

Review: Jay Kinney, *The Masonic Myth: Unlocking the Truth About the Symbols, the Secret Rites, and the History of Freemasonry*, HarperCollins Publishers, New York, NY, 2009

Pages: 263

Masonic Apologist Hiding Truth, Not Revealing It

The author reveals less about Masonry than the general public could find out from their own investigations, making it at best superfluous.

One example is the blasphemous doctrine ‘revealing’ the Hebrew name of God as the “Master’s Word” in the York Rite Select Master degree. This is “Jah-Bul-On”, a pagan Trinity of ‘Jehovah’, Baal, and On, not the true God Jehovah.

Another is the interpretation of the Blazing Star symbol as merely the star of Bethlehem, rather than the Dog Star, Sirius with its occult baggage.

Being a society with secrets, Masonry is obscure from the outset and cannot be totally honest without manifesting its evil nature to the public, who would rightly reject it. When this happened in the past, like with the murder of Captain William Morgan in 1826, they had to go into damage control and public relations for quite some time.

As Albert Pike wrote in *Morals and Dogma* (p. 104):

“Masonry, like all the Religions, all the Mysteries, Hermeticism and Alchemy, conceals its secrets from all except the Adepts and Sages, or the Elect, and uses false explanations and misinterpretations of its symbols **to mislead those who deserve only to be misled**; to conceal

the Truth, which it calls Light, from them, and to draw them away from it.”

“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”

Ephesians 5.11, Authorized Version:

Author’s Note (pp. xi-xiii)

The author is strained from revealing passwords, grips, signs, and precise ritual wordings.

Masons are “speculative” or Craft Masons, while “masons” are regular stonemasons.

Masons are taught to seek “more light”.

Introduction (pp. xv-xvii)

English Masonry had a dress code of white shirt, black suit and tie.

Masonic aprons are for commemorating workmens' aprons.

I) The Masonic Myth: Rumours, Accusations, and Hoaxes (pp. 1-16)

Phallicism is the essence of Freemasonry.

Sean Connery is a Mason.

In 1850, there were four million Masons in America.

William Morgan was murdered by the Masons in 1826 for writing an expose.

The Craft helped birth the US Republic.

Also in 1826 was the “Burned-Over District” in upstate New York.

In 1827, Joseph Smith ‘discovered’ the Golden Tablets on Cumorah Hill less than ten miles from where Morgan was abducted.

Both Joseph Smith and Brigham Young were Freemasons, and Morgan’s widow was one of Joseph Smith’s plural wives.

The first Grand Lodge was founded in London, 1717.

Manly Palmer Hall said of Masonry that it was the “shadow of the great Atlantean Mystery School.”

When Atlantis sank, its priests went to Egypt and began the Egyptian Mysteries.

One Masonic myth is Adam was the first Mason.

In 1737, Michael Ramsay said Masonry arose with the Knights of Malta.

Hitler shut down the German lodges in 1935.

The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion was published in 1905.

Mozart, Voltaire, Sienfield’s Kramer, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Arthur Conan Doyle, Oscar Wilde, Bach, Mozart, Napoleon, Winston Churchill, Harry Houdini, and Buzz Aldrin were all Masons.

II) Square Roots: Where Did Freemasonry Come From? (pp. 17-40)

In 1717, four London lodges met to found a grand lodge and elect a Grand Master.

The oldest lodges were in Scotland.

Of the Old Charges, the Regius Manuscript dates from 1390, and the Cooke Manuscript from 1425.

The Regius document says that the Craft began through good knowledge of geometry.

Giordano Bruno practised creating “memory palaces” to remember vast quantities of information.

Persecuted Templars helped Robert the Bruce beat the English at Bannockburn in 1314.

Roslyn Chapel was built in the 15thC. It contains carvings of maize and aloe plants.

The pirates’ flag is similar to Master Mason symbology.

The Old Charges were read whenever a new Mason was initiated.

Nobody knows who authored the rituals.

III) Continental Ops: The Craft Spreads to Europe (pp. 41-58)

The earliest French lodge was associated with the Royal Irish military regiment (which formed the Irish Guard in 1661 under Charles II).

A Benedictine monk founded the “Rite Hermetique” in 1765.

Swedish Freemasonry consolidated itself in the late 1700s as a “Christian-only” system under the king of Sweden.

IV) Novus Ordo Seclorum: Freemasonry Comes to America (pp. 59-84)

Benjamin Franklin became a Mason in 1731.

Of the 14,000 American officers in the Continental Army, 2,018 were Masons.

The Boston Tea Party had a Masonic inspiration whose planning was done in the Green Dragon Inn.

Masons were behind the Washington Monument.

Washington was laid out in a geometric grid by a French engineer Pierre-Charles L'Enfant.

The obelisk of Thutmes III ("Cleopatra's Needle") from Alexandria was transferred to Central Park in 1880.

The Great Seal was the product of three Congressional committees.

In 1775, a free black man Prince Hall was initiated into Masonry.

"Landmarks" of the Craft are belief in a Deity, an afterlife, having a copy of the Volume of the Sacred Law, and only making men Masons.

Rob Morris created the Order of the Eastern Star in 1850.

Masonic youth groups include Job's Daughters and Rainbow for Girls.

In 1870, the Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine (AAONMS), or the "Shriners") was created. This is said to be a "playground of Masons".

Politics and religion are banned from discussion during lodge meetings.

There is a significant overlap between some lodge and Kl Klux Klan memberships. In 1922, eight “Grand Dragons” of the KKK were all Masons.

By 1959, there were 4.1m, Masons in the US. In 1971 there were 3.6m, and in 2007 1.5m.

V) The Powers That Be: Making Sense of the Masonic Power Structure (pp. 85-104)

Masonic Knights Templars used to parade in black triangular Templar aprons with a skull and crossbones embroidered in silver thread.

York and Scottish Rites have no authority over Grand Lodges.

The Knights Templar Commandery is for 'Christian' Masons only.

The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite (AASR) uses a double-headed eagle as its emblem, which was the arms of the Hapsburg Holy Roman Empire and the Russian royal family.

AASR headquarters are in Washington D.C. in the House of the Temple, modelled on the mausoleum at Halicarnassus.

In the Scottish Rite, one can advance from the 4th to the 32nd degree in a day or two.

33rd degrees are awarded as honorary degrees, but only “active” 33rds serve on the Supreme Council.

In Washington D.C., there is a four-day “Masonic Week” in the dead of winter at an anonymous hotel.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was the son of a Prince Hall Mason.

VI) Secret Rites and Rituals: What Do Masons Do? (pp. 105-124)

Masonry has a “No Solicitation” rule.

A candidate enters the lodge from the West and is guided to the East (the place of the rising sun). He must commit a catechism to memory to advance (cipher books may also be used to aid memorisation).

“Grand Master” Hiram Abiff was a mythical figure.

VII) Out of the Blue: A Look at the “Higher” Degrees (pp. 125-148)

Masons should imitate Hiram Abiff, as a kind of messenger to translate them from the imperfect lodge to the perfect Celestial Lodge.

The Rite of Mizraim has ninety degrees.

The first three Grand Masters were King Solomon, King Hiram of Tyre, and Hiram Abiff.

Like artists, stonemasons signed their work with stone inscriptions.

Albert Pike derived his inspiration from Eliphas Levi and the Zohar.

A Bridge to Light by Rex Hutchens is given to each new initiate.

VIII) Veiled in Symbol and Allegory: Deciphering Masonic Symbolism (pp. 149-171)

Masonry doesn't actually define its symbols.

The plumb line is supposedly a reminder to walk uprightly.

The square is for moral rectitude and for “squaring one's actions”.

The level is for equality between Masons.

Altogether the goal is to “meet on the level, act by the plumb, and part upon the square.”

Masonry draws heavily from the Kabbalah and sacred geometry.

The Blazing Star is said to be that which lead the wise men to Bethlehem.

A human head figure downwards represents a demon.

Each point on the OES star symbol is said to represent a Biblical woman, however, there is no “Electa”.

Masons are urged to study the seven liberal arts, the greatest of which is geometry.

Albert Mackey tasked Albert Pike with writing the higher AASR degrees c1856.

IX) The Illuminati Factor: Does a Hidden Order Rule the World (pp. 172-194)

Bavarian authorities banned ex-Jesuit Adam Weishaupt’s Order of the Bavarian Illuminati in 1784.

Simon Bolivar and Jose de San Martin were Freemasons.

Garibaldi was accepted as an honorary Grand Master of the Grand Orient of Italy.

The Order of Memphis was a minor French higher rite of ninety-six degrees founded in 1815.

German Mason Theodore Reuss tried to revive the Illuminati but ended up founding the Order of the Oriental Templars, allying himself with Alexander Crowley.

Crowley became a 33rd degree Mason in 1900

X) Is Masonry Occult? And Is Occult Even a Useful Word? (pp. 195-211)

Natural philosophy evolved from its occult roots in the Renaissance to the Enlightenment's advocacy of science and reason.

Alchemists believed the philosopher's stone was within them, so they could transmute themselves into gold.

Manly P. Hall's writings in the 1920s were decades before he actually became a Mason.

XI) Back to the Future: Is Freemasonry Doomed? (pp. 212-222)

Obstacles to Masonry's survival include:

- Demographic decline of the nuclear family.
- Disappearance of separate men and women's social spheres.
- Time demands on working men (spare time now being a scarcity).
- Progressive informalisation of society.
- Decrease in eligible believers (evangelical Churches see it as a rival).

However, AA and NA have experienced phenomenal growth.

The rationale of the Traditional Observance Lodge plan is to attract and retain a higher grade of Mason.

Appendix A (pp. 223-231)

Appendix B (pp. 232-234)