

# B A B Y L O N

## CHAPTER I

**B**abylon is mentioned in the Bible many times for various reasons. Noah's great grandson was Nimrod (10<sup>th</sup> chapter of Genesis). Nimrod built a city called Babylon with great walls around it to protect people from wild animals. He also built other cities and ended up with a kingdom. Babylon was in the plains of Shinar, (Genesis 11:2). Nimrod also built a tower there in the city of Babylon called 'tower of Babel' (Gen. 11:1-5). This land became known as Babylonia and later as Mesopotamia. This city was near the Euphrates and the Tigris River and about fifty miles south of Baghdad, Iraq.

It is believed that the city is being built again in the same location. There will come a time when this area will be the world center in trade. There will be more control of man by computers. It would be pure slavery. We are slaves today but not like it may be in the future. The changes that have taken place over the past 150 years have been like surgery with only one little slice taken at a time so not too much is noticed drastically. When laws are passed, it is one step at a time. There are killings which are done by the Government to rid the ones that are dangerous to their cause or conspiracy. They make an excuse of why that person was killed, such as their being a criminal, and people usually buy it.

Nimrod was an ungodly ruler. The name Nimrod comes from NARAD and means, "he rebelled." The expression that "he was a mighty hunter 'before' the Lord" (gen. 10:9), can carry a hostile meaning. The word "before," being sometimes used as meaning "against" the Lord.<sup>1</sup> The Jewish Encyclopedia says, that Nimrod was "He who made all the people rebellious against God."<sup>2</sup>

After Nimrod died, his wife Simiramis gave birth to a son, named TAMMUZ. Nimrod's body was cut up into pieces, burnt, and sent to various areas. Similar practices are mentioned in the Word of God (Judges 19:29; I Sam. 11:7). At his death, people mourned greatly.

Simiramis claimed that Nimrod was a sun-god. Then when she gave birth to her son after Nimrod's death, she claimed that Tammuz was Nimrod reborn, the promised seed, the savior. Without a doubt, Simiramis heard of the coming messiah.

Much of the Babylonian worship was carried on through mysterious symbols. The golden calf was a symbol of Tammuz. The sun was a symbol of Nimrod, known as Baal, or the Sun-god. Fire was a symbol of earthly representation and candles and ritual fires were lit in his honor. Candles are still being lit today, even in some churches. In other forms, Nimrod or Baal was symbolized by Sun images, fish, trees, pillars, halos, and animals. Halos on pictures and statues, symbolize the sun rays or glow. Some churches have chairs in the pulpit area with one fancy chair in the middle which symbolizes the masters' chair and belongs to the pastor.

The cross was not considered a virtuous symbol, but rather as "the accused tree," a tree of death and shame (Heb.12: 2). In the year of 431, the cross in churches and chambers were introduced. The use of crosses on steeples did not come until about 586 [*Harper's Book of Facts*]. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the crucifix image was sanctioned by the Church of Rome.<sup>3</sup> The cross originated among the Babylonians of ancient Chaldea [according to an Expository

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<sup>1</sup> Clark's Commentary, Vol. 1, P.86

<sup>2</sup> The Jewish Encyclopedia, Vol. 9, p.309

<sup>3</sup> Fausset's Bible Encyclopedia, p.145

Dictionary of the New Testament Words]. The ecclesiastical form of a two beamed cross had its origin in ancient nitari, and was used as the symbol of the god TAMMUZ (being in the shape of the mystical TAU, the initial of his name). The same symbol that Catholicism, Egyptians, and practitioners of witchcraft use, [see chapter three]. The cross was used by non-Christians all over the world. The cross dates at least as far back as 1500 bc. The cross that Catholicism and many Christian believers use and wear around their neck is called the "ANKH". It means that "you despise virginity, believe and practice in fertility rights, and worship the sun-god, "RHO", the Egyptian name for Lucifer.

The TIARA crown that is worn by the pope, though it is decorated in different ways at times, is identical in shape to that worn by the gods that are shown on ancient pagan Assyrian tablets.<sup>4</sup> Many symbols are used by Catholicism.

Now you know where Catholicism and a few other religious groups got their symbols of the sun, pillar, fish, and cross images. The trees being decorated by symbolic ornaments of the sun-god (Jer. 10<sup>th</sup> chapter). Bear in mind, that the Greeks and the Romans created statues, which are used by Catholicism and renamed them after the Saints. The crusaders and Romans put to death the Christians.

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<sup>4</sup> Inman, Ancient Pagan and Modern Christian Symbolism, p.63, 64

# THE ROTHSCHILD FAMILY GENEALOGY

## CHAPTER 2

NOTE! Names may be misspelled.

**M**AYER AMSCHEL born 2/23/1744, died 9/19/1812. He was born in a Jewish Ghetto in Frankfurt, Germany. He adopted the name ROTHSCHILD, WHICH MEANS RED SHIELD. It is believed that the Rothschilds are from the tribe of Levi of the Jewish people. Mayer Amschel Rothschild, founder of the famous Rothschild banking family which was to dominate European financial matters for several generations. He became a finance agent and laid the foundations of the family fortune for the landgrave of Hesse-Hassel. The founding Rothschild spent his entire life in Frankfurt, gradually building up his inheritance and increasing the size of his family so that by the time of Napoleon he was able to send his sons to establish branches in London, Paris, Vienna and Naples.

The Concise Columbia Encyclopedia says, All five sons were created Barons (1822) by Francis I of Austria, a title continued in the family. The oldest of the brothers was Nathan Meyer Rothschild, 1777-1836, who opened the London in 1805. As an agent of the British Government in the Napoleonic Wars, he was the instrument in the ultimate defeat of Napoleon I (1769-1821). "Under his guidance and that of his son, Baron Lionel Nathan de Rothschild, 1808-1879, the family gained immense power by floating large international loans (e.g., the Irish famine loan, 1847, the Crimean War loan, 1856), but its virtual monopoly was broken as state financing improved. Lionel became (1858) the first Jewish Member of Parliament, and many members of the family were prominent philanthropists, patrons of the arts, sportsmen, writers, or physicians."

The Rothschild banks came to play an important role in later European affairs through their financing of industrial facilities, educational system and wars. Several members of the English branch of the family gained distinction while serving in Parliament, Nathan Meyer Rothschild in 1885 becoming the first Jew to be admitted to the House of Lords. Meyer Rothschild and twelve other bankers adopted a plan of world revolution in 1773 which resulted in the foundation of the Illuminati three years later and the French Revolution soon after.

In the 1760's, was the beginning of a plot, a conspiracy, an organization. The Rothschilds' and Adam Weishaupt, all born Jews, organized the Illuminati (May 1, 1776). Adam Weishaupt was a controversial and aggressive professor of religious law. The Illuminati is a name of a Bavarian secret society similar to Masonry which, though little known, has had a far reaching influence on western civilization. Rothschild financed all the plots of the organization in order to accomplish its tasks of gaining control of the world. The Rothschild family is very much into witchcraft as well as many other various groups and organizations. The private coven of the Rothschild's is called GOLDEN DAWN.

In the 1960's, Phillippe Rothschild had ordered his mistresses to write a 1100 page book that would describe to the witches how they would take control of the world through the Illuminati. One third of this book describes how they would raise the oil prices, then later destroy the oil fields, shut down the coal mines, and blow up grain mills, and derail the trains. So far the plans have been quite on schedule. Examples are to numerous to mention.

NOTE: The number before the dash represents the generation and the number after the dash represents the number of birth in that particular family history.

1. Mayer Amschel born 2/23/1744, died 9/19/1812, a Jew which adopted the name Rothschild, which means red shield. He had five sons; Amschel Mayer (1773), Solomon Mayer (1774), Nathan Mayer (1777), Karl Mayer (1788), Jacob Mayer (1792).

- 2-1 Nathan Meyer Rothschild, born 9/16/1777, died 7/28/ 1836. An agent in the British Government.
- 3-1 Lionel Nathan de Rothschild, born 11/22/1808, died 6/3/1879. The first Jewish member of Parliament.
- 4-1 Leopold Rothschild, born 11/22/1845, died 5/29/1917.
- 5-1 Leonel Nathan, born 1/25/1887, died 1/28/1942.
- 6-1 Edmund Leopold, born 1/2/1916, died 6/22/48.
- 7-1 Nicholas David, born 1/10/1951.
- 7-2 David Lionel, born 11/28/1955.
- 4-2 Nathaniel Mayer (2<sup>nd</sup> Baron), born 1840, died 1915.
- 5-1 Nathaniel Charles, born 5/9/1877, died 10/12/1923.
- 6-1 Nathaniel Mayer Victor (4<sup>th</sup> Baron), born 10/31/1910.
- 7-1 Nathaniel Charles Jacob, born 4/29/1936.
- 7-2 James Amschel Mayer Rothschild born 4/18/1955.

# WITCHCRAFT

## CHAPTER 3

**T**hings that they forgot to tell you in the school history class. Many organizations and groups are involved in witchcraft. Witchcraft is a part of the pyramid structure of the Illuminati conspiracy. Some of these groups are in the white house and some in the local government as well as our schools and in some churches. Some groups put spells on the music that you buy using subliminal suggestions and backward masking. Many of the lyrics are about killing little children just for the fun of it, protesting, violence, sex, drugs, rape or anything that immortalizes society. Most people today is better than dogs. Even scientists have warped the minds of people into thinking that they are animals. The singing groups are putting out songs with lyrics that a devil would say or do.

Some advertising is filled with psychic suggestion to attract buyers to buy products to sell more. Many times the product is not what it is cut out to be. Some different items that you buy may have spells on them. Some people say that they would quit buying a particular brand because of what the company stood for or for being part of the conspiracy or of witchcraft. "The truth is that there is nothing you can buy without buying something with a spell or with the influence of witchcraft," according to John Todd during a Baptist church meeting, the date unknown.

From about 1575 to 1700, you'll find in our history books that witches were burned at the stake. This was a misconception. The witches actually were burning the Christians at the stake, as well as other tortures. They called them heretics. Much of this sort happened at the time of the Crusaders. Many of these witches are church going people. They try to stamp out the true Christian religion. This of course would help Catholicism to rule in her one world church system. Many organizations are not exactly connected but is related as one company owned by another or a person belonging to a high official position of two or more organizations which gives him power. It is claimed that there are more than 500 covens and 10,000 witches in America. They cast spells on baseball teams and even Christians. Witches act and look just like you and me, not with pointed hats and warts on their noses.

The witchcraft and the conspirators' goals are:

1. To control the money system.
2. Find desirable men to serve in high places, with one world Government indoctrination.
3. Create minority groups and strife.
4. Create movements to destroy religion, Christianity to be the chief target.
5. To control the press.

"In witchcraft, they use the name MAHARAJAH, which means conquering wind. It is all tied in with the Illuminati. If you mention the word ILLUMINATI, it could get you killed. They hate the term. Witches call it CRAFT or FORCE. Now you understand why the characters in the movie called, STAR WARS, say "may the force be with you." They won over a million people to witchcraft by this movie and Christians believe it to be harmless, everything they say is found in witchcraft books", John Todd told a Baptist meeting.

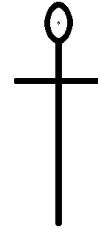
Witches are not true Holy Bible believers or believers of God's Word. They call Christians Bible thumpers, nuts, religious fanatics, etc. Don't take my word, check with the books.

John Todd said in a church meeting, "the initiation of witchcraft is the same as that of the Masons', including the vow of secrecy. When a witch is initiated, they are born again. Jimmy Carter and his sister said they were born again. President Carter's sister (June Carter Stapleton) was the most powerful witch". John Todd also mention that there are books handed to the chosen ones in the 32<sup>nd</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> levels or degrees of Masonry, describing initiations,

what they thought of Jesus Christ and who they think the true god is. They believe that Jesus Christ is an imposter and Satan is the true god. The true Christians know better. It doesn't matter the age of priest or priestess; it depends on the power you have. Most witches know of only three levels of witchcraft. A six level witch is most likely a member of the grand druid council. In the lower covens, witches believe in one god and that is Lucifer.

If Christians have books on mythology in the home, they actually have books on witchcraft and need to get rid of them. Witches wear jewelry to attract demons. Christians are wearing them today. The jewelry is distributed by AVON and other witchcraft companies.

The ANKH [figure on the left of the broken cross], a cross with a loop on the top like an eye of a needle, which is used by witches and Catholic Churches, is a cross in a shape like a "T" with a loop on the top. It means you despise virginity, believe and practice in fertility rights, and worship the sun god, RHO, the Egyptian name for Lucifer.



The symbol for peace is actually a broken cross [figure on the right of the Ankh]. Ones born in witchcraft do not have to break the cross, but the Christians do (ones going into witchcraft), by turning the cross upside down and pull the cross part down, symbolizing their rejection of Calvary. This is supposed to give peace of mind. The unicorn horn or the Italian horn, means you trust the devil for your finance. To a Christian it has the opposite reaction. The Illuminati fears anyone that does not depend on the government, an independent person. They want everyone to depend on them, that way they can control everyone, in other words, SLAVERY.

Christian Rock Churches and some of the Charismatics' are financed by the conspiracy organizations. Jesus Rock Music received \$8,000,000 in a two year period and another received \$10,000,000 in one year to start their movement from the conspiracy organizations.

In 1789, John Wilberson warned the Masonic leaders of Illuminati conspiracy. So did William Morgan in 1826.



The Illuminati financed both sides of the every war. The seal of the Illuminati is on the back of the American Dollar bill (see figure 1), which was adopted in 1800. The seal has never sealed one document. It consists of a pyramid with blocks. The first blocks on the pyramid of the seal of the Illuminati are the council of 13, the grand druid council. They take orders directly from the house of Rothschild's. Under the council of 13, is the council of 33, the highest Mason in the world. Under the council of 33, is the council of 500, which are the richest people in the world. The Research Center for Religion and Human Rights in Closed Societies (RCRHRCS), once called National Council of Churches, from 1950 to 1962 is one of the pyramid blocks. They were once called, the Methodist foundation of Social Services up to 1908, then called Federal Council of Churches.

Witchcraft is defined as follows: "Black magic; sorcery. A magical or irresistible influence, attraction, or charm." Some True believers of the Word of God believe that it is against God's teachings to wear jewelry (I Tim. 2:9). The Egyptians use to send a piece of jewelry to their enemy knowing that it would put them under a spell. Any jewelry on a person is very noticeable, and is quite attractable.

In the United Methodist Church, they believe in Psychic Powers and investigations. This group is called Omega Brotherhood. It is for certain there are many other Churches practicing this kind of thing and more.

WHO is in control? WHO is in power of the Illuminati?

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| I. The Rothschilds'    | IV. THE Kennedys' |
| II. The Rockefeller's' | V. THE Onasis'    |
| III. The Duponts'      | VI. Queen Juliann |

**OTHERS IN CONTROL (IN PART) ARE:**

1. Bank of England	8. Standard Oil
2. Bank of France	9. Montgomery Ward
3. Safeway	10. Chase Manhattan Bank
4. 1 <sup>st</sup> Interstate Bank.	11. Federal Department Stores
5. Federal Reserve act	12. Shell Oil (owned by Queen Julian and Phillippe Rothschild)
6. Sears	13. World Common Market
7. Bank of America	

WITCHCRAFT is part of the Illuminati and every where you go to buy  
 Whatever you want, there is a connection. Everything you buy has been handled by witchcraft or the Illuminati.

**THE ORGANIZATIONS OF WITCHCRAFT ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Golden Dawn, Rothschilds covens were founded in 1887.
2. Aquarian Arts Festival (ties all occult brotherhood together).
3. Wicked Church of America
4. Church of our World, St. Louis, including Northern, Southern and Independent Baptist.
5. The Council of Churches
  - A. Methodist Foundation of Social Service up to 1908.
  - B. Federal Council of Churches (FCC), 1908-50.
  - C. National Council of Churches, founded in 1950-1962.
  - D. RESEARCH CENTER FOR RELIGION & HUMAN RIGHTS IN CLOSED SOCIETIES (RCRHRCs), 1962-future.
6. Satanic Brotherhood of America.
7. Scientology
8. Unity – main platform for witches to be speakers toward what they consider, Christian people.
9. Church of Wicca.
10. Prophet of Church of the final Judgement (Charles Manson, human sacrifice).
11. Ginarion Brotherhood – Today, more than ever, we have to watch our children, to ensure that they are not kidnapped to be used as sacrifices in witchcraft, rituals in satanic churches. There are hundreds of satanic, sacrificing, mind-influencing churches in America today. Use a code when kids are to be picked up by friends or relatives.





# MASONIC LODGE

## SECRET TEACHINGS

(also known as FREE MASONRY or THE LODGE)

### CHAPTER 4

**M**asonry is a powerful, old fraternal order that began early in the eighteenth century. According to most Masonic authorities, it can be traced to the first grand lodge in London, June 24, 1717. It took four lodges combined to form the grand lodge. The first American lodge began in 1729, in Boston in 1730, and in 1745 was the first Canadian.

Nine signers of the Declaration of Independence, thirteen signers of the Constitution, and fourteen presidents of the United States have been Free Masons, from Washington to Gerald Ford. The presidents that were members of the CFR are as follows: Franklin D. Roosevelt; Herbert Hoover; Dwight D. Eisenhower; John Kennedy; Richard M. Nixon; Jimmy Carter, and others considered for the presidency was: Thomas Dewey; Adlai Ewing Stevenson; Berry M. Goldwater, and others.

The Lodge is also a secret society. The Encyclopedia Britannica classifies it as the largest secret society in the world. To keep its secrets, masonry uses symbolism, secret oaths, and secret rituals to instruct new members called "initiates." Each new member swears to remain loyal to the lodge and its teachings. The teachings instruct a new member how he is to serve.

## THE SYSTEM AND BELIEFS

The mission is to bring all men into harmony. Harmony as masonry teaches, a one world government system (slavery). Two of these teachings form the foundation of all masonry:

1. Belief of a universal fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man. Belief in Jesus, Buddha, Krishna, makes no difference to them.
2. Belief of a reforming personal character and practicing good works will secure God's favor or good works will earn them a place in heaven.

Some masonry authorities define masonry in the following ways:

- \* Masonry is the realization of God by the practice of brotherhood.
- \* Masonry is a science which is engaged in the search after divine truth, and which employs symbolism as its method of instruction.
- \* Masonry is that religious and mystical society whose aim is moral perfection on the basis of general equality and fraternity.
- \* Freemasonry in its broadest and most comprehensive sense, is a system of morality and social ethics, a primitive religion and a philosophy of life . . . incorporating a broad humanitarianism, . . . it is a religion without a creed, being of no sect but finding truth in all . . . it seeks truth but does not define truth.

The Masonic Lodges consist of three divisions, the Blue lodge, the Scottish rite, and the York rite. The Blue is the parent, or mother. There are three degrees in the Blue Lodge:

1. The entered apprentice, a man is initiated into the beginning mysteries of the fraternity of Free Masonry.
2. The degree of fellow craft.

3. The master mason degree – before proceeding to higher degree, all men must go through the first degree of the blue lodge. After passing through the three degrees, one must choose to proceed higher along one or both of the two branches in masonry.

One branch is known as the Scottish rite, which advances by numerical degree, beginning with the fourth and ending with the 32d, the 33d degree either active or honorary – another major branch is the York Rite, which does through what are called the “chapter,” “council,” and “commandery” degrees ending with the degree of knights templar.

There is a vast amount of Masonic literature that is available to the researcher. This includes at least 100,000 volumes. There are many authors that contribute to these books, such authors as Blanchard, Byers, Harris, McQuaig, Ronayne, Shaw, and others.

Below is a diagram of the three Blue Lodge degrees that every mason must take, and the optional degrees of the York and Scottish Rites.

	<b>Blue Lodge</b>	
	Entered Apprentice	
	Fellow Craft	
	Master Mason	
<b>York Rite</b>		<b>Scottish Rite</b>
<i>Chapter (Capitular Degrees)</i>		<i>Lodge of Perfection</i>
Mark Master		Degrees
		4. Secret Master
Past Master (Virtual)		5. Perfect Master
		6. Intimate Secretary
		7. Provost & Judge
Most Excellent Master		8. Intendant of the Building
		9. Elu of the Nine
		10. Elu of the Twelve
		11. Elu of the Fifteen
		12. Master Architect
Royal Arch Mason		13. Royal Arch of Solomon
<i>Council (Cryptic Degrees)</i>		14. Perfect Elu
Royal Master		<i>Council of Croix</i>
		15. Knight of the East or Sword
Select Master		16. Prince of Jerusalem
		17. Knight of the East & West
		18. Knight Rose Croix
		<i>Council of Kadosh</i>
Super Excellent Master		19. Grand Pontiff
		20. Master of the Symbolic Lodge
		21. Noachite or Prussian Knight
		22. Knight of the Royal Axe
		23. Chief of the Tabernacle
		24. Knight of the Brazen Serpent
<i>Commandery (Chivalric Degrees)</i>		25. Prince of Mercy
		26. Knight Commander of the
		27. temple
		28. Knight of the Sun
		29. Knight of St. Andrew
Order of the knights of Malra		Knight Kadosh
		<i>Consistory</i>
		31. Inspector Inquisitor
Order of Knights		32. Master of the Royal Secret
Templar Commandery		33. Active or Honorary

Besides the above degrees, numerous side degrees of masonry may be sought, and many affiliated, organizations exist. These are ordered with specific memberships (youth, women, relatives, collegians) or goals (such as shrines, the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the mystic shrine).

According to Albert Pike, many masons are uninformed about masonry because the Craft has purposely kept the truth from them. The lower degree Masons don't really know what is going on. The higher Degree you climb in masonry the more you know of what is going on, the more you are trusted with the secret of the one world system.

Masonry exist in 164 countries of the world according to the Encyclopedia Britannica. Its membership of six million qualifies masonry as "the largest worldwide secret society." At least 15,300 Lodges operate in the U.S. and more than 33,700 Lodges exist around the world.

NUMBER OF LODGES/MASONS THAT EXIST IN THE WORLD						
COUNTRY	#/LODGES	#/MASONS		COUNTRY	#/LODGES	#/MASONS
CANADA	16,000	183,000		ITALY	652	24,000
CUBA	324	19,287		PHILIPPINES	211	15,037
ENGLAND	8,000	600,000		S. AMERICA	?	50,000
GERMANY	388	21,000		U. S.	15,300	4,000,000

NUMBER OF LODGES/MASONS THAT EXIST IN THE STATES					
STATE	#/MASONS	STATE	#/MASONS	STATE	#/MASONS
CALIF.	188,535	ILLINOIS	146,000	MICHIGAN	111,000
FLORIDA	83,000	PENN	206,000	N.CAROL	75,000
GEORGIA	90,000	TENN.	96,000	TEXAS	206,000
OHIO	220,000	MASS.	88,000		

One member of the craft pointed out that there are at least 160 organizations that require their members to also be initiates into Masonic fraternity. In 1948, the NEW AGE boasted that some two million adults were linked directly, or were indirectly associated with the nation's three million master masons.<sup>5</sup> Masonry is a form of "NEW AGE" mysticism (offering an individual mason the potential for cultivating altered states of consciousness and developing occultic powers).

Masonry has dominated the U.S. Supreme Court from 1941-71, according to Paul A. Fisher. From 1941-46, the ratio was 5 to 4; from 1949-56, the ratio was 8 to 1; from 1957-67, the ratio was 6 to 3; from 1969-71, the ratio was 5 to 4. According to Masonic and Congressional records, fourteen (14) U.S. presidents have been masons: Washington; Monroe; Jackson; Polk; Buchanan; Johnson; Garfield; McKinley; T. Roosevelt; Taft; Harding; F.D. Roosevelt; Truman; Ford.

Another fourteen (14) were Vice Presidents.

- \* There are 41 members of the Federal Judiciary.
- \* Half of the memberships of the senate judiciary committee.
- \* Eighteen Senators, including Lloyd Benton, Sam Nunn, Bob Dole, Jesse Helms, Hohm Glenn, and Mark Hatfield.
- \* Seventy-six members of the house of representative, including former speaker of the house Jim Wright, Claude Pepper, William Ford, Trend Lott, and Dan Glickman.
- \* At least two senators were 33d degree masons: Bob Dole and senate majority leader Robert Byrd.

Many other famous people were masons: actor Earnest Borgnine; Christopher "Kit" Carson; Sir Winston Churchill, Samuel Clemens (Mark Twan), William "Buffalo Bill" Cody; Thomas E. Dewey; comedian W.C. Fields; Henry Ford; Benjamin Franklin; Arthur Godfrey; Barry M. Goldwater; Oliver Hardy (of "Laurel and Hardy"); J. Edgar Hoover; General Douglas MacArther; John Marshall; James C. Penny (founder of J. C. Penney Co.); John J. Pershing; Paul Revere; all seven of the Ringling Brothers; Roy Rogers; Will Rogers; Sir Walter Scott; comedian Richard "Red" Skelton; Booker T. Washington.

Symbols of the masonry are used during the ritualistic initiations of the blue lodge:

<sup>5</sup> Fisher, Behind the Lodge Door, p. 248.

- \* The square and compass (sometimes with a capital “G” in the middle): The square symbolizes morality, the compass symbolizes spirituality, and the “G” represents God or geometry (for some masons, the “G” symbolizes nitarian ).
- \* The Cable Tow with which the mason is tied up during the ritual symbolizes the tie of Masonic brotherhood. The candidate’s removal of his shoes symbolizes humility.
- \* The apron the candidate wears symbolizes innocence, purity, and honor.
- \* The three burning tapers symbolize the sun, moon, and Masonic worshipful master.
- \* The sword pointing to a naked heart symbolizes justice and the knowledge that god will reward men according to their works.
- \* The candidate’s walking in a circle (circumambulation) symbolizes the spiritual (e.g., mystical and the occult) links to the past that represent man’s dependence upon man.
- \* The sprig of an acacia symbolizes faith in the promises of God in the “Volume of the Sacred Law” (e.g., depending on the culture, the Bible, Koran, Upanishads, etc.).

Masonry stresses universal brotherhood and is working for a new world order. They accept spiritism, occult philosophy and practice. Masonry gave its twenty-two (22) hospitals for children less than 1/3 of the total amount collected from the public in 1984. The rest spent on travel, food, fund raising, etc. In other words, they spent 71% of \$21.7 million raised. Circuses sponsored by the shrine generated \$23 million in 1985. Much of the money is used for promotion of their religious – one world system.

Two-hundred years ago Adam Weishaupt suggested the reason for such activities when he instructed his Illuminist: “we must win the common people in every corner. This will be obtained chiefly by means of the schools, and by open, hearty behavior. Show condescension, popularity, and toleration of their prejudices, when we at leisure, will root out and dispel.”

The masons believe that works will insure them into heaven (see Titus 3:5; Eph. 2:8-9). Masonry never intended that Christians would keep and follow their bibles, to do so would be to deny the distinctive teaching by Masonic authorities. Below are statements by Masonic authorities – Coil; Mackey, and others.

“The Bible is only a piece of lodge furniture, a great ‘light’ upon which the candidate obligates himself to masonry. Mackey’s revised Encyclopedia of Free Masonry teaches that “in the American system, the Bible is both a piece of furniture and a great light.”<sup>6</sup> The Bible is not really to be believed; it is only a symbol of the will of God.”

Masonry refers to its deity by using the names of heathen gods. Some of the names used are: Baal; Osiris; Jah; Bel. Baal is condemned of God. We are to have only one God (Ex. 20:3-4). Historically Baal has been another name for Satan or “Beelzebub” or Baalzebub. Masonry deliberately rejects Jehovah God.<sup>7</sup> They permit the gods of Hinduism; Buddhism; Islam; Mormonism, and Shintoism to be worshiped around the altar according to each individual Masonic belief.

#### **MASONRY DELIBERATELY DELETED THE NAME OF CHRIST IN AT LEAST 5 WAYS:**

1. Masonry turns men away from Christ from its prayers and scripture quotations.
2. Masonry requires a Christian to disobey Christ by officially prohibiting all discussion of Christ from Lodge activities.
3. Masonry blasphemously offers the titles and offices of Christ to unbelievers.
4. Masonry denies the deity of Christ.
5. Masonry purposely down plays the unique role of Christ as savior, e.g., by teaching that the Christian message of divine redemption is merely a revival of earlier pagan stories.

Nowhere in Masonic literature will you find Jesus called God or see Him portrayed as the world’s savior who died for man’s sin. If Jesus were accepted, it would offend most masons. Jesus is the light (John 3:31; John 8:12, 31-32).

Some masons believe that man is divine. Some believe that man existed within God as a divine “spark” that was later born and enveloped in a body.

<sup>6</sup> Albert Mackey, *Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Free-masonry*, Rev. and enl. by Robert I. Clegg (Richmond; Macoy, 1961), 1:133; *Little Masonic Library*, 1:132.

<sup>7</sup> Coil's *Masonic Encyclopedia*, p. 516-517.

Masonry never warned men about Hell, it is not mentioned in any of the rituals or ceremonies. Hell, is mentioned in the Bible more than heaven is but the masonry will not accept Hell, but will accept heaven and believe the scripture on heaven.

Masonry claims to unite all religions. Many Masonic authorities believe that masonry will bring about a new world order. Masonry can only trick the members into believing that the true teachings of every religion are actually the same as the Masonic doctrine. All religions are not the same. Therefore, cannot be the same as the masonry. All religions have widely divergent concepts of God: He is either (1) Personal or impersonal, (2) Holy or evil, (3) nitarian, Trinitarian, or monistic, (4) infinite or finite, (5) loving or not loving, (6) existing or non existing, to name a few.

Masonry teaches that it is the one true religion. They claim that all other religion is in darkness. Masonry is a potentially occultic religion and opens the doors to the world of the occult. Masonry encourages the pursuit of the occult in five different ways: (1) Masonry accepts the premise of the NEW AGE and modern parapsychology concerning latent human potential – the development of allegedly “natural” psychic abilities; (2) Masonry bears a striking similarity to many other occult arts; (3) Masonry encourages the individual mason to pursue its “esoteric truths”; (4) Masonry is related to mysticism and may encourage the development of altered states of consciousness. (5) Many masons are working for an awakening of what can only be termed “occult masonry.”

Masonry accepts the premise of the NAM (New Age Movement) and modern parapsychology of “unlimited” power within man. Masonry is related to the ancient occultism of the mystery religions.

- \* They worshiped pagan gods and therefore engaged in the grievous sin of idolatry (Acts 17:16).
- \* They opposed the teaching of the Biblical God, Christ, and the church (Acts 13:8; 19:24-29).
- \* They promoted the occult in various forms and therefore supported the work of the devil (Acts 19:19).
- \* They infiltrated the church and damaged it (Acts 20:29).
- \* They lacked moral content and often engaged in perverse, evil, and immoral rites such as ritual prostitution, bathing in animal blood, homosexuality, and the like (Eph. 5:12).

Christians that are Masons have encouraged the cause of liberal religion. Christians who are Masons have dishonored God and Christ. Christians that are Masons have helped encourage mysticism and occultism. Christians who have accepted Masonic doctrine have hindered the gospel. Christian Masons have helped keep Masonic influence in the church. Christian Masons have helped distort the teachings of Christianity and other religions. Christian Masons have helped Masonry replace the church in the lives of men.

Instead of Christians promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ, they want to brag and boast about how many souls they have won for the Lord and ask you how many you have won. We are not in a contest, Nor does the Bible say that you will get your reward by winning souls. This is called works.

## **HISTORICAL SIDE OF THE MASONRY**

Ben Franklin was a leader in the Free Masonry in Pennsylvania. Franklin published the first Masonic book in the western hemisphere in 1734. Some members were George Washington, Paul Revere, John Hancock and others not mentioned in this document.

In the 1760's, a plot came into existence by Adam Weishaupt, who was born a Jew and converted to Catholicism, becoming a priest. Then, at the command of the newly organized house of Rothschild, he defected and organized the Illuminati in May 1, (Mayday) 1776. Weishaupt founded the Illuminati at the University of Ingolstadt in the southern German monarchy. Beginning with only five members, Weishaupt's order grew gradually at first, numbering 60 in five cities by 1780. Weishaupt and his conspirators attached them selves to the Masonic lodges which were wide-spread throughout Europe and America. Weishaupt joined the Masons in Munich in 1777 and two years later was in control of the lodge of Theodore of Good Counsel there. In 1780 Weishaupt's hierarchal structure was completed.

By 1784, the membership grew to about 3,000 and seemed to be taking over the whole establishment. Up to 1832, all the U.S. presidents were members of the masonry, except John Adams and John Quincy Adams. Many of the later presidents were members which include Polk, Buchanan, A. Johnson, Garfield, McKinley, T. Roosevelt, Taft, Harding, F. Roosevelt, Truman, and Ford.

Naturally, the Rothschilds' financed the operation of the Illuminati. Every war since then, beginning with the French Revolution, has been promoted by the Illuminati operating under various names. After their exposure, they used various names in different countries (CFR in the U.S. and BIIA in Britain).

In the United States, after World War I, they set up the Council of Foreign Relations (CFR), which is another name for the Illuminati in the U.S. The descendants have changed their family names. For instance, the true name for Clarence Douglas Dillon is LAPOLSKI; another is Todd, once was COLLINS; Mordecai changed to MARX (Karl). A similar group that operates in England called "BRITISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS" (BIIA).

They set up a front organizations that infiltrate in every phase of the various nations' affairs. Operations of organizations are controlled by international bankers, who in turn are controlled by the Rothschilds. Detail of how this is to be accomplished is explained in the New Bulletin #122 entitled "UNITED NATION IS STRONG IN THE ILLUMINATI," and NEWS BULLETIN #123, entitled "CFR COMPLETELY UNMASKED AS THE ILLUMINATI," Both published by the CINEMA EDUCATIONAL GUILD, PO BOX 46205, HOLLYWOOD, CA. This will reveal the names of the original founders and names and descendants to the CFR.

Because Britain and France were the two greatest powers of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, Adam Weishaupt ordered the Illuminati to fulfill the colonial wars, including our Revolutionary War, to weaken the British Empire and organize the French Revolution to start in 1789.

In 1789, John Wilberson warned all Masonic leaders in America that the Illuminati had infiltrated into the lodges. July 19, 1789, David Papain, president of Harvard University gave the Graduating class warning of the Illuminati. John Quincy Adams who organized the New England Masonic Lodge issued his warning of how Jefferson was using the Masonic Lodges for strengthening the Illuminati. Also, William Morgan gave warnings about the conspiracy in 1826.

It seems as though when a person tried to warn others of this conspiracy, they died in some way or another. Letters have been sent to some of these people and the letters have come back. Where are they? What happened?

I have found information in an older document that may not be included in a more modern document. It is as if they were hiding the facts of history or trying to change the thinking of the public. There is a lot of hidden information that they do not want people to know unless you belong to a high rank position in the CFR, Trilateral Commission, Masonic Lodge, or maybe a millionaire.

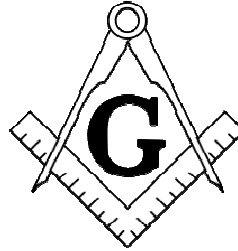
There is scientists' today that is working in huge laboratories under ground in desert areas throughout the world conducting special assignment. Many of the rich have a fall out shelter to hide, incase of a nuclear attack. It is a little strange that the big wigs (the rich) cause trouble in the world and the poor are the one's that pay taxes and go to fight in the war. The rich have plenty of money to buy their way out or throw their weight to get what they want. We are encouraged to support NASA to explore space, for what? So man can find a better place to live? Maybe for the big wigs, but not the poor. If they found another world, they would destroy it. The big wigs have a lot manufactures and investments that they get rich from. Our government is always giving them selves a raise and making money from manufactures. We pay taxes and then pay taxes, sometimes paying tax on the tax. The rich puts their money in special funds so that they don't have to pay. Now they have passed a law restricting the homeless who can't find work or who can't help all disasters that come their way. So, who runs the country?

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO BELONG TO AN ORGANIZATION SUCH AS THIS?

# FREEMASONRY

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

## Chapter 5



The Masonic [Square and Compasses](#). (*Found with or without the letter G*)

**Freemasonry** is a [fraternal organisation](#) that arose from obscure origins in the late 16th to early 17th century. Freemasonry now exists in various forms all over the world, with a membership estimated at around 5 million, with around 480,000 in [England](#), [Scotland](#) and [Ireland](#) alone, and just under two million in the [United States](#).<sup>[1][2]</sup> The various forms all share [moral](#) and [metaphysical](#) ideals, which include, in most cases, a constitutional declaration of belief in a [Supreme Being](#).<sup>[3]</sup>

The fraternity is administratively organised into [Grand Lodges](#) (or sometimes *Orients*), each of which governs its own [jurisdiction](#), which consists of subordinate (or *constituent*) Lodges. Grand Lodges recognise each other through a process of [landmarks](#) and [regularity](#). There are also [appendant bodies](#), which are organisations related to the main branch of Freemasonry, but with their own independent administration.

Freemasonry uses the [metaphors](#) of operative [stonemasons'](#) tools and implements, against the [allegorical](#) backdrop of the building of King Solomon's Temple, to convey what has been described by both Masons and critics as "*a system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols.*"<sup>[4] [5]</sup>

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## History

*Main article: [History of Freemasonry](#)*

The origins and early development of Freemasonry are a matter of some debate and conjecture. There is some evidence to suggest that there were Masonic Lodges in existence in [Scotland](#) as early as the late sixteenth century,<sup>[6]</sup> and clear references to their existence in [England](#) by the mid seventeenth century.<sup>[7]</sup> A poem known as "The [Regius Manuscript](#)" has been dated to approximately 1390 and is the oldest known Masonic text.<sup>[8]</sup>

The first Grand Lodge, the [Grand Lodge of England](#) (GLE), was founded on [24 June 1717](#), when four existing [London](#) Lodges met for a joint dinner. This rapidly expanded into a regulatory body, which most English Lodges joined. However, a few lodges resented some of the modernisations that GLE endorsed, such as the creation of the Third Degree, and formed a rival Grand Lodge on [17 July 1751](#), which they called the "[Antient Grand Lodge of England](#)". The two competing Grand Lodges vied for supremacy—the "Moderns" (GLE) and the "Antients" (or "Ancients")—until they united [25 November 1813](#) to form the [United Grand Lodge of England](#) (UGLE).



Goose and Gridiron, Home to a London Lodge forming GLE

The Grand Lodges of [Ireland](#) and [Scotland](#) were formed in 1725 and 1736 respectively. Freemasonry was exported to the British Colonies in [North America](#) by the 1730s—with both the "Ancients" and the "Moderns" (as well as the Grand Lodges of Ireland and Scotland) chartering offspring ("daughter") Lodges, and organising various Provincial Grand Lodges. After the [American Revolution](#), independent U.S. Grand Lodges formed themselves within each State. Some thought was briefly given to organising an over-arching "Grand Lodge of the [United States](#)", with [George Washington](#) (who was a member of a Virginian lodge) as the first Grand Master, but the idea was short-lived. The various State Grand Lodges did not wish to diminish their own authority by agreeing to such a body.<sup>[9]</sup>

Although there are no real differences in the Freemasonry practiced by lodges chartered by the Ancients or the Moderns, the remnants of this division can still be seen in the names of most Lodges, F.& A.M. being *Free and Accepted Masons* and A.F.& A.M. being *Antient Free and Accepted Masons*.

The oldest jurisdiction on the continent of [Europe](#), the [Grand Orient de France](#) (GOdF), was founded in 1728. However, most English-speaking jurisdictions cut formal relations with the GOdF around 1877 -- when the GOdF removed the requirement that its members have a belief in a Deity (thereby accepting atheists).<sup>[10]</sup> The [Grande Loge Nationale Française](#) (GLNF)<sup>[11]</sup> is currently the only [French](#) Grand Lodge that is in *regular amity* with the UGLE and its many concordant jurisdictions worldwide.

Due to the above history, Freemasonry is often said to consist of two branches *not in mutual regular amity*:

- the UGLE and concordant tradition of jurisdictions (termed Grand Lodges) in amity, and
- the GOdF, European Continental, tradition of jurisdictions (often termed Grand Orients) in amity.

In most [Latin](#) countries, the GOdF-style of European Continental Freemasonry predominates, although in most of these Latin countries there are also Grand Lodges that are in *regular amity* with the UGLE and the worldwide community of Grand Lodges that share regular "fraternal relations" with the UGLE. The rest of the world, accounting for the bulk of Freemasonry, tends to follow more closely to the UGLE style, although minor variations exist.

## Organisational structure

< Freemasons Hall, London, home of the United Grand Lodge of England.

Main article: [Grand Lodge](#)

Grand Lodges and Grand Orients are independent and [sovereign](#) bodies that govern Masonry in a given country, state, or geographical area (termed a *jurisdiction*).<sup>[12]</sup> There is no single overarching governing body that presides over world-wide Freemasonry; connections between different jurisdictions depend solely on mutual recognition.<sup>[13]</sup>





## Regularity

Main article: [Regular Masonic jurisdictions](#)

*Regularity* is a constitutional mechanism whereby Grand Lodges or Grand Orients give one another mutual recognition. This recognition allows formal interaction at the Grand Lodge level, and gives individual Freemasons the opportunity to attend Lodge meetings in other recognised jurisdictions. Conversely, regularity [proscribes](#) interaction with Lodges that are *irregular*. A Mason who visits an irregular Lodge may have his membership suspended for a time, or he may be [expelled](#). For this reason, all Grand Lodges maintain lists of other jurisdictions and lodges they consider regular.<sup>[14]</sup>

Grand Lodges and Grand Orients that afford mutual recognition and allow intervisitation are said to be *in amity*. As far as the UGLE is concerned, regularity is predicated upon a number of *landmarks*, set down in the UGLE Constitution and the Constitutions of those Grand Lodges with which they are in amity. Even within this definition there are some variations with the quantity and content of the Landmarks from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Other Masonic groups organise differently.<sup>[15]</sup>

Each of the two major branches of Freemasonry considers the Lodges within its branch to be "regular" and those in the other branch to be "irregular". As the UGLE branch is significantly larger, however, the various Grand Lodges and Grand Orients in amity with UGLE are commonly *referred* to as being "regular" (or "Mainstream") Masonry, while those Grand Lodges and Grand Orients in amity with G0dF are commonly referred to "liberal" or "irregular" Masonry. (The issue is complicated by the fact that the usage of "Lodge" versus "Orient" alone is not an indicator of which branch a body belongs to, and thus not an indication of regularity). The term "irregular" is also universally applied to various self created bodies that call themselves "Masonic" but are not recognised by either of the main branches.

## Masonic Lodge

Main article: [Masonic Lodge](#)

A Lodge (often termed a *Private Lodge* or *Constituent Lodge* in Masonic constitutions) is the basic organisational unit of Freemasonry. Every Lodge must be issued a Warrant or Charter by a Grand Lodge, authorising it to work. Lodges that meet without such authorisation are deemed "Clandestine" and irregular. A Lodge must hold full meetings regularly at published dates and places. It will elect, initiate and promote its own members and officers; it will own, occupy or share premises; and will normally build up a collection of minutes, records and equipment. Like any other organisation, it will have formal business, annual general meetings (AGMs), [charity funds](#), [committees](#), reports, bank accounts and tax returns, and so forth.



< Masonic Temple in [Harrisonburg, Virginia](#) July 10, 2008.

A man can only be initiated, or made a Mason, in a Lodge, of which he may well remain a subscribing member for life. A Master Mason is generally entitled to visit any Lodge meeting under any jurisdiction in amity with his own, and a Lodge may well offer hospitality to such a visitor after the formal meeting. He is first usually required to check the regularity of that Lodge, and must be able to satisfy that Lodge of his own regularity; and he may be refused admission if adjudged likely to disrupt the harmony of the Lodge. If he wishes to visit the same Lodge repeatedly, he may be expected to join it, and pay a membership subscription.

Freemasons correctly meet *as* a Lodge, not *in* a Lodge, the word "Lodge" referring more to the people assembled than the place of assembly. However, in common usage, Masonic premises are often referred to as "Lodges". Masonic buildings are also sometimes called "Temples" ("of [Philosophy](#) and [the Arts](#)"). In many countries, *Masonic Centre* or *Hall*

has replaced *Temple* to avoid arousing prejudice and suspicion. Several different Lodges, as well as other Masonic organisations, often use the same premises at different times.

Early Lodges often met in a [tavern](#) or any other convenient fixed place with a private room.<sup>[10]</sup> According to Masonic tradition, the Lodge of medieval stonemasons was on the southern side of the building site, with the sun warming the stones during the day. The social *Festive Board* (or *Social Board*),<sup>[16]</sup> part of the meeting is thus sometimes called *the South*.<sup>[17]</sup>

Most Lodges consist of Freemasons living or working within a given town or neighbourhood. Other Lodges are composed of Masons with a particular shared interest, [profession](#) or background. Shared [schools](#), [universities](#), [military units](#), Masonic appointments or degrees, arts, professions and [hobbies](#) have all been the qualifications for such Lodges. In some Lodges, the foundation and name may now be only of historic interest, as over time the membership evolves beyond that envisaged by its "founding brethren"; in others, the membership remains exclusive.

There are also specialist Lodges of Research, with membership drawn from Master Masons only, with interests in Masonic Research (of [history](#), [philosophy](#), etc.). Lodges of Research are fully warranted but, generally, do not initiate new candidates. Lodges of Instruction in UGLE may be warranted by any ordinary Lodge for the learning and rehearsal of Masonic [Ritual](#).

## Lodge Officers

*Main article: [Masonic Lodge Officers](#)*

Every Masonic Lodge elects certain officers to execute the necessary functions of the lodge's work. The Worshipful Master (essentially the lodge President) is always an elected officer. Most jurisdictions will also elect the Senior and Junior Wardens (Vice Presidents), the Secretary and the Treasurer. All lodges will have a Tyler, or Tiler, (who guards the door to the lodge room while the lodge is in session), sometimes elected and sometimes appointed by the Master. In addition to these elected officers, lodges will have various appointed officers—such as Deacons, Stewards, and a Chaplain (appointed to lead a non-denominational prayer at the convocation of meetings or activities—often, but not necessarily, a clergyman). The specific offices and their functions vary between jurisdictions.

Many offices are replicated at Provincial and Grand-Lodge levels, but with the addition of the word 'Grand' somewhere in the title. For example, where every lodge has a 'Junior Warden', Grand Lodges have a 'Grand Junior Warden' (or, as it is sometimes rendered, a 'Junior Grand Warden'). In addition there are a number of offices that exist only at the Grand Lodge level.<sup>[10]</sup>

## Prince Hall Freemasonry

*Main article: [Prince Hall Freemasonry](#)*

Prince Hall Freemasonry derives from historical events in the early United States that led to a tradition of separate, predominantly [African-American](#) Freemasonry in North America.

In 1775, an African-American named [Prince Hall](#)<sup>[18]</sup> was initiated into an Irish Constitution Military Lodge then in [Boston](#), [Massachusetts](#), along with fourteen other African-Americans, all of whom were free-born. When the Military Lodge left North America, those fifteen men were given the authority to meet as a Lodge, form Processions on the days of the Saints John, and conduct Masonic funerals, but not to confer degrees, nor to do other Masonic work. In 1784, these individuals applied for, and obtained, a Lodge Warrant from the Premier Grand Lodge of England (GLE) and formed African Lodge, Number 459. When the UGLE was formed in 1813, all U.S.-based Lodges were stricken from their rolls—due largely to the [War of 1812](#). Thus, separated from both UGLE and any concordantly recognised U.S. Grand Lodge, African Lodge re-titled itself as the African Lodge, Number 1—and became a *de facto* "Grand Lodge" (this Lodge is not to be confused with the various Grand Lodges on the Continent of [Africa](#)). As with the rest of U.S. Freemasonry, Prince Hall Freemasonry soon grew and organised on a Grand Lodge system for each state.

Widespread [segregation](#) in 19th- and early 20th-century North America made it difficult for African-Americans to join Lodges outside of Prince Hall jurisdictions—and impossible for inter-jurisdiction recognition between the parallel U.S. Masonic authorities.

Prince Hall Masonry has always been *regular* in all respects except constitutional separation, and this separation has diminished in recent years. At present, Prince Hall Grand Lodges are recognised by some UGLE Concordant Grand Lodges and not by others, but they appear to be working toward full recognition, with UGLE granting at least some degree of recognition.<sup>[19]</sup> There are a growing number of both Prince Hall Lodges and non-Prince Hall Lodges that have ethnically diverse membership.

## Other degrees, orders and bodies

*Main article: [Masonic appendant bodies](#)*

There is no degree in Freemasonry higher than that of Master Mason, the Third Degree.<sup>[20]</sup> There are, however, a number of organisations that require being a Master Mason as a prerequisite for membership.<sup>[21]</sup> These bodies have no authority over the Craft.<sup>[20]</sup> These orders or degrees may be described as additional or *appendant*, and often provide a further perspective on some of the allegorical, moral and philosophical content of Freemasonry.

Appendant bodies are administered separately from Craft Grand Lodges but are styled *Masonic* since every member must be a Mason. However, Craft Masonic jurisdictions vary in their relationships with such bodies, if a relationship exists at all. The Articles of Union of the "Modern" and "Antient" craft Grand Lodges (into UGLE in 1813) limited recognition to certain degrees, such as the [Royal Arch](#) and the "chivalric degrees", but there were and are many other degrees that have been worked since before the Union. Some bodies are not universally considered to be appendant bodies, but rather separate organisations that happen to require prior Masonic affiliation for membership. Some of these organisations have additional requirements, such as religious adherence (*e.g.*, requiring members to profess [Trinitarian](#) Christian beliefs) or membership of other bodies.

Quite apart from these, there are organisations that are often thought of as being related to Freemasonry, but which are in fact not related at all and are not accorded recognition as Masonic. These include such organisations as the [Orange Order](#), which originated in Ireland, the [Knights of Pythias](#), or the [Independent Order of Odd Fellows](#).

## Principles and activities

While Freemasonry has often been called a "[secret society](#)", Freemasons themselves argue that it is more correct to say that it is an [esoteric](#) society, in that certain aspects are private.<sup>[20]</sup> The most common phrasing being that Freemasonry has, in the 21st century, become less a secret society and more of a "society with secrets".<sup>[22]</sup> The private aspects of modern Freemasonry are the modes of [recognition](#) amongst members and particular elements within the [ritual](#).<sup>[23]</sup> Despite the organisation's great diversity, Freemasonry's central preoccupations remain charitable work within a local or wider community, moral uprightness (in most cases requiring a belief in a Supreme Being) as well as the development and maintenance of fraternal friendship -- as James Anderson's Constitutions originally urged -- amongst brethren.

## Ritual, symbolism, and morality

A Masonic Lodge Room >

Masons conduct their meetings using a ritualised format. There is no single Masonic ritual, and each Jurisdiction is free to set (or not set) its own ritual. However, there are similarities that exist among Jurisdictions. For example, all Masonic ritual makes use of the [architectural](#) symbolism of the tools of the [medieval operative](#) stonemason. Freemasons, as *speculative* masons



(meaning philosophical building rather than actual building), use this symbolism to teach moral and ethical lessons of the principles of "Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth" — or as related in France: "[Liberty, Equality, Fraternity](#)".<sup>[10]</sup>

Two of the principal symbols always found in a Lodge are the [square](#) and [compasses](#). Some Lodges and rituals explain these symbols as lessons in conduct: for example, that Masons should "square their actions by the square of virtue" and to learn to "circumscribe their desires and keep their passions within due bounds toward all mankind". However, as Freemasonry is non-dogmatic, there is no general interpretation for these symbols (or any Masonic symbol) that is used by Freemasonry as a whole.<sup>[24]</sup>

These moral lessons are communicated in performance of allegorical ritual. A candidate progresses through *degrees*<sup>[20]</sup> gaining knowledge and understanding of himself, his relationship with others and his relationship with the Supreme Being (as per his own interpretation). While the philosophical aspects of Freemasonry tend to be discussed in Lodges of Instruction or Research, and sometimes informal groups, Freemasons, and others, frequently publish — to varying degrees of competence — studies that are available to the public. Any mason may speculate on the symbols and purpose of Freemasonry, and indeed all masons are required to some extent to speculate on masonic meaning as a condition of advancing through the [degrees](#). It is well noted, however, that no one person "speaks" for the whole of Freemasonry.<sup>[25]</sup>

The *Volume of the Sacred Law* is always displayed in an open Lodge. In English-speaking countries, this is frequently the [King James Version of the Bible](#) or another standard translation; there is no such thing as an exclusive "Masonic Bible".<sup>[26]</sup> In many French Lodges, the Masonic Constitutions are used instead. Furthermore, a candidate is given his choice of religious text for his Obligation, according to his beliefs. UGLE alludes to similarities to legal practice in the UK, and to a common source with other oath taking processes.<sup>[27][28][29][30]</sup> In Lodges with a membership of mixed religions it is common to find more than one sacred text displayed.

In keeping with the geometrical and architectural theme of Freemasonry, the Supreme Being is referred to in Masonic ritual by the titles of the [Great Architect of the Universe](#), *Grand Geometrician* or similar, to make clear that the reference is generic, and not tied to a particular religion's conception of God.<sup>[31]</sup>

A [Tracing board](#) is a painted or printed board that can be displayed during a ritual (Degree) of Freemasonry. Its purpose is to illustrate the symbols that the Initiate is informed about during lectures that succeed the ritual proper, and which in England are sometimes referred to as the "Tracing Board lecture". In English Freemasonry there are three Tracing boards, one for each Degree, and the Tracing boards will be changed during the ceremony according to the Degree in which the Lodge has been 'opened'.

## Degrees

The three degrees of *Craft* or *Blue Lodge* Freemasonry are those of:

1. *Entered Apprentice* — the degree of an Initiate, which makes one a Freemason;
2. *Fellow Craft* — an intermediate degree, involved with learning;
3. *Master Mason* — the "third degree", a necessity for participation in most aspects of Masonry.

The degrees represent stages of personal development. No Freemason is told that there is only one meaning to the allegories; as a Freemason works through the degrees and studies their lessons, he interprets them for himself, his personal interpretation being bounded only by the Constitution within which he works.<sup>[26]</sup> A common symbolic structure and universal archetypes provide a means for each Freemason to come to his own answers to life's important philosophical questions.

As previously stated, there is no degree of Craft Freemasonry higher than that of Master Mason.<sup>[20]</sup> Although some Masonic bodies and orders have further degrees named with higher numbers, these degrees may be considered to be supplements to the Master Mason degree rather than promotions from it.<sup>[21]</sup> An example is the [Scottish Rite](#), conferring degrees numbered from 4° up to 33°.<sup>[32]</sup> It is essential to be a Master Mason in order to qualify for these

further degrees. They are administered on a parallel system to *Craft* or *Blue Lodge* Freemasonry; within each organization there is a system of offices, which confer rank within that degree or order alone.

In some jurisdictions, especially those in continental Europe, Freemasons working through the degrees may be asked to prepare papers on related philosophical topics, and present these papers in open Lodge. There is an enormous bibliography of Masonic papers, magazines and publications ranging from fanciful abstractions which construct spiritual and moral lessons of varying value, through practical handbooks on organisation, management and ritual performance, to serious historical and philosophical papers entitled to academic respect.

## Signs, grips and words

Freemasons use *signs* (gestures), *grips* or *tokens* (handshakes) and *words* to gain admission to meetings and identify legitimate visitors.

From the early 18th century onwards, many exposés have been written claiming to reveal these signs, grips and passwords to the uninitiated. A classic response was deliberately to transpose certain words in the ritual, so as to catch out anyone relying on the expose. However, as Masonic scholar Christopher Hodapp states, since each Grand Lodge is free to create its own rituals,<sup>[24]</sup> the signs, grips and passwords can and do differ from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.<sup>[10]</sup> Furthermore, historian John J. Robinson states that Grand Lodges can and do change their rituals periodically, updating the language used, adding or omitting sections.<sup>[33]</sup> Therefore, any exposé can only be valid for a particular jurisdiction at a particular time, and is always difficult for an outsider to verify. Today, an unknown visitor may be required to produce a certificate, dues card or other documentation of membership in addition to demonstrating knowledge of the signs, grips and passwords.

## Obligations

Obligations are those elements of ritual in which a candidate swears to abide by the rules of the fraternity and to keep the "*secrets of Freemasonry*", which are the various signs, tokens and words associated with recognition in each degree,<sup>[23]</sup> as well as to perform certain duties and to avoid doing those things which are prohibited by his Obligation. In regular jurisdictions these obligations are sworn on the aforementioned *Volume of the Sacred Law* and in the witness of the Supreme Being and often with assurance that it is of the candidate's own free will.

Details of the obligations vary; some versions are published<sup>[23]</sup> while others are privately printed in books of coded text. Still other jurisdictions rely on oral transmission of ritual, and thus have no ritual books at all.<sup>[34]</sup> Moreover, not all printed rituals are authentic — Leo Taxil's exposure, for example, is a proven hoax, while Duncan's Masonic Monitor (created, in part, by merging elements of several rituals then in use) was never adopted by any regular jurisdiction.

The obligations are historically known amongst various sources critical of Freemasonry for their so-called "bloody penalties",<sup>[35]</sup> an allusion to the apparent physical penalties associated with each degree. This leads to some descriptions of the Obligations as "Oaths". The corresponding text, with regard to the penalties, does not appear in authoritative, endorsed sources,<sup>[23]</sup> following a decision "that all references to physical penalties be omitted from the obligations taken by Candidates in the three Degrees and by a Master Elect at his Installation but retained elsewhere in the respective ceremonies".<sup>[36]</sup> The penalties are interpreted symbolically, and are not applied in actuality by a Lodge or by any other body of Masonry. The descriptive nature of the penalties alludes to how the candidate should feel about himself should he knowingly violate his obligation.<sup>[37]</sup> Modern penalties may include suspension, expulsion or reprimand.

Whilst no single obligation is representative of Freemasonry as a whole, a number of common themes appear when considering a range of potential texts. Content which may appear in at least one of the three obligations includes: the candidate promises to act in a manner befitting a member of civilised society, promises to obey the law of his Supreme Being, promises to obey the law of his sovereign state, promises to attend his lodge if he is able, promises not to wrong, cheat nor defraud the Lodge or the brethren, and promises aid or charity to a member of the human family, brethren and their families in times of need if it can be done without causing financial harm to himself.<sup>[23][38][39]</sup>



## Landmarks

Main article: [Masonic Landmarks](#)

The Landmarks of Masonry are defined as ancient and unchangeable precepts; standards by which the regularity of Lodges and Grand Lodges are judged. Each Grand Lodge is self-governing and no single authority exists over the whole of Freemasonry. The interpretation of these principles therefore can and does vary, leading to controversies of recognition.

The concept of Masonic Landmarks appears in Masonic regulations as early as 1723, and seem to be adopted from the regulations of operative masonic guilds. In 1858, [Albert G. Mackey](#) attempted to set down 25 Landmarks.<sup>[40]</sup> In 1863, George Oliver published a *Freemason's Treasury* in which he listed 40 Landmarks. A number of American Grand Lodges have attempted the task of enumerating the Landmarks; numbers differing from West Virginia (7) and New Jersey (10) to Nevada (39) and Kentucky (54).<sup>[41]</sup>

## Charitable effort

The fraternity is widely involved in charity and community service activities. In contemporary times, money is collected *only* from the membership, and is to be devoted to *charitable* purposes. Freemasonry worldwide disburses substantial charitable amounts to non-Masonic charities, locally, nationally and internationally. In earlier centuries, however, charitable funds were collected more on the basis of a Provident or [Friendly Society](#), and there were elaborate regulations to determine a petitioner's eligibility for consideration for charity, according to strictly Masonic criteria.

Some examples of Masonic charities include:

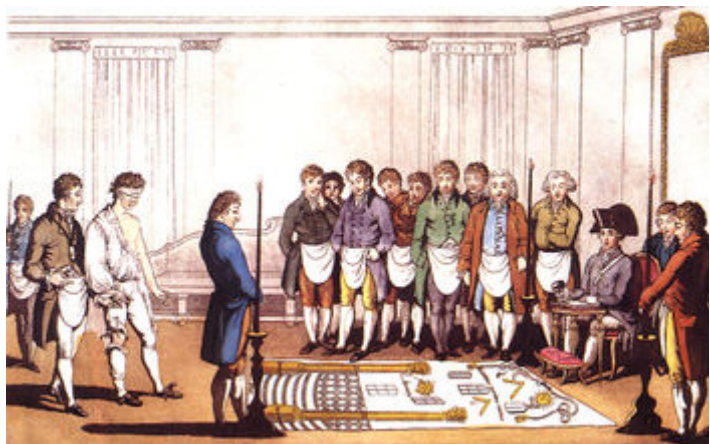
- Homes<sup>[42]</sup> that provide [sheltered housing](#) or nursing care.
- Education with both educational grants<sup>[43]</sup> or schools such as the [Royal Masonic School \(UK\)](#)<sup>[44]</sup> which are open to all and not limited to the families of Freemasons.
- Medical assistance.<sup>[45]</sup>
- [Masonic Child Identification Programs \(CHIP\)](#)

In addition to these, there are thousands of philanthropic organisations around the world created by Freemasons. The Masonic Service Association<sup>[46]</sup>, the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory<sup>[47]</sup>, and the [Shriners Hospitals for Children](#)<sup>[48]</sup> are especially notable charitable endeavors that Masons have founded and continue to support both intellectually and monetarily.

## Membership requirements

Freemasonry initiation. 18th century

A candidate for Freemasonry must petition a lodge in his community, obtaining an introduction by asking an existing member, who then becomes the candidate's proposer. In some jurisdictions, it is required that the petitioner ask three times, however this is becoming less prevalent.<sup>[49]</sup> In other jurisdictions, more open advertising is utilised to inform potential candidates where to go for more information. Regardless of how a potential candidate receives his introduction to a Lodge, he must be freely elected by secret ballot in open Lodge. Members approving his candidacy often vote with "white balls" in the voting box. A certain number of adverse votes by "[black balls](#)" will exclude a candidate. The number of adverse votes necessary to reject a candidate varies between Lodges and jurisdictions, but sometimes a single adverse vote will be enough.



## General requirements

Generally, to be a regular Freemason, a candidate must:<sup>[20]</sup>

- Be a [man](#) who comes of his own free will.
- Believe in a Supreme Being. (The form of which is left to open interpretation by the candidate)
- Be at least the minimum age (from 18–25 years old depending on the jurisdiction).
- Be of good morals, and of good reputation.
- Be of sound mind and body (Lodges had in the past denied membership to a man because of a physical disability, however, now, if a potential candidate says a disability will not cause problems, it will not be held against him).
- Be free-born (or "born free", *i.e.* not born a [slave](#) or [bondsman](#)).<sup>[50]</sup> As with the previous, this is entirely an historical holdover, and can be interpreted in the same manner as it is in the context of being entitled to write a [will](#). Some jurisdictions have removed this requirement.
- Have character references, as well as one or two references from current Masons, depending on jurisdiction.

Deviation from one or more of these requirements is generally the barometer of Masonic regularity or irregularity. However, an accepted deviation in some regular jurisdictions is to allow a *Lewis* (the son of a Mason),<sup>[51]</sup> to be initiated earlier than the normal minimum age for that jurisdiction, although no earlier than the age of 18.

Some Grand Lodges in the United States have an additional residence requirement, candidates being expected to have lived within the jurisdiction for certain period of time, typically six months.<sup>[52]</sup>

## Membership and religion

Freemasonry explicitly and openly states that it is neither a religion nor a substitute for one. "There is no separate Masonic God", nor a separate proper name for a deity in any branch of Freemasonry.<sup>[53][54]</sup>

Regular Freemasonry requires that its candidates believe in a *Supreme Being*, but the interpretation of the term is subject to the conscience of the candidate. This means that men from a wide range of faiths, including (but not limited to) [Christianity](#), [Judaism](#), [Islam](#), [Buddhism](#), [Sikhism](#), [Hinduism](#), etc. can and have become Masons.

Since the early 19th century, in the *irregular* Continental European tradition (meaning *irregular* to those Grand Lodges in amity with the United Grand Lodge of England), a very broad interpretation has been given to a (non-dogmatic) Supreme Being; in the tradition of [Baruch Spinoza](#) and [Johann Wolfgang von Goethe](#) — or views of [The Ultimate](#) Cosmic Oneness — along with Western atheistic [idealism](#) and agnosticism.

Freemasonry in [Scandinavia](#), known as the [Swedish Rite](#), on the other hand, accepts only Christians.<sup>[10]</sup> In addition, some appendant bodies (or portions thereof) may have religious requirements. These have no bearing, however, on what occurs at the lodge level.

## Opposition to and criticism of Freemasonry

Main article: [Anti-Masonry](#)

See also: [Masonic conspiracy theories](#)

*Anti-Masonry* (alternatively called *Anti-Freemasonry*) is defined as "avowed opposition to Freemasonry".<sup>[55]</sup> However, there is no homogeneous anti-Masonic movement. Anti-Masonry consists of radically differing criticisms from sometimes incompatible groups who are hostile to Freemasonry in some form. They include religious groups, political groups, and conspiracy theorists.

There have been many disclosures and exposés dating as far back as the eighteenth century. These often lack context,<sup>[56]</sup> may be outdated for various reasons,<sup>[33]</sup> or could be outright [hoaxes](#) on the part of the author, as in the case of the [Taxil hoax](#).<sup>[57]</sup>

These hoaxes and exposures have often become the basis for criticism of Masonry, usually religious (mainly Roman Catholic and evangelical Christian) or political (usually Socialist or Communist dictatorial objections,<sup>[58]</sup> but also the historical [Anti-Masonic Party](#) in the United States) in nature. The political opposition that arose after the "[Morgan Affair](#)" in 1826 gave rise to the term "[Anti-Masonry](#)", which is still in use today, both by Masons in referring to their critics and as a self-descriptor by the critics themselves.

## Religious opposition

Freemasonry has attracted criticism from [theocratic](#) states and organised religions for supposed competition with religion, or supposed [heterodoxy](#) within the Fraternity itself, and has long been the target of [conspiracy](#) theories, which see it as an [occult](#) and evil power.

## Christianity and Freemasonry

*Main articles:* [Christianity and Freemasonry](#) and [Catholicism and Freemasonry](#)

Although members of various faiths cite objections, certain [Christian denominations](#) have had high profile negative attitudes to Masonry, banning or discouraging their members from being Freemasons.

The denomination with the longest history of objection to Freemasonry is the Catholic Church. The objections raised by the Catholic Church are based on the allegation that Masonry teaches a naturalistic [deistic](#) religion which is in conflict with Church [doctrine](#).<sup>[59]</sup> A number of Papal pronouncements have been issued against Freemasonry. The first was [Pope Clement XII's In Eminenti, April 28, 1738](#); the most recent was [Pope Leo XIII's Ab Apostolici, October 15, 1890](#). The 1917 [Code of Canon Law](#) explicitly declared that joining Freemasonry entailed automatic [excommunication](#).<sup>[60]</sup> The 1917 Code of Canon Law also forbade books friendly to Freemasonry.

In 1983, the Church issued a new Code of [Canon Law](#). Unlike its predecessor, it did not explicitly name Masonic orders among the [secret societies](#) it condemns. It states in part: "*A person who joins an association which plots against the Church is to be punished with a just penalty; one who promotes or takes office in such an association is to be punished with an [interdict](#).*" This omission caused both Catholics and Freemasons to believe that the ban on Catholics becoming Freemasons may have been lifted, especially after the perceived liberalisation of [Vatican II](#).<sup>[61]</sup> However, the matter was clarified when Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (later [Pope Benedict XVI](#)), as the Prefect of the [Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith](#), issued [Quaesitum est](#), which states: "...the Church's negative judgment in regard to Masonic association remains unchanged since their principles have always been considered irreconcilable with the doctrine of the Church and therefore membership in them remains forbidden. The faithful who enroll in Masonic associations are in a state of grave sin and may not receive [Holy Communion](#)." Thus, from a Catholic perspective, there is still a ban on Catholics joining Masonic Lodges. For its part, Freemasonry has never objected to Catholics joining their fraternity. Those Grand Lodges in amity with UGLE deny the Church's claims and state that they explicitly adhere to the principle that "Freemasonry is not a religion, nor a substitute for religion."<sup>[53]</sup>

In contrast to Catholic allegations of rationalism and naturalism, Protestant objections are more likely to be based on allegations of [mysticism](#), [occultism](#), and even [Satanism](#).<sup>[62]</sup> Masonic scholar [Albert Pike](#) is often quoted (in some cases *misquoted*) by Protestant anti-Masons as an authority for the position of Masonry on these issues. However, Pike, although undoubtedly learned, was not a spokesman for Freemasonry and was controversial among Freemasons in general, representing his personal opinion only, and furthermore an opinion grounded in the attitudes and understandings of late 19th century Southern Freemasonry of the USA alone. Indeed his book carries in the preface a form of disclaimer from his own Grand Lodge. No one voice has ever spoken for the whole of Freemasonry.<sup>[63]</sup>

Since the founding of Freemasonry, many Bishops of the [Church of England](#) have been Freemasons, such as [Archbishop Geoffrey Fisher](#).<sup>[64]</sup> In the past, few members of the Church of England would have seen any incongruity in concurrently adhering to Anglican Christianity and practicing Freemasonry. In recent decades, however, reservations about Freemasonry have increased within Anglicanism, perhaps due to the increasing



prominence of the evangelical wing of the church. The current [Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams](#), appears to harbour some reservations about Masonic ritual, whilst being anxious to avoid causing offence to Freemasons inside and outside the Church of England. In 2003 he felt it necessary to apologise to British Freemasons after he said that their beliefs were incompatible with Christianity and that he had barred the appointment of Freemasons to senior posts in his diocese when he was Bishop of Monmouth.<sup>[65]</sup>

Regular Freemasonry has traditionally not responded to these claims, beyond the often repeated statement that those Grand Lodges in amity with UGLE explicitly adhere to the principle that "Freemasonry is not a religion, nor a substitute for religion. There is no separate 'Masonic deity', and there is no separate proper name for a deity in Freemasonry".<sup>[53]</sup> In recent years, however, this has begun to change. Many Masonic websites and publications address these criticisms specifically.

## Islam and Freemasonry

Many [Islamic](#) anti-Masonic arguments are closely tied with [Anti-Semitism](#) and [Anti-Zionism](#), though other criticisms are made such as linking Freemasonry to [Dajjal](#).<sup>[66]</sup> Some Muslim anti-Masons argue that Freemasonry promotes the interests of the [Jews](#) around the world and that one of its aims is to rebuild the [Temple of Solomon](#) in [Jerusalem](#) after destroying the [Al-Aqsa Mosque](#).<sup>[67]</sup> In article 28 of its Covenant,  [Hamas](#) states that Freemasonry, [Rotary](#), and other similar groups "work in the interest of Zionism and according to its instructions...."<sup>[68]</sup> Many countries with a significant Muslim population do not allow Masonic establishments within their jurisdictions. However, countries such as [Turkey](#), [Morocco](#), and [Egypt](#) have established Grand Lodges<sup>[69]</sup> while in countries such as [Malaysia](#)<sup>[70]</sup>, and [Lebanon](#)<sup>[71]</sup> there are District Grand Lodges operating under a warrant from an established Grand Lodge.

## Political opposition

*See also: [Anti-Masonry](#) and [Suppression of Freemasonry](#)*

Regular Freemasonry has in its core ritual a formal obligation: to be quiet and peaceable citizens, true to the lawful government of the country in which they live, and not to countenance disloyalty or rebellion.<sup>[26]</sup> A Freemason makes a further obligation, before being made Master of his Lodge, to pay a proper respect to the civil [magistrates](#).<sup>[26]</sup> The words may be varied across Grand Lodges, but the sense in the obligation taken is always there. Nevertheless, much of the political opposition to Freemasonry is based upon the idea that Masonry will foment (or sometimes prevent) rebellion.

[Conspiracy theorists](#) have long associated Freemasonry with the [New World Order](#) and the [Illuminati](#), and state that Freemasonry as an organisation is either bent on world domination or already secretly in control of world politics. Historically, Freemasonry has attracted criticism - and suppression - from both the politically [extreme right](#) (e.g. [Nazi Germany](#))<sup>[72][73]</sup> and the [extreme left](#) (e.g. the former [Communist](#) states in [Eastern Europe](#)).<sup>[58]</sup> The Fraternity has encountered both applause for supposedly founding, and opposition for supposedly thwarting, [liberal democracy](#) (such as the United States of America).

In some countries anti-Masonry is often related to [anti-Semitism](#) and [anti-Zionism](#). For example, In 1980, the Iraqi legal and penal code was changed by [Saddam Hussein's](#) ruling [Ba'ath Party](#), making it a felony to "promote or acclaim Zionist principles, including Freemasonry, or who associate [themselves] with Zionist organizations."<sup>[74]</sup> Professor [Andrew Prescott](#), of the University of Sheffield, writes: "Since at least the time of the [Protocols of the Elders of Zion](#), anti-semitism has gone hand in hand with anti-masonry, so it is not surprising that allegations that [11 September](#) was a Zionist plot have been accompanied by suggestions that the attacks were inspired by a Masonic world order."<sup>[75]</sup>

In 1799 English Freemasonry almost came to a halt due to Parliamentary proclamation. In the wake of the [French Revolution](#), the *Unlawful Societies Act, 1799* banned any meetings of groups that required their members to take an [oath](#) or obligation.<sup>[76]</sup> The Grand Masters of both the Moderns and the Ancients Grand Lodges called on the Prime Minister William Pitt, (who was not a Freemason) and explained to him that Freemasonry was a supporter of

the law and lawfully constituted authority and was much involved in charitable work. As a result Freemasonry was specifically exempted from the terms of the Act, provided that each Private Lodge's Secretary placed with the local "Clerk of the Peace" a list of the members of his Lodge once a year.<sup>[76]</sup> This continued until 1967 when the obligation of the provision was rescinded by [Parliament](#).<sup>[76]</sup>

Freemasonry in the United States faced political pressure following the disappearance of [William Morgan](#) in 1826. Reports of the "Morgan Affair", together with opposition to [Jacksonian democracy](#) (Jackson was a prominent Mason) helped fuel an Anti-Masonic movement, culminating in the formation of a short lived Anti-Masonic Party which fielded candidates for the Presidential elections of 1828 and 1832.

Even in modern democracies, Freemasonry is still sometimes accused of being a network where individuals engage in [cronyism](#), using their Masonic connections for political influence and shady business dealings. This is officially and explicitly deplored in Freemasonry.<sup>[26]</sup> It is also charged that men become Freemasons through [patronage](#) or that they are offered incentives to join. This is not the case; no one lodge member may control membership in the lodge and in order to start the process of becoming a Freemason, an individual must ask to join the Fraternity "freely and without persuasion."<sup>[26]</sup>

In Italy, Freemasonry has become linked to a scandal concerning the [Propaganda Due](#) Lodge (aka P2). This Lodge was Chartered by the [Grande Oriente d'Italia](#) in 1877, as a Lodge for visiting Masons unable to attend their own lodges. Under [Licio Gelli](#)'s leadership, in the late 1970s, the P2 Lodge became involved in the financial scandals that nearly bankrupted the [Vatican Bank](#). However, by this time the lodge was operating independently and irregularly; as the Grand Orient had revoked its charter in 1976.<sup>[77]</sup> By 1982 the scandal became public knowledge and Gelli was formally expelled from Freemasonry.

## Holocaust

*Main article:* [Holocaust](#)

*See also:* [Freemasonry under authoritarian regimes](#) and [Liberté chérie \(Freemasonry\)](#)

The preserved records of the [Reichssicherheitshauptamt](#) (the Reich Security Main Office) show the persecution of Freemasons.<sup>[78]</sup> RSHA Amt VII (Written Records) was overseen by Professor [Franz Six](#) and was responsible for "ideological" tasks, by which was meant the creation of anti-Semitic and anti-Masonic propaganda. While the number is not accurately known, it is estimated that between 80,000 and 200,000 Freemasons were killed under the [Nazi regime](#).<sup>[10]</sup> Masonic concentration camp inmates were graded as political prisoners and wore an inverted [red triangle](#).<sup>[79]</sup>



< [Forget-me-not](#)

The small blue [forget-me-not](#) flower was first used by the Grand Lodge *Zur Sonne*, in 1926, as a Masonic emblem at the annual convention in [Bremen](#), Germany. In 1938 the forget-me-not badge – made by the same factory as the Masonic badge – was chosen for the annual Nazi Party [Winterhilfswerk](#), a Nazi charitable organisation which collected money so that other state funds could be freed up and used for rearmament. This coincidence enabled Freemasons to wear the forget-me-not badge as a secret sign of membership.<sup>[80][81][82]</sup>

After [World War II](#), the forget-me-not<sup>[83]</sup> flower was again used as a Masonic emblem at the first Annual Convention of the United Grand Lodges of Germany in 1948. The badge is now worn in the coat lapel by Freemasons around the world to remember all those that have suffered in the name of Freemasonry, especially those during the Nazi era.<sup>[83][84]</sup>

## Women and Freemasonry

*Main articles:* [Women and Freemasonry](#) and [Co-Freemasonry](#)

Freemasonry, which is considered by many to be a fraternal organisation, is sometimes criticised for not admitting women as members.<sup>[[citation needed](#)]</sup> Since the adoption of Anderson's constitution in 1723, it has been accepted as fact by regular Masons that only men can be made Masons. Most Grand Lodges do not admit women because they believe it would violate the ancient Landmarks. While a few women were initiated into British speculative lodges prior to 1723, officially regular Freemasonry remains exclusive to men.

While women cannot join regular lodges, there are (mainly within the borders of the United States) many female orders associated with regular Freemasonry and its appendant bodies, such as the [Order of the Eastern Star](#), the [Order of the Amaranth](#), the White Shrine of Jerusalem, the Social Order of Beauceant and the Daughters of the Nile. These have their own rituals and traditions, but are founded on the Masonic model. In the French context, women in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries had been admitted into what were known as "adoption lodges" in which they could participate in ritual life. However, men clearly saw this type of adoption Freemasonry as distinct from their exclusively male variety. From the late nineteenth century onward, mixed gender lodges have met in France.

In addition, there are many non-mainstream Masonic bodies that do admit both men and women or are exclusively for women. [Co-Freemasonry](#) admits both men and women,<sup>[[85](#)]</sup> but it is held to be irregular because it admits women. The systematic admission of women into International Co-Freemasonry began in France in 1882. In more recent times, women have created and maintained separate Lodges, working the same rituals as the all male regular lodges. These Female Masons have founded lodges around the world, and these Lodges continue to gain membership.

## Notes

- <sup>^</sup> Christopher Hodapp, *Freemasonry for Dummies*, Wiley Publishing, Inc. p.52
- <sup>^</sup> UGLE <http://www.ugle.org.uk/masonry/YQA-about-freemasonry.htm>
- <sup>^</sup> Griffin, Mark (2002). "[Freemasonry and Religion](#)". United Grand Lodge of England. Retrieved on [2007-05-08](#).
- <sup>^</sup> Gruber, Hermann (1910-10-01). "[Masonry \(Freemasonry\)](#)". *The Catholic encyclopedia: an international work of reference on the constitution, doctrine, discipline, and history of the Catholic Church IX*. Ed. Remy Lafort, Censor. New York: Robert Appleton Company, [OCLC 1017058](#). Retrieved on [2007-05-08](#).
- <sup>^</sup> [Masonic Service Association - Short Talk Bulletin](#) as reprinted on the website of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana.
- <sup>^</sup> Stevenson, David (November 1988). *The Origins of Freemasonry: Scotland's Century 1590-1710*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [ISBN 9780521353267](#). [OCLC 17546610](#).
- <sup>^</sup> Coil, Henry Wilson (1961). *Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia* (Revised and Updated by Allen E. Roberts, 1995). Ed. William M. Brown, William L. Cummings, Harold Van Buren Voorhes. Richmond, Va: Macoy Pub. & Masonic Supply Co., [ISBN 9780880530545](#).
- <sup>^</sup> "[The Regius Manuscript](#)". Masonicsites.org.
- <sup>^</sup> Bullock, Steven C.; Institute of Early American History and Culture (Williamsburg, Va.) (1996). *Revolutionary brotherhood: Freemasonry and the transformation of the American social order, 1730-1840*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. [ISBN 9780807847503](#). [OCLC 33334015](#).
- <sup>^</sup> [a b c d e f g Hodapp, Christopher](#) (September 2005). *Freemasons For Dummies*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons. 9780764597961. [OCLC 61302442](#).
- <sup>^</sup> "[GLNF: Grande Loge Nationale Francaise](#)" (in French). Grande Loge Nationale Francaise (GLNF). Retrieved on [2006-02-06](#).
- <sup>^</sup> "[Constitution](#)". Grand Lodge of North Carolina (2007). Retrieved on [2007-04-09](#). See Preamble.
- <sup>^</sup> "[Form letter to request mutual recognition](#)". Grand Lodge FAAM (Free And Accepted Masons) of Washington, D.C. (the District of Columbia), Committee on Masonic Recognition. Retrieved on [2007-04-09](#). Example letter to request recognition.
- <sup>^</sup> Campbell, Donald G.; Committee on Ritual. "[The Master Mason; Irregular and Clandestine Lodges](#)", *Handbook for Candidate's Coaches* (excerpt), Grand Lodge F.&A.M. of California. Retrieved on [2007-05-08](#). "The solution of the problem [of irregular Masonry] lies in the publication furnished every California lodge. Entitled "List of Regular Lodges Masonic", it is issued by the Grand Lodge of California to its constituent lodges, with the admonition that this book is to be kept in each lodge for reference in receiving visitors and on applications for affiliation. There may well be an old copy which you can use, for it is re-issued every year."

15. [^ "Report From The United Grand Lodge of England: Prince Hall Masonry and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts"](#) (Annex A: Regularity). Joseph A. Walkes Jr. Commission on Bogus Masonic Practices, Phylaxis Society (2006-10-03). Retrieved on [2007-04-07](#).
16. [^ Bourne, W.J. \(1997\). "The Festive Board"](#) (abridged portion). Godolphin Lodge No. 7790. Retrieved on [2007-04-09](#).
17. [^ Mackey, Albert Gallatin \(2004\). "South", \*Lexicon of Freemasonry\*. New York: Barnes & Noble, p. 445. ISBN 0760760039. OCLC 58654158.](#) "...but when [the sun] reaches the south, the hour is high twelve, and we are summoned to refreshment."
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26. [^ <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> <sup>c</sup> <sup>d</sup> <sup>e</sup> <sup>f</sup> "The United Grand Lodge of England - Home Page". United Grand Lodge of England \(2002\). Retrieved on \[2006-02-23\]\(#\).](#)
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