

# WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FREEMASONRY

## PART I—AN HISTORICAL SKETCH

I have addressed the question of education in an earlier lesson, insisting that there is no education without indoctrination. The doctrine taught by the teacher, along with his work of assisting his charges to educate themselves, may be good or it may be evil. Most often it will be a blend of the two. Among the elements of evil indoctrination ingested by students at the hands of their teachers are elements derived from the protocols of Freemasonry.

So, just what is Freemasonry ? To answer the question we must first set forth a snapshot of history beginning with the high point of Catholicism, the religion which is the fount and origin of social life in our modern world, distorted and disfigured though it has been by many factors.

- 13<sup>th</sup> Century - the High Middle Ages
  - St Francis of Assisi
  - St Dominic
  - St Thomas Aquinas and his philosophy which developed that of Aristotle and provided the foundations of sacred theology
  - Gothic architecture, St Denis, Nôtre Dame de Paris, Chartres, Amiens, Rheims
  
- 14<sup>th</sup> Century - an age of chaos in the Church
  - the 'Babylonian captivity' of the popes in Avignon from 1305-1378 resolved by the intervention of St Catherine of Siena
  - the poisonous philosophy of William of Occam († 1349) Renaissance ]
  - the proto-protestantism of John Wycliffe († 1384) in England ]
  - election of Pope Urban VI who antagonised the clergy and moved the cardinals to ]
    - reject him, precipitating the *Great Schism* with 3 men claiming to be the ]
    - true Pope. ]
- 15<sup>th</sup> Century the *Great Schism* is resolved at the *Council of Constance* 1415 ]
- the proto-protestantism of Jan Hus († 1415) in Czechoslovakia ]
- 16<sup>th</sup> Century - the age of revolt in the Church ]
  - Martin Luther († 1546) - rejects the authority of the Church and of the Pope ]
  - Henry VIII († 1547) abandoning his wife, Catherine of Aragon, in favour of his ]
    - mistress, Anne Boleyn, joins Luther in rejecting Pope's authority and ]
    - purports to assume the headship of the Church in England ]
  - Martyrdom of John Cardinal Fisher & Sir Thomas More, and many others ]
  - Attempted restoration of Catholic order by Queen Mary († 1558) & Reginald ]
    - Cardinal Pole († 1558) ]
  - Resumption of Protestantism by Elizabeth, illegitimate daughter of Henry VIII ]
    - († 1603) and the martyrdom of innumerable priests, religious and laity, ]
    - who refused to take the blasphemous Protestant oaths ]
- 17<sup>th</sup> Century - philosophy is turned on its head
  - Francis Bacon († 1626), René Descartes († 1650)

	Enlightenment	]
18 <sup>th</sup> Century	- the age of 'Enlightenment'	]
	appearance of Freemasonry 1717	]
	Jean-Jacques Rousseau † 1778 - confused <i>the natural</i> and <i>the voluntary</i>	]
	Voltaire (F M Arouet) † 1778 - attacked organised religion	]
	Joseph II, <i>Holy Roman Emperor</i> († 1790) who sought to reduce the Church to a	]
	department of state, closed religious houses, abolished seminaries while	]
	he established new ones where the clergy were trained in anti-papal	]
	doctrine. He turned marriage into a civil contract, ordered funerals	]
	without coffins or the traditional ceremonies and, when Pope Pius VI	]
	visited him to attempt personal negotiation, treated him with contempt	]
	<i>French Revolution</i> 1789, in which the spirit of atheism fostered by Freemasonry	]
	sought to remake the world in a Godless setting, altering the very	]
	structure of the week, names of months & reckoning of years without	]
	reference to the date of Christ's birth.	]
	Rise of Napoleon Bonaparte	
19 <sup>th</sup> Century	- Napoleon's dominance of post-revolutionary France, of Europe and of the	
	Pope and bishops of the Church	
	Napoleon defeated at Trafalgar 1805	
	Napoleon defeated at Waterloo 1815	
	Charles Darwin († 1882) applies the philosophy of evolution of Herbert Spencer	
	(† 1903) to provide apparent vindication of the atheistic belief system.	
20 <sup>th</sup> Century	- age of world wars	
	World War I 1914-1918	
	World War II 1939-1945	

Faith in God is of two varieties, human and divine. Human faith derives from man and has only human authority to support it. It is a function of the individual, and is as various as men are—*quot homines, tot sententiae*. Divine faith, in contrast, has its source in God, and is one, the same in all its adherents.

God is not merely something in which a man believes. He is real and produces real effects as any intellectual being, any person, does. In addition to the obvious ones of keeping men in existence, providing them via nature with all that is needed for earthly life, God communicates with those who accept His revelation, who embrace the institution He has established on earth for their salvation, the Catholic Church. This communication manifests itself in the faith He gives them. Divine faith is a virtue, a habit of mind, in the believer *whose source is God Himself*, a gift which He nourishes with the believer's cooperation.

The faith of the Protestant is simply one of innumerable varieties of human faith, demonstrated by the great number of Protestant sects, as by the disagreements over what is to be believed among their members. The Protestant revolt sundered Catholics from divine faith to merely human faith. Those who abandoned Christ's Church and His vicar on earth, the Pope, lost that divine gift, "the pearl of great price" and, together, lost all memory of what it was they had once possessed. God's authority was replaced by Martin Luther's authority, or Henry Tudor's, or John Calvin's or any of their

innumerable successors. What God had revealed was picked over by these seditionaries to see what they found acceptable—and what not.

What they ended with, each of them, was something of their own devising.

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