

The Rosicrucian and Catholic promulgation of The All-Seeing Eye of Almighty God
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1781 Eichstatt Bistum (bishopric) One Taler

Dating back to the most ancient times of Antiquity, mankind has struggled with defining a human-being's subordinate status in relation to the higher or elevated status of our Creator, Almighty God. It is well-known and acknowledged by most Religions that Almighty God is a "Deity" which is regarded as a "Supreme Being." By virtue of that very designation of "Supreme", it signifies a supremacy which is Exalted above all other things. Different people of diverse nations and cultures "speak" with various tongues or languages ---and in ancient times symbols, even hieroglyphics.

The All-Seeing Eye of Almighty God (sometimes referred to as the "Eye of Providence") has been as means of conveying a mental impression of the All-Encompassing Power of Almighty God.

Globally, not all people worship in the same manner. Additionally, not all people worship the same God or god(s). Furthermore, those who do who proclaim to worship the same God may have certain human-derived Rituals which vary --- between sects, denominations or factions. The greater majority of Judeo-Christian believers worship a monotheistic or single God. Yet, in the Trinitarian Churches of Christianity: a great many worshiper envision that concept of One God which is bound together by either a welded, overlapped, or closely placed triangle which would represent The Father; The Son; and The Holy Spirit (or Holy Ghost). This notion would be comparable to three-legs of a surveyor's tripod: Three Elements holding together a single Unit.

In the Judeo-Christian heritage: Worshipers believe that "Almighty God made Man in HIS own Image". The ceiling of The Sistine Chapel at The Vatican has the masterpiece painting by Michelangelo depicting the Creation --- whereby God's finger touches the finger of the first man, Adam. In due course, God proclaimed that it is not good for Man to be alone, so HE closed Adam's eyes and took-out a rib and sealed the flesh; and then created "woman" as a help-mate to the man. Afterward, the human-race evolved from that uniting. The subsequent generations that followed Adam and Eve have lived a life of toil with some happiness and joy combined with conflicts, hatred, and even killing. It is difficult-enough to ascertain man's unworthy or immoral motives in regards to his conduct toward his fellow-man. It is even more difficult for human-beings to define how Almighty God (or Spirituality in-general) affects their life. Most Religions regard Almighty God as a "Supreme Being"; yet a Deity who is largely invisible, unseen, un-touchable, and who cannot be "contained" inside a glass jar or any type of confined area. As a good friend and fellow Mason (as well as a Roman Catholic) once told me: "The mind of mortal man is finite...whereas the Mind of Almighty God is Infinite".

When I was younger, I would hear the words that Almighty God is Omnipotent and Omnipresent. HE is All-Seeing and All-Knowing. HE can see into peoples' hearts and see through stone-walls into peoples' souls. Almighty God is the Alpha and the Omega....without a "Beginning" and without an "End". HE is All-Powerful and "Absolute".



Freemasonry is a fraternal organization. Masonic Lodges are not designed to be a church, synagogue or mosque. Yet, Freemasonry is a place where good men of all Religious Faiths who believe in a "Supreme Being" can meet in friendship and fraternalism. The old saying that "Freemasonry is: The Brotherhood of Man, under the Fatherhood of God" is quite accurate and very appropriate in a setting where good men strive to become "better men" in the company and association of other good men, properly vouched-for, and being of demonstrably good moral character. Not only do the fraternal friendships arising from our Masonic Associations fortify our resolve "to do the right thing," but our Brothers, Companions, Sir Knights, Nobles and fellow Fratres give us much-needed encouragement in times of happiness. These friendships also offer help, aid, assistance, and comfort in times of sickness, distress or Sorrow. Other fraternal organizations, such as The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge (or I.O.O.F. Lodge) also use The All-Seeing Eye as a symbolic reference to Almighty God. Brother, Companion, Sir Knight and Frater Albert Pike joined the Odd Fellows Lodge before he even joined the Masons. He rose to become Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows in Arkansas. Pike used the fraternal knowledge he gained in Odd Fellowship, and applied it to Freemasonry. Pike said: "A Freemason should be a man of honor and conscience, preferring his duty to everything else, even his life; independent in his opinions and of good morals; submissive to the laws, devoted to humanity, his country, and his family; kind and indulgent to his brethren, friend of all virtuous men, and ready to assist his fellows by all means in his power."

The All-Seeing-Eye as noted above, dates from Antiquity. It has been used as a symbolic REFERENCE TO DEITY (not a substitute for The Deity) by ancient Buddhists, Hindus, Jews, and early Christians. It is older than Osiris, Horus, or Moses. However, its routine use as a symbol for the All-Seeing Omnipotence and Omnipresence of Almighty God is a relatively recent application. Oddly enough, it appears to have been adopted by Rosicrucians; later adopted and promulgated by the Roman Catholic Church, and thence introduced into Craft Masonry. Fr. Christian Rosenkreutz (born 1378 /died 1484), the founder of our Rosicrucian Society was himself a Catholic Monk.

For many Centuries, various Popes of The Roman Catholic Church have minted Papal States Coins and later Vatican Coins, usually made from precious-metals such as gold silver or copper. Various Bishops some centuries ago, minted their own Bishopric coins in the same manner. Some Popes had a fairly lenient attitude toward Masonry; while other Popes were misinformed and had an erroneous or biased view toward the Fraternity. Yet, I find highly ironic that some Popes still found honor and dignity in utilizing the Masonic/Rosicrucian symbol of "the All-Seeing Eye of Almighty God". Not too long ago, I came across an old coin, a one taler = One Dollar coin, issued by the Bishop of Eichstatt, Germany in the year 1781. It features the All-Seeing-Eye of Almighty God within a Triangle (the Delta being another reference to Deity) with sun-rays of Light bursting outward from the Triangle to the citizens and buildings of the City depicted at the bottom of the coin itself. Note the year, 1781. Several "papal bulls" or pronouncements against the fraternity of Freemasonry were issued by some of the misguided pontiffs. Yet, I found it humorous (and eye-opening) (bad pun) that the All-Seeing Eye symbol was still honored by some (some) Roman Catholic Bishops in the modern era. By that year, the United States of America was already in-existence. And, we all know that the classic "All-Seeing-Eye of Almighty God" still appears on our current On Dollar Bill paper currency of The United States of America.

The Masonic Grand Lodge of Kentucky, in its "Monitor", states that The All-Seeing Eye "is emblematic of the sun, by whose light we are enabled to see, and which itself looks down from the midst of heaven and beholds all things. In like manner, Masons have emblematically represented the omniscience of The Great Architect of the Universe (Almighty God)."

In comparable fashion, one of the Stained-glass windows in The Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church at Beloit, Kansas, has an image of the All-Seeing Eye of Almighty God, enclosed by a Triangle.

The more things change; the more they stay the same in a lot of ways. May Almighty God continue to bless The United States of America and may HIS Divine Eye of Providence look down and guide us in ALL of our honorable and laudable undertakings. So Mote It Be.





1 Taler 1781 Bistum Eichstatt



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GEORGE ALENCHERRY
MAJOR ARCHBISHOP OF ERNAKULAM-ANGAMALY

March 15, 2012

Sir James A. Marples, KHS
P.O. Box 1542
Longview, Texas 75606
U. S. A.

Dear Sir James A. Marples,

I thank you very much for your good will and generosity in congratulating me on this occasion when the Holy Father has created me a cardinal. It is a new mission for me to participate closely with the Holy Father in the pastoral governance of the Church. Kindly pray for me so that I may carry out all the responsibilities attached to my office for the good of the Church.

Wishing you a joyful Easter and with best regards,

Your sincerely in Our Lord,

+George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop of Ernakulam-Angamaly

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Sources / Recommended Readings / Exhibits:

- Year 1781 Eichstatt Bistum (bishopric) One Taler = One Dollar Coin featuring the All-Seeing Eye or "Eye of Providence" within a Triangle , bestowing Almighty God's Blessings on the City below.
 - Grand Lodge of Kentucky Masons, "Monitor".

- Morals and Dogma by Albert Pike, 33° and a Knight Templar. Page 113.

- Personal visits by Frater James A. Marples to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Beloit, Mitchell County, Kansas.

- Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry, by Dr. Albert G. Mackey, M.D., 33° and a Knight Templar. Origins of the All-Seeing Eye in Antiquity as representative of God or Deity.

About the Author:

Frater James A. Marples, VII° is a Perpetual Life Member of Mulvane Masonic Lodge #201 A.F. & A.M. in Mulvane, Kansas. Brother Jim is an Honorary Member of Golden Rule Lodge #562 in Willard, Ohio; and also an Honorary Member of Nelson Lodge #77 in Nelson, Nebraska. He is a Life Member of the El Dorado Kansas York Rite Bodies; The Lincoln Nebraska Scottish Rite Bodies; The Robert-the-Bruce Association (California); The George Washington Masonic Stamp Club; The Masonic Order of the Gordian Knot (Indiana); The International Peace Gardens Lodge of Freemasons (Canada-USA); The Masonic Order of the Sword of Bunker Hill; Kentucky Chapter #134 of National Sojourners, Heroes of '76; North Texas York Rite College at Sherman, Texas; and Nebraska College S.R.I.C.F.

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

Aside from Masonry, Brother Jim is also a member and Past Presiding Officer (Past Noble Grand) of Greenwich Lodge #587 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F. Lodge) at Greenwich, Kansas.

