

## Ramblings of a Mad Man, But Important Insights

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The quoted material shown here provides Adolf Hitler's opinion and stand on Freemasonry in his own words. It was provided in an article entitled "Gesprache Mit Hitler" (Conversation with Hitler) written by Hermann Rauschning, former head of the Danzig government Europa Verlag (Swiss publishing company), Zurich, Switzerland. From the title, it appears the writer (or someone) interviewed Hitler. A date of 1940 is given, which would be the date of the interview. My comments follow the quotation.

Naturally, I do not seriously believe that this meanwhile impaled organization for the mutual promotion of its own interest is abysmally evil or harmful. It has always been harmless in Germany. I have been informed in great detail and have assigned this investigation and comprehensive report to Major Buch. The alleged horrors about skeletons, coffins and sacred ceremonies that have come to light can only frighten children.

But one thing makes it dangerous, and it is this which has caused me to take Freemasonry in hand. They are establishing a priest-like aristocracy and they isolate themselves by means or peculiar rites. They have developed a secret doctrine which is not a simply formulated one, but is one which through the application of symbols and secret rights arranged like stairs leads to greater understanding.



The hierarchic structure, instead of teaching enlightenment of the mind, achieves the fruition of fantasy through the use of symbols, rites and magic influence of emblems of worship. Herein lies the great danger which I have taken in hand. Don't you see that our party must be something very similar, an order, an hierarchic organization of secular priesthood? This naturally means that something similar opposing us may not exist. It is either us, the Freemasons or the Church but never two, side by side. That is impossible. The Catholic Church has made its position clear, at least in regard to the Freemasons. Now we are the strongest and therefore, we shall eliminate both the Church and Freemasons.

**COMMENTS:** The first lesson one can glean from Hitler’s total misunderstanding is that it is essentially impossible to escape persecution with an organization that deals in philosophy. This is made all the worse if there are attempts to have confidentiality in the way the organization operates. In these cases, one ends up in a Catch 22 situation. If nothing is said, then the organization is accused of hiding something; if information is disclosed, then it is accused of lying. In both cases, whoever is questioning the organization often resorts to speculation —makes up his own story.

The second lesson is that if there are other dominant organizations in place (religious or governmental) then your organization will be considered “competition,” and attempts will be made to eliminate it. The rationale here is the old saying, “If you are not with us, then you are against us.”

The Masonic Order has been running into this dilemma since its inception as an organized fraternity. Adolf Hitler was just another tyrant in the Order’s long journey. Hitler eventually fabricated the idea that Freemasonry was a Jewish conspiracy for world dominance. The postage stamps of German occupied Serbia have been featured in many articles.

As Freemasons, we know that our Order is not detrimental to any other organization, religious or otherwise. Even Hitler knew this. Nevertheless, in our current world, truth has become more and more a matter of perception (what people choose to believe as the result of unsupported negative commentary).

Unfortunately, there are now many more “Hitlers” in the world than there were in the “Golden Age” of Freemasonry. The electronic age gives voice to “mad man ramblings” not even imagined up to the late 1980s.

There is no “silver bullet” to eliminate the great foe in one fell swoop. However, the wise council provided by Brother S. Joseph Esshaghian, Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of California, provides the answer. The following is quoted from *The Short Talk Bulletin*, Vol. 93, No. 10, October 2015, Masonic Service Association of North America:

I urge you my brothers to take what Freemasonry has been able to accomplish right here before your eyes and make a difference outside our sacred walls as well. Use the working tools of our craft to change this world and make it a better place. If Freemasonry can bring together men of every background while war is being fought outside its doors, Freemasons can help bring together all mankind. We will do this first by building temples of peace and love inside our own hearts and consciences, and then spreading that cement of brotherly love and affection to the whole world.

We will repair this world by improving ourselves.

*(Germany, Issued 1941–1944)*

*(Reference: The quoted material on Hitler was featured in The Masonic Philatelist, Vol. 30, No. 6, February 1974, page 6.)*

