



Internet Lodge 9659
United Grand Lodge of England
Province of East Lancashire
<http://internet.lodge.org.uk>

Short Papers Competition 2007

*The opinions reflected by the author are not necessarily those of Internet Lodge,
The Province of East Lancashire or the United Grand Lodge of England.*

Paper 25/2007

Title **The Interpretation of Masonic Philosophy**
Author **Bro S.K. Char – India**

Freemasonry is a very confusing and difficult subject as it requires a free and liberal mind with a spiritual and philosophical bend. It is explained with the help of rituals, allegories and symbols, which have to be interpreted by the candidate by himself. His introducer and seniors may help him but the main effort has to come from the candidate himself.

We have to remember that Freemasonry is very different from other organizations, and if the interpretation is not what it should be, then it will be like any other organization, missing the main aims and objects of being a Freemason. To be a good Freemason he has to understand what Freemasonry is all about.

Having said all this, how can we be sure that Freemasonry is being interpreted correctly, because **the future of Freemasonry depends on its interpretation.**

The UGLE in its pamphlet "*Your Questions Answered*", says in answer to the question, "*What is Freemasonry*", "*Freemasonry is the UK's largest secular, fraternal and charitable organization. It teaches moral lessons and self-knowledge through participation in a progression of allegorical two-part plays*".

I have no quarrel with the first part of the explanation but it is the second part where it says that it teaches moral lessons and self-knowledge, is where the confusion arises. This for me is **the** important part, because this is how we make 'good men better'. The allegorical plays with just symbols to explain, require interpretation of the symbols and allegories which is left to each brother. Even granting that the correct interpretation is made, **for me the main philosophy of Freemasonry lies in learning from the way we conduct our lodges, admit candidates, the symbolisms in the temple and the spiritual atmosphere created in the temple.**

We admit men from all religions not because we are just secular but because we want to show them that within the temple men of whatever religion they belong to are brothers, meeting in a common temple, saying the same prayers and believing in "God" and respecting all religions by placing their Volume of the Sacred Laws on the Master's pedestal. The atmosphere outside the temple is quite different where there is strife all around us in the name of religion. Within the Lodge we can all live in Peace, Love and Harmony helping each other and their families like brothers. This is the lesson we want them to learn and carry to the outside world so that the world, **which is our common heritage**, can be a temple similar to our Masonic temple.

This may not be the original aim of Freemasonry, but looking at the violence around us, Freemasonry may yet be able to save the world to be a better place just as it helps good men to be better. If interpretation of Freemasonry can be left to each brother, why can't we make this the main aim of Free

*Short papers are intended to be read aloud in lodge meetings as a form of Masonic Education.
Whilst we encourage you to use them for their intended purpose they must not be reproduced for
publication in any manner without the prior permission of Internet Lodge No 9659 E.C. or the author.
© 2008 Internet Lodge and the author*