

overactive imagination. The owl is also not a Masonic symbol; the only birds that come to mind in any of the degrees are the pelican in the 18th degree [a symbol of Jesus, incidentally], the mythical phoenix, and the eagle. And those are found only in the Scottish Rite, so they are not characteristic of Masonry as a whole.

### I'VE READ THE RITUAL IN AN EXPOSE'. WHAT IS ALL THIS STRANGE STUFF ?!

Remember that Masons solemnly pledge to keep the ritual secret. An "exposé" is the product of someone who has broken a promise to his friends and neighbors and to God. Can you really trust that such a person is telling you the truth?

Masonry must be experienced to be understood; reading the ritual does not truly confer the lessons of the degrees, even for those of us who have the real ritual (and not some "exposé"). Masonry is a way of life that involves much more than the ceremonies of the degrees. Knowing a password or secret handshake is not what makes a man a Mason. The essence of Masonry is not something that can be written down.

### The following brethren celebrate their birthdays in July:



Bro. Chacko Varghese	03 <sup>rd</sup> July
Bro. John Rodricks	05 <sup>th</sup> July
Bro. Ajith Thampan	06 <sup>th</sup> July
Bro. P. Gopinath	12 <sup>th</sup> July
Bro. B.P. Dinesh	15 <sup>th</sup> July
Bro. M. S. Nair	16 <sup>th</sup> July
Bro. N. Mahesh	21 <sup>st</sup> July

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

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THOUGHT  
FOR  
THE MONTH

"Easy is to judge the mistakes of others  
Difficult is to recognize our  
own mistakes.. "

Dear Brethren,

At the regular meeting in June, our preceptors introduced the Short Talk as a part of the Masonic Education when W. Bro. P. B. Menon explained the origin of the usage of term "Lodge". This brief talk was very enlightening and well received.

A good number of our brethren as well as some prospective masons participated in the Universal Brotherhood Day Celebrations, which was coordinated by W, Bro. A. Jayapalan. Our Chief Guest Bro. Babu Paul gave a very interesting talk on what it means to be a 'true brother'.

Brethren, the good attendance at our regular meetings is most encouraging and I request those brethren who have not been attending our meetings lately to partake in the harmony, which characterises our assembly.

Fraternal Regards,

**W. Bro. P. Vijay Kumar**  
Worshipful Master



" ..... and most strictly respect the chastity of those nearest and dearest to him in the persons ..... "



" I am sorry he is in the toilet.... no ..... these days he spends almost three hours in the toilet ..... learning rituals ..... but let me tell you listening to what he is reading now I feel he should have joined the lodge much earlier.... ya .... ya... "

The history of operative Freemasonry since the formation of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717 has seen many changes. We began in taverns and pubs, and our meetings and degrees were celebrated with the Festive Board, with toasts and food and a camaraderie not found in any other society of its day. Freemasonry was a unique creation, unlike any other institution in what was a rigidly proscribed social class system. Nobleman and commoner, landowner and shopkeeper, general and foot soldier, could meet upon the level in this place—something they could not acceptably do on a city street. Political and religious differences that had torn nations and continents apart were left outside the door. Men from every class and religion in what quickly became every corner of the globe shared in common their degree experience in the Lodge, and a charge to strive for nobler deeds, higher thoughts and greater achievements.



## MASONIC HUMOR

A man is walking through the recreation ground of his local park when he notices a huge fight in full fury on the football pitch he is passing.

"What's going on?" he asks a spectator watching from the sidelines.

The other replies "It's a match between the Masons and the Knights of Columbus."

"What's the score?" asks the first man.

"I don't know, it's a secret."



A small Lodge had had a string of bad luck. It was preparing to initiate a candidate on a steamy evening in June and it's air conditioner had stopped working. After sweating their way through part of the work, the Master had asked the candidate what he most desired.

The candidate replied "a beer".

At this juncture the WM., being startled, whispered "light" to the candidate.

"OK," the candidate replied, "a lite beer."

## MASONIC SYMBOLS ON THE DOLLAR BILL

Some commentators have claimed that there are Masonic symbols on the US \$1 bill, and that they were put there by the Masonic president, Franklin Delano Roosevelt to show that the country had been taken over by Masons.

Well, perhaps the symbols are Masonic, but the material on the dollar bill dates from the late 1700s, not Roosevelt's term. The two circled objects on the back of the bill are the two sides of the Great Seal of the United States. It is said that Ben Franklin, a Mason, had some influence in the design.

What are these Masonic symbols? The representation of an eye and an unfinished pyramid. The All-Seeing Eye of Deity is certainly mentioned in Freemasonry, but that concept dates back to the Bible, at least. An unfinished pyramid symbolizes that the work of nation building is not completed, but the pyramid is not a particularly Masonic symbol; any unfinished building would have done. (Some say that there is an owl in the engravings in one corner of the bill, but that is a product of an