

The All-Seeing Eye of Almighty God and the Rays of Light

By Frater James A. Marples, VII^o
Life Member, Nebraska College S.R.I.C.F.



Lutheran coin with All Seeing Eye



Lamb of God on seven seals

First, I would like to begin this Presentation by saying that, "The All-Seeing-Eye of Almighty God" is **NOT** an occult symbol, despite the claims of many supposed 'researchers' or 'scholars'. Their researching is based on biased innuendo and their shoddy scholarship is centered on 'sensationalism' to make-a-living for themselves at the expense of our gentle Craft as a whole and our Society of the Rose & Cross, in particular. Some grains of "TRUTH" need to be dispensed on the subject to give people absolute clarity on the subject.

The All-Seeing Eye of Almighty God is one of the most readily identified written designs (used in lieu of words) as a symbol for the Omnipotence and Omnipresence of The All-Seeing power of God to "see" into every tangible thing; to foresee any intangible feeling or emotion; and even to see deep inside the human heart and soul. It is commonly also referred to as "The All-Seeing Eye of Providence". It is usually surrounded by a Triangle which, according to Christian-tradition alludes to The Holy Trinity. The Triangle is sometimes surrounded by a "glory" or "Rays of Light". This alludes to the symbol of God's Grace radiating Light.

No atheist can become a Freemason. I recently heard W:. Bro. Piers Vaughan, Master of St. John's Masonic Lodge #1 of New York City give an Oration at the "Historic Arkansas Museum" in Little Rock; at a display of the Holy Bible which President (and Masonic Brother) George Washington placed his hand upon to take his Presidential Oath-of-Office. Bro.: Vaughan stood beside the Bible, and gave a very eloquent Speech in which he noted that all Freemasons must believe in Almighty God (as a Supreme Being) PLUS have the belief in the Immortality of the Soul. Bro.: Vaughan succinctly explained to the audience (composed of Masons and non-Masons, alike) that these prerequisites are essential to determining that an honorable man will honor his words, his promises, and his obligations.

Bro.: Vaughan correctly noted that if an atheist only lives for the 'here and now' ----such a person has no counter-balance and can be as wicked or corrupt as they choose to be: having no regard for future consequences as well as no fear of an Afterlife of their Soul. By contrast, Bro.: Vaughan said that a man who sincerely believes in Almighty God as well as Immortality of the Soul has an "incentive to do better: ---since such a man would face a Judgment Day before his Creator.

Comparing it to the "Balance Scales of Justice" --- a declared belief in Almighty God; and making an honorable vow or pledge "before God and our fellow-man" is the best standard we have



available to 'tip the balance' to add a heavy weight upon our own conscience (as well as the consciences of others). Strong covenants, alliances, brotherhoods, and friendship-societies MUST have some motivating force which prompts enforcement of compliance. The strongest enforcement comes from voluntarily self-enforcement "within the heart of each individual themselves". Those people who highly value "their Word-of-Honor being their Bond" is essentially comparable to putting-up some "collateral" in the finance-world. Forfeiture brings "shame", "disgrace" and a "loss of confidence". Happily, the inverse: Faithful-Performance brings "honor"and "dignity".

A truly motivated person will protect their honorable character; they will strive for steadfast performance, and take well-deserved pride in their diligent work or efforts, and most of all ---- they will consistently maintain a higher-level and constant-level of integrity. Faith in God, for most people is the self-motivating benchmark of Honor. Putting what they hold sacred on-the-line is a way of measuring loyalty and perseverance. To use a quaint old American expression: It is necessary to "put peoples' feet-to-the-fire to assure compliance of duties". The ultimate foundation of what principled men and women hold most dear, is a promise made on their holy book (normally The Holy Bible). It is an incentive to "do good". It is NOT blasphemous, and NOT an incentive to do evil.

All men who are considered "Regular and Legitimate Freemasons" believe in a Supreme Being/Creator/Almighty God. All Masonic **Rosicrucians** go a step-further by belief in the teachings of Jesus Christ and thus adhere to the Christian Religion. Broad-based wording for "Almighty God" should not offend anyone. A Christian or Jew or Hindu or Buddhist can apply a prayer to what they deem their Creator. The grand old Masonic phrase of "Grand Architect of the Universe" does NOT mean we have a so-called 'masonic god'. We definitely don't. The phrase was meant to be a welcoming broad-based reference to Almighty God which would be acceptable to men of ALL faiths and creeds. In a Christian-setting, most Christians agree that God Created mankind, the Earth, the contents of the Earth, and the whole universe. It is sad, even tragic, that critics of our gentle Fraternity find-fault with the analogous term: "Grand Architect of the Universe".

I have heard an expression that is quite appropriate: "Religion is Man's relationship with Almighty God". We should keep genuine reverent worship in our hearts....and not battle our fellow human-beings (who are likewise "Children of God"). Most Religions regard Almighty God as a "Supreme Being"; yet a Deity who is largely unseen, untouchable; and who cannot be 'contained' inside a glass-jar or any type of confined area.

Most people readily admit that they believe in "God" --yet they have difficulty "describing HIM". Most Christians can describe Jesus Christ with more extensive descriptions, such as being our Lord and **Saviour**; as the Son of God 'The Father' and the Virgin Mary; or as the second-cousin of John-the Baptist; or as 'The Lamb of God' who was Crucified for our sins when he was 33 years, and who rose and Ascended into Heaven.

In Freemasonry, and in other fraternal orders such as The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) Lodge, the symbol is utilized in an honorable context to remind the Freemason (or other fraternal Lodge member) that his thoughts and deeds are always observed from Heaven above, by Almighty God.

The underground "occult groups" are condemned by legitimate Masons and legitimate Rosicrucians. Such groups dwell in darkness, have nothing to offer except for their own contrived counterfeit type of Associations, largely based on gloom, doom, and evil-doings. It is an utter shame that the public often cannot separate "the good groups" from "the bad groups". I have no trouble: Since I follow the old adage: "By their works, ye shall know them".

The sinister groups are so ignorant --- that they distort and sully the true meaning of "The All-Seeing Eye". They often deliberately omit any reference to Almighty God. To clearly distinguish a MAJOR DIFFERENCE between the Legitimate and the Clandestine groups: I always emphasize



that it is "The All-Seeing Eye of Almighty God". Every Mason, and every Masonic Rosicrucian believes in a Supreme Being as Deity.

The spurious groups often try to camouflage their purpose by putting a distorted "spin" on the Symbol. Quite often they omit the Triangle. However, their omission of the "glory" or "Rays of Light" is almost a giveaway that they evade via omission.

The purpose of this Presentation Article is to give "full disclosure". One major prerequisite of membership in our fraternity of Masonic **Rosicrucianism** is belief in the Christian Religion.

Some Churches, especially older Churches, via unique Architecture or via Stained-glass windows utilize "The All-Seeing Eye of Almighty God" as part of their iconography. The 'Symbol' itself is not 'worshipped'. The Symbol is a conduit or mental reminder that we worship God, since HE is a "higher power" above all mere mortal men and women.

Recently, I came across a Lutheran medal, minted in the year 1778 to commemorate the 100 year anniversary (Centennial) of a Lutheran Orphanage in Amsterdam, Holland on 24 August 1778. The medal depicts a picture of the orphanage, with a woman caring for children in the foreground, while an angel flies above. Strikingly, at the very TOP of the medal is "The All Seeing-Eye of Almighty God" or "The Eye of Providence" looking down upon them, to assure their safety, happiness and well-being.

Nearly all of us, can remember our days as children, when "we thought" we could hide our **mischievous** pranks or misdeeds. Quite often, our parents 'knew-about' our transgressions --- even if we mistakenly believed we had fooled them by techniques of evasion, omission or **camouflage**. Unfortunately, some adults feel they can hide their sins and unlawful acts. Some of them seemingly 'can' hide their hideous acts from other humans. However, no one can put "blinders" on The All-Seeing Power of Almighty God. A "Supreme Being" or "Deity" wouldn't be 'supreme' without Power that that the finite mind of mortal-man cannot fully comprehend. The Power of God goes far beyond that. The All-Knowing power of The Deity knows everything inside the human-heart. What we have done; what is current inside our hearts (our motives); as well as our future undertakings (or future achievements) are all known in-advance by Almighty God.

I recently came across a sermon by Lutheran Pastor, Reverend Patrick Erickson, the pastor of Peace Lutheran Church at Garland Texas. He was doing a sermon on Colossians 2: 8-23 and he titled it "God's All-Seeing Eye". Pastor Erickson talks about magicians and the sleight-of-hand tricks, which are just an "allusion" which fools the unsuspecting observer ---due to the untrained eye of "fallible humans".

I was highly impressed when Rev. Erickson goes on to say (when referring to God's power): "Remember: His eye sees everything. Nothing escapes God's all-seeing eye. Certainly not our sins or our snful efforts to conceal them."

What Almighty God "made" (everything from the Universe, the Earth, to Man or Woman ---or their hidden strengths and/or weaknesses) is known to "The Almighty". What God created, let no man put asunder. Nothing can be kept hidden, obscured, or masked from God.

For far too many years, detractors of Freemasonry and **Rosicrucianism** have made scapegoats out of our honorable Symbols. An honorable symbol is devised to strengthen the resolve of a mortal-man. To suggest otherwise, is an insult.

Honorable symbols are meant to give 'vivid' imagery to the human mind. In a black and white episode of his broadcast of his television-show: "Life is Worth Living" , originally broadcast in the year 1956, Bishop (later Archbishop) Fulton J. Sheen described the famous Cathedral of **Notre**



Dame in Paris, France. He noted that until the year 1931, that famous landmark was the tallest building in the whole world for some 700 YEARS !!!! He described the famous "Rose Window" a priceless work of stained-glass Art.

He described the stones of the Cathedral (crafted together by stone-masons) and said that each stone was placed in a certain position, according to its function". Bishop Sheen used a comparison that many of us, as Masonic **Rosicrucians**, are familiar with ----that "CHARACTER is the CEMENT which binds men together". Lastly, Bishop Sheen mentioned the "Keystone" being critical to a structure's integrity and ability to stand. Therefore, the uses of symbols, analogies, allegories, and metaphors has ample precedent.

The emblem appears on United States paper currency (the reverse of One-Dollar bills) as part of The Great Seal of The United States of America. The name of Almighty God is held to be so sacred in many cultures, that the name maybe spelled "G-d" out of holy and reverent respect. In ancient Hebrew and other cultures, the '**Yod**' symbol was held to be the symbol of Almighty God. I am mindful that my 14^o Degree ring of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry , has the '**Yod**' symbol inside Equilateral Triangle. I cherish that ring as much as I cherish the "Cross and Crown" Knight Templar **Commandery** ring which my late father passed-down to me. Each ring constantly reminds me of the 'value' which our Fraternity places upon belief in Almighty God. 'Belief' resides within the human heart. Faith (like nearly everything else) is built on building-blocks. Faith in something, is more sturdy than skepticism of everything.

I wish that detractors of Freemasonry, Odd Fellowship, or any honorable groups which use valid and respectful Symbolism would stop, pause, and reflect on their criticisms. Narrow-mindedness can tread dangerously close to bigotry. If we wish to 'believe in something': Let us enhance and exemplify Good Virtue without knocking-down other people's methods. "Faith" has a "starting-point". It begins by encompassing the General Philosophy/Theology that an individual person believes , and then funnels to each person's own specific adherence thereto. One individual group may profess to be 100% Christian, yet its adherents may have slight differences-of-opinion as to specific tenets. That is largely due to the fallibility, jealousies, and competitive-nature of mortal-man. Hence, we have Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist, Mennonite, Pentecostal, and others who profess to sit at the table of Christianity. The sad part, is when jealous human minds want to jockey for 'monopolies' or 'manifestos of exclusion'.

Well-meaning people may look at a cloud-in-the-sky and feel that it resembles or 'represents' something. That is their right. Therefore symbols (in, and of themselves) are not automatically demeaning, disrespectful nor wicked. Just as some people are reluctant or hesitant to say completely innocuous things such as "I love you" (to a cherished friend, relative or 'significant other') ----there are some people who are reticent about how they talk about Almighty God. I've known good men and women who were shy, bashful, and some were honestly illiterate. Ancient Churches utilized stained-glass window-art (originally) to depict to the Holy Bible to those who were truly illiterate to tell the stories contained in that Volume of Sacred Law.....especially, "The Creation"; "Adam & Eve"; the faithfulness of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses; as well as the Nativity of Jesus; the ministry of Jesus; the evangelizing of various Saints (along with the [inspirational themes of Sainly-Virtues](#)....such as 'Justice', 'Mercy', 'Patience', 'Fortitude', along with 'Faith', 'Hope' and 'Charity'.

The All-Seeing Eye of Providence (or Almighty God) is a symbol meant to help bridge gaps in human understanding. It promotes "Harmony" rather than "discord". Everyone is better-off when they can find some common-ground with their fellow man. Rather than engaging in fiery 'linguistic debates'....The All-Seeing Eye is meant to remind all humans: that Almighty God always looks down on us, protecting those who do HIS WILL, and that He alone will judge us, upon the eventual, final "Judgment Day".

The All-Seeing Eye of Almighty God has been used since ancient days of Antiquity. Scholars



(Masonic, and otherwise) in the year A.D. 2013 would be well-advised to ask themselves how Almighty God (or the Godhead) was stated, depicted, or symbolized ---say in the years 303 B.C., or the year 1000 B.C. Once a person does that pondering, many pre-conceived notions and prejudices fall-away.

The All-Seeing Eye has been etched into stone; carved into wood; painted on walls; artistically applied into stained-glass. There are no set minimum nor maximum number of rays. Quite often, there are seven rays. Some scholars try to attach some special meaning to each ray; however that application is somewhat arbitrary. Here are some examples:

CATEGORIES OF THE RAYS OF LIGHT

- 1st Ray: Faith.
- 2nd Ray: Wisdom/Understanding.
- 3rd Ray: Love/Creativity/Beauty.
- 4th Ray: Purity.
- 5th Ray: Truth/Science/Vision.
- 6th Ray: Peace/Service/Brotherhood.
- 7th Ray: Freedom/Justice.

In nearly all cases: with reverence. That is how this very unique and very special Symbol should be regarded. It has no sinister connotations. It is merely a symbol to prompt human-beings to remember that Almighty God sees all; knows all; and is the Creator of all.

Coincidentally, in similar manner, in The Holy Bible, the Book of Revelation, describes "The Lamb's Book of Life, with its Seven Seals". Various philosophers and theologians have attempted to discern the symbolism of those Seven Seals. Some interpretations are quite ominous; while others are less traumatic. Recently I came across an old medal minted in the year 1663. It depicts "The Lamb of God" sitting atop the CLOSED BOOK ("The Lamb's Book of Life with its Seven Seals". The lamb is at peace, relaxed and serene. It sits on a table covered by a carpet, decorated by a Fleur-d-Lys. The Caption/Legend states: HIC. OMNIA. IVRE. RESOLVIT. (He resolves everything by {Holy} law). The Holy Book is still 'closed' and its seven seals are still 'intact'. Despite the differences in symbolic interpretation: nearly all scholars agree that the opening of the Seventh Seal will unleash a new dawn --- highlighted by Seven Angels and Seven Trumpets. Such symbolism is the undercurrent which eventually leads to the final "Judgment Day". In the end, it is up to each individual to walk uprightly, practice good morals, and hold genuine Belief/Faith in our hearts. We we either incur God's favor or God's wrath, by how we conduct ourselves ---and NOT by how we judge others.

So, whether it is described or portrayed via various symbols such as: 'The All-Seeing Eye of Almighty God' or 'The Eye of Providence' or the 'Seven Rays of Light' or the 'Radiant Delta Triangle' or 'The Lamb's Book with Seven Seals' ----the magnificent symbolism of Our Creator is still there. Even some historians say that prior to the year A.D. 1300 the "Fleur-de-Lys" was associated with The Song of Solomon and the 'lily among thorns' as a reference to Jesus. It, too, is sometimes described as "The Flower of Light". In any case, the constant and perpetual omnipresence of Almighty God and the omnipotent power of Almighty God looks down upon us, always. The symbolism is ancient and common to many; yet the symbolism that attaches its unique meaning is up to each of us to define for ourselves. Our fraternal societies use these and other symbols to encourage an honorable interpretation which glorifies Almighty God (our Creator) with reverent intent, that cannot (and should not) be sullied by anyone. So Mote It Be .

Sources / Recommended Readings / Exhibits "

- Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry by Dr. Albert G. Mackey, M.D., 33^o , and a Knight Templar.



- Related Article: "The Rosicrucian and Catholic promulgation of The All-Seeing Eye of Almighty God".

Presented to Nebraska College S.R.I.C.F. on 26 April 2012.

Webpage--- <http://masonic.benemerito.net/msricf/papers/marples/marples-Rosicrucian.Catholic.AllSeeingEye.pdf>

- Lutheran Centennial Orphanage medal, minted for 24 August 1778. To commemorate the Lutheran orphanage. Medalist: C.F. Konse. View of orphanage with woman caring for children, while an Angel flies above, with "The All-Seeing Eye of Almighty God" at the very Top. Caption/Legend: "HV IS DER WEEZENVADER".

- Lamb of God medal, minted year 1663. Commemorates the Duke of Villemort. Picturing "The Lamb of God" sitting atop "The Lamb's Book of Life" with seven seals on a table covered by a carpet, decorated by a Fleur-de-Lys. Caption/Legend: HIC. OMNIA. IVRE. RESOLVIT. ("He resolves everything by {Holy} law.")

- Catholic Encyclopedia: RAYS of LIGHT. Year 1911 edition.

- Personal conversation at "2013 Grand Lodge of Arkansas Session" held at Albert Pike Memorial Scottish Rite Memorial Temple in Little Rock, Arkansas, between Bro.: Piers Vaughan, current Master of St. John's Lodge Masonic Lodge #1 of New York City and Frater James A. Marples, VII^o, on 08 February 2013.

- Public Oration given by Bro.: Piers Vaughan, current Master of St. John's Masonic Lodge #1 New York City at "The Historic Arkansas Museum" while standing beside the Holy Bible which President (and Brother) George Washington used at his first Presidential Inauguration. This Oration was given at the Museum in Little Rock, Arkansas, on 08 February 2013.

- Author's Note: Pastor Patrick Erickson, of Peace Lutheran Church of Garland, Texas, expressed a favorable view of The All-Seeing Eye, in his sermon on "God's All-Seeing Eye" based on Colossians 2: 8-23.

Church webpage: http://peacelutherangarland.org/msgarc_10.08.html

While thankfully, Pastor Erickson's viewpoint is favorable ---Not all Lutheran Synods agree; and some dissent from any view on allegorical symbolism or on opinion of fraternal orders.

About the Author:

Frater James A. Marples, VII^o is a Perpetual Life Member of Mulvane Masonic Lodge #201 A.F. & A.M. in Mulvane, Kansas. He is a Life Member of The International Peace Gardens Lodge of Freemasons (Canada-USA) and also an Honorary Member of Golden Rule Masonic Lodge #562 in Willard, Ohio; as well as an Honorary Member of Nelson Masonic Lodge #77, in Nelson, Nebraska, which has recently consolidated with the Superior Masonic Lodge at Superior, Nebraska.

Companion and Sir Knight Jim is a Life Member of the Wichita York Rite Bodies (Wichita Chapter #33 R.A.M.; Wichita Council #12 R. & S.M.; and Mt. Olivet Commandery #12 K.T.). He is also a Life Member of the Lincoln Nebraska Scottish Rite Bodies; The Robert-the-Bruce Association (California); The George Washington Masonic Stamp Club; Masonic Order of the Gordian Knot (Indiana); Masonic Order of the Sword of Bunker Hill; Kentucky Chapter #134 of National Sojourners and Heroes of '76; North Texas York Rite College #118 of Sherman, Texas; and Nebraska College S.R.I.C.F.

He is a Regular Member of The Allied Masonic Degrees; Grand College of Rites; St. David Conclave of The Red Cross of Constantine; Shawnee County Kansas Square and Compass Club; and Holyrood Council #61 of Knight Masons (Nebraska).

