

“What books can I read about Freemasonry?”

One researcher has observed that there are likely more books about Freemasonry than any other topic except religion - and although that conclusion would be hard to prove, it's certainly quite plausible. Beyond that, there are precious few 'general' books that cover the whole breadth and scope of the organization's history and development. There are none that could ever presume to 'completely' address all of the history, personages, symbols, appending and collateral bodies, etc. etc. that have been somehow related to the organization over the past 300+ years. It's not like writing the history of a country where there's a narrow focus on a specific place but, indeed, more like a general 'history of civilization' - type work.

Does Freemasonry exist in Afganistan ?

Simply, no! The so-called 'religious clerics' under whose rule of terror there are public beheadings regularly, brutal punishment for even minor infractions (such as a woman showing a wisp of her hair in public), and the horrific treatment of children and women clearly would not tolerate an organization, which teaches humanity and toleration. In various Middle Eastern countries there have been Masonic lodges in the past but most were found on US or British military bases.

The following brethren celebrate their birthdays in July:

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|------------------------------|----------------------|
| W. Bro. P. Velayudhan Pillai | 06 th Aug |
| Bro. Manoj Chacko | 12 th Aug |
| W. Bro. V.P. Velayuthan | 13 th Aug |
| W. Bro. Dr. A. Devadas | 14 th Aug |
| Bro. P.I. Isaac | 15 th Aug |
| Bro. Raaj Sukumaran | 16 th Aug |
| Bro. V. Sudhakar Rao | 18 th Aug |
| Bro. A.R. Nair | 21 st Aug |
| Bro. Dr. R. Ravikumar | 22 nd Aug |
| W. Bro. R. Krishnan | 27 th Aug |
| Bro. S.N. Nayar | 31 st Aug |

W. Master and Brethren wish them many happy returns of the day and call upon them to exercise that virtue of Charity on this auspicious day, by liberally donating to the Lodge Charity Fund.



LODGE TRIVANDRUM No. 168
newsletter

AUGUST 2007

THOUGHT
FOR
THE MONTH

*“Wish you a
Happy Onam”*



Vol. IV No. 5

Dear Brethren,

It was indeed an experience to go through the Ritual Working competition (RWC), and it has been heartening to see the commitment of the officers and several senior brethren of our Lodge.

Brethren, I would like to share a thought with you. In the recent competition, as also often in the past, I have pondered on how these competitions relate to the larger picture of freemasonry. To my mind, the greatest asset in Freemasonry is the spirit of friendship that exists between Freemasons in their relationship with one another and their attitude of thoughtfulness for the welfare of others. Requiring a belief in God, teaching that all men are brothers, and that we should always be kind and charitable towards others have created an atmosphere of harmony among the members and has promoted the development of warm and enduring friendships.

Beyond doubt the RWCs has had a significant positive influence towards enhancing the quality of our Rituals and the value of this is indeed immense. However, I often wonder if



this 'Competition' in any way complements our strength and builds on the bonds of friendship, or otherwise challenges it in some ways.

Given that the RWC serves an important function, it is certainly relevant to continue it. However, through this newsletter, my submission would be that instead of attempting to select the best and have Lodges compete against each other, why not recognise all Lodges that do well ? If that were to be so, we can all be happy when other Lodges do exceedingly well, and the focus shifts from competing with them to supporting and encouraging them.

I wonder if there are many others who feel likewise....

Fraternal Regards,

W. Bro. P. Vijay Kumar
Worshipful Master

Freemasonry is the world's oldest and largest Fraternity. While its traditions look back to earliest history, Masonry in its current form appeared when the residents of London, England noticed its public events in 1717. Although Masonry - particularly in its earliest days - had some elements of secrecy, the first 'exposure' of the supposedly highly secret Masonic ritual actually appeared in 1696! Since that time, there have been tens of thousands of books published about this 'secret organization'. And for over three hundred years, despite the good works done by its members, Freemasonry has continually suffered the slings and arrows of those who seek to use its quiet nature against it.



MASONIC HUMOR

Bro. John and Bro. Mike are getting dressed and ready for a lodge meeting. When John takes his apron out of the case, Mike notices a pair of silk stockings unrolling and hanging out of the case.

Mike asks : "I say, John, what's this with the ladies stuff?" John gives a quick look and whispers : "You remember the installation meeting last year ?"

Mike acknowledges and John goes on : "Keep it a secret, but on the way home I stopped at the pub where I met this lovely woman. Apparently she lost her stockings in my car, and my wife found them. I told my wife I was passed to a higher degree, and ever since she takes them out of the case washes them and puts them back in with my gloves!"

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A tired old mason whose hair was grey,
Came to the gates of Heaven one day,
When asked, what on earth he had done the most,
He said he had replied to the Visitors Toast.
St. Peter said, as he tolled the Bell,
Come inside my Brother you've had enough of Hell.

Charity

The Grand Lodge of Masons of New York contributed \$1,000,000 to a fund to be used exclusively to aid and assist the families of the members of the New York City Police Department, New York City Fire Department, EMS personnel and employees of the Port Authority of the State of New York and New Jersey who lost their lives in the horrific events of September 11, 2001. Additionally Masonic lodges throughout the country have contributed both financially and through efforts such as blood donations.