



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 64/2007

Title **Journey to the Centre of the Earth**
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I would like to present to you this very short talk on my discovery of the hidden world of Jules Verne and his relationship with Freemasonry and other groups.

Recently, I decided to re-read one of my many books. By chance the book I came upon was Jules Verne's 'Journey to the centre of the Earth', a book I had last read as a schoolboy and this is where my journey began.

Up to this point I had no idea of the connections between Jules Verne and Freemasonry and his links, real or otherwise to groups such as 'Golden Dawn', 'Angelic Society', 'Rosicrucians' and Rennes-le-Château mystery, I only knew him as a accomplished writer of fiction.

On reading 'Journey to the centre of the Earth', I noticed there were terms and words being used which had significant meaning to Freemasons. The terms square, level and plumb rule are used in the same sentence, reference is made to the Great Architect of the Universe; and a when a dagger is found is referred to as a poniard. These are just a few of the many references in the book which at first I had assumed were down to common language of the day.

On completing the book and seen our heroes back home safe and sound, I took to wondering about the potential Masonic references in the book, and I idly wondered if there was something more to this tale than I had first thought. Were there parallels in this book with the initiation of a candidate into Freemasonry, as the plot requires someone to enter a world of darkness from the North West and be restored to light via the East?

I set out to find out if Jules Verne was a Freemason; this is where I was overwhelmed by what I found.

Being of the computer generation I did what any one of us would do, I '*googled*' the phrase 'Was Jules Verne a Freemason' and was taken back by the response. Much of the response was books and articles that say not only was Jules Verne a Freemason he encoded many secrets into his books. Whilst it is a current trend with books such as the Da Vinci Code, etc., to allude to solving ancient mysteries, I do subscribe to this for Jules Verne never made any claims whilst alive to have done this or left any evidence of this in his estate to this effect. Jules Verne was a master of his craft of writing many hundreds of highly enjoyable books which have entertained many thousands of people, he was a Freemason and may have used words he knew from his ritual, but I believe that's where it ends, Jules Verne was not trying to pass on secrets he was just writing excellent fiction for a hungry audience.

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