

THE ADAM FACTOR

Christopher L. Murphy, BF

MSCNY Article No. 49

Can the Biblical Adam and his sons, Cain, Abel and Seth, be connected with Freemasonry? The short and direct answer to this is NO. However there is an esoteric connection that is both interesting and amusing, and was likely on the minds of our ancient brethren who created Masonic ritual. Unfortunately, it has resulted in many “attacks” against the Order by religious zealots, especially Christian fundamentalists. Where I show Point Numbers in the following, please consider what is said in connection with Masonic ritual.

Adam was given a certain “secret” by God and he passed down this secret to his sons, Cain and Abel. Here you need to stretch your imagination and conclude that this was the first “secret society,” or more correctly, a society with a secret—Point One.

Cain killed Abel and became the evil side of the society, which had connections with the devil involving satanic oaths—Point Two, strictly on the word “oaths,” which means solemn promises. Adam’s third son, Seth, born after Abel’s murder, was also given the “secret” and Adam and Seth became the good side of the society. Both Cain and Seth passed the secret down to their descendants—Point Three. Please don’t ask how they managed to have descendants, this is not a scientific discussion.

Time goes on; we now have many people in both “camps”—evil and good, and we have arrived at the time of Noah who was in the good society and naturally possessed the “secret.” During this time, there has been an on-going “battle,” as it were, between the two factions (evil and good) and evil effectively gets the upper hand. God decides that He has had enough and plans to destroy all the inhabitants of the Earth, save Noah and his family (Great flood and Noah’s ark). When the flood abated and the world started anew, Noah recorded the “secret” in some way and put it in two pillars—Point Four. The location is not known, but the secret was evidently very involved.

We now have just a good secret society, but it does not last long because Noah’s son, Ham (apparently tempted by the devil) turns “evil.” As a result we again end up with two camps, but this time they “mingle.” The end result is one world with both good and evil people mixed, and the on-going battle between the two, but good always triumphs over evil in the final analysis.

You are probably wondering about those pillars. They (tongue in cheek) were safely transplanted to King Solomon’s Temple and are now “owned” by the Masonic Order—Point Four reinforced.

For certain, our ancient brethren sifted through all of this speculation and developed a “system” as it were, which we



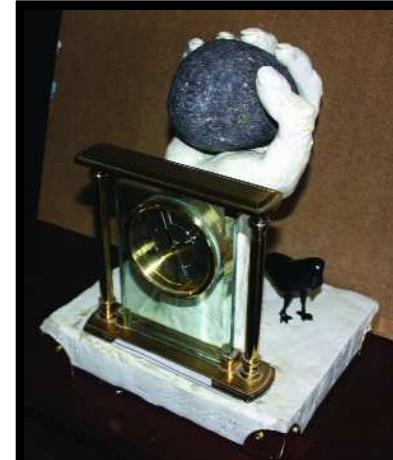
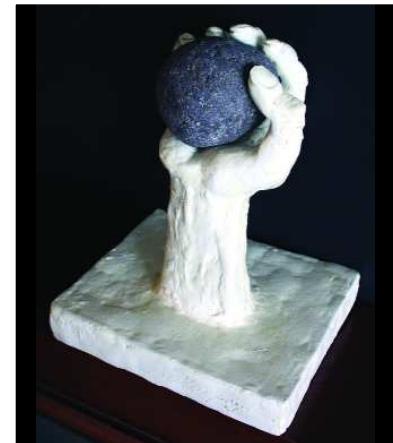
Left: Adam and Eve; Right: Cain and Abel.

now enjoy. However, I sincerely hope that I have not misinterpreted any misinterpretations and will stand corrected if anyone wishes to comment and provide me with some “light” from their perspective.

How did I get embroiled in this rather obscure subject? As it happened, some time ago an old house in my neighborhood was demolished and carted away. I walked across the empty lot and saw a large, round granite stone. It fitted perfectly in my hand and I mused that such was likely man’s first weapon. This led me to think of Cain and Abel, concluding that Cain likely used a stone like this to kill his brother. I made a sculpture of a larger than normal hand holding the stone (Cain was a very large man). I later added a black raven because after Cain murdered his brother, he looked over and saw a raven standing by the body.

The raven was scratching the ground as if to turn the earth. God had sent the raven to tell Cain that he must bury the body. Hence the origination of God’s law that we must bury the dead.

Granite, by the way was part of Biblical “creation” so the stone you see was likely around in some form when the evil deed took place. I later added a clock to my *Hand of Cain*



Continued

sculpture to mark the relentless passage of time.

As to the stamps illustrated, they sort of “Came to pass,” and can be justified as part of a Masonic collection as a reminder of what they represent. (*Adam and Eve, Vatican City, Issued 1994; Cain and Abel, France, Issued 1997*)

Now, having taken you on this rather strange and complicated journey, I am compelled to take you just a little bit further to set the record straight.

When our ancient brethren composed Masonic ritual, they did not reinvent the wheel. They used everything they could find (including symbolism) in the “Ancient Mysteries,” as our distinguished educator Albert Mackey calls them, to make a point. This material is included the Old Testament and other writings connected with “religions,” society, customs, and so forth. They took what they could find and REDIRECTED it to substantiate what I call the 12 Commandments of Freemasonry, which are:



In the EA Degree a candidate is told that nothing in Freemasonry will conflict with his duty to God, his country, his neighbor or himself. The inference here is to the above “commandments” which are the foundation of every religion and desired conduct of human interactions since the beginning of time (albeit not always followed as they should have been).

It does not matter what one’s particular religion might be

(Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Mormon, Buddhist and so forth), none will deny even one of these “commandments.” In short, the Masonic Order “aced” the entire field.

Yes, Masonic ritual goes slightly off track with a bit of a bias to Christianity. Even Mackey grimaces a little here. Some scholars say that it was there from the start, but I think it sort of crept in later—perhaps to make Christians a little more comfortable. Whatever the case, it is not a major issue.

Certainly, if one goes and examines the origination of some of the “Ancient Mysteries” or Masonic symbolism, he or she will see that they were associated with ancient “gods” in Hebrew, Greek, Roman, and Asian cultures. The foremost example is Masonic use of the sun and the moon to illustrate dependency (they are always on time). The sun was likely the first “god” in human existence, but to connect Freemasonry to sun worship is absurd. There are all sorts of examples of this “disconnect” in Craft Freemasonry (Blue Lodge) and beyond. The first seven Masonic “commandments” are allegorically represented by women, but to conclude that Freemasons worship ancient female goddesses is beyond absurd.

There is really no end to what you can do with ritual and symbolism, be it Masonic, religious, pagan or cultural. You can go in any direction—towards good or evil. The same can be said for interpretations of the Old Testament, the Talmud and the Quran or Koran. The New Testament went in a completely different (opposite) direction. Rather than an “eye for an eye” it says “turn the other cheek,” and unequivocally supports the Masonic Commandments, and provides us with the Golden Rule.

Generally speaking, Freemasonry has always taken the New Testament route (turn the other cheek) on issues raised by journalists, film/television producers, and individuals (essentially “witch hunters”) who would far sooner write than read; thus we end up with what are called “docu-fictions” that intentionally stress the perceived or imagined negative to increase public attention.

Just to be clear, the actual ten commandments given by God to Moses are just as important in Masonic philosophy as the Masonic “commandments” I present in this paper. Freemasonry simply took the essence of God’s Commandments and created its “dogma” (set of principles laid down by an authority as incontrovertibly true).

I also need to stress that Freemasonry is NOT a religion by any stretch of one’s imagination. In most countries it simply acknowledges a Supreme Being or Creator of the Universe. Some countries have departed from this “acknowledgement” to accommodate the “disbeliever.” Nevertheless, I repeat, you will not find one person of any religion or position in life who would disagree with even one of the Masonic Commandments.