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The  
Pagan God  
of  
MASONRY



By

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In his published testimony against secret societies, Dr. James M. Gray formerly the Dean of Moody Bible Institute, made this serious charge: "The Lodge System traces its origin, in Freemasonry at least, to a heathen source. It has the same rules, symbols and rites as the ancient mysteries of paganism. It worships not the God of the Scriptures, but an 'ideal' of its own conceit. It has its baptisms and its new birth, its prayers and ceremonies, its penalties and rewards. . . Essential features of the other counterfeits are found in the Lodge System, and while this is not to say that it is the culmination of them all, yet nevertheless it is as dangerous as any in its tendency to rob men of a clear and satisfying hope in Christ, their only Saviour." (*Christian Cynosure*, February 1944; page 151).

## Are These Things So?

Such plain words about the blood-kinship between Masonry and paganism, which some of us approve as the words of truth and soberness, will not be so received by some others.

First, they may be incredible to the uninformed and glibble folks who take at face value Masonry's claims to have originated with the Knights Templars, the Old Roman Empire, the Pharaohs, Hiram of Tyre, the Temple of Solomon, or other fantastic dreams. To learn that the first Grand Lodge was organized so recently as 1717 in the Appletree Inn of London, by a few ambitious men whom no one should prize as ancestors, is a different story.

Second, this version of Masonry may awaken resentment in unconverted and unsaved Masons who have no use for Christianity, but have no other form of religion. Such men may not like to be told that the spiritual part of their religion was practiced in the "Ancient Mysteries," in connection with the barbarous ceremonies of sun-worship, tree-worship, and ani-

mal-worship; so that theirs is merely a stream-lined form of paganism.

And third, Dr. Gray's analysis of Masonry may bring confusion and redness of face to some truly born-again Christian Masons, in whom the Holy Spirit works conviction of the utter impossibility of supporting two religions, worshipping at two rival altars, or following the God of the Bible and the god of Masonry at one and the same time. The sad fact that so many lodge-going Christians, including too many Ministers, have no such conviction is in most cases due to their side-stepping the religious issue entirely, having coddled themselves into the idea that this is a matter of no importance. When such persons reject the blessed warnings of the Holy Spirit, another kind of spirit leads them to resent all testimony against Secretism, and to do all in their power to suppress it.

### A Case in Point

The most recent uproar against our Anti-Secrecy testimony of which I have heard came from a New Jersey Mason who claims to be a good Chris-

tian, offering as one proof of this his being a reader of the **Sunday School Times**. That paper, having made a favorable reference to a tract entitled "Eminent Witnesses Against Secretism," received a letter from this reader stating that he had been a Mason for thirty-three years, is now in one of the higher Degrees of that Order, and is fully convinced of the perfect consistency in his being a Mason along with being a Christian. He followed with a denunciation of those who as non-Masons say anything against that institution; that as outsiders we simply know nothing about this subject, and that opposing Masonry is none of our business. He particularly resented and denied the statement quoted from this tract, that certain Masonic authorities have openly admitted the pagan ancestry of Masonry, and called for the retraction of all claims to this effect.

Without questioning this Mason's sincerity, or his right to answer any charges against this organization which he feels to be unfair or untruthful, he seems to overlook the fact

that joining any group is not the only way of knowing anything about it; nor is membership required of anyone who would oppose other evil institutions, such as Romanism, Mormonism, or Eddyism. The public activities of Masonry tell something. The testimony of seceders from Masonry is informative. We certainly know much about Masonry by its fruits. Even more clear and certain evidence about the nature and claim of this institution is found in the statements of its own accredited books and spokesmen. And as the evidence of some of these books is the point now at issue, it is proper to allow them to speak for themselves. If the quotations here made seem rather tedious and unedifying, they should be accepted for what they are worth as Masonry's own account of itself.

### Calling the Witnesses

1. Masonry's recognition of the doctrines and ideals of all religions as ways to God, is set forth in the words of Robert Morris, as found in Webb's Synopsis of Masonic Law, page 284: "So broad is the religion of Masonry,

and so carefully are all sectarian tents excluded from the system that the Christian, the Jew, and the Moham-  
medan, in all their numberless sects  
and divisions, may and do harmoni-  
ously combine in its moral and intel-  
lectual work, with the Buddhist, the  
Confucianist, and the worshipper of  
Diety under every form."

Of like teaching are the words of  
George W. Chase in his Digest of Mas-  
sonic Law, pp. 207, 208, "The Jews,  
the Chinese, the Turks, each reject  
either the New Testament or the Old,  
or both; and yet we see no good rea-  
son why they should not be made Ma-  
sons. In fact Blue Lodge Masonry has  
nothing to do with the Bible; it is not  
founded upon the Bible. If it was, it  
would not be Masonry, it would be  
something else."

To this point many other witnesses  
might testify, but one only is added.  
Albert W. Mackey says in his Manual  
of the Lodge, page 215: "Though in  
ancient times Masons were charged  
in every country to be of the religion  
of that country or nation, whatever  
it was; it is now thought more expe-

dent only to oblige them to that  
religion in which all men agree."

2. Masonry's age-long use of the  
institutions and symbols of the Anci-  
ent Mysteries is asserted in Pierson's  
Traditions of Freemasonry, page 13:  
"The identity of the Masonic institu-  
tion with the Ancient Mysteries is ob-  
vious from the striking coincidences  
found to exist between them."

Another witness is J. D. Buck in his  
Symbolism of Mystic Masonry, who  
says on page 27: "Freemasonry is  
modeled on the plan of the Ancient  
Mysteries with their glyphics and  
allegories. And this is no mere coinci-  
dence; the parallels are too closely  
drawn."

Mr. Mackey also testifies about this  
in his Masonic Jurisprudence, page  
288: "Among the pagans ceremonies  
of the most magnificent nature were  
used in setting apart their gorgeous  
temples to the purpose of worship. A  
Masonic lodge is an imitation of these  
ancient examples, consecrated with  
mystic ceremonies to the sacred pur-  
poses for which it has been construct-  
ed."

The same author says in the Ritualist, page 109: "It was the single object of all the ancient rites and mysteries practiced in the very bosom of pagan darkness, shining as a solitary beacon in all that surrounding gloom, and cheering the philosopher in his weary pilgrimage of life, to teach the immorality of the soul. This is still the great design of the Third Degree of Masonry. This is the scope and aim of its Ritual."

#### Additional Testimony

3. Masonry's present-day imitation of the rites and ceremonies of sun-worship is particularly apparent in the legend of Hiram Abiff. In Pierson's Traditions of Freemasonry it is stated on page 240: "We readily recognize in Hiram Abiff one of the Grand Masters of Freemasonry." Then Sickles in his General Rezon says on page 196: "Osirus and the Tyrian Architect (Hiram Abiff) are one and the same." And as Osirus was the sun-god of the Egyptians, and Baal the sun-god of other pagans, it must follow that the prominence given to Hiram Abiff in Masonic life is given

also to Baalism and sun worship."

This is stated more specifically in the Freemason's Guide by Sickles, page 66. "The Worshipful Master represents the sun at its rising, the Senior Warden the sun at its setting, and the Junior Warden represents the sun at meridian." Well has it been said that in every Masonic ceremony, symbol and emblem, we meet nothing but the sun-god worship. For the Ancient Mysteries were nothing more or less than the old secret worship of Baal."

4. Masonry's employment of some symbols, glyphics and other suggestive representations of sex sins which hark back to the Phallicism and other immoralities of paganism, is illustrated in that one, of whose immoral meaning it is a shame even to speak—as Paul would say. But Mr. Mackey speaks of it sufficiently to say in his Lexicon, page 25, that the worship it which it belonged "was adopted by the idolatrous Israelites who took it from the Moabites in the Wilderness of Sin, under the name of Baal-peor." The story of this abomination is found

in the 25th chapter of Numbers, where we learn that God then slew 4000 of those who practiced it. Yet today Masonry exalts the same symbol, and by implication the same things for which it stands.

With this canonization of a most flagrant violation of the Seventh Commandment, is it any wonder that Masonry classifies women along with idiots and other undesirables who are excluded from membership; and in their oath to respect female chastity, specify only the relatives of their own members? And do such standards respecting sex morality explain why the women whose steps take hold on Hell are in some places known to haunt the doors of lodge halls, and come in droves to the cities where Masonic Conclaves meet?

### **Whose Faces are Red Now?**

The above quotations, to which many more could be added, are made from books that have gone through many different editions, with minor changes in page numbering and form of composition, which should be kept in mind when seeking to verify their

reliability. But if only two or three of these quotations are found correct, or if merely a tithe of their statements are true—let me ask every Christian Mason who may be reading them, if these are not enough to bring a blush to his cheek, when he realizes that in belonging to this organization he is supporting something that has come out of stark heathenism? Let me ask him, if any true child of God through Jesus Christ should be willing to join, or continue in the fellowship of an institution that openly confesses itself to be adhering to the ideals and worship of lands and peoples to whom we are sending Missionaries?

For if we know that paganism is the very antithesis of Christianity, being that “Black mass of ignorance, misery and wickedness which <sup>now</sup> ~~welters upon the unevangelized~~ <sup>AREAS</sup> ~~acres~~ of this globe like the fetid waters of a chaotic ocean”—how in the name of consistency can we expect our Missionaries to requite their Christian converts to make a clear break with all these forms of false religion, at

whatever cost, and we be content to live at peace with the false religion of Masonry here at home? And how in the Name of God can a member of any of our congregations wear a secret society emblem, made in the form of a crescent overarched by a scimitar—one of which the symbol of the "Queen of Heaven" that has been worshipped by so many blind pagans; while the other is intended to represent the terrible death-weapon that has been plunged by wicked idolators into the hearts of so many Christian martyrs?

### **Marks of Blood Kinship**

Let no lodgeman say that the relation between Masonry and paganism is now a mere sentiment, or fiction of the imagination, for so many serious considerations shew it to be a terrible spiritual reality. Here are some of the marks of blood-kinship:

Paganism worships what is to them the "Unknown God"; Masonry rejects the only way to know God, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Paganism expects some future blessedness through self-torture, pilgrimages, the sacrifice

of children, and such things; Masonry promises entrance into the Grand Lodge above through lodge faithfulness here below. Paganism keeps whole continents in spiritual darkness and every form of degradation; Masonry is part of a great System of Darkness in which every form of evil is possible. Paganism's religions are noisy, grotesque, voluptuous or cruel; Masonic Rituals, Lectures, and Prayers lack spirituality and devotion, expressing no sense of sin or desire for forgiveness, seeking to please men rather than God. Paganism is clannish, bigoted, self-centered and persecuting; Masonry excludes the poor, the crippled, the aged, the women—coming between a man and his wife in what he is allowed to tell her, and its history is stained with the blood of many martyrs who have testified against it. Paganism wrote the Koran, the Zenda Vesta, and other so-called sacred books; Marsonry places these on a level with the Bible in pagan lands, and in its use of the Bible deliberately cuts out the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ wherever



it is found. Paganism cannot save sinners from the fear of Hell while they live, or offer them any saving hope when they die; Masonry avoids all mention of Hell, and apparently discounts its reality. Paganism is incurable apart from the Gospel of Christ; Masonry holds its victims with a grip that yields only to the conviction of the Holy Spirit, and a belief in the Gospel of Christ.

### **Satan the Master of Masonry**

Christian Masons can never realize who is the master of their organization so long as they deny it to be an offspring of heathenism, and that the lord and ruler of heathenism is Satan. Concerning the power of Satan in heathenism Dr. Samuel M. Zwemer, a Missionary of long experience, has said: "Eliminate Satan from the non-Christian religions, and they would be so powerless that we should have nothing to fear from them. It is the Satanic presence in them that makes them grip and hold the hearts of men, and which makes them almost invincible." In like manner, men are being held in the grip of Masonry

with a power which cannot be explained as wholly due to the weakness and wickedness of the human heart. It is human, plus something that is supernatural, and this supernatural element is Satan. Of course, we are living in times when the reality of that factor in human affairs is very largely denied, even by some professed Christians. But the Bible tells us "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers." And this is true in our testimony against Secretism, as elsewhere. It is the Satanic presence in Masonry that makes it almost invincible—this supernatural Satanic power with which it takes men captive at his will.

Here, then, is the ground of our appeal to all Christian Masons to secede and wholly withdraw from these evil relations, however harmless and beneficial as they may seem to be. The silliness of some aspects of lodge life, their expensiveness in time and money, their undemocratic standards, the menace they are to the highest interests of our relations in the

Family, the Church, and the State, are enough to condemn them. But the unquestionable blood-kinship of Masonry with the religion and the god of paganism, both historically and spiritually today is to every fair-minded person the most comprehensive, devastating and unanswerable argument against the supposed respectability, merits and advantages of this way of living. It is the Satanic presence in Masonry that explains the shallowness and unspirituality of its false religion. It is through "the wiles of the Devil" that lodges are so popular with worldly and unconverted people, and have such high-power efficiency in getting themselves to the fore in the social and political life of our times. It is Satan who inspires the inveterate hatred of Masonry to Jesus Christ, making it the menace it becomes as a parasite religion in every Church where it is allowed to enter. In knowing this we have the key to the spell which Masonry exercises over the judgment of so many otherwise sane and clear-headed people, who see no evil in these relations,

who are charmed with their apparent excellence, who swallow the bait of lying promises about temporal advantages in joining, while their spiritual life is so sorely impoverished with its counterfeit rewards.

### Not Weary in Welldoing

Some one has said the greatest hindrance to the progress of Christ's Kingdom on earth is not sin *per se*, but false religions. No one knows this so well as our Foreign Missionaries, whose efforts to eradicate polygamy, head-hunting, blood revenge and all other atrocities of heathenism are blocked, so long as pagans are slaves to their false and cruel gods. And if it is right to expect our Missionaries to require Christian converts to make a clear break with all false religions, why do the supporters of the false religion of Masonry find a welcome to the membership of so many of our Christian Churches here at home, and are given a seat at the Lord's Table? To end this grievous wrong against Christ and the progress of His Kingdom we must do these essential things:

1. We must take at face value the blessed teaching of God's Word that in our salvation as Christians, we have been called out of darkness into his marvelous light (I Peter 2:9); that we are to walk in the light, as He is in the light (I John 1:7); and that everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light lest his deeds be reprov'd. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light (John 2:20, 21).

2. All Christians must have the illumination of the Holy Spirit to shew them that all forms of Secretism have been originated, and are now directed by the Prince of Darkness. That vision may come to us only gradually, but must come eventually if our path is that of the just (Prov. 4:18). It was so in my own case, for while my first objection to secret societies was that they were **secret**, and was almost startled at the name of Dr. Blanchard's tract entitled "The Worship of Secret Societies offered to Satan," and was again a little disturbed by another in which he discussed Masonic preachers as being "Modern Prophets

of Baal"; I lived to learn that this great Master of Truth knew his Bible, and his Saviour, better than I did.

3. We who are the children of light can never be true to our calling as witnesses, if we keep our light on this question hidden under the bushel of indifference, fear or the excuse of being too busy with forms of Christian work. We would never make such pleas for withholding efforts to overthrow the pagan religions of foreign lands; and why should not this form of charity begin at home? The inconsistencies of Christian Masons pretending to support two religions, has moved a Unitarian Minister to write a booklet in which he charges such lodgemen with attempting the impossible. (The Relation of the Liberal Churches to the Fraternal Orders, p. 9). Having quoted the gist of our Evangelical Creed in contrast with that of Masonry on the subject of salvation, he rightly says: "One of these declarations excludes the other. One cannot consistently subscribe to both. They do, however, subscribe to both, and are thereby led into incon-

sistencies which they do not discern." And why do Masonic Christians not discern these Creeds to be as irreconcilable as fire and water? If this Unitarian writer pleads for such lodgemen to end their inconsistencies by joining his organization, how much more insistent and persuasive should be our pleading for the true consistency recommended and commanded in 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.

4. Let us never be discouraged in feeling that all effort to destroy the power of the Secret Lodge System is hopeless. No cause of God is ever hopeless, so long as the Holy Spirit finds hearts that are full of love for the truth, and witnesses who are yielded enough, and humble enough to do all we can according to our opportunities. It may be true that the minds of some lodgemen are shut and locked against any appeal to secede. But the day of miracles in this way is not past, and every conversion either to become a Christian, or be a still better Christian, is a modern miracle, and I have myself seen God work in this way. And even if not a

single Mason ever quits his lodge in this generation, the lodges are bound to go down if we can reach our youth with the truth that will persuade them to keep out. This is our greatest and most hopeful field of work.

5. Let us never cease to thank God for the **National Christian Association**, with offices at 850 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill. The National Christian Association lecturers and literature, with their monthly magazine the **Christian Cynosure**, make this institution an arsenal that is essential in our warfare against the Kingdom of Darkness, and it deserves the hearty support of all who love to walk in the light of Christ.

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