had great turnouts so come on again!

Brethren Remember: It is important to get together and socialize with the Brethren from time to time and rekindle that fuel that first brought you to Masonry in the first place.

Gary L. Bausell

Secretary
February 2017