

A modern day explanation of Freemasonry.

Freemasonry: The Truth

**Buy The Complete Version of This Book at
Booklocker.com:**

<http://www.booklocker.com/p/books/4264.html?s=pdf>

No other Masonic book
is this revealing

Learn what
only a few
know!



Freemasonry The Truth

By Darryl Hunter



A Modern Day Explanation of an
Ancient System

INTRODUCTION.....	3
SECTION I: IN THE BEGINNING	5
SECTION II: BECOMING AND BEING	13
SECTION III: REALITY VS. PERCEPTION.....	31
KEY MASONIC TERMS	55
FURTHER RESOURCES	61

Introduction

Reality is relative. The more I learn the more I realize how so many things are interdependent. How something seems to be the result of or the beginning of something else. I don't know whether I should be happy or disappointed, but I do know now that "just knowing" brings me comfort.

This book represents an effort to help Masons and non-Masons understand what it is like to become a Mason and to be a Mason. The particular goal of this book is to address the myths and misconceptions about Masons and Masonry. I would like to clarify a lot of the inconsistencies and glorified beliefs that are inaccurate about Masons and Masonry.

As a 32° Mason, I would like to respond to and resolve some of the most popular misconceptions about what Freemasonry is, how it originated, and why it is perceived as a threat.

There are many things that people misapprehend about the Masonic order. There are also plenty of aspects of Masonry that are generally perceived to be secret. Most of these secrets are no secrets at all. If they are perceived as such, it is likely because even most Masons misunderstand and misinterpret all or even much of what there is to know about the order. Many low ranking Masons misconstrue information about the order and are only partially aware of its complexities.

When you have finished this book, you will have a clearer understanding of the background of the order, what it does, and how the order organizes its self.

My goal is to give you, the reader, an inside out understanding of Freemasons. What I hope to do is present Masonry to you as a non-Mason the perspective of a "high ranking" Mason privy, to many of its complexities. To this point, based on my discussions with non-Masons and readings on the fraternal order, I am convinced that such a perspective has yet to be offered by anyone; at least this particular type of perspective has yet to be successfully presented.

I would like to introduce the backgrounds of the order and try to explain why we are so mistaken by people on the outside and by many people on the inside as well. I would also like to explain why Masonry and religious organizations such as the Catholic Church are so pessimistic of the Masonic order and its inherent good.

To be clear, in writing this book, I intend to show the positive that is achieved by the Masonic order; I believe there is inherent good in the order. I believe that the order does admirable deeds and has the potential to do great things in the right hands. Honest intentions, however, executed in the wrong way, do not necessarily lead to the proper realization. And in this case, the intentions themselves will not appear to be as they were originally purposed.

In addition, this book is not about handshakes, rituals, passwords, and all those other elements that seem to be all the range regarding the Masonic order. However, I cannot ignore the many books and films released in the last few years about the order, glorifying the many *mysteries* surrounding it. Reading this book, you will come to understand some of these aspects, but it is far from my intention to solely concentrate on them.

I hope you enjoy the following chapters of this work and find a level of enlightenment as you embark this journey to the truth of Freemasonry.

Section I: In the Beginning

It is said that "In all time, truth has been hidden under symbols, and often under a succession of allegories: where veil after veil had to be penetrated before the true Light was reached, and the essential truth stood revealed."¹ Masonry is a beautiful system of morality veiled in allegory. It is a vehicle for mankind to discover his divinity and achieve personal regeneration. There are certainly many symbolic elements to the craft of Masonry that communicate this message. So what is Masonry? Let's start with where it originated.

Truth: Freemasonry is a system of morality based on an Egyptian moral code known as Ma'at. Its focus is on the achievement of balance, constant evolution, and improvement. The goal, however, is not to simply live a good life.

The moral code, Ma'at, was created to address the needs of the emergent Egyptian state. At the time the code was created, Egyptian society was populated by diverse peoples. Many of these peoples, religiously, culturally, socially, and politically, had conflicting interests.

The Ma'at code represented the development of a common system for morality. The rules themselves were designed to avert chaos and, unsurprisingly, given the needs they were addressing, became the basis of Egyptian law.

Demonstrating the connection between the law and the Ma'at code was the use of the term "Lord of Ma'at" by the King of Egypt. From early times, the King stated that he decreed with his mouth the Ma'at he conceived in his heart.

The belief system holds particular significance because the Ma'at is believed to be developed to the point that it embraced all aspects of existence, including the ideas concerning the equilibrium of the universe, the relationship between the various parts of

¹ Pike, Albert. *Morals and Dogma*.

the universe, the cycle of the seasons, heavenly movements, religious observations, fair dealings, and honesty and truthfulness in social interactions.

The Ancient Egyptians maintained a strong conviction in the underlying holiness and unity within the universe. Cosmic harmony was believed to be achieved and maintained by the performance of correct public and ritual life.

Disturbance in cosmic harmony was believed to have consequences for the individual as well as the state. A King without faith could bring damnation to the kingdom, including famine and pestilence.

Besides Ma'at, there are several other principles within Ancient Egyptian law that have had an influence of Freemasonry. These fundamentals include the adherence to tradition as opposed to change, the importance of rhetorical skill, and the significance of achieving impartiality and social equality. Ma'at was seen to bind all things together, the universe, the natural world, the state, and the individual.

Ma'at was the goddess of harmony, order, and truth. She was typically represented as a young woman, sitting or standing, and with a scepter in one hand and with an ankh in the other. In some representations, she has wings on each arm or an ostrich feather on her head.

Egyptian theology suggests that the sun-god Ra set his daughter Ma'at in place of chaos before he emerged from the primeval mound of creation, establishing the tradition that Kings were charged with ensuring that Ma'at remained in place of chaos, while those with Ra are said to "live on Ma'at." The pharaoh Akhenaten was a particularly strong advocate of this concept. Other kings of Egypt incorporated Ma'at into their names; some referred to themselves Lord of Ma'at or Meri-Ma'at, meaning Beloved of Ma'at.

Egyptians believed that the hearts of the dead were weighed in the underworld. They were against a single Shu feather provided by Ma'at. Unworthy hearts were devoured by the goddess Ammit. The individual's soul was condemned to remain in Duat; the heart was considered the location of the soul by ancient Egyptians.

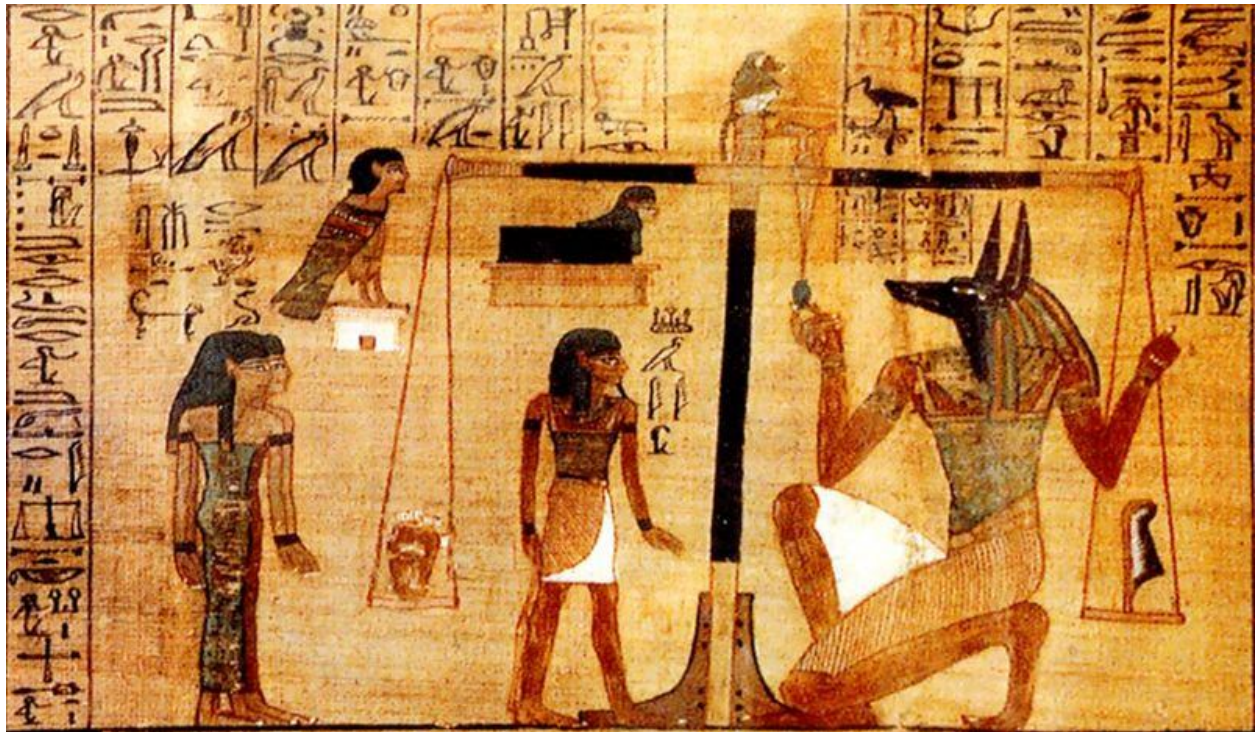


Figure 1: A section of the Egyptian Book of the Dead written on papyrus showing the Weighing of the Heart.

“The weighing of the heart, pictured on papyrus, (in the Book of the Dead, typically, or in tomb scenes, etc.), shows Anubis overseeing the weighing, the lioness Ammit seated awaiting the results so she could consume those who failed. The image would be the vertical heart on one flat surface of the balance scale, and the vertical Shu-feather standing on the other balance scale surface. Other traditions hold that Anubis brought the soul before the posthumous Osiris who performed the weighing.

“Ma'at was commonly depicted in ancient Egyptian art as a woman with outstretched wings and a "curved" ostrich feather on her head or, sometimes, just as a feather. These images are on some sarcophagi as a symbol of protection for the souls of the dead. Egyptians believed that without Ma'at there would be only the primal chaos, ending the world. It was seen as the Pharaoh's necessity to apply just law, following Ma'at.”²

² Encyclopedia Entry: Ma'at: <http://www.statemaster.com/encyclopedia/Ma'at>.

Egyptian philosophy establishes that when the person died, moving into the afterlife, as they were believed to do, they would be able to achieve perfection or divine status. The Ma'at system was designed to help people achieve perfection and balance similar to the physical perfection of a square, the shape of a brick, an important symbol in Masonry.

Although the Ma'at system did involve worship of the Egyptian gods, the relationship between this worship system and the Ma'at system was, at best, circumstantial. Over the years, the Masonic system evolved to incorporate different base religious systems. The concept of Ma'at incorporated into the Jewish faith was then transferred to the Christian tradition.

Ok, so far so good. But if Ma'at and Freemasonry is so great and based on such a

Truth: Masonry isn't secretive because it's trying to hide something; it's secretive because secrecy is the best way to ensure public interest. Also, true enlightenment is considered to be a gift only to those ready to receive it.

righteous moral system, why is Masonry so secretive? The answer is two fold, but I can't tell you either...kidding.

The secrecy is primarily based on the Egyptian

tradition or belief that not everyone should be exposed to true enlightenment. But, you already know this – remember these words from Matthew 7:7, “Seek and ye shall find” and from Revelations 3:22, “He that hath ears let him...”? Religion was also used as a means of distinguishing the upper and lower classes. Only those deemed worthy were given the knowledge they needed to ‘transition’. Secondly, what better way to entice a person and ensure membership forever– claim to have secrets!

Masonry can be divided into two phases, *ancient* and *modern*. So far, I've described ancient Masonry. Modern Masonry began around the 1700s, with the only difference from ancient Masonry being that modern Masonry infuses all the pomp and circumstance most people think of when they think of Masonry. Thanks to the Masons back then, Masonry has extensive rituals and ceremonies, hundreds of passwords and

all the many branches of the craft. Two of the primary branches are known as Scottish Rite and York Rite.

These Appendant / Concordant bodies within the order that have to do with instruction and explanation related to the allegory and symbolism of Masonry. The nature of these bodies varies by Rite; the York Rite differs from the Scottish Rite in terms of the Appendant and Concordant bodies and symbolic titles.

In the York Rite, a Master Mason may proceed to supplement and amplify the Blue Lodge degrees, affording historical background on the work and meaning of Freemasonry.

The York Rite is named after the old English city of York, and it features many themes that involve Medieval Crusades.

The York Rite allows a Master Mason to become a member of one of three bodies:

- The Chapter of Royal Arch Masons
- The Council of Cryptic Masons
- The Commandery of the Knights Templar

The Scottish Rite focuses on the lessons of the Blue Lodge degrees and allows a Master Mason to take on twenty-nine degrees, running four through thirty-two. The organization of the degree structure differs across the various jurisdictions around the world but the basic purposes and principles of each one is universal.

The highest degree, the thirty-third degree, is given to men who have demonstrated outstanding service to Freemasonry or to their communities.

The York Rite, also known as the American Rite, is more closely based on the early remnants of craft Masonry, practiced in the early 1700s. The first Grand Lodge of England emerged in 1717 and specified that the lodges were to confer only the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason. All of the other degrees used previously were to be considered unauthentic.

Despite the focus on only three degrees, many lodges of the York Rite have awarded other degrees. They give honor to these degrees because they are considered an integral part of Masonry.

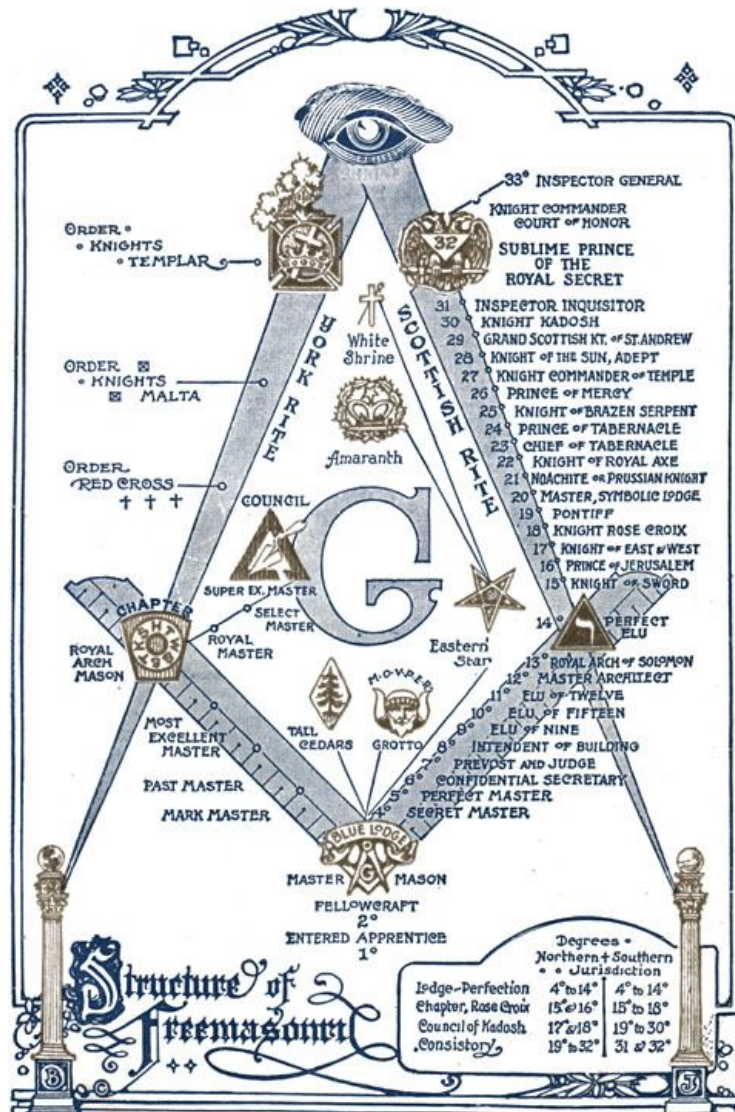


Figure 2: Masonic Degrees.

The Royal Arch formed their own Grand Lodge in 1751, and they termed themselves the *Ancients*. Other Grand Lodge members were called the *Moderns*.

A modern day explanation of Freemasonry.

Freemasonry: The Truth

**Buy The Complete Version of This Book at
Booklocker.com:**

<http://www.booklocker.com/p/books/4264.html?s=pdf>