



**Internet Lodge 9659**  
**United Grand Lodge of England**  
**Province of East Lancashire**  
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**Short Papers Competition 2007**

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**Paper 35/2007**

**Title**  
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**The Burden of Light**  
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In our hard, life-long labour on the raw stone, we the Freemasons are guided and inspired by the mystical symbolism surrounding us in our Craft. Of all the symbols that teach our conscience and feed our courage in taking the right paths in life, the most striking metaphor by far is the acceptance of the light. In the beginning, God separated the light from the darkness in order to shape the Earth. Similarly, the Freemason's life is "without form and void" until the moment of his initiation, in which, by accepting the light, he separates it from the darkness. However, the individual triumph of the light is nothing but ones true cognition of the darkness itself!

To know the difference between light and dark is to know the difference between right and wrong; moral and immoral; good and evil. This knowledge inevitably imposes the responsibility of making the right decision. However, the wisdom of the flames of Knowledge, with which the Freemason discovers his inner moral values, could easily be transformed into the tool of self destruction, for the beauty of the light can quite often be blinding.

Was it not in the name of "technological progress" and for the purposes of stopping the bloodiest war in history that the atomic bomb was constructed and ultimately used - whose light was so great that it was prised in the verses of ancient prophecies, Indian religious epic poems and Nostradamus's Centuries, as a "radiance of thousand suns, which will flash in the sky; the Shininess of Almighty?"

Prior to the dreadful thunder, somewhere in the first quarter of the second, the impact of the bomb created an unimaginable light that gave way to the new, advanced and progressive era. Technology improved to the extent that today the life of the near past seems unimaginable. As a tool of political intimidation, the atomic bomb reduced the possibility of a new world war, and for the first time the war itself was outlawed by the United Nations Charter. But apart from the bomb's shining legacy, what was its eminent impact? To many it brought eternal darkness.

It was a moment in which as a Grand Master, the father of the bomb Robert J. Oppenheimer initiated the humankind into the new order, thus changing his carved stone - the world - forever. Humankind's last stop on a journey of its initiation was in Los Alamos, the lost and forgotten Indian Territory, where the atomic bomb project was being pursued. The greatest light was born in the place which, ironically, Indians called "Oscuro", or the place of "darkness".

The impact of the atomic bomb made a new cohesion of light and dark, thus, bringing us back to the time when the world was without form and void. To separate it again would not be God's work, but a work of individuals whose greatest achievement would not be to separate the light from the dark, but right from wrong.

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