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FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

I often hear that the Candidate will not know if we do not deliver the work word perfect. It is usually true but sometimes the Candidate is aware. During my Raising, the Master asked me to swear that I would “ever reveal and never conceal”. I was pretty sure that was not correct and reversed the words.

We strive for word for word accuracy as a point of pride or Masonic tradition but it is more than that; even the simplest word can dilute the meaning of a phrase.

In the opening, the Senior Warden calls the craft to order and is directed, “reserving yourself for the last.” We understand that the opening ritual creates a sacred place; not sacred in the conventional religious sense of the word, rather sacred as a place where we can experience and practice Masonry using rituals and symbols that are significant and sacred to our craft. In the opening, it is the duty of the Senior Warden to close that first ring of creating the sacred place. This is appropriate because it is also his duty to guard the West Gate and closing the first ring of the sacred place ensures that only those who belong are in attendance.

But what happens if we omit the article “the”; “reserving yourself for last”. If the Senior Warden is “THE last”, he confirms that everyone present is proper. He has already stated so but by reserving himself for “THE last”, he confirms with an invocation of and allusion to the penalties and obligations that accompany the proper ritual proceeding that everyone is proper in two respects: duly permitted and duly qualified. By so doing, he closes the first ring of the sacred place.

If however he reserves himself for “last”, he is simply waiting in line. He is not “THE last”, he is just “last.” “THE last” closes the ring; “last” simply marks a place in line. A simple article, one of the most optional words in any given phrase, changes the meaning significantly. We poke fun at the legal profession for arguing the missing “the.” Maybe not so much anymore.

W.Bro. Peter Prestion

DUES NOTICE – PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE!

A reminder Brethren that dues are due – please send your payment to me at your earliest convenience.

For your convenience, you can now pay online on our website, rlcolo.org. Just go to the link “MORE” and select “PAY DUES”. You do not need a PayPal account to pay, just select pay with credit/debit card on the payment screen.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting of RLC is scheduled for April 7 in Colorado Springs at the Masonic Center at 1150 Panorama Drive. Officers to meet at 2 pm, meeting at 3 pm. Please see www.rlc Colo.org for more information and to RSVP. Dinner will be held after lodge somewhere in town.

FROM THE SEC'Y'S DESK

Congratulations to the newly elected and appointed officers selected to serve RLC for the FY 2018! Please see their stations and places, emails and cell nos., overleaf.

Please welcome W.B. Pablo Colombaro to the line, appointed to serve RLC as Junior Steward. W.B. Pablo proved himself a capable and meaningful Master at Denver No. 5 where he recently retired from the East after an active and credible year. We look forward to his involvement in RLC.

W.B. Peter has laid out the schedule for the year. Please see the proposed schedule below. The dates are somewhat different this year than our typical meeting dates, so please be sure to put these dates and places on your calendar. Our hope is that RLC becomes the quarterly destination for all things Masonic! Our goal this year is to see 50 Brethren on the sidelines. We almost hit 30 in January. So please share these dates with your Brethren and bring along a friend.

April 7, Colorado Springs (Masonic Center)
June 30, Nevadaville
Sept. 29, Garfield
Dec 15, TBD
Feb 2019, installation of officers – TBD

Unless otherwise noted, all meeting times are 3 pm. (Officers meet at 2 pm.) For more information, please visit www.rlc Colo.org.

We are always soliciting papers, so please let the Sec'y know if you would like to present a paper. If you would like to try out for the Grand Lodge Speakers Bureau, a presentation at RLC is required previous to appointment.

Presenting is a great way to share light in Masonry. Remember, we learn most by teaching (or sharing) with others. Therefore, to present a paper is to learn a subject. To present a paper is to spend time honing your Craft by divesting yourself of superfluities and distractions otherwise counterproductive. To continually apply oneself

to learning and discovery is something we as Masons are charged to do. And, of course, rhetoric is an important step in the sevenfold staircase we as Fellowcrafts have each ascended.

We have had two papers presented at just about every meeting the last two years. This is a strong start. We're picking up steam, so don't be shy and consider getting on the train. We need to keep going.

Some discussion has been had on printing the annual returns of RLC. The plan is to publish each paper presented, in an annual volume available for purchase online. Details are still being worked out, but (assuming we have the commitment from the membership to present papers of sufficient number and quality) expect a printed volume available for purchase by the end of this year.

To submit a paper, please send digital copies to the Sec'y as an MS Word .doc file. Please use Times New Roman Font, double-spaced. Please footnote where appropriate using the Chicago style: Author, Title. (Place and Publisher, year). Pg. nos. Thus: Zadie Smith, *Swing Time* (New York: Penguin Press, 2016), 315-16. A complete list of submission guidelines will be available at rlc Colo.org in the coming weeks.

We are still seeking participants for our Latin Class. Dr. Castellani, Chair of the Language Department at Denver University, and classics scholar and professor, has graciously agreed to provide a Latin class for willing Masons. The more folks we can get to participate the more affordable the class will be, and the more worthwhile for Dr. Castellani. Details are emerging, but we expect a six week course. Fees would be covered by each participant. Class would begin Summer or Fall, or possibly in 2019. Please contact me if you would like to participate. Fees will likely be around \$100 to \$250, depending on the number of participants.

Lastly, thank you for electing me to serve as Sec'y again. Although I'm incredibly overextended, RLC remains close to my heart. I hope to serve you well.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Ben Williams



That the body of man is a colonnade of arches for the winds of the soul.

(Originally published in the Telluride Lodge No. 56 Trestle-board, 2009)

The prism is man. The white light is the Word of God. The colors appear after the prism. The source, the Truth, is the source of the white light. The source is hidden from man, who is lost in the rainbow.

Man can refract the light into the component colors; and he can again recombine them. In order to recombine them, however, they must first be split apart.

The seven colors are the seven planets. Each is a vibration, manifest into form, that represents a piece of the Word. Each is like a letter in this first sentence, whose utterance fills the cosmos.

Like a word that has a single sound, the individual letters only appear when the word is written. While God is the author of the universe, so man is his scribe.

Man plays in the rainbow, and identifies the colors he makes. Each is smaller than the Word, because the Word comes before as the breath precedes speech, and it is through man—the prism—they are revealed as separate. For there is only unity, and those who make pieces with images.

There is only God, and those who seek Him.

Before the Word there was Truth. Truth is the substance from which speech stretches, it is the reason a breath was taken. Truth is the breath, and its wind fills the heavens.

The Masonic Looking Glass

(Originally published in the Telluride Lodge No. 56 Trestle-board, 2009)

In the Exodus, when Moses first discovers the burning bush, the voice of God first commands him to take off his shoes, as he is standing on Holy ground. Moses, fearful we might presume, and averting his face, asks the identity of the voice, to which God replies *I am that I am* (Ex.13:14).

In this name is symbolized the whole of creation, eternity itself, that resounds with the single Aramaic phrase, which completes itself in self-reflection. What is inside is outside, and what outside, inside. They are not separate. The appearance of all duality is in fact Oneness for the illimitability of God. This is Kabbalistically alluded to by the gematria of this Name and the name of Moses.

Grematria, you may remember, is the Kabbalistic practice of assigning numerical values to words in their original Hebrew or Aramaic forms. In these languages there were no numerals, but the letters themselves stood for numbers

as well, giving each word a grammatical pronunciation, a meaning, and a numerical value.

In Hebrew, the name Moses is rendered, from right to left:

משה

And is pronounced *Mosheh*. If we add the numerical sequence of the letters, this is equal to 40+300+5, or 345.

The Great Name *I am that I am* is rendered, reading from right to left:

אה'ה אשר אה'ה

And is pronounced *Eheieh Asher Eheieh*. Following the same rule of gematria, this phrase has a numerical value of 543 (1+5+10+5 + 300+1+200 + 1+5+10+5).

The one is the reflection of the other:

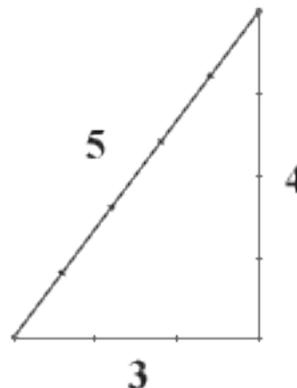
345 : 543

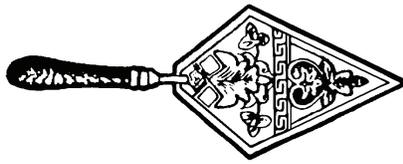
What is the mirror which separates, yet unites, them? Of course, it is the *world*.

This gives a nice resonance to the idea that God created man in His own image. For it is the imaging the makes the world, the appearance of the many, for the rectification, reflection, and reunion with the One.

(It is pertinent to note, too, that the world is often represented by a cube, with 6 sides, the 6 directions of up, down, left, right, forward and backward. The number 6 would easily stand in place of the colon above.)

It is interesting therefore to note that our ancient Brother, Pythagoras, made much use of these three numbers in defining his famous triangle. Think also about their relationship in music, that most compelling of the liberal arts and sciences. For these comprise the very heart of harmony, that very same from which the glorious song of the ages wrings forth such beautiful notes of happiness and melancholy, in the ever constant echo of the Word.





MASONIC EVENTS CALENDAR

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	FOR MORE INFORMATION
Grand Court of Amaranth of Colorado	Feb 16, 17	Denver	www.grandcourtcOLORADO.bravesites.com
Colorado North Encampment, Quarterly Conclave	Feb 24	Sterling	
MWGLNM	Mar 15-17	Farmington	nmmasons.org
Research Lodge of Colorado	Apr 7	Pueblo	www.rlcOlo.org.org
Grand Commandery, TX	Apr 12-14	Waco, Tx	www.yorkritetexas.org/
KYCH	Apr 21		
Cornerstone Ceremony	May 3 and 5	Hotchkiss, Cortez	

Would you like to learn **LATIN**?

Dr. Castellani, Head of the Language Department at Denver University is offering an introductory course in Latin for members of RLC. Please contact the Secretary for more information.



Laughing Lion Press

Flux in Genetris Turet et Genetrix eam Non Comprahendunt



Under the Jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful
Grand Lodge of Colorado



Morsc De Apsum

Research Lodge of Colorado
Est. 1953

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