

“Death comes to all but great achievements build a monument which shall endure until the sun grows cold.” George Fabricius

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“Death is more universal than life; everyone dies but not everyone lives.” A. Sachs

Dear Masonic Student; a while back I mentioned a T-Shirt I like to wear that has on it “Abiff University.” After that Masons would ask about the T-Shirt and where to get one. T-Shirts, Sweat Shirts, and other items of interest to Freemasons can be purchased at www.abiffapparel.com.

Every Freemason knows that when someone writes about Freemasonry he is writing only his own thoughts, ideas, and perceptions, on and about Freemasonry: For the non-Mason who may read these publications - no one person speaks or writes for Masonry: the exception to this is that the Grand Master for the time being, in a jurisdiction, speaks for the Masons in his jurisdiction, and then he limits himself to speak only on matters of policy and issues concerning his Grand Lodge. He does not speak officially on matters of symbolism and interpreting the allegories of Masonic degree work. I mention this so that we all understand that Masonic research and education is something we all enjoy, but the Masonic Student will not claim to have the one and only correct answer regarding a subject of Masonic study.

Here is an article that appeared in the December 1991 issue of the Philalethes magazine that I thought you might like. The Philalethes, for those who don't know, and aren't members, is the premiere Masonic Research Society in North America, and a Mason could do no better than becoming a member of it. With the holiday and gift giving season about to pop into full bloom in a very short time Masons who aren't members of the Philalethes Society might want to consider giving themselves a gift of membership in the Philalethes this year. You'll be thanking yourself for years to come. To join just go to www.freemasonry.org and then click on the “Join Philalethes” link under the membership heading in the links box on the left of the page, and then choose to join by mail or join by credit card; it's really quite easy to join in the fun of learning more about Masonry with the Philalethes: I have always been happy that a friend and Brother of mine told me about the Philalethes and urged me to join. Philalethes Fun!

Enjoy the following article by Brother Roger A. Kessinger, MPS

“Death is but a passage. It is not a house, it is only a vestibule. The grave has a door on its inner side.” Alexander Maclaren – 1826-1910, British Preacher

Hiram Had To Die--And So Must You

by Roger A. Kessinger, MPS

Hiram had to die--and so must you. Why? Because the fate of Hiram Abiff is the story of all mankind and of all Masons. The life of Hiram reveals many lessons but his death teaches the most significant. Listen to the story and its message for you.

Hiram is an initiate. This means he was a man, who, of his own free will and accord, entered upon a path of study and action which taught him how to live a proper life to be acceptable to God. But God is unwilling to accept any man until he offers up a sacrifice: not of blood, not of money, but of something far greater in value--himself. Man must sacrifice himself if he is to permanently unite with God and remain in his kingdom from whence he was banished. How is this accomplished? Only by death.

The initiate must die to the corruptions of his outer self and be reborn to the divinity of his inner self, or soul. This means that his whole perception must be radically changed to accommodate his new life--the spiritual life. He must realize that physical life is only a temporary phenomenon whose sole purpose is to reveal the existence of a higher state of being--spiritual immortality, and

that although this spiritual existence is promised to everyone, it must be earned here and now. The initiate accomplishes this mission by correcting his thoughts, words, and actions (or deeds). This alone makes him acceptable to God.

Hiram subdued his own passions, by thinking proper thoughts, speaking acceptable words, and performing exemplary deeds. Allegorically, this happened when he was struck in the chest (the seat of the passions), throat (the place of words), and head (the center of thoughts). The latter "killed" him. The three fellowcrafts were not assassins but spiritual principles: spiritual force, spiritual power, and spiritual will.

But what was it that was killed? It wasn't the man himself, it was his outer nature. It wasn't his physical body, it was his physical nature. Death didn't send him to the cold, dark, depths of the grave but raised him to the brilliant sunshine of Light & Illumination. His "death" gave him life.

The acacia tree provides further testimony to help Masons understand this seeming paradox. After the death of the outer nature the true nature of the inner man still survives. Why? Because our purpose here on earth is to discover and unite with this Godly nature within us. The bible speaks of this when it refers to the marriage of the lamb, bride, or groom.

Masons! This is the true purpose of Freemasonry: To square the rough ashlar and thus attain spiritual perfection! This can only be accomplished by the death of our outer, or crude, rough animal natures, which creates a refined spiritual and mental existence.

Only by being free from debasing influences will you truly be a Freemason: free from vanity, fear, religious dogma, greed, hate, lust, jealousy, and in general, free from all of the errors that chain the spiritual existence. Until you accomplish this most difficult task, you will only be a Mason, not a Freemason.

So you see, Hiram had to die--and so must you. Salve fraters.

"Death is not a period, but a comma in the story of life." Amos Traver

Words to live by: Life is a dream walking – death is a going home. Chinese Proverb

Please remember: if you would like to participate in the latest Masonic Monday Question, please go to <http://www.lodgebuilder.org> and click on the Lodge Education forum. When you have an answer send it to masonicmonday@gmail.com the Masonic Monday Question for the week of 11/16/09 is best read at www.lodgebuilder.org in the Masonic Education Forum. It's not long, but there is some information there that makes the question clearer than I could state it here.

"After your death you will be what you were before your birth." Arthur Schopenhauer

More Light – Mehr Licht ©, Masonic Matters © and T.F.S. ©, are sent out by Email at no charge to anyone who would like to receive them. If you enjoy these publications please share them with others. To subscribe to these publications just send an E-mail to erhmasonic@gmail.com with Subscribe in the subject line and you will be added to the list to receive the publications.

"Death is as sure for that which is born, as birth is for that which is dead. Therefore grieve not for what is inevitable." Bhagavad Gita

The Education Committee of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota has another Education Video produced; it can be viewed at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JU5EQa2RMCC&feature=autofb> If you want to do a search for the education videos of the G.L. of Min., just type glmned into the search window of You-Tube.

To read some past issues of Ed's publications on the web go to: <http://www.halpaus.net> and click on the publication you would like to read.

With "Brotherly Love",
Ed Halpaus
Grand Lodge Education Officer

**Seek to mentor a Brother Mason:
It's good for him, it's good for you, and it's good for Freemasonry!**