FAITH Part 2

**Non nobis, Domine, non nobis, sed Nomini tuo da gloriam;**

ln this series of speeches so far, we have proposed the view that Faith, Hope and Charity are represented by the first, second and third Degrees respectively. It was my assertion that Faith is fundamental to the alchemically transformative power of ancient Freemasonry.

Fulcanelli, a French born alchemist of the early twentieth century famous for his works on alchemy, wrote “Le Mystere des Cathedrals.” This comprehensive dissertation on the genius of the gothic cathedrals and their alchemical secrets, conveys in the chiselled stone a story to the faithful of an alchemical path carefully hidden from the profane. Fulcanelli wrote “The builders of the middle ages had the natural attributes of faith and modesty.” “Faith and modesty,” Faith to empower and motivate and modesty to sanctify the time-honoured in secrecy. Fulcanelli continues, ”The anonymous creators of pure works of art, they built for truth, for the affirmation of their ideal, for the propagation and the nobility of their science.”

E. Canseliet, a student of Fulcanelli’s wrote “It is enough for us to know that the wonders of the Middle Ages hold the same positive truth, the same scientific basis as the pyramids of Egypt.”

The Cathedral builders wrote the truth about the transformative power of Alchemy into their Gothic masterpieces to underscore the indisputable fact that Faith is at the centre of alchemy. Freemasonry stands as a monument to this truth. Freemasonry must be Faith.

Laurence Gardener wrote in “The Bloodline of The Holy Grail; “…the cosmic law and its sacred geometry were applied by the Templar Mason’s to construct the finest holy monuments ever to grace the Christian world.”

The construction of the Cathedrals of Notre Dame in Paris began in 1163, Chartres in 1194, Reims in 1211 and Amiens 1221, and according to many historians, writers and Architects including Louis Charpentier they were all financed and built by the Templars. The Templars as if foreseeing their own demise undertook as magnificent and as altruistic or charitable venture as the creation of the Pyramids of Egypt. Leaving for mankind a testimony in stone for the Faithful. The Templars engineered and constructed the Cathedrals;

“God created the heavens and the Earth.”

The Swiss Physician, Paracelsus was born in 1493 or 94 and died in 1541. He was an alchemist, astrologer, prophet (to the Rosicrucian’s,) and key intellectual of the German Renaissance, he wrote;

“Alchemy is a necessary, indispensable art…” Paracelsus goes on to say; “But to understand this Art, one must above all know that God has created all things; and that he has created something out of nothing. This something is a seed, in which the purpose of its use and function is inherent from the beginning.”

Paracelsus emphasises the absolute need for Faith in God, that without it there can be no Art, no craft, no Alchemy and I will say as inflammatory as it sounds to you here this evening no Freemasonry!

W. S. Wilmshurst writes, “In the Meaning of Freemasonry;”

“The craft whose work we are taught to honour with the name of a science, a royal art has surely some larger end in view than merely inculcating the practice of social virtues common to all the world…” Wilmshurst continues, “ Surely, then, it behoves us to acquaint ourselves with what that larger end consists, to enquire why the fulfillment of that purpose is worthy…,”

The “modest,” Templar stone masons who cut, chiselled, squared and dressed the stone of those Gothic Cathedrals of enlightenment knew the purpose was worthy. Their enlightenment was Faith sculpted. Wilmshurst continues;

“…and an inward , intellectual side and spiritual side, which is concealed behind the ceremonial, its doctrine and the symbols, and which is available only to the Mason who has learned to use his spiritual imagination and who can appreciate the reality that lies behind the veil of outward symbol.”

Wisdom, Strength and Beauty, stand as alchemical symbols of the transformation of Truth to Faith.

As W. L. Wilmshurst writes in “The meaning of Masonry;” “It cannot be too strongly emphasized that no one can learn spiritual science, whether as taught by Masonry or any other system inculcating it, without submitting himself to its processes and living them out in practical experience. In this supreme study, knowing depends entirely upon doing; comprehension is conditional upon the corollary of action.”

From Hebrew lore is Solomon’s wish: When Solomon was still a small boy, God came to him in a dream and asked: “If you were given only one wish, what would you choose?” “Wisdom,” Solomon replied without hesitation. “Why would you choose wisdom?” “Because without wisdom no treasure is of value; and no pleasure, sweet. Without understanding one cannot tell good from evil and cannot follow in the ways of God.” “You have chosen well,” said God, “for all good things come with wisdom and all treasures are in her hands.”

Fyodor-Dostoevsky wrote: “Beauty is mysterious as well as terrible. God and the devil are fighting there, and the battlefield is the heart of man.” Dostoevsky and Solomon’s wish speak to the choice each of us are required to make daily. A choice between good and evil. A choice of Faith over infidelity.

The Gothic Cathedrals reveal the astounding pinnacle of wisdom, strength and beauty reached by the Templars for the glory in faithfulness to God.

Strength. “Non nobis, Domine, non nobis, sed Nomini tuo da gloriam; “This Latin motto is the motto of the Knights Templar and translates as; “Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy Name give glory.” This motto is an expression of strength. A strength that is wise, beautiful and faithful. +

The Knights Templar used wisdom, strength and beauty to induce stability and harmony from a world known to be dualistic and dangerous.

As W. L. Wilmshurst writes in “The Meaning of Masonry;” “Effort and practice also are needed to attain stability of mind, control of emotion and thought and to acquire interior stillness and the harmony of all our parts.”

The alchemical transformation that takes place in the heart and mind of every willing and prepared Freemason is a war for our Faith, waged on the mosaic pavement of philosophy, the philosophy of Faith!