

## *The Mysteries and Freemasonry*

By **WB MATEO D. CIPRIANO, PM**  
Dalisy Lodge No. 14

Freemasonry partakes of the nature of the Mysteries of the olden times which flourished and attracted large followers in Greece during the era of the celebrated philosophers Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, and then, afterwards, in the Roman empire. Although the secret of their origin and real aim has not as yet been fully unraveled, yet judging from the elaborate ceremonies followed in the initiation of candidates — which all tended to purify the latter from the impurities of life — we have reason to conclude that the Mysteries, in the same way as Freemasonry, had for high objective the bringing of man nearer his Creator. In Greece the known Mysteries were the Orphic, the Eleusinian, and the Samothracian or Cabiric, but the Eleusinian were seemingly the most important and caught the fancy of the people. The ceremonies of the Eleusinian Mysteries consisted of four states: preliminary purification; communication of mystic knowledge; revelation of the holy things; and crowning or garlanding of the mystic.

In Freemasonry, particularly in the Scottish Rite, these states are also obtaining although not as clearly and in the same order. In the Scottish Rite, for example, the preparation of the candidate is made by means of purification by fire and water, and once all the ceremonial requirements shall have been complied with, the masonic obligation, the sacred word, and other secret work are revealed and communicated to the candidate.

The writer, for one, believes that the masonic obligation and the sacred word and secret work stand for the "mystic knowledge" and the "holy things." As to the "crowning or garlanding" of the mystic in ancient times, the clothing of the initiate in the habiliments of a Mason and his proclamation later on as a true and perfect Masonic Brother may be considered as its equivalent.

There are other similarities between Freemasonry and the Mysteries. The ceremonies of initiation in the Mysteries used to be conducted in secret by the so-called hierophants, the revealers of the holy things, or at least under their guidance. In these our days the masonic degree work is also held in secret and Lodge Masters are called upon to conduct the ceremonies. These Lodge Masters, as may be readily surmised, stand in the place of the hierophants, and because, strictly speaking, they are supposed to be conversant with the intricacies of the ritual and secret work, it is also safe to presume that they are in Freemasonry the "revealers of holy things" in the Mysteries.

Even in the admission of candidates, there is a pronounced parallelism between the Mysteries and Freemasonry. It was the requirement in the Mysteries that the candidate should be free, not a slave, of intelligible speech, pure of hand and also pure of soul. A sinner in the ancient times could never be admitted in the Mysteries; in our days a man

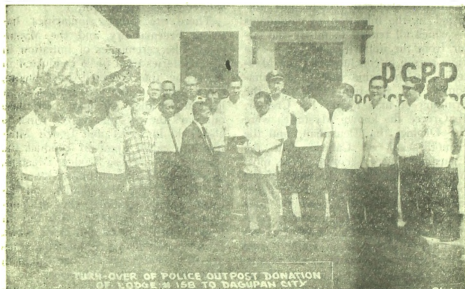
Turn to next page

with a non-too-good reputation, much less an "ex-con," cannot be made a Mason. But once admitted or initiated, the new Mystic was deemed to be a "privileged person" and the new Mason becomes a "better man."

There is difference though between the two, in that Mysteries were a kind of religion while Freemasonry is but a fraternity — brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God. Also, it took in the Mysteries many days to hold the ceremonies of initiation. According to *Isis Unveiled*, in some initiatory ceremonies the candidate was laid buried in the sarcophagus existing in the innermost part of the Pyramid of Cheops, in Giza, near Cairo, Egypt, for some days.

In Freemasonry initiation ceremonies are more simple and take not so long a time.

Although Freemasonry is not a religion yet, due to the sublimity of its purpose, it is sponsored by great saints — in by-gone times by the Compte or St. Germain and at present, according to the York Rite, it is dedicated to the Holy Saints John. It is said in *The Hidden Life in Freemasonry* that whenever a Lodge meets, and immediately after the usual opening prayer is said, great intelligences in the form of angels come down attracted by the invocation and hover over the gathering members inspiring them in their work or deliration. △



As part of the Lodge's community projects for this year, Dagupan City Lodge No. 158, F & AM constructed and donated to the City, on the urgent request of the City government, a police outpost near the entrance to the Lodge's Temple grounds. The outpost was turned over to the City through City Mayor Liberato Ll. Reyna (center, holding turn-over documents) by Worshipful Master Victorino C. Daroya (center, in coat and tie) in the presence of officials of the City government, Council and Police Department, and members of the Lodge.

The outpost, costing more than ₱5,000.00 is situated at the western entrance to Dagupan City, and, together with the outpost at the southern entrance and one being built by another organization at the eastern entrance, will make it difficult for criminal elements to enter or escape from the City.