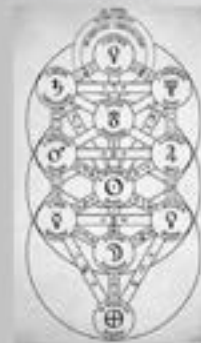


# Council Chronicle

www.FLGYR.org



**EQUILIBRIUM | PAGE 12**



Ask your District Deputy or CMMRF Rep about donating to CMMRF.

## COMMENTS FROM THE COMPANIONS

1812 AND THE HERO PART ONE | PAGE 3

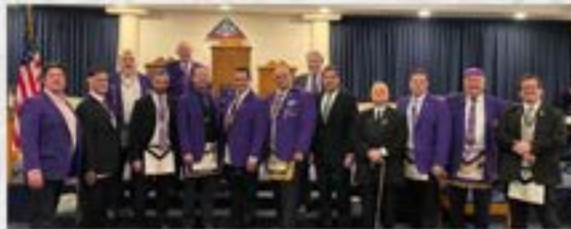
MASONIC EDUCATION AND | PAGE 8  
INSPIRATION - LENT

## A Message From The M.J. Grand Master



### FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

We have started the downward slide of my functions as the Most Illustrious Grand master; but I still have a lot that I want to do before my year ends. All of my 5 Area meetings have been completed, all of my official visits to the various Councils have been completed, all of the officers for the ensuing year have been installed, the goals for C.M.M.R.F. have been reached with the exception of one Council that did not contribute, and although we had several Festivals this year, we still did not make the plan. For the balance of the year, I plan on visiting several Councils, work on increasing the Blue Card/E Councils numbers, traveling to other Conventions, work on completing the required reports for my Convention, and making as many Festivals and Table Councils as I can. I can't believe it will be March in several days- where did the time go???



On February 17th, I had the honor and privilege of installing the officers of Zabud Council. What a great group of guys. I was very pleased with the line up of new officers and feel that Zabud is in great hands. I plan on making many more trips to Zabud after my term as Grand Master.

On February 21st through the 24th I was in Nashville. Although it was not a Council activity, it was a Masonic activity. As the 1st VP of the Southeaster Shrine Provost Guard Association, it was my obligation to be in attendance. The bad news is that I was not discovered as a new up and coming Country singer. I guess I am confined to the shower. Oh well. However, I did have the opportunity to visit the homestead of Andrew Jackson. As you are all aware, he was the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Tennessee in 1822-23. If you are ever in Nashville, it is worth the visit. I also visited the Grand Lodge of Tennessee. What a beautiful building and with so much history. I would like to encourage everyone here in Florida to visit our own Grand Lodge. It too is full of history.



---

## 1812 and the Hero Part One

By M. J. Glenn E. Chandler, Sr. KYGCH, Grand Historian

---

At one time in the history of the United States, General Andrew Jackson of Tennessee was honored above all other living men. There was also a time when the date of January 8th was of great importance. For about fifty years it was celebrated with the same zeal as the 4th of July. But, for some reason by the end of the American Civil War in 1865, the magnitude of the date had diminished. The event that took place in 1815 during the War of 1812 left one man with the perpetual title of "The Hero of New Orleans." The victory was directly responsible for placing a once-poor, wretchedly educated orphan boy into the White House. Jackson had none of the qualifications of his presidential predecessors. It was said that the only thing he excelled at was killing. He killed, Indians, Spaniards, and of course the British. As one woman in Salisbury, North Carolina, exclaimed on hearing of Jackson's nomination, "What! Jackson up for President? Jackson? Andrew Jackson? The Jackson that used to live in Salisbury? Well, if Andrew Jackson can be President, anybody can!"

The Battle of New Orleans possessed all the ingredients of a grand Hollywood epic film. It had a home-grown, popular military hero nicknamed "Old Hickory," a ragtag militia of regular and citizen soldiers that included frontiersmen, Creoles, Indians sharpshooters, free blacks, the people of New Orleans, and the notorious pirate Jean Lafitte and his renegade banditti. Arrayed against them were the mighty British Navy and the most elite regiments of the Duke of Wellington's victorious army, fresh from their defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo.

It should have been a rout, this unequal battle between some 8,000 British regulars supremely confident of crushing all opposition in their path and Andrew Jackson's bizarre group of defenders, whose numbers were barely half that of their enemy. Fought in the most unlikely of places, the Battle of New Orleans actually took place on the Plains of Chalmette, approximately ten miles south of New Orleans on the east bank of the Mississippi River. The British expected to punch their way straight north to New Orleans, collect the "Beauty and Booty" that awaited them, and then head up the Mississippi Valley to join with British troops coming from Canada, effectively slicing the United States in two.

The attacking force consisted of disciplined regulars of the British army including the Royal Fusiliers, Highlanders, Light Infantry, Light Dragoons, a West Indian regiment, and sailors from the fleet anchored in the Gulf of Mexico. It should be noted that when the War of 1812 began, the U.S. Navy consisted of seventeen oceangoing ships while the British fleet numbered seven hundred.

---

## 1812 and the Hero Part One

By M. J. Glenn E. Chandler, Sr. KYGCH, Grand Historian

---

The U.S. acquired New Orleans as part of the Louisiana Purchase from France in 1803. The population was largely composed of Creoles and Blacks. When Andrew Jackson learned of the British intention to seize New Orleans, he responded by thundering, "I will smash them, so help me God!" The Louisiana ladies did not share in Jackson's confidence and decided to take no chances. They armed themselves with daggers, instead of scissors. They had recently seen Jackson's vaunted "Dirty Shirt" Tennesseans under General John Coffee's command, and they had serious doubts about the ability of these men to stand up to British regulars. There was absolutely nothing military-looking about them. They wore woolen hunting shirts of dark or dingy color" and "copperas-dyed pantaloons," both made at home by wives, mothers, and sisters; with slouching wool hats made of racoon and fox skins and belts of untanned deer shin, into which they stuck hunting knives and tomahawks. Their long, unkempt hair and bewhiskered faces might scare a Creole lady but hardly the troops of His Majesty's army. But what the ladies did not know was that most of these men could bring down a squirrel from the highest tree with a single rifle shot. Their many years living in Tennessee wilderness had made them expert marksmen, and their many months of military service, in fighting Indians under the command of Generals Coffee and Jackson, had converted them into disciplined soldiers.

On December 24, 1814, Jackson set up his army behind an old millrace called Rodriguez Canal between the Macarty and Chalmette plantations. It was a ditch four feet deep and ten feet wide that ran at a right angle from the east bank of the Mississippi into a thick and almost impenetrable cypress swamp. Jackson chose this position because it provided the narrowest front between the river and the swamp and made an excellent barrier to defend against an advancing enemy. Immediately work began on widening and deepening the canal and building a rampart from the mud and debris dredged out of the bottom of the ditch. Over the next several days, the soldiers erected an earthen rampart, and installed twenty-four artillery pieces at regular intervals. The men competed to see which group could build the highest mound in front of their position. Jackson rode his horse among the troops as the work was being done, and assured them by saying, "Here we shall plant our stakes, and not abandon them until we drive these red-coat rascals into the river or the swamp." Overall the Jackson line ran about three quarters of a mile.

## C.M.A.R.F. Standings

We started the year with \$5,000 in our kitty and a pledge from the Grand Master of Tennessee to reach a higher contribution goal than Florida.

My original goal was to reach the \$52,105. Well, we did that. Our final contributions to CMMRF were \$69,979.36, plus Richard Brooks willed us \$115,297.37. Every Council contributed. We had Councils that donated from \$28.00 to some that donated \$11,000. We needed support from everyone and every council, and we got it. The Grand Master's challenge was a big success. The Grand Line, the District Deputies, District Instructors, and CMMRF reps will all receive a Triangle Plaque for their body. I think that the "TOP" DD, DI, & CMMRF rep should keep the plaques for the year and present it to the "TOP" DD, DI, and CMMRF rep next year. We had many successful Table Councils, we had 8 out of the 10 districts sell raffle tickets for a gun. We have had the 8 drawings, and everyone felt that it was a worthwhile and easy way to raise funds for CMMRF. Plus, we had an outstanding amount of support from our membership. Their generosity will not be forgotten. God Bless you for your support.



After reviewing the results of the various Grand Masters from 1986 through 2023; I can state we have come a long way. We went from \$5,000 annually to over \$50,000. I think going forward, the Grand Master is going to have his work cut out for him. I want to congratulate John Pickford for his performance during his year. He collected over \$77,000. I hope Ben will be able to crush both my record and John's record. We need to be at the \$90,000 level and that will require an effort from everyone.

## Word of The Month: Duty

The duty of a Mason as an honest man is plain and easy. It requires of him honesty in contracts, sincerity in affirming, simplicity in bargaining and faithfulness in performing. To sleep little, and to study much; to say little and to think and hear much; to learn, that he may be able to do; and then to do earnestly and vigorously whatever is good for his family, friends and brothers, his country and mankind.

## "Quote of The Month"

*"Freemasonry is founded on the immutable laws of Truth and Justice and its grand object is to promote the happiness of the human race."* - George Washington

## 2024 Homecoming

Companions,

Henry, Rusty, and I have had a great year so far. We want to celebrate this year with our "Combined Homecoming". In the past, we have had three Homecomings and we wanted to have just the one event so we could get more Companions and Sir Knights to attend and help celebrate with us. We could not have had a year like this without you guys. This Homecoming is our way of thanking you.

The homecoming will be at the Jacksonville Scottish Rite on April 13th at 6pm.

Any questions, please call me or e-mail me.

Regards,

Tom Olsen  
MIGM



## Table Councils

We have had some very impressive Table Councils this year and it was my goal to attend as many as I could. This was the first year for many of our Councils to have a Table Council. I want to thank them for their efforts and the funds these events generated. I know they learned a lot from this experience and that next time they will be even more successful. I would like to see more Table Councils in the 2nd half of the year to support youth activities and their individual Councils.

Items to consider to have a successful Table Council: (1). Promote this activity well in advance of having the function. (2). Promote it to non-masons as well. (3). Don't go crazy on the food; some sent between \$500 to \$1,000. (4). Have a theme, i.e., Easter, Veterans Day, Halloween, Membership appreciation dinner (25yr, 40yr, & 50 yr. certificates). (5). Get everyone involved. Every member should have a task to do. (6). Did I mention, promoting this event.

This was in from last month but warrants repeating. Please try to schedule a Table Council in your district this second half of the year; if possible.



---

## Festivals

---

We did not reach our membership goal this past year and it is one of the most important goals we have. We need to all work harder on getting and keeping new members. I would like to see each district bring in 10 new members and bring back 10 members that no longer come to meetings. The best way to get members is to always be vigilant to getting new members. I find that if you talk to them about the York Rite and ASK them to join, you will have pretty good results. Our big problem is that so many of us are afraid to "Ask for the order", to coin a sales term. We need to do a better job going forward.

Our PMEGHP Richard Wolfe has developed a tool to assist you in gaining new prospects for membership. This tool is a QR Code that delivers you to the film explaining York Rite Masonry. His plan is to follow through the Blue Lodge Trestle board; (1). the Masons receiving their Master Mason proficiency. (2). Give them your business card with the QR Code on it and tell them to take it home and review with their family. (3). Follow up with the prospect and give them a petition. If you have any questions about this process, please call Richard Wolfe of me. We are currently at 125 new members.

I hope everyone is enjoying the articles that some of our Companions are submitting for inclusion in this monthly chronicle.

---

## Membership Development

---

Please scan this QR code with your phone. It will take you to a Google website that contains a York Rite video. Immediately after a newly raised Brother gives his Master Mason proficiency, he is wondering what is next. This video answers that question very professionally.

Go to your local Lodge and use your cell phone as a tool to advance your local York Rite Bodies membership. Show the video, let anyone copy it and take it home to show it to their family. We all need the support of our family's and so do our York Rite Bodies.



---

## Masonic Education and Inspiration - Lent

By R. J. Jerry J. Miller, KYC#

---

As an introduction I report that I have been influenced and inspired to present masonic education topics by the evaluations and instructions of the leadership of the Florida Grand Lodge, Grand York Rite and Scottish Rite. The reality message from leadership is that membership application, retention and participation are at the top of each priority list.

The reports and conclusions are that this is a new day for Masonry. The game has changed. Things in this regard are not what they have always been. New member prospects and members in general are looking for a different masonic experience than that we may have expected when we were initiated, passed and raised in a Blue Lodge and then searched for more light in York Rite, Scottish Rite or other appendant bodies. For some of us this may be decades ago. We are now challenged to reintroduce learning and philosophical discussion into our masonic meetings. A substantial element reported is an urging that we improve and expand our education programs and meeting content to provide esoteric and philosophic programs and training.

As the Worshipful Master of Omega Lodge No. 380 in 2019, I translated that Florida Grand Lodge charge as a principal challenge for the year. The effort was entitled Masonic Education and Inspiration Program. At each stated communication for that year, we scheduled reading from the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida, the Florida Grand Lodge Etiquette Pamphlet and a masonic education presentation of substance. As this was such a departure from a culture of meeting masonic education by periodically reading from the Digest, I personally took on the challenge of writing and presenting essays or presenting materials produced by other authors. During the year other brothers from within and without Omega also made presentations. When selected speakers were not entitled to attend a tiled meeting, the presentations were made during our dinner hour. The idea was contagious and has spread and become a mainstay at my Surf Chapter, Gulf Council, and St. Elmo Commandery to this day.

In preparing for that first presentation of the program, I thought that it would be about the foundations of masonry with an emphasis on the philosophies and practices of Pythagoras. I soon found myself off on related pig trails hardily pursuing why numbers matter in Masonry. I was then left with the dilemma. If numbers? What numbers? As Lent was approaching, why not 40? Thus, the theme Lent.



---

## Masonic Education and Inspiration - Lent

By R. J. Jerry J. Miller, KYC#

---

It is not a given that any or all of us come from religious upbringings or practices that give emphasis to some form of Christian calendar. I did not as it was not the guide and practice in the Christian denomination of my youth. But it is important as a guide and practice of the Christian denominations of my adult life.

It is common practice or influence among Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Methodists and probably other denominations. And none of us would pass up the opportunity for a springtime trip to Mobile or New Orleans. Or, seeing a parade, eating a slice of King Cake or perhaps enjoying some small imbibe. Of course, only for medicinal purposes.

The day after Mardi Gras, February 15, 2024, was Ash Wednesday this year. It marked the beginning of the forty days of Lent, preceding Easter. The 40 days excludes Sundays because the first day of the week serves as the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The doctrine of numbers as symbols is familiar to Freemasonry. Numbers formed the fundamental idea of the philosophy of Pythagoras and Freemasonry finds foundation in his and other ancients' philosophies and concepts. The symbolism which is derived from numbers was common to the Egyptians, the Pythagoreans, the Cabalists, the Gnostics, and all mystical associations. Allusions are to be found to it in all systems of religion. The Jewish and Christian Scriptures abound in it. It is not then surprising that the most predominant of all symbolism in Freemasonry is that of numbers. Yet the use of numbers in philosophy and concepts was not original with Pythagoras. He brought his theories from Egypt and the East, where he had travelled and lived and where this numerical symbolism had always prevailed.

The number 40 is the multiple of two perfect numbers four and ten. This was deemed a sacred number, as commemorating many events of religious signification, some of which are: The alleged probation of Adam and Eve in Eden; Noah's life transformation in the Ark during the 40 days of rain; The forty year reigns of each Saul, David, and Solomon (As to this legend there is uncertainty as Saul may have served only 22 years and Solomon for 39) ; Moses transformation by his 40-day encounters with God on Mount Sinai; The Israeli spies' transformation by 40 days in the Promised Land; The nation of Israel's transformation by 40 years in the wilderness; Young David's was transformed by Goliath's 40-day challenge; Elijah was transformation by his 40-day fasting and his 40-day journey; The people of Nineveh's transformation when God graciously gave them 40 days to repent; Jesus' empowerment by 40 days of fasting and prayer in the wilderness where he endured the temptation of Satan just prior to beginning his ministry; and The disciples' transformation by 40 days with Jesus after his resurrection.

---

## Masonic Education and Inspiration - Lent

By R. J. Jerry J. Miller, KYC#

---

The word "Lent" comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "lencten", which means "Spring." The Lenten Fast is not commanded or even mentioned in the Bible. Lent was first documented as a 40-day season of preparation for Easter in AD 325 by the First Council of Nicaea. This is the same Council that established the original Nicene Creed used throughout Christendom today.

It became a custom in the early Christian Church that before the Easter celebration, there should be a 40-day season of spiritual preparation. Lent was also a time to prepare new believers for baptism and when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled to participate in the life of the Church. In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel and the need to renew faith.

One friend calls Lent his time of springtime resolution. The usual duplication of past resolutions made at the start of the year, already broken by springtime. But it can be more for each of us. The season of Lent is an invitation of renewal and new life.

In many churches, ashes are used to draw a cross on the forehead of people to mark the beginning of their Lent fast. Ashes are the traditional sign of sorrow and repentance. The ashes represent a person's grief and mourning for their sins - the same sins that Christians believe Jesus Christ gave his life for when he died on the cross. The drawing of a cross is often done on this day while a pastor recites the words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

While Advent is a celebration and a time of great anticipation, the birth of Jesus Christ that we celebrate as Christmas, Lent is more frequently seen as a time of solemn observance. In Lent, many Christians commit to fasting, as well as giving up certain luxuries to replicate the sacrifice of Jesus Christ's 40 days of fasting in the desert. Lent is a time of repentance, self-examination, and reflection certainly; but the season ends for Christians in glorious realization of God's love and forgiveness through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

---

## Masonic Education and Inspiration - Lent

By R. J. Jerry J. Miller, KYCQ

---

We may or may not practice Lenten fasting or other Lenten principles in our separate religious lives. Some may not even attend regular worship service. But, we do, as Masons, all have the common thread of a belief in a supreme being, and a belief in the immortality of the human soul. And as York Rite Masons pledge each of us to guard and protect the Christian faith. In any condition of religious practices, I leave you with the guidance of Pope Francis as sound masonic consideration during the period of Lent in any particular year and throughout each year irrespective of religious practices: **Fast from hurting words and say kind words.**

- **Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.**
- **Fast from anger and be filled with patience.**
- **Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.**
- **Fast from worries and have trust in God.**
- **Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.**
- **Fast from pressures and be prayerful.**
- **Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.**
- **Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.**
- **Fast from grudges and be reconciled.**
- **Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.**

Making the most of our Lenten observation requires that we look inside ourselves and rid out the corruption that defiles our entire self. Only then can we Christians look forward to the ultimate celebration of our resurrected selves because of our resurrected Christ.

# Equilibrium

By Todd Connor



One of the least examined features of our Blue Lodge is that of the black and white pavement upon which our altar sits. The alternated black and white squares are said to be symbolical of the good and evil that exists in the world around us, but what does this mean to us? Albert Pike states in *Morals and Dogma*, that whether intended or not, it is representative of the Good and Evil Principles of the Egyptian and Persian creeds. It can be considered representative of the warfare between Michael and Satan. Of the Gods and the Titans, of Balder and Lok, between light and shadow or darkness. Day and Night; freedom and despotism.[1]

Some may see this principle represented in the Chinese symbol of Yin and Yang, where these opposing principles establish harmony within all things. I will point out here, that in the representation of Yin and Yang, you will observe that the black component contains within it a circle of white and that the white element contains within it, a circle of black, suggesting that as distinct as these two principles may be, there is a germ of its opposite within itself.



Within the opening apartment of the 18th Degree of the Scottish Rite, we are asked, “where can we look for the eternal base of the law of mercy and love when the poisonous snake kills the harmless bird that only sings its prayers to the very God who made the serpent?”[2] Ponderance of this question might cause an inquisitive mind to wonder why there is evil and darkness in the world in the first place? If God is all-loving and omnipotent, then why would he create evil? Albert Pike considers this notion of duality, commenting “take away suffering, and there is no longer any resignation or humanity, no more self-sacrifice, no more devotedness, no more heroic virtues, no more sublime morality. If there were no physical evil, there would be no possible virtue.”[3] The Jewish esoteric mystic philosophy known as the Kabbalah provides a perspective from which the question of existential duality may be approached if not fully understood. The Tree of Life is a prominent glyph that is featured within the Kabbalah which breaks the process of Creation (that’s “creation” with a capital “C”) into ten Sefirah, connected by twenty-two Paths. From Ain Soph Aur or eternal “nothing” burst “something” – and that “something” is known as Kether, which sits at the crown of the Tree. Kether can be considered the “All” from which creation flows. As the creative process extends down the tree from Kether to Chokmah, Binah, Chesed, Geburah, Tiphareth, Netzach, Hod, Yesod and finally Malkuth, it flows through alternating currents or forces, characterized on the right-hand column of the Tree as “Mercy” and on the left-hand column, “Severity.” The middle column is the balance or equilibrium between the left and right columns.

[1] Pike, Albert, *Morals and Dogma of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry*, 2nd annotated edition, 2nd printing, (Supreme Council, AASR SMJ, Washington, DC, 2016), 86.

[2] DeHoyos, Arturo, *Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor and Guide*, 3rd edition, (Supreme Council, AASR SMJ, Washington, DC, 2016), 455

[3] Pike, Albert, *Morals and Dogma of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry*, 2nd annotated edition, 2nd printing, (Supreme Council, AASR SMJ, Washington, DC, 2016)

# Equilibrium

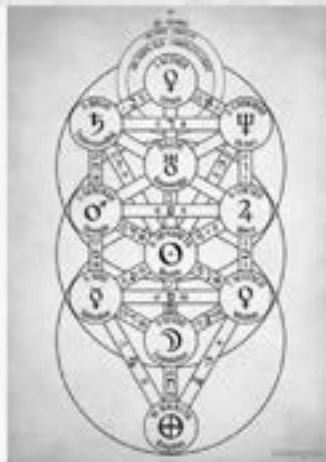
By Todd Connor

As the all-powerful Divine force works its way down the tree, it becomes increasingly dense, definite and material, until it finally reaches Malkuth. Malkuth is the physical realm where we live: The Kingdom. All of the stages of creation that have taken place in the spheres above us have progressively crystallized the Divine force into this material world.

Masonry adheres to this model of the Kabbala however the names have been changed to protect the innocent. A Mason will use the term “Boaz” or “Strength” to identify one pillar instead of “Mercy” and “Jachin” or “Establishment” to identify the other, instead of “Severity” – but these trifling differences in names really boil down to the same underlying meaning. You might ask why “Severity” would be considered equivalent to “Establishment,” and “Strength” equivalent to “Mercy,”? Think of it this way: at the Sephirah of Chokmah, the Divine force is pure strength, unbound by formative stricture. It is capable of all forms. It is limitless, timeless and without constraint. And then it encounters Binah, the first Sephirah of Severity. It is within Binah where form begins to “Establish” itself. Establishment is the forming of rules and form that govern existence. It is here that “Life” as we understand it begins to take shape. Of course, anything that “lives” must die. The hourglass and scythe are prominent emblems in our 3rd Degree; other Degrees in our Rites also reinforce this notion by the most expressive means. A Mason cannot forget the fact that he is born to die. Dion Fortune in her book, “The Mystical Qabala,” reconciles this truth with a quote that reads:

“It has been said that good is that which is constructive, which builds up, and evil is that which is destructive, which breaks down. How false this philosophy is we see when we try to classify, according to this principle, a cancer and a disinfectant. Geburah, (sometimes referred to as “The Destroyer”) is therefore as necessary to the equilibrium of the Tree as Chesed (sometimes referred to as “The Lord of Love”). Geburah is the celestial surgeon; the knight in shining armor, the dragon slayer – beautiful as a bridegroom in strength to the maiden in distress, though, no doubt, the dragon might have preferred a little love.”[4]

[4] Fortune, Dion, *The Mystical Qabalah*, (Weiser Books, San Francisco, CA and Newburyport, MA 1935), 162



---

# Equilibrium

By Todd Connor

---

There is another interesting feature to point out here on the Tree of life: notice that Malkuth is characterized as “Kingdom.” Now consider that the word “power,” would fit into the pillar of “mercy,” or “strength.” Similarly, “glory” would fit into the pillar of “establishment,” or “severity.” Put this all together and it might suggest that the Lord’s Prayer asserts this esoteric wisdom when we say “For Thine is the Kingdom, The Power and The Glory, forever. Amen”

Equilibrium has since time immemorial been a cornerstone to a number of esoteric schools and practices. This can be expressed by means of several colorful examples, citing how equilibrium plays a role in the invocation of divine forces to affect change in the world. High magic is that which involves purely wholistic intentions and means: a beneficent divine force is called upon to provide some boon – think of prayer as such an example. Prayer however, does not provide a guarantee of Divine favor, as there is no offsetting balance to the equilibrium. Think of the old anecdote: “when I was a child, I prayed that the Lord would give me a bicycle. I prayed for months that He would bring me a bicycle, but still no bicycles appeared. Then I thought to myself: ‘you ninny – God doesn’t work in that way!’ So, I stole a bicycle and then prayed for forgiveness.”

On the other side of the coin: dark magic, a practitioner will appeal directly to an infernal force, requesting favors or services – but the expense of these favors is invariably extracted by the infernal force in some way, shape or form. As an example, think about the rock star who “sold his soul to the Devil.” Someone always has to pay the Piper. Reflect back on the pillars of Mercy and Severity for a moment: the pillar of Mercy provides the power, but is incapable of effecting action without the forces from the pillar of Severity to direct that power.

In the magical practice known as theurgy, a practitioner will attempt to effect change in the world by harnessing the strengths of darkness with the reconciling virtue of light. The theurgist will achieve his means by calling on the assistance of higher, “good” forces to control and offset the equilibrium needed to balance infernal or dark forces called on to perform services. In this manner, balance is maintained by the light and dark divine forces working at levels above Malkuth.

# Equilibrium

By Todd Connor



In many esoteric schools, the elements are personified by creatures who characterize the inherent qualities of the elements of Alchemy. To wit:

- The element of earth represents foundation. This would be our earthly desires, ambitions and passions, and is represented by Gnomes
  - The element of water represents emotions and sensual feelings. It is represented by undines (think of undines as water pixies or mermaids).
  - Air is represented by sylphs which are air spirits. They characterize the intellect; intuition; knowledge.
- And lastly, salamanders personify the element of fire and represent will, passion, spirit, and determination.

The following passage is taken from a text on spiritual alchemy that warns of the hazards of injudicious appeals to affect these elementals for the purposes of achieving one's desires and the consequential disruption of equilibrium:

**Learn first that true Equilibrium is the basis of the soul. If thou has not a sure foundation, whereon wilt thou stand to direct the forces of Nature?**

**Know then that Man is born into this world amidst the darkness of Nature and the strife of contending forces, so must his first endeavor be to seek the Light through their reconciliation. Let thy mental equilibrium be above disturbances of material events. Restrain the animal passions and nourish the higher aspirations; the emotions are purified by suffering.**

**Remember that unbalanced force is evil, that unbalanced severity is but cruelty and oppression, but that also unbalanced Mercy is but weakness which would allow and abet evil.**

**Establish thyself firmly in the Equilibrium of Forces in the center of the cross of the elements that Cross from whose center the creative word issued in the dawning of the Universe. Be thou, therefore prompt and active as the Sylphs, but avoid frivolity and caprice. Be energetic and strong like the Salamanders, but avoid irritability and ferocity. Be flexible and attentive to images like the Undines, but avoid idleness and changeability. Be laborious and patient like the Gnomes, but avoid grossness and avarice. So shalt thou gradually develop the powers of thy Soul and fit thyself to command the spirits of the elements.**

**For wert thou to summon the Gnomes to pander to thy avarice, thou wouldst no longer command them, but they would command thee. Wouldst thou abuse the pure creatures of God's creation to fill thy coffers and to satisfy thou lust for Gold? Wouldst thou defile the spirits of driving Fire to serve thy wrath and hatred? Wouldst thou violate the purity of the Souls of the Water to pander to thy lust and debauchery? Wouldst thou force the Spirits of the evening breeze to minister to thy folly and caprice? Know that with such desires thou canst but attract the evil and not the good, and in that can the evil will have power over thee.[5]**

[5] Chic Cicero, Tabitha Cicero, *Self-Initiation into the Golden Dawn Tradition*, (Llewellyn Publications, Woodbury, MN, 2019), 439

---

# Equilibrium

By Todd Connor

---

Further expression of the relativity of good and evil is propounded in the Kybalion, where we read that everything is dual. Everything has poles. Everything has its pair of opposites – like and unlike are the same. Opposites are identical in nature, but are different in degree. Extremes meet. All truths are but half-truths. All paradoxes may be reconciled.[6] This notion on its face seems rather stark however, such is the reality of creation. A portion of Albert Pike’s closing thoughts on Morals and Dogma states:

“The philosopher forgets all the laws of equilibrium, and seeks to absorb the light in a splendor without shadow, and movement in an absolute repose that would be the cessation of life. So long as there shall be a visible light, there will be a shadow proportional to this Light, and whatever is illuminated will cast its cone of shadow. Repose will never be happiness, if it is not balanced by an analogous and contrary movement. This is the immutable law of Nature, the Eternal Will of the Justice which is God.”[7]

Pike reinforces this thought, saying that,

“There is an equilibrium between necessity and liberty, between the action of the Divine omnipotence and the free-will of man, by which vices and base actions cannot be done contrary to the will of God. Without the coexistence of liberty and necessity, of free-will in the creature and omnipotence in the Creator, there could be no religion, nor any law of right and wrong. Sympathy and antipathy are not antagonists of each other. The force which repels a planet from the Sun is no more an evil force than that which attracts the planet toward the central luminary, for each is created and exerted by the Deity.”[8]

In conclusion, we can agree that as Masons, we strive to circumscribe our passions within due bounds. Surmount our Squares of earthly passions and desires with our Compasses of spiritual fortitude. Our Fellowcraft degree admonishes us to enjoy frequent opportunities to adore our great Creator, thus affording us the wisdom to contrive in accordance with the plans drawn for us on the Divine trestleboard so we may walk in equilibrium with Creation.

[6] Ma’ati Smith, Dr. Jane, *The Emerald Tablet of Hermes and The Kyballion*, (Mockingbird Press, Lexington, KY, 2008), 39

[7] Pike, Albert, *Morals and Dogma of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry*, 2nd annotated edition, 2nd printing, (Supreme Council, AASR SMJ, Washington, DC, 2016), 959

[8] Pike, Albert, *Morals and Dogma of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry*, 2nd annotated edition, 2nd printing, (Supreme Council, AASR SMJ, Washington, DC, 2016). 968-969





2023-2024

## GRAND LINE OFFICERS

**MI Grand Master**

*Thomas A. Olsen*  
*tomolsen@bellsouth.net*

**RI Deputy Grand Master**

*Otis Benjamin Geiger, II*  
*bgeiger@aol.com*

**RI Prin. Cond. Of the Work**

*John Kraniou*  
*john.kraniou@gmail.com*

**RI Grand Treasurer**

*Robert St John, MIPGM*  
*rob.fl.masons@gmail.com*

**RI Grand Recorder**

*Carl Gilmore, MIPGM, REPGC*  
*grandsecrec@flgyr.org*

**I Grand Chaplain**

*Brian Poole*  
*bpoole007@comcast.net*

**I Associate Grand Chaplain**

*Jack A. Holloway*  
*jajack@verizon.com*

**I Grand Captain of the Guard**

*James Draeving*  
*draeving@mchsi.com*

**I Grand Conductor of the Council**

*Edgar Richard Coles IV*  
*coleserciv@gmail*

**I Grand Steward**

*Jonas Seda*  
*jsilk76@gmail.com*

**I Grand Sentinel**

*Randal Lee Burkett*  
*randalburkett@aol.com*

**I Grand Marshal**

*James R. Billberry*  
*billberry0380@gmail.com*

**I Grand Organist**

*Dana K. Oldenburg*  
*widowssonfl@yahoo.com*

**MI Grand Historian**

*Glenn E. Chandler, Snr.*  
*gechandler@bellsouth.net*

**I Grand Inspector of the Arches**

*Damon S. Sansom*  
*sansom59@gmail.com*



2023-2024

## DISTRICT OFFICERS

### DISTRICT INSTRUCTORS

#### District One

Garry Paxinos  
garry@paxinos.com

#### District Two

Chris Tilman  
Tilmanclan@gmail.com

#### District Three

Kirk Hinote  
kirkhinote@yahoo.com

#### District Four

Randy Chancey  
archancey@gmail.com

#### District Five

Carlos Crispin, Jr.  
Carloscris70@yahoo.com

#### District Six

Stephen Nelson  
Stephennelson72@gmail.com

#### District Seven

Stephen Meserve  
Stephen\_meserve@hotmail.com

#### District Eight

Thomas Metcalfe, Jr.  
thomasmetcalfe@gmail.com

#### District Nine

Neils Hesse  
shongboyo@gmail.com

#### District Ten

Daniel Parks  
Witchdr5@gmail.com

### DISTRICT DEPUTIES

#### District One

Max Bornstein  
bornsteinmax@gmail.com

#### District Two

Jeffrey Lawrence  
srqmason@gmail.com

#### District Three

Dana Oldenburg  
widowsonfl@yahoo.com

#### District Four

Richard Vogt  
Rick.flyer1@gmail.com

#### District Five

Randall Brocius  
Randall.bregius@gmail.com

#### District Six

Joe Schoonover  
Jschoon68@gmail.com

#### District Seven

Stephen Urban, Jr  
urbansh@aol.com

#### District Eight

Michael Lee Bore  
Mikekk4orp@gmail.com

#### District Nine

Don Goss  
don@raptortek.com

#### District Ten

Joshua Schutts  
jwsphd@gmail.com

### CMMRF REPS

#### District One

Rafael Faro Vieira  
brotherfaro@gmail.com

#### District Two

John Wermann  
Meghp2013@verizon.net

#### District Three

Carl Gilmore  
CarlGilmore65@gmail.com

#### District Four

Larry Gillespie  
Lgils533@aol.com

#### District Five

Chuck Linder  
cklinder@hotmail.com

#### District Six

John Pickford  
ddgm@aol.com

#### District Seven

Richard Ayers  
jodydog@hotmail.com

#### District Eight

Albert Kimball  
ddgm102017@gmail.com

#### District Nine

Charles Morgan  
cfmflplants89@aol.com

#### District Ten

Jerry Miller  
Jerry\_lawyer415@yahoo.com

# Living Most Illustrious Past Grand Masters



<b>1992</b>	<b>ROBERT E. BURLESON</b>
<b>1996</b>	<b>PAUL W. FRIEND</b>
<b>2000</b>	<b>RICHARD S. AGSTER</b>
<b>2001</b>	<b>CHARLES L. HOLLINGER</b>
<b>2003</b>	<b>STEPHEN H. CLARK</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>DONALD T. HARRIOTT</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>LOUIS A. KING</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>CARL E. GILMORE</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>M. DANNY FULLWOOD</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>LARRY R. GILLESPIE</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>DAYLE L. SCHROCK</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>BENJAMIN J. HOLLAND</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>ROBERT C. ST. JOHN, JR.</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>GLENN E. CHANDLER, SNR.</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>JOHN PICKFORD</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>THOMAS J. RAWSTHORNE</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>WILLIAM ALLEN SORBIE</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>GENE A. LANCE</b>

# Proficiency Cards

**A SPECIAL PLAQUE WILL BE GIVEN TO THE COUNCIL WITH THE MOST COUNCIL CARDS AND A SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR THE COMPANIONS WITH PROFICIENCY CARDS.**

We finished the first half of the year with 11 new Blue Cards. That's up 10 from last year. We have also presented 4 Councils with the Efficiency "E". They are Union Council No. 7, Lawtey Council No. 39, Hallmark Council No. 3, and Palatka Council No. 18. It looks like all four Councils should retain their "E" for next year. I also hope to have 4 or 5 more before May. I would like to see 25 to 30 percent of all our Councils with their Illustrious Master having a Blue Card. We also gave out 8 Silver Cards and 1 white card. Excellent ritual work is really starting to show up more and more are seeking to get their Blue Card.

As shown in an earlier issue, I had a plaque made to show the names of the first 15 Companions to receive a Blue Card. The plaque is almost full; only 4 or 5 more tabs. Hallmark Council No. 3 liked the plaque so much, they had one made for themselves and it will carry the names of the Blue Card holders in Jacksonville. This might be something other Councils may want to do to promote this program and recognize those that went the distance a received the card. What a tremendous service they are doing for the development and growth of our Councils throughout the State.

If the new Illustrious Masters in the Councils of your District are not Blue Card holders, please get with the District Instructor and get them qualified.

**IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON YOUR BLUE OR SILVER CARD; PLEASE LET ME KNOW SO I CAN TRACK YOUR PROGRESS.**

PROFICIENCY CARDS						
NAME	COUNCIL	DISTRICT	INSPECTOR	CARD RECEIVED	PIN AWARDED	CARD AWARDED
Tom Olsen	Hallmark No. 3	7	Steve Messner	Blue Card	6/1/2023	YES
Steve Messner	Hallmark No. 3	7	Tom Olsen	Blue Card	6/1/2023	YES
Mark Baker	Hallmark No. 3	7	Steve Messner	Blue Card	6/30/2023	YES
Tom Metcalfe	Gainesville No. 27	8	Tom Olsen	Silver Card	8/5/2023	YES
Joshua Shultz	Union No. 7	10	John Gray	Blue Card	8/19/2023	YES
Chris Thuman	Fl. Myers No. 25	2	Jeffery Lawrence	Blue Card	8/28/2023	YES
Charles Jordan	Clearwater No. 34	3	Tom Olsen	Blue Card	8/28/2023	YES
Charles Jordan	Clearwater No. 34	3	Tom Olsen	Red Card	8/28/2023	YES
Charles Jordan	Clearwater No. 34	3	Tom Olsen	Silver Card	8/28/2023	YES
Randy Brocius	Palatka No. 18	7	Tom Olsen	Red Card	8/28/2023	YES
Rusty Ludlam	Lake City No. 35	8	Tom Olsen	Blue Card	8/5/2023	YES
Rusty Ludlam	Lake City No. 35	8	Tom Olsen	Red Card	8/5/2023	YES
Rusty Ludlam	Lake City No. 35	8	Tom Olsen	Silver Card	8/5/2023	YES
Buch Thuman	Budenton No. 9	2	Tom Olsen	Red Card	8/28/2023	YES
Tom Metcalfe, Jr.	Gainesville No. 27	8	Randall Brocius	White Card		
Luis Rios	Hallmark No. 3	7	Steve Messner	Blue Card		
Todd Connor	Hallmark No. 3	7	Steve Messner	Blue Card		
Tom Metcalfe	Gainesville No. 27	8	John Gray	Silver Card		
Gerry Parnas	Laurieville Council No. 24	1	Max Roudsain	Blue Card		
Raymond Brownlee	Fl. Myers Council No. 25	2	Chris Thuman	Blue Card		

# Grand Council Awards



## *CRYPTIC MASON OF THE YEAR*

A nomination form should be completed and sent to the Grand Master by January 15th. The Grand Master will then select one of the nominations and forward it to the General Grand Council. This is awarded to one outstanding Cryptic Mason of the Year.

## *GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL YOUTH AWARD*

There is no form for this award. Nominations should be written to the Grand Master by January 15th. The Grand Master will select one and forward his selection to the General Grand Council. This award is intended for a member who has devoted time and energy in helping Masonic Youth Groups.

## *BROKEN TRIANGLE PLAQUE*

This award is decided by the Grand Recorder. The Council with the largest percentage of net gain in the past calendar year will win. There may be more than one winner if there is a tie.

## *GIBLIMITE PLAQUE:*

The District Deputy Grand Masters have a form for grading the Councils as to their proficiency and other factors in qualifying for this award. They will inspect the Councils and send their reports to the Grand Master for selection according to the points and recommendations. The first year of winning a plaques is given; then a plate for the plaque.

## *TEN PERCENT CERTIFICATES*

This award is decided by the General Grand Council to the Council or Councils with a ten percent or more net membership gain in the past calendar year. The Grand Recorder will provide this information to the General Grand Council.

## *ISH-SODI AWARD*

The Grand Master may present up to six awards per year. The Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Principal Conductor of Work, and/or Constituent Council Illustrious Masters may submit recommendations; but the Grand Master will make the selections. This award is for Companions who have exhibited a continuing willingness to devote their time and ability for the good of Cryptic Masonry. A draft recommendation form is provided.

## *WALTER I STEVENSON GRAND MASTER'S MEDAL*

This will be presented annually to the Companion selected by the Grand Master who has best demonstrated dedication to Cryptic Masonry.



# Support Your Masonic Brothers

**YOUR AD HERE**  
**\$50 (goes to CMMRF)**  
**EMAIL**  
**[grandsecrec@flgyr.org](mailto:grandsecrec@flgyr.org)**

**YOUR AD HERE**  
**\$25 (goes to CMMRF)**  
**EMAIL**  
**[grandsecrec@flgyr.org](mailto:grandsecrec@flgyr.org)**

**YOUR AD HERE**  
**\$25 (goes to CMMRF)**  
**EMAIL**  
**[grandsecrec@flgyr.org](mailto:grandsecrec@flgyr.org)**