

BOOK REVIEW SECTION

WB Juan C. Nabong, Jr., PM (80)

MASONIC SYMBOLISM

by Juan Causing

Cebu City, June 21, 1965

VW Juan Causing is a member and Past Master of Maktan Lodge No. 30, F. & A.M., situated in Cebu City and PDDGM of the 14th Masonic district. He calls his work *Masonic Symbolism*, a "handbook... a compilation, based upon an inspired study and research on volumes of Masonic books and literature." Dr. Dimaya of the University of Southern Philippines characterizes the organization of the book as "masterly." He says the book is a "splendid research work."

VW Causing begins with a definition of symbolism and symbols. He gives Mackey's definition of symbolism as "the science which is engaged in the investigation of the meaning of symbols and the application of their interpretation to moral, religious and philosophical instruction." Mr. Coon says that "a symbol may be a sign, mark, figure, picture or story which brings or suggests to the mind some fact or idea other than that which appears." A symbol is a "visible representation of certain reality," a "visible manifestation of an idea, thought or something which it represents."

Bro. Causing calls upon Masons to give a little of their time to study and meditate upon Masonic symbolism—Freemasonry being "essentially a science of symbolism."

The next part deals on symbols found in the Lodge: its form, orientation, covering, the altar, pedestal and columns, two pillars, ornaments

(mosaic pavement, the blazing star and the "tessellated border"), furniture (Holy Bible, the square and the compasses—Great Lights in Masonry), jewels ("immovable"—square, level, and the plumb; and "movable"—trestle board, and the rough and perfect ashlar).

The next portion refers to symbols of the working tools and certain emblems such as the gavel of the Master of the Lodge, the twenty-four inch gauge, compasses, trowel, apron, cabletow, and the hoodwink.

Bro. Causing then treats of other symbols such as the All-Seeing Eye, the letter "G", the interlaced triangles, the point and the circle, the "Sacred Word," the sprig of acacia, Jacob's ladder, the corner stone, the threshing floor, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the lamb, pulling off the shoes, the Masonic ring, the double-headed eagle, and the cross. Other symbolisms such as the reason why the Lodge is tyled, the legend of the Third Degree, the temple, the "Lost Word," light, and death, are then discussed. The symbolic teachings of the Scottish Rite Degree (up to the 32^o) and an analytical summary of the teachings of the several degrees are also given. The author completes his research by giving "The Masonic Creed," "The Masonic Belief," "The Masonic Teaching," and some briefies. He then places his bibliographical entries.

The book freshly re-examines the values, meanings, and ideals in Masonry. Masonry is action; one useful action that a Mason can do is to seek to develop and continue the love

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OFFICIAL SECTION

December 7, 1967

DIRECTIVES TO MASTERS AND SECRETARIES REGARDING PETITIONS FOR DEGREES:

1. At least 50% of the Degree Fees, as required by Article VIII of the Lodge By-laws, MUST accompany the petition for Degrees, (Par. 176) else same shall not be read before, nor received by, the Lodge.
2. The petition MUST be accomplished in the handwriting of the petitioner; all questions therein MUST be answered and ALL blanks filled or crossed when not applicable. (Par. 162)
3. The petition must state the full names of the petitioner — (NO INITIALS) but may be signed by the petitioner with his usual signature. (G.L. Form No. 369)
4. If the petitioner lacks the qualification of residence, (Par. 171) or has been previously rejected within less than 12 months (Pars. 161 & 170) the Lodge CANNOT receive nor act on the petition unless at a Stated Meeting by unanimous vote by ballot the Lodge should approve to request for a dispensation to receive and act on the petition; and it is only when dispensation therefor has been obtained that the Lodge may, at a Stated Meeting, receive and act on the petition.
If the Lodge so desires, BUT only in the case of a previously rejected candidate, the request for dispensation may include a statement that it wishes to receive and act on the petition at a special meeting to be held for the purpose on a certain specified date and time, (Par. 139) and accordingly, (Par. 170) the Secretary shall give all members of the Lodge due and timely notice of the date, time and purpose of said special meeting.
5. In the case of a previously rejected petitioner, his present petition shall be addressed to the Lodge that rejected him, AND TO NO OTHER, (Par. 163) if petitioner presently maintains his residence within its jurisdiction.
6. Immediately after receipt and action by the Lodge giving the petition its due and usual course, BUT NOT BEFORE, (G.L. Form No. 368) the Secretary shall forward to the Grand Secretary a duplicate of the petition for publication in the Grand Lodge Circular No. 12.
7. Balloting on the petition may be held at any Stated Meeting after the Committee on Investigation shall have given their respective reports to the Worshipful Master, (Par. 164) irrespective of publication.
8. NO VALID INITIATION can be held before publication. (Edict No. 49)

JOSEPH E. SCHON, DGM

Chairman

Committee on Administration of Lodges.

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BOOK REVIEW.

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for research and study in Masonic symbolisms and symbols.

The author's style is that of a researcher and scholar. His inclusion of gems of thought adds spice to the book. There is a picture of the Masonic Temple on Borromeo St., Cebu City, on the leaf after the title heading of the book. △

After years of watching the progress of Nature I can no more doubt the existence of an Intelligence that is running things than I can doubt the existence of myself.

— Thomas A. Edison

Miserable . . . is he who in his homo had no place where he can be his sole company; where he can invite his mind; where he can lurk secure.

— Michael de Montaigne