

Masonic Traditions in Today's World.

How best to promote them?

Being a live and complex organism, Freemasonry shall, as its duty and vocation, to follow the progress of the society where it is integrated and to who works for.

This follow up must always have, among others, one aim: to understand when shall adapt, through small adjustments, its ways of intervention, being sure that the noble concepts for which it is working for centuries, are still invariant. They are the foundations of the Temple that Freemasons laboriously and coherently are trying to build.

It is not necessary to appeal for deep studies to understand or verify that the slow evolution of Freemasonry, as nowadays called Operative, and its later walk to become Speculative Freemasonry are fruitious result from that wise and sensible adjustment of different ways of intervention.

Nowadays, without difficulties, we can see that freemasonry takes its services, culture and standards, without facing resistance, to peoples of many countries, while in others it is not permitted even to pronounce its name.

In many places there still goes on dialogs between the hope of the good that Freemasonry brings and the suspicious bad that it carries.

In this picture which is well known to us, some other elements could be added, who are challenges for our action, capacity and coherence.

I propose that we reflect about one of them: In a world that in the last decades has been dominated by materialism, we are nowadays as if it was a dialectic phenomenon, attending to a sudden avalanche of books, movies, music and congresses about themes which, only a few years ago, only had some interest for a few minorities. I must confess that in bookstores, I quit looking to the most in evidence shelves; I already know that there exist works about the Holy Grail, Holy Shroud, Knights Templar, Jesus Christ life, Mary Magdalene, etc, etc. If shelves are large enough, then, other works like King Arthur, Camelot, John the Baptist, Judas and many more will be there too in a said fair confusion without quality or requirements.

But ... why so many millions of these works are sold, where the opportunistic money overcomes truth, accuracy and dignity?

Because of one single reason: Man is afraid of future and looks for support and security in subjects where he believes there is spirituality and transcendental paths.

Another suggestion to reflect: The big religions, tightened to certainties, which they can not discussed or upgrade, are overtaken by sects that in many cases behave like the behaviour of the authors of the books that I have referred.

These sects have in common to offer different spiritual paths, designed with imagination where the marketing is included and having many millions of followers.

The spirituality that is spread, as it is in those books, is for immediate effect and it is not based on any deep or solid substance.

But .., the books and sects are the response that many fmd for a world in distress. What about

freemasonry?

Freemasonry is looked as an Old Lady, with conservative habits, still saying the same things by the same usual way. It is a possible support in those countries where does not exist social justice or democracy. She has been reducing its role on those more developed countries where remains, basically, by doing monotonous ritual meetings.

Should it go on?

No.

Let's be clear: Like Shakespeare would say, we either are or not.

And, unlike many may consider, International Freemasonry has, nowadays, a unique opportunity of... to be.

It is also true that, if we keep going on, just having ritual meetings, where many only seldom know who Hiram was and the majority does not know the symbolic meaning of what goes on in there, we have also a unique opportunity of .., not to be.

My proposal is, obviously, that we shall be; my presence here proves that.

The very first question is:

- What are we going to do?

For this question I have an as much clear as irreplaceable answer: - Let's go to work like freemasons.

I feel that many of you may think that these words might be coherent but have no practical meaning.

With serenity and determination I ask to those if they are sure to be freemasons? Or, at least if they still are?

I will explain now, as much objectively as possible, like we appreciate: - The World demands spirituality.

- Religions, due to their monolithism did not achieve, at least nowadays, to transmit spirituality as they have done in the past.

- Being the Groups and Sects to occupy these free spaces created from the evolution of History, Culture, Politics and Society.

- Freemasonry has National and Supranational structures. Has a human and material resource. Has a culture that favours the search of spirituality and the tipping point is: We are building the Temple and did not enter an already built one.

These are the considerations that oblige those "Who are" and want to work for the creation of a more just and fraternal society, following our landmarks and rituals, but asking them to help us to go ahead.

So, taking in consideration that the solid point from where we did depart and will not forget, are the landmarks, I propose with objectiveness, although this objectiveness is built with the sense of duty and hope, that a concretization way be considered under the following basis:

- a. Take advantage from the coherence and solidity of the teachings legated to us. From

them we are inheritors, holders and transmitters. Let's study them and make that they continue to be our inspiring source during our meetings and work.

- b. Do not consent the coherence and solidity of our structures to be a brake for the knowledge progress. Do not consent them to separate us from the society to whom we belong. Such would take us, in few decades, to ageing and to the path of real death. In that case it would constitute a negation of our most firms and well based targets, once we deal with construction and do not deal with other monuments built in other Temples for other societies.

With the knowledge that we should use, those monuments are becoming empty and we should not allow that the same happens to ours.

It's necessary to work - that is our mission -, for the people of today, with the resources of today, by doing a study for the realization of a wide, vigorous and rigorous campaign, supported by new technologies, to spread the most worthy and eternal principles of Freemasonry, pointing its vocation to serve Humanity emphasising the spiritual via.

Like our culture and traditions refers shall not be the freemasonry to act directly but the freemasons by themselves, taking in consideration these values and teachings

- c. They can, considering who they are, organize as better as they can, in their Grand Lodges, by small groups and between different countries to articulate with other brothers in those other countries.
- d. Linked together and depending of the specificity of the different addresses, define which concepts shall hierarchically be spread.
- e. These actions shall be harmonized but shall take in consideration the segment to target: Country, culture, society, age [etc. to](#) be more coherent efficient. Also, as a function of preliminary studies, material and human resources shall be made a chronologic plan to be revised at each circumstance. I know very well that, among other comments, this proposal will cause scepticism and will be considered ingenious. Because it is not easy to respect the Temple when working under the lodge.

But, today, no doubt, it is necessary to do more.

To continue deserving the noble title of Freemason. Said