

INTERNATIONAL CO-FREEMASONRY.

Le Droit Humain.      British Federation.

The 35th Annual report of Sphynx Lodge No.225, given by R.W.Bro. I.C.Austin for the year ended 25th March, 1958.

My Brothers,

The life of a Lodge is as a life of a man, a balance of matter and spirit.

The reports of the Secretary and Treasurer have dealt clearly and simply with facts. The eight ceremonial meetings of the year will be forever landmarks in the lives of those candidates for whom they were held; those seekers for the Light. They are great landmarks too in the life of the Master; one forgets the often difficult task of preparation the learning by heart, the careful attention to ceremonial detail in the joy of giving. It is an infinite privilege and a humbling responsibility to be light-giver to a brother on the road.

The year has known times of infinite sadness. We saluted with grief and in proud thanksgiving, the passing to the G.L.E. of our much-loved Ill.Bro.Dorry Dalamore. We have tried to support with <sup>our</sup> love and understanding her daughter, our R.W.Bro. Cynthia Pizzighelli. May I here pay tribute to R.W.Bro.Cynthia Pizzighelli for her wisdom and thank her most sincerely for the help she has so consistently given me, heedless of her own pain; mind and heart centred always on the welfare of our Order in general and of Sphynx Lodge in particular.

Masonic honours, reward for long and loyal service have come the way of some of our Brn; others have widened their sphere of work by taking office in other Lodges; two of our number

rule sister Lodges.

Our Temple is materially more beautiful and comfortable than it was a year ago. These facts - and many more - are reflected in the reports of the administrative officers. I will not enlarge further on the gains and losses, the statistical data of the Lodge's year.

May I turn now to the inwardness of it all and remind you of the hope I expressed at my instalation - that we should put **MORE** Masonry into people rather than more people into Masonry. I have been most ably assisted in that endeavour not only by those who have contributed worthy p's of a. for our enlightenment, but by every brother who has consistently throughout the year tried to understand a little more fully the richness of the enduring fabric we call Freemasonry.

A Master's report is a permanent part of the archives of a Lodge. A Master is helpless without his officers. For the sake of the archivists of tomorrow and in tribute to my Officers I here express my most sincere gratitude to them all and ask you to join with me in thanking them, for until you hold the offices they have held with such dignity and grace, you cannot realise the labour involved. My thanks then to:-

R.W.Bro.T.P.Watson      I.P.M.

W.Bro.Anna Bischoff      W.**S**.W.

W.Bro. Eleanor Bierregard      W.**J**.W.

R.W.Bro. Esther Wellbeloved      Orator.

Bro. Plyllis Lean.      Secretary.

Bro. Chris Kritzinger      Treasurer.

Bro. Gertrude Souter.      D.C.



Bro. Jo Conradie S.D.

Bro. Henney Kritzing J.D.

Bro. Minnie de Klerk Organist.

Bro. Guy Le Roy Almoner and Librarian.

Bro. Gwen Le Roy I.G.

Ill. Bro. Robina Lavery O.G.

Bro. Anna Pretorius Chief Steward.

Bro. Alan Clarke Thurifer.

Bro. Iole Clarke Assistant Secretary.

Bro. Jacob Brechoff Auditor and Banner Bearer.

Faithful, reliable, punctual and discreet, each has served to the very limit of his capacity and so each has built a living stone in the structure of the Temple.

The life of a Lodge is as a life of a man-- let us dwell again on that thought and link it with the motto of our Lodge:

"Know thyself and thou shalt know the Universe and God"

The self we seek to know is the Higher Self; the Knower of the genuine secrets of a Master Mason. The road we travel in search of those secrets is clearly indicated, all may recognise the landmarks self-analysis and self-observation the acceptance of disappointments, disaster and paradox; the exaltation of thought by the infusion of deep feeling, the cultivation of silence and a quiet mind. By these stages we approach the higher consciousness, the inner temple, the place of power.

Tennyson expresses this concept in an oft-quoted verse:-

"Self-reverence, self-knowledge, self-control,  
These three alone lead life to sovereign power  
Yet not for power (Power of herself  
Would come uncalled for), but to live by law,  
Acting the law we live by without fear."

To put the matter in plainer words , the poet is telling us that if we obey the injunction "Man, know thyself" we are led to sovereign power, a power to serve which comes of its own accord. We pursue the road by cheerful and fearless obedience to the Law.

The whole concept is a masterly summary of the Masonic system.

"The power in me vested as Master" has been but the power to serve. The rod of Hermes will one day pass into your hands if cheerfully and fearlessly you obey the great law, which is the inner light, dwelling ever in our midst.

The heart of the Lodge is the altar and there the light burns eternally. The light of the devine burns forever in the human heart; we express this symbolically whenever we place the hand upon the breast; we should remember always the deep significance of that gesture.

I look back over the pageant of the days and am deeply thankful to you my brethren for your lovingkindness, cooperation, enthusiasm and encouragement.

I bow in humble gratitude to Him who is the Head of all True Freemasons that in His Infinite Plan there was for me this task to accomplish. I have learned that Masonry is not of our ordering, that we are but instruments in mightier hands, that the power granted is ~~given only~~ that it may be given forth again. The Master of a Lodge is an empty pipe through which the living water of Truth must flow.

The beginning of wisdom is in humility, in the gentle Acceptance of life. An Eastern Volumn of the Sacred Law says:-

"The sun, moon and stars set after doing their shining and water benefits all things but humbly seeks the lowest place".

The sun of the Master and Wardens of Sphynx Lodge sets, to rise again when the new Masonic year dawns. The water flows on - pure and unchanging, quenching the thirst of the humblest, cupped eagerly by the lowliest builder of the Temple wall that his mortar may be made and his task accomplished.

I have spoken to you in symbols. Do not make of my words nor of the words, symbols and signs of our ritual, a prison house of dogma. The time-honoured phrases, the unalterable landmarks close tyle our Lodge; but within, we are Free and Accepted Masons; free to embark upon the inner journey to the place of Light.

And so there ends for me a lovely year. Gratefully I return to you my Brethren, who gave it to me, the gavel I wielded for you in this the 35th year of Sphynx Lodge No. 225.

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