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# **From Whence We Came**

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## Introduction

**D**URING my ten years tenure in the Masonic Order (Prince Hall), I have found myself asking the question: How is Freemasonry truly relevant to the Black man? To some degree it is, but very vague. Freemasonry is indeed European in structure, yet its precepts and concepts are extracted by way of Africa. The institution itself is a bastardization of the true Masonic institution, which resides in Africa.

This work is not intended to be antagonistic, because the writer knows that this issue is a sensitive and personal issue for brothers; it is a personal issue for the writer as well. Therefore in no way this work can be shown as having any bias view regarding this important subject matter. This writer maintains an objective viewpoint, which allows the reader of this work and the author to be more open with self and honest with what is occurring with the movement of Black Freemasonry in America.

In this essay, I will make a comparison of the structure of Freemasonry and the Mystery System of Ancient Africa. I will examine their similarities and their differences. A review of the history of Ancient Africa and its educational system, which is commonly called the Mystery System and explain the origins of some of the philosophies and initiatory practices of the Masonic Order in relation to Africa.

Since the African's enslavement, the European oppressor has shaped the African's reality through imagery. The way the African think, the food and diet one have, the deity the African worships and his and her basic lifestyle has been based on an Euro centric perspective. This author projects the 'Monkey see, Monkey do' concept. What does this concept means? The monkey or any member of the primate group has a tendency of imitating that which it sees. It seems to be humorous when one sees this type of activity

from a creature as such, but it becomes less humorous when the African have so-called black institutions. These so-called black institutions are synonymous with institutions for blacks rather than institutions of blacks. The former represents a lack of freedom of expression from an Afro-centric perspective and the latter represents freedom of expression through an Afro-centric perspective. These so-called black institutions have imitated the European model. The two most influential institutions within the African community are churches and fraternal organizations.

The church has been the first institution, which has kept the African people perpetuating the concept. Many of us believed that God is white and were taught that God is white. In many of African people's home it is not uncommon to see a portrait of Jesus depicted as a white man. When sermons are given based on characters in the Holy Bible (derived from the Greek term Helios Biblios meaning 'Book of Sun Worship') many cannot deny that the first image of these characters in one's mind was that of a white man or woman. Through European religious ideology, the African justify his, or her passivity and make excuses for not making the true changes in the African's condition. Why? The African was indoctrinated during slavery with the propaganda that served the European's best interest and not the African.

The second institution is the fraternal organizations among Africans in America, which is the focal point of this book. These fraternal organizations are micro societies, which embraces ideologies through a system of morality. What is most common with most black fraternal organizations are that they share the same values.

What are some of these values?

1. They embrace the European Christian theology doctrine.
2. They embrace the concept of being loyal to the country (United States).
3. A process in which to select members who will perpetuate the organizations interests.
4. While expressing some thoughts on the continent of Africa, their main focus is towards the Western world.

This structure is no different from a white supremacist group. The only difference with the black groups is that they pay deference to the oppressor and murderers of the African people.

The history and legacy of our beloved Founder Prince Hall is very rich; for the man himself was more than a fraternal leader, but an activist and revolutionist of his time. This organization seeks to add to its tenure a new century to the two, which already came into fruition. In order for this to end in fruition, the brotherhood must begin to look at our history more critically and the movements that have been made through time by the fraternity. It is no question that these activities of the Prince Hall Masonic fraternity are interwoven within the African experience during our MAAFA (disaster). However, many of the decisions made and acted upon have not been the best choices for the liberation of our people.

Too many within our ranks have been collaborators with those who have oppressed us and contributed primarily to the horrible condition of the African in America and even the fraternity has too collaborated with the enemy as well. The author examines the history of Prince Hall and African Lodge. In addition, special attention is given to the philosophy of Freemasonry, its true African origins and how it should be expressed in our brotherhood. Several questions are raised in this book:

1. What are the origins of Freemasonry?
2. What was the intent of Prince Hall and the fourteen brothers who were initiates into European construct known as Freemasonry?
3. Did the organization abandon the concept of African Lodge?

This essay is not to glorify the Prince Hall Fraternity 100% and I present a challenge to all brothers of this fraternity to become critical thinkers, critical

analyzers and to become revolutionists as our Founders were during their lifetime. The first step to revolution is to be honest with oneself and to become more accountable to our people. The main question that one must ask is 'Whence Came You?'

## **The Mystery System**

**T**HIS system was divided into two levels, which were exoteric and esoteric. The level, which was exoteric, was the general education that everyone in Kush, Kemet (Egypt), and Nubia were afforded. The level, which was esoteric, was the hidden mysteries, or a secret knowledge that led the initiate to higher state of consciousness. There education consisted of medicine, mathematics, geometry, music, land surveying, trade and commerce and other disciplines as well. These disciplines were applied to all areas of human endeavor. These two forms were found in seven degrees.

Pastophoros is the degree, which teaches basic aspects of medicine and includes all known and unknown sciences. It deals with one physical nature. This degree has influenced the Entered Apprentice because it is said that the left side of the human body is the weakest and it was therefore that the entered apprentice was in the weakest form.

The initiate advances to the degree of Neocoros, which teaches the structural energy of shapes particularly in 'geometry'. For example, a milk carton has a pyramid shape and possesses the ability to slow down the organic degradation of organic materials. The tekenu, or obelisk represents the male and female principles, which continues mankind. It also expresses divine characteristics such as the square, which is the symbol that is suspended around the neck of Ptah, and is the throne of Ausar. The circle is the representation of the sun, which is the life giver and depicts Ra in this form. In all, geometry represents

continuity and generation of life.

The initiate then advances to the next degree known as Melanophoros and it teaches about the energy forces between life and death states. This degree is directed to the indigenous people because of their high melanin content. Melanin is a word derived from the Greek word melanos, which means 'black'. Melanin is a carbon base molecule and carbon is the key atom to life, which is black itself.

It represents universal and unlimited power. Melanin can convert energy into other forms for proper use. It is divine law that everything that exists comes from out of the blackness of the cosmos. From the blackness of the water comes life; out of the blackness of the earth comes forth the plants of the world, which in turn gives other life sustenance; from the blackness of a woman's womb comes human life and from the blackness of black woman's womb comes the human race. This degree involves the theology of life, death, resurrection and immortality through the Ausirian Drama, which deals with Ausar's or Osiris' (which he was known as 'Lord of the Perfect Black') life, death, resurrection and immortality. This degree is where the Hiram Legend is extracted.

The next degree is Kistophorus, which involves understanding the inherent laws of plants, music, colors, magnets, metals and crystals and other elements of the cosmos. It is in this degree, Pythagoras during his learning in Kemet, understood the 'Music of the Spheres', which he in turned implemented among his initiates into his cult and the Fellow craft is taught about the inherent laws of the elements as well.

Balahate is the degree, which teaches about the interactions of alchemic laws and nature. This degree is not so much based on the physical plane, but on a metaphysical where like in Freemasonry, working tools or substances becomes allegory and takes on a spiritual use.

The sixth degree is Astronomos, which teaches manipulation of cosmic forces.

The seventh and last degree is Propheta, which teaches the esoteric mysteries and secret theology within the priesthood (brotherhood), which lead the initiate of this degree to deification. The duration is 40 years or more, which begins at the age of seven and completed at the age of forty- seven.

### Operative and Speculative: There Is No Separation

One must enter on seven degrees and not three. The Mason can see that one degree alone cannot teach the Arts and Sciences. The Mason or architect was both operative and speculative from an African perspective. Both aspects were intertwined with no separation of the two. To be a Mason of speculative is just that, one who observes and contemplates without action. They speculate and do not make applicable the precepts, which are in the state of conception.

The operative Mason works, but must have guidance through focus and understanding of his or her purpose for working. The pyramids of Giza were built by physical mathematical laws but by cosmic laws as well. Each monument on the Giza Plateau are aligned to the stars in Orion's Belt, which represents Ausar (Osiris) and Her-Em-Akhet or the Sphinx as commonly called, is situated east and west, which the sun itself makes its course. It gazes in the sky at its reflection represented by the constellation of Leo, which also represents Heru (Horus) the son of Ausar and in turn, Heru looks towards his father Ausar.

Symbolically, Heru is the resurrection of Ausar and spiritually he is Ausar's perpetuation of immortality of the soul. Freemasonry adopts the Lion's Paw as the Master's grip because it alludes to the first Black God of Resurrection. The pyramids are triangular in form, which possesses the geometrical energy force of sustaining life. It also represents Deity, which Freemasonry uses this symbol in all degrees from the first to the last.

## **The African Grand Lodge of Wase't, & The Curriculum**

**D**R. GEORGE G.M. JAMES and Dr. Yosef Ben Jochannon world gives their perspective on Freemasonry and Ancient African educational and spiritual systems. In *Stolen Legacy* by James, he speaks on the Ancient African Grand Lodge of Wase't (known today as Luxor). It was called the Ipet-Isut and the Osirica, which was the center of higher education for students around the world. The Greeks who were students of the Kemites (Egyptians) were only permitted to enter Kemet for the purpose of their educational pursuits. These by these Greek initiates of the African Mystery School established the temples in Greece. Euclid established a lodge at Megara, Pythagoras at Crotona, the Orphic temple of Delphi and the schools by Plato and Aristotle.

According to James, none of the Greeks had created their own philosophy, but imitated that, which was handed to them by the Kheri-Heb (Hierophants or High Priest) of Kemet via the Mysteries. The Ipet-Isut had dominion over all lodges that existed around the world. Unlike King Solomon's Temple, the Ipet-Isut still stands in Wase't at this present time.

The temples of Kemet were surrounded with pillars, which were endowed with the constellations and zodiac signs referring to the cycles of the planets. The temple itself was Assimilating the universe. The ritual states, that the 'covering' of a Lodge is no more than a cloudy canopy or the starry decked heavens where all good Masons hope to ascend'. The ceilings depicted the heavens and the ground floor was depicted like a plateau, or the green of the earth. The temple had outer and inner courts with two obelisks in front of the pylon and with a place known as the 'Holy of Holies', which only the Kheri-Heb could enter into the sacred place.

When speaking on the 'Form of a Lodge', symbolically alluding to the charity of a Mason, we find no other example more fitting than that of King Amasis of Kemet, who in 548 B.C.E. contributed to the rebuilding of the Temple of Delphi after it was destroyed by the Greeks. The Greeks who embraced the institution, went to King Amasis asking for aid and as Grand Master, he donating three times the amount of funds needed for the project and in addition, gave 50,000lbs of alum. This was a pure example of Universal Brotherhood.

Dr. James writes about the educational curriculum of Kemet, which goes into more detail about their learning. This curriculum is very similar to the learning process of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason.

## **Arts and Sciences**

*There were three major components:*

*A. The Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences*

*B. Secret Systems of Languages and Mathematical Symbolism*

### *C. Magic*

**T**HE NEOPHYTE was purified through the Rhetoric, Logic, Grammar, Arithmetic, Geometry, Music and Astronomy. They were critiqued by their moral efficiency and intellectual competency by these disciplines. The writing system used came in two forms, which were demotic and the medu neter (hieroglyphs). The first was used for the purpose trade and commerce. The latter was used to conceal the secret teachings of their doctrines. The Priests were the only ones who used this particular writing system according to James. The African Mystery System of Kemet employed a language, which only the initiated understood.

This language was comprised of myths and parables and a secret form of language known as Senzar. Numbers were used as substitutes for words and letters.

This particular symbolism was found in the 42 Books Djihuti, which will be discussing momentarily. Magic was part of the educational system. One should note that the magic, which was practiced, was not in the European sense, but regarding the manipulation of nature both human and non-human through science such as hypnosis, prophecy and manipulation of the natural forces.

### **42 Books of Djihuti**

**I**NITIATES were afforded the opportunity to specialize in a particular field. There were six Holy Orders of the Priesthood based on the 42 Books of Djihuti, which the initiate could pursue.

Odus was the first order, which two books were dedicated to Music. The second was Horoscopus and four books were dedicated to Astronomy. Hierogrammat had known the Medu Neter, Cosmography, Geography, Astronomy, Topography of Kemet and Surveying of land.

The Stolistes dealt with the slaughter of animals and embalming.

The Prophetes presided over the temple and had to know ten books, which dealt with the secret theology and the education of priests.

Pastophori must know six books, which dealt with medicine, pharmacology, medical instruments, anatomy and physiology and diseases.

## **Sciences of the Monuments**

**I**N this curriculum, one must understand the science in building the Pyramids, Temples, Obelisks, Sphinxes and Idols. The skills that were employed were the following:

1. Architecture
2. Masonry
3. Carpentry
4. Engineering
5. Sculpture
6. Metallurgy
7. Agriculture
8. Mining
9. Forestry
10. Art (i.e. Drawing and Painting)

The Secret Sciences

Numerical symbolism (i.e., 3,5,7)

Sacred geometry (i.e., Pythagoras Theorem)

Magic

The Book of Pert Em Heru (i.e. Transmigration of the Soul) Allegory (i.e., Ausirian Drama, Ground Floor, Middle Chamber, or the legend of Hiram Abiff)

## The Social Order and Its Protection

The Priests of Kemet were involved with every field of human endeavor such as lawyers, judges, officials of government, businessmen, military, statistics, manufacturers and a numerous of other fields.

The Priesthood was equivalent to the Masonic Brotherhood, which exist today and the Mystery Schools were the Masonic Lodges of the present. The Masonic degrees attained by the Entered Apprentice, Fellow craft and Master Mason are increments of knowledge intermingled with science, philosophy and theology or religion. The organization is a microcosm of society itself. The organization has several components, which makes it a society:

1. Economic Structure (i.e., Membership dues and taxes)
2. Political Structure (i.e., Hierarchy within the government such as a Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, District Deputy Grand Master, Worshipful Master)
3. Rules and Regulations (i.e., Constitution and Bylaws)
4. Moral and Ethical Structure (i.e., Standard of conducts towards members)
5. Religious Structure (i.e., Religion in this sense meaning a re-linking to that Divine force, which is parallel with the force within the individual via philosophy of Freemasonry)

Every member of the Craft is charged with the duty of serving his fellowman in some form of fashion, which is beneficial not only to the organization, but

to society as a whole.

## **The Mother Grand Lodge of the World: Africa**

**T**HE oldest university in the world was the Grand Lodge of Wase't (English terminology). It was here that 80,000 students would attend this institution of higher learning. Unlike King Solomon's Temple, about 80% of the ancient structure remains intact. There were two major structures that comprise the Grand Lodge; that is the Shemayit-Ipet, which is referred to as the Temple of Luxor and the Ipet-Isut also known as the Temple of Karnak.

The Ipet-Isut means 'the holiest of places', which was measured to be 338 feet in width and 170 feet in length. It was comprised of 136 columns of 16 rows. Connected by a row of 2,000 sphinxes was the Shemayit-Ipet meaning 'the southern place'. This portion of the Grand Lodge was dedicated to the goddess Mut but rededicated to Amen.

There is no difference in rededicating a temple of the Kemites than rededicating temples from King Solomon to the two St. John's. There were additions made to the building by Amenhotep III (ca. 1380 B.C.E.) and User-Maat- Ra- Septep-En-Ra-Ramessau Meri Amen (Ramses II).

## **Subordinate Lodges of the Osirica**

**T**HE OSIRICA, which was based in Waset, or Luxor, was the Mother Grand Lodge of the World prior to the so-called Mother Grand Lodge of the World in England. It had subordinate bodies situated in Africa,

Asia, Europe and the Islands. Here a list of some of the Lodges of the Grand Lodges of Waset:

1. Mount Carmel (Palestine)
2. Mount Lebanon (Syria)
3. Media (Near the Red Sea)
4. Babylon (Tigris and Euphrates Valley)
5. The Ganges (India)
6. Burma
7. Athenian Lodge (Greece)
8. Rome
9. Croton
10. Rhodes
11. Delphi
12. Miletus
13. Cyprus
14. Corinth
15. Crete
16. Kush (within the City of Axum of Ethiopia)
17. Zimbabwe (Monomotapa)
18. Punt (Somalia)
19. Khart Haddas (Carthage)
20. Numidia
21. Mauritis
22. Kongo

## **Pupils of the African Mystery System**

**A**CCORDING to Dr. Yosef Ben Jochannan, in Africa, Mother of Western Civilization, he states that Solomon was initiated in the Lodge of Mount Carmel and so was Jesus and each served as 'Entered Apprentices' and Solomon completed his final initiation in the

temple of Khufu. There is no evidence of Jesus completing his initiation and what has been said is that he was a member of the Essenes, which was a group of Gnostics (knower of truth) that were pupils coming out of the African mystery system.

Some well-known Europeans, who are noted in Western philosophy as Icons of intellect, were pupils within the subordinate lodges of Waset. Hippocrates had only stayed in Africa roughly for two years and had the knowledge acquired by him was of the first degree. This also means that their medicine is only based on the general or exoteric information studied within the African educational system. Yet just with that information, he cured an estimate of 3,000 people within his lifetime.

### European Propaganda of the Masonic Ritual

The Masonic ritual of the degrees of Symbolic, York Rite and Scottish Rite are European ideologies that have been derived out of the elements of Africa, but has been distorted to suit their own purposes. The signs and the symbols of the Masonic order have European images, which acts the model for the Masonic principles. The titles or nomenclature for the bodies of degrees such as 'York Rite, or American Rite' and 'Scottish Rite' speaks for themselves. The passwords used in these degrees are of a Hebrew source like 'Shibboleth' and 'Zion'. On many Masonic degree charts particularly in the first degree, one will see the picture of George Washington wearing Masonic regalia and historically, Washington was a slave owner. What place does he have in the Masonic Lodge of Black Masons? How can he be an example of being just and upright? The author in his personal experiences witnesses the look on the initiates face when seeing George Washington on a ritual chart. Why Prince Hall is not on a ritual chart for exemplification?

In all branches of Masonry, it talks about the building of King Solomon

Temple on Mt. Moriah alluded in the bible, which in reality is dealing with the temple of User Maat Ra Septep En Ra Ramessu Meri Amen (RamsesII), which the covenant and the place known as the Holy of Holies are found. A symbol referring to dedication, deals with temples being erected in memory of the two St. Johns (Baptist and Evangelist).

Two perpendicular lines masonically represent these two saints and in the middle of the two lines is a circle with a point in the center of the circle. In actuality, the two lines represents the two principle forces, which are represented as male and female. They are symbolized by the obelisks, which are usually found in pairs.,br>

These pairs reflect the doctrine and law of the 'Union of Opposites', which reveals to the true seeker that everything is the same and at the same time not the same. Each entity is in harmony with one another because of a mutual understanding between the two forces regarding the maintaining and sustaining of each other existence.

The Masonic ritual does not reveal to opposing forces and depicts to individuals of the same sex rather expressing two principles. The Circle with the point in the center is the symbol taken from the Medu Netcher, or hieroglyphs, which represents the Divine and from this Divine providence comes forth the two dualities. Superior to this symbol lays the open book representing the Holy Bible, or the Great Light from a Christian standpoint. The Bible(Christian doctrine) was used as the universal law of man and woman. Was it not the Christian Bible that has been used to justify the African enslavement? Was it not the Bible, or the version, which was created by King James who was a Freemason that murdered his own mother and the people of his country that sits on the altar of Black Masonic lodges as of today? Three major western religions are embedded into the Masonic degrees and they are:

1. Christianity 2. Judaism 3. Islam

It was these three religions that contributed to the African enslavement. All

religious doctrines were used for the African demise by the European Gentile, Jew and Muslim and are used in Masonry to project 'moral' lessons. These lessons are alien to the African and the ritual itself was written and created for the European and to be use by the European only.

## **The Great Light**

**I**N THE RITUAL it states, 'Howsoever men differ in creed or theology, all good men are agreed that within the covers of the Holy Bible are found these principles of morality which lay the foundations upon which to build a righteous life. Freemasonry therefore, opens this book upon its altar with command to each of its votaries that he diligently stay therein to learn the way to everlasting life.' The term 'Holy Bible' is derived from the Greek term 'Helios Biblos', which means 'Book of Sun Worship' and it is this particular meaning out of Africa dealing with the worship of Amen-Ra who was represented by the Sun. If one would notice that at the closing of devotions whether it is Christian, Jew, or Muslim, one will exclaim 'Amen'.

The Great Light for the African was found in the Pert Em Heru 'Coming Forth By Day' and the Papyrus of Ani. The Great Light is also found in Odu text of the Yoruba, or the Ifa, which is still one of the oldest African spiritual systems still in existence. Are these sacred volumes found on the altar of Freemasonry among the Black lodges? No and never will. Why? Because through the Africans' enslavement he and she was forced to learn the way in which the European wanted them to learn and over generations, Africans

accepted the Holy Bible of the European over their African systems of belief.

The Holy Bible was based on the African codes of morality. The so-called Ancient Landmarks of Freemasonry are of no antiquity, when one speaks of the African Ancient Landmarks known as the Laws of MA'AT, which deals with balance, order, righteousness, reciprocity, harmony, law and truth. Look at yourself Black Mason! See how you have become more of a slave than a man that is 'freeborn'. None of the Grandmasters of Africa wore top hats and tails. None of the members of the true 'Craft' was dropped by its membership for not paying its dues by a currency with some dead white man picture on it. All these immoral and European practices are what the Black man and woman have institutionalized, which are leading to self-degradation.

### **Moving To A New Level**

**T**HE AFRICAN man and Mason should not be content with just being Speculative, which is one who philosophies and speculate but does nothing. The African Mason needs to be more operative, which is making use of that he speculates. What good does it do us, as Freemasons to just know what Geometry, Arithmetic, Astronomy, Music, Logic, Grammar and Rhetoric when there is no active use among its members? The true African since antiquity understood these arts and sciences in holistic terms and how it related to self and by doing so this made man whole.

The Masonic lodges should be used as a place of learning for our children and the community abroad. The Mason, if truly a 'Son of Light', should be the teacher of those who are in desperate need of our assistance. It is not enough to have an annual banquets and writing checks to some so -called worthy cause. It is not enough to show our faces at PIC-NICS, or assembling

at a funeral of a deceased brother. Our time needs to be invested more wisely in the African community and a new vision must emerge to the surface on a consistent basis for the progress of the membership and African people abroad.

The acquiring of land should be a major focus among the fraternity. To make use of that land for the community should be the next immediate focus of the organization (i.e., market plaza, training facilities for skilled trades).

## **The System of Freemasonry**

**T**HE EFFORT made to prove one's legitimacy is made in vain. Neither the European, nor the Prince Hall Masonic fraternity is legitimate in nature. The Europeans are not a legitimate body because of the theft of the African spiritual concepts, which they have not given proper recognition to that, which brought them into existence and that being the teachings of the Osirica, or the Ipet-Isut commonly known as the Grand Lodge of Luxor (Wase't).

Since Prince Hall falls under the European Masonic system, they too have opted for bastardization. The system of Freemasonry practice and dominated by the Europeans is a cover, and cloaks the system of white supremacy and domination of the world. Its system of 'Morality' that is veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols shows nothing but contempt for the African race. Napoleon who was a Freemason as well, disfigured the face of the ancient African monument called the Sphinx, but is truly known as Her-Em-Akhet (which means 'Heru on the Horizon') by shooting the nose off its face. George Washington who was the so-called founding father of the United States was a Freemason, who owned and sold slaves. Another founding father

was Benjamin Franklin who was also a Freemason and made this statement regarding Africans:

, 'Why increase the sons of Africa, by planting them in America, where we have so fair an opportunity, by excluding all blacks and tawnys, or increasing the lovely white and red?'

The Masonic lodges were meeting places for the aristocratic intellectuals in Germany, France and Great Britain. It has been constructed for the purpose of geo political activities. The Masons (European) were heavily involved with the Boston Tea Party in 1773. Many Prince Hall Masons believed that they were looking for the Charter of African Lodge. This is the reason for understanding history as a whole one can see how information can be misleading. If the Boston Tea Party took place in 1773 and Prince Hall and his 14 brethren were initiated in 1775, how could they have possibly been looking for the charter if the charter was not issued until 1784 and was not received until 1787? The European Masons were involved directly with the Revolutionary War in 1776 as well as the Masons of African Lodge. The Declaration of Independence was masonically written.

The Holy Bible that was derived from King James who was also a Mason commissioned scholars to write his 'version' of the Bible. Poor people and women were not permitted to read it and if caught were put to death. This occurred in 1611, which was 56 years after the African slave trade began. This book is the same so-called sacred volume that rest on the altar of Masonic lodges in the Black Freemason's lodge. King James was a sexual deviant (homosexual), and he had his own mother put to death. This is very disturbing.

The structure of the United States' government was masonically structure. The three branches of government Legislature, Executive and Judicial correspond to the duties of the three principal officers of the Masonic Lodge. The Worshipful Master governs like the legislative branch, the Senior Warden

enforces the government like the executive branch and the Junior Warden oversees the conduct of its member and acts as prosecutor like the judicial branch, which interprets and prosecutes citizens of the country for misconduct.

## **Masonry As a Status Symbol**

**I**T IS THIS writer intent to cause the Mason when reading this section, to think. It has been said, 'Make a man think he thinks and he will love you; Make a man think and he will hate you.' Hatred will probably be aroused, for it is the duty and obligation to make the Mason think.

Freemasonry is composed of legends and tales, which does not identify with the African. It is only in the first three degrees one study his work depending upon the guidance he will receive from those who are supposed to be his teachers. All other degrees within Masonry are honorary and are strictly synthetic European rhetoric. They offer no more to the candidate of the so-called higher degrees than the first three degrees had provided.

It becomes a status symbol when you are a Royal Arch, Knights Templar, or 32nd Degree Mason. The only difference in bearing these titles is the more money one will spend. In these particular houses, the initiation rites of these degrees are sometimes conducted once a month or in a two-day period. After all is said and done, no one comes out with any true knowledge just a title.

In a book called, 'A Study Guide of the Scottish Rite Degrees', a brother speaks on the matter regarding the attainment of these degrees and he states, , ' Although I was grateful that it was all over, and that I was a thirty-second degree mason, deep inside I felt a void; I had received twenty-nine degrees about which I knew absolutely nothing.' He goes on to say, , 'We are still cramming twenty-nine degrees into a two-day weekend on as many Master Masons as will agree to pay the fee.' When this writer petitioned for the 32nd, I had ask a brother 'what so special about the Scottish Rite (32nd)?' and he said, 'It is the crème de la crème of Masonry.' Through the years, this writer began seeing what brothers were really going for and that was social prestige and distinction. Not just distinction from the masses of Africans, but from other Masons who were not in those particular circles. What does this mean? It means that certain avenues that was afforded to the Royal Arch, Knight Templars, 32nd and Shriner, was not afforded to the so-called brother of the lower degrees. In the Royal Arch, brothers who are of this degree will comment by saying, 'You're not a real Master Mason until you become part of the Royal Arch and receive the true word of a Master Mason.' This only instills that a brother of the three degrees are inadequate and it causes one to seek higher status within the Masonic Fraternity. Lets discuss this 'true' word briefly, and see why the Royal Arch is just as inadequate as the Master Mason.

The word in the Royal Arch is called 'Jahbelon', which is supposedly the sacred name of God. The name is composed of three parts and is derived from Hebrew, Phoenician and Egyptian and each component is a name for God. The word could not have possibly been of any antiquity for the simple fact that the letter 'J' has only been in use for 500 years, which was introduced in the Latin script to substitute for the letter 'I'.

In Hebrew, The letter 'Y' replaced the letter 'I'. Second point is that the third portion 'On' is not the name of Deity, but of a city in Wase't of Kemet, which was known by the Greeks as Heliopolis, or 'City of the Sun'. The word 'God' is a Germanic word, which means, 'mighty man'. The Germans were not in

existence at the time of the Hebrew, Phoenician, nor Kamites. Most importantly, from a metaphysical standpoint, these words are from human discourse and that deity is composed of many attributes, which the Deity of the Kemites (Egyptians) was portrayed. The Royal Arch speaks of the name being a four-lettered name using the letters Y.H.V.H. (Jehovah). This in the writer's opinion expresses a particular religion that is emphasized as universal.

The degrees of the 'higher' orders are basically repetitious in its lessons. If the candidate did not comprehend the work of the first three degrees, they are forced upon his consciousness in different manner with constant use of symbolism and allegory. One example is the beehive. The beehive is found in the Third, or Master Mason degree and teaches about being industrious. One can find this same lesson and work in the 22nd degree of the Scottish Rite known as the Royal Axe of Libanus. These degrees are innovative and are not part of the original 360 degrees of knowledge found in Africa. This means that not only do the Black Mason have less than fourth part of a circle, but he has increments of information that are synthetic and of no antiquity to the African.

The obligations taken are impossible to comply with when one does not comprehend the work of each degree in its entirety. In the Scottish rite, in a two-day ceremony, a series of signs, grips and words are given to the candidate and when all is said and done, he is none the wiser. So what is left to gain? There is nothing to truly gain, but prestige and status. Many of the 33rd degree masons are made up of professional men such as judges, doctors, political figures and others who are in the so-called middle class society. Very few members who are not of this status receive this degree even though the 33rd degree is an honorary degree that is given to a brother who has went beyond the call of duty in the organization and in the community. In the south this degree is given to the candidate who can afford to pay for it.

## African Symbolism and Freemasonry

**M**ANY of the stolen African spiritual concepts were interwoven within the European construct of Freemasonry. Freemasonry is exactly what it is; free from the true Masonic principles, which originated out of Africa. So what the Europeans have is a poor imitation of African educational and spiritual system. Symbolism used in freemasonry is similar to symbolism of Africa, but it's meaning is distorted and concealed under other interpretations by the European,s thought process.

Left Foot. For instance, a candidate of the first degree is taught to advance on his left foot first. Why? European say that the left is the weakest side of the human body and it is the neophyte who enters into weakest part of Masonry, however from its original concept out of Africa; one advances on the left foot to trample upon evil so that the heart may go further. This symbolism is found in the Papyrus of Nesi Amsu. In the Ausirian drama, Heru (Horus) each morning when leaving his temple, would advance on his left foot to trample upon the serpent Set who is the personification of evil. Although the serpent represents Set, it also represents the duality of the higher and lower intellect and by trampling upon the serpent one suppresses the lower intellect for gain of the higher intellect.

Cable Tow. Another example is the use of the cable-tow. In each degree, the candidates are bound by a cable-tow either by the neck, arm, or waist. It is used to guide the neophyte through the ceremony and symbolized their dependence on Deity. One can trace this practice in the initiatory rites of Heru, or Amsu. The candidate had one, or seven ropes about the neck and represented the attributes of Heru, or Amsu.

The initiate represents Heru, who have been led through a series of trials of the underworld and emerges as Amsu, the first risen man-God. This rope is a

symbol of power, which leads one from an earthly life to a spiritual one.

Blazing Star. This star in Masonry represents the Divine Providence, which lies in the center of one's life. The star represents the Kemetic star 'Sothos', which represents Divine Providence known as Anpu, or Anubis. This Netcher guides the initiate through the Amenta. It also represent Heru who is the 'Morning Star', or resurrection like the Europeans deemed Jesus as the 'Morning Star' in the Book of Revelations 2:28.

Dr. Yosef A.A. Ben Jochannan who is Kemetologist and grand master teacher among our people, takes many of Africans back to Africa and show 5,000 year old triangles, right angles, horizontals and perpendiculars; dead levels and raising; compasses and squares; cable-tows and aprons.

The Greeks had nothing to contribute to the world abroad that the African have not already given. The Freemasons in the second Masonic degrees contribute architecture to the Greeks and Romans. The Masons speak about how the columns, base and capitals are nine, or ten diameters in height. This is quite absurd to think that the Greeks and Romans originated the Five Orders of Architecture, which were the Doric, Ionic, Corinthian, Tuscan and Composite when out of Africa came the columns of the Palm, Papyrus and Lotus.

These columns were three times and four times larger in diameter than the Greeks. Each of these columns is denoting a specific entity in man. The three African orders represented the physical, mental and spiritual relationship with the Divine. The Freemasons corresponds the five orders with the five human senses:

1. Touching
2. Seeing

3. Hearing
4. Smelling
5. Tasting

There are six senses that are within the human from the African deep thought (philosophy), which corresponds with a fraction of the eye of Heru:

1. Touching
2. Seeing
3. Hearing
4. Smelling
5. Tasting
6. Thought

Each sense representing a mathematical fraction, which brought together forms the whole.

## The Eye of Heru



Udjat

**T**HE Eye of Heru is intertwined with theology, arithmetic and science. It represents the six senses in man and woman, which have been previously explained. Each sense acts a receiver of energy and information, which collaborates with each other sense.

These are the fraction values:

1/64 heqat Touch

1/32 heqat Taste

1/16 heqat Hearing

1/8 heqat Thought

1/4 heqat Sight

1/2 heqat Smell

The 1/64 portion of the eye represents the planting of a stick into the ground. Like planting a stalk that will take root. The Earth represents touch. Planting itself represents physical contact and touching. The 1/32 represents the

sprouting of wheat or grain from the planted stalk. it is the food we put into our mouth, which represents taste. Combining the two, one will have different tastes for the touching of different shapes. Touching is the fundamental sense. 1/16 of the eye represents the ear and it resembles the musical instrument called the horn. When one hears sounds or a combination thereof, this could be pleasing or unpleasing. The sound has a taste for a person, which causes preference. Sound requires the combination of touch and taste. 1/8 represents eyebrows, which expresses one's thoughts. Thought is a combination of touch, taste, and hearing. Thought can be a suppressed sound. The language we think in is like the touch of muscle prior to giving voice. One will have taste for different thoughts. 1/4 portion represents the pupil, and the attribute of this is sight. The pupil senses the light that enters the eye and one does have a taste for the things one sees. The 1/2 portion is represented by the nose, which brings about the sense of smell.

All these fractions or senses form the whole (man and woman) and as the fractions are combined to create the Eye of God, so does these senses in man and woman come together to express the divine attributes within him, or her.

## **The Founder Prince Hall & His Legacy**

**I**N MATTERS of the biography of Prince Hall, historians had pieced together a solid historical background on Prince Hall retrieved by very few records. Many writers went as so far to make extreme assumptions about the Founder. One of the major assumptions was regarding his parents. He was supposedly the son of a European man from England and an African woman of French Extraction. There are no records available to support such a claim. There is a description given by Bro. Harry E. Davis in his book called, *A History Of Freemasonry Among Negroes In America* and in his book Davis states, 'In personal appearance, Hall is described as rather short in stature (5ft., 3in.), fair complexion and slight of build, delicate and almost

effeminate. His head was shapely, his features refined and regular, and his eyes bright and piercing, reflecting the spiritual nature within,' this statement is fictitious for the simple reason that no one truly knows what Prince Hall's actual appearance. Many artists have given their personal perception based on this particular information that was made known and publicized.

In the Boston Athenaeum, on April 12th 1770, William Bentley of Salem described Prince Hall as an ,African and a person of great influence among his color in great Boston.' Another man by the name of William F. Haywood described Prince Hall as being a tall, lean Negro of great dignity. This description totally contradicts the description given by Davis because in most cases 5ft. and 3in. is not considered tall and the portrait that portrays Prince Hall does not reflect any true African traits, or features.

His birth was generally accepted as September 12, 1748, but from his obituary he died at the age of 72 in 1807, which brings his birth to the year of 1735. Yet, in 1795 Belknap who was a historian wrote that he was 57, which bring the year to 1738 as his birth year. The present acceptance of his birth date is 1735 based on his obituary notice.

It is also been stated that he was a free man, but the historian documented Dr. Charles H. Wesley he states that the first records regarding Prince Hall by William Hall in the Boston Athenaeum and his manumission paper was filed in the paper. This documents states:, 'Prince Hall has lived with us 21 years and served us upon all occasions, for which reasons we maturely give him his freedom and that he is no longer to be reckoned a slave, but has been always accounted as a freeman by us, as he has served us faithfully. Upon that account we have given him his freedom. As witness our hands this ninth day of April, 1770.' This clearly shows that Prince Hall was a former slave.

This issue is important among black masons, but at the same time not

because to be a Mason from European rules, one must be freeborn and since Prince Hall was a slave, the Europeans considered the organization spurious, or clandestine in nature.

In matters of this issue not being so important is that, the African man has been socially isolated from the mainstream of society and have been classified as less than human. Therefore, God given rights to the African were denied and had saturated every aspect of his or her life.

To play the Devil's advocate for a moment, one could make the argument that since the Prince Hall Fraternity is under the servitude of European pseudo-Masonic system, and do abide by the so-called Masonic law, customs and traditions laid down by the European, the one can say that the organization is clandestine. The average Prince Hall Mason would raise his eyebrows in this matter for the European based upon their ancient laws and customs confirms his legitimacy.

## **African Lodge**

On March 6, 1775 in Boston, Massachusetts, the following were initiated in an Irish military lodge:

1. Prince Hall
2. Prince Rees
3. Beuston Slinger
4. Cyrus Johnston
5. John Canton
6. Duff Ruform
7. Peter Freeman
8. Benjamin Tiler

9. Thomas Sanderson
10. Prince Rayden
11. Cato Speain
12. Boston Smith
13. Peter Best
14. Forten Howard
15. Richard Titley

The first secular organization outside the black church was the Masonic Order. After their initiation, they were issued a permit to meet as African Lodge No.1. In eight years of operation, the lodge only had the privilege of walking on St. John's Day and to bury the dead with rites, but could not confer Masonic degrees on other black men. Prince Hall had petitioned the American Grand Lodges for a charter to operate under regular conditions, but the American Grand Lodges because of their race rejected them. Prince Hall then petitioned the Grand Lodge of England, which their authority originally came from.

On September 29th, 1784, they were granted a charter but did not receive it until 1787 of the same month and day. They were then constituted as African Lodge No. 459. This name, which was given to them probably, would have led the brotherhood to African liberation because it described their true identity.

As the organization began to grow and develop, its offspring such as the York and the Scottish Rites bodies were given the prefix of African to the Masonic bodies such as African Grand Encampment of Knights Templars, and African Grand Council of the Princes of Jerusalem, which was one of the earliest Scottish Rite bodies among Africans. In this author opinion, Prince Hall and the members of the Black Craft drew their strength from the label identifying them as African. During this time period, Prince Hall had accomplished a great deal for the African community.

## The Original Charter

**T**HIS document is secured in a vault in Massachusetts, as one can see the charter was damaged when a fire occurred in the Masonic Lodge and the Grand Master Kendall at the risk of his own life retrieved the document before it was lost permanently. These Grand Lodges refused the request of Prince Hall to secure a charter. One perspective that have not been explored is that at the time of the issuing of the Charter, it has only been eight years after the war between the American colonies that were formerly under British rule and England itself. Could the Charter have possibly been issued as an incentive to Prince Hall for his allegiance not only to the Grand Lodge, but to England as well? The possibility of the Grand Lodge of England issuing a Charter to Africans as a political move to bring Africans under the country of England to fight by offering them a 'sense' of freedom. All of the American Grand Lodges were under the Grand Lodges of England's jurisdiction and after the War of Independence the American Grand Lodges were re-chartered under its new government. This document is the only document from the Grand Lodge of England that is in the possession of a Masonic Grand Lodge in America.

### The Charter

Issued on September 29, 1784, but was not received until three years later in 1787. African Lodge No.1 became African Lodge No.459 because it was the 459th lodge to be chartered by the Grand Lodge of England.

### African Lodge's Activities

' Throughout history the powers of single black men flash here and there like falling stars, and die sometimes before the world has richly gauged their brightness.' ~ W.E.B. Dubois Member of Widow's Son Lodge No.11

The activities of Freemasonry among Blacks centered itself around three issues, which were the religious institutions (church), slavery and education. In the best interest of African people, Prince Hall and African Lodge made moves, which they considered steps towards liberation. According to traditional history, in 1775 Prince Hall and the members of African Lodge addressed the Committee of Safety and urged the enlistment of African men into the army during the American Revolution and as a result, 5,000 men of African descent were enlisted. Prince Hall was an abolitionist of his time as well. He supposedly protested against slavery and the slave trade.

What are intriguing to this writer are the time period and conditions and status of Africans in America. The African was not even considered to be human for the most part and being that was the case, Prince Hall was trampling on dangerous grounds with the government. When we look at the Civil Rights movement, there was more hostility against the protesting that Africans did and more violence as well.

In matters of Prince Hall not much is mentioned in regards to any incidents regarding any backlash from his public out cry against slavery and the slave trade. In the early writings on the life of Prince Hall, he was termed a radical of his day just like Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, who in more modern times were assassinated for their radical behavior by the government, but one would think that the same action would have been taken against Prince Hall being that there were very few laws that really protected or was beneficial to the African man and woman.

It has also been noted that Prince Hall had founded a school for African children in the Boston community in 1796. This task was achieved through the people by thrift and sacrifice and the building of an economy, which Prince Hall emphasized among the African community.

Many of the activities of African Lodge has not been really brought to the surface other than the most common achievements and services to humanity that traditional history would profess. Here are just a few events of the activities of Masons acting in the spirit of African Lodge:

In 1793, under the leadership of Absalom Jones cared for the victims of the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia.

In 1807, organizations formed by Masons to operate stations of the Underground Railroad in Washington, D.C.

Universal Lodge No.1 in Alexandria, VA orchestrated Rebelious raids. It was during this period that the Prince Hall Masonic Fraternity went underground for 12 years to develop splinter organizations to combat slavery.

The National Grand Lodge that was formed based on the conditions of slavery and was organized as a matter of strict communication between Black Masonic lodges and protection.

Between 1848 and 1852, Masons of the Star in the East Lodge No.1 in Delaware contributed to the relief of deceased members by providing funds to pay for the education of their children.

## **The Growth and Expansion of African Lodge**

**M**ASONRY among Africans expanded when Bro. Absalom Jones of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania appeared in Boston in 1791. He was the first African ordained as an Episcopal priest. He sought the establishment of a Masonic Lodge in Philadelphia and in New York another lodge was established known as Boyer Lodge No.1. The African Lodges of

Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and New York assembled in the same year to organize African Grand Lodge.

Prince Hall became Grand Master until his death in 1807. African men from the Providence of Rhode Island inquire about Masonry in 1792. Hiram Lodge was established in Rhode Island and from this point on, expansion moved from the West to the South.

After the death of Prince Hall, his immediate successor was a Russian Jew by the name of Nero Prince in 1808 as Grand Master. In matters of this individual background, historian Davis wrote that the historical persecution of the Jews and the enslavement of Africans was something that each group had in common. However, the missing pages of history did not allow for Davis to make an accurate statement referring to the persecution of the Jews. If Brother Davis was referring to the book of Exodus of the Old Testament of the Bible, the European Jews were never enslaved because there was no historical evidence recording their presence in Egypt, nor expulsion. If Bro. Davis was referring to the persecution of European Jews in the European countries from 1012 to 1891. There persecution was with good reason in regards to their immoral activities such as economic exploitation, monopolizing and their participation in the African slave trade, which is laid out in the book called, *The Secret Relationship Between Blacks and Jews*. The issue of the European Jews being persecuted in Nazi Germany is inadmissible in relation to the time period, which Nero Prince was alive.

When Nero Prince went back to Russia, in 1809 Bro. George Middleton became Grand Master up until 1810. Later came Bro. Peter Lew and Samuel H. Moody. In 1827, Bro. John T. Hilton made the Declaration of Independence from the English Grand Lodge and assumed all powers and prerogatives as a sovereign body. This is very interesting because it was here at this time period; Brothers were more about independence and separation for the elevation of the 'Black Craft' than brother Masons of today.

Brothers seem to need to use the European Grand lodge as it source of legitimacy. If this is so needed, why then the separation? The brothers of 1827 from this writer's perspective understood that their agenda was totally different from the agenda of their European counterparts and there was a need to map out a course for progression of African Grand Lodge. The descendants of African Lodge made the fatal mistake of replacing the name of African Lodge with the slave name of Prince Hall. Make no mistake that this does not have any reflection on the man himself who was a Mason in every sense of the word, but by doing so; they have changed the identity of the group and its path.

The organization has grown quite significantly. The legacy of African Grand Lodge consist of 44 Grand Lodges, 6,000 subordinate lodges, two Supreme Councils of the Scottish Rite and York Rite Bodies, and an Imperial council of Shrinedom. In addition, the corresponding sisterhoods such as the Eastern Stars, Heroines of Jericho, Circle of Perfection, Cyrenes, Golden Circle and Daughters of Isis. The membership within the Prince Hall Masonic Fraternity is estimated at 300,000 members. It is important that a brief historical background on the genesis of these bodies be given for the purpose of laying the foundation of the matter of the transgression period.

## **York Rite Masonry**

**A**CCORDING to the historian Grimshaw, the first Royal Arch Chapter was established in 1820 known as Union Chapter by Caesar Thomas who was the High Priest. In 1818, Passey Benjamine established a Knights Templar Commanderies in America with St. George Commandery being the first in Philadelphia. It was assumed by this historian that these deputation that was granted by English Masonic authorities were factual,

however no evidence supports his claim. Why would one establish these bodies via English Masonic authorities when African grand Lodge was preparing for separation and independence from England? Many masons, who affiliated themselves under African Grand Lodge, received their degrees from various areas of Europe. It would have been more logical for securing a warrant through the African Grand Lodge. In 1844, African Grand Chapter was organized and African Grand Encampment of Knights Templars was established as well.

## **Scottish Rite Masonry**

**I**N 1850 in Pennsylvania, Bro. David Leary was conferred with the degree of the Scottish Rite. In that year, the African Grand Council, Valorous Princes of Jerusalem of Philadelphia was established and it the earliest Scottish Rite body among the Prince Hall brotherhood. This body was later consolidated under the allegiance of the King David Supreme Council, which was completed on January 6, 1856. The officers of the King David Supreme Council, as follows:

Sovereign Grand Commander.....David Leary, 33rd  
Dep. Sov. Gr. Comm.....Stanislas Goutier, 33rd  
Sov. Leut. Comm.....Francisco R. Bolasques, 33rd  
Ill. Gr. Sect., H.E.....Alexander C. Peters, 33rd  
Ill. Gr. Treas., H.E.....Joseph Lee, 33rd

Between 1850 and 1879, five Supreme Councils were formed. These Supreme Councils were as follows:

1. King David- 1850
2. DeBulow- 1864
3. Southern and Western- 1869

4. Star of Bethlehem- 1870

5. King Frederick- 1879

It was not until 1881 that these factions merged into two distinct Supreme Councils, which divides territories of the North and South. The Northern Jurisdiction is based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and the Southern Jurisdiction is based in Washington, D.C.

## **The Shrine**

**A**CCORDING to the history of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine, that in 1893, in Chicago, Illinois, John G. Jones was conferred with the degree of the Mystic Shrine by a foreign dignitary during the World's Columbian Exposition, which was an affair commemorating the 400th anniversary of the so-called discovery of America by the slave trader Christopher Columbus. Jones organized Palestine Temple No.1 in that same year.

In the book by Joseph A. Walkes, Jr. entitled History of the Shrine, Jones was characterized as an uncompromising integrationist. He was an attorney and politician in the city of Chicago. Jones over the years thereafter, was experiencing fraternal difficulties and in the end was expelled for un-Masonic conduct.

As a result, Isaac L.W. Holland of Pyramid Temple and members of other Shrine Temples around the country then reorganized the Shrine in 1900 in Philadelphia. The organization was in the beginning called the 'Ancient Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine', but was renamed the 'Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine' for the purpose of expressing their

ethnicity. However, the former name was of a legal situation dealing with its white counterparts who had established their Shrine organization prior to the Prince Hall organization and bared the same nomenclature.

They used the same symbols, rituals, and regalia. In 1900, they changed the name to Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine, which shows very little distinction. From the book called History of the Shrine by Joseph A. Walkes Jr., he states that the word 'Egyptian' was used to express the ethnicity of the group. I see this title as a contradiction in itself. They use the word 'Arabic', which has nothing to do with Africa from the period of antiquity. The Arabs were invaders of Africa and are considered to be poor imitation of white men. What is more concerning is that they 'ape' individuals who were slave traders of African people. The faith of the Islamic people are mocked in the ritual by having the initiate kiss the hind parts of an individual, which supposed to represent the 'Black Stone', or the Kabba in the Holy City of Mecca for Muslims. Why are they doing this? The monkey sees; monkey do concept is at work. The white Shriners desecrate that which is sacred to us and cause us to laugh at and imitate.

When the A.E.A.O.N.M.S. finally was established and won their legal battle in the United States (Snakes) Supreme (Criminal) Court, they faced serious problems, which were brewing within the entire Prince Hall Family. Dissension and animosity was breeding among its members, which had traveled up to the present day. The syndrome known as the 'Head Nigger In Charge' was plaguing the leaders of the various Masonic orders. As a result you will see a decline in membership, across the board of the Masonic bodies. At the present time, the membership for the Shrine for blacks stands at 20,000. In a 107 years of its existence, the zenith of its membership stands at this estimated value. Why?

We have replicated, carbon copied the European construct and DNA. The system of the white man does not work for the African, never has and never

will. During the time of Prince Hall, one can characterize him as one who did as much as he could do for his people given the conditions of that period. He was an activist and revolutionist in his own right. The legacy he would leave behind could not stand next to him as a compliment for the organization has been reduced to chicken and fish dinners sellers, raffle ticket holding and self-indulgence social functions having institution. To those from the outside, it has given the illusion that the organization is effective in the African community, while those who have been inside the walls of these institutions have seen an organization that has been crippled by adopting, binding with and amplifying an European DNA structure.

## **Order of Eastern Stars**

**T**HE Eastern Stars among women of African descent is a very good example of imitation. Dr. Robert Morris from Boston, Massachusetts, created the European Order of eastern Stars. He was a Past Grand Master of Kentucky. The order was founded in the year of 1867. This order is known as an Adoptive Rite, which female relatives such as wives, sisters, daughters, mothers, granddaughters, stepmothers, sisters and widows of Masons. It later included nieces and grandmothers too.

Its ritual is based on the teachings of the Christian Bible and although it does not reject non-Christians, it becomes conflicting with ones personal beliefs. This organization was specifically design to promote Christianity and also it shows that the women are not an equal entity in matters of the Masonic organization, but an auxiliary, or subordinate body. The women must have a male liaison known as the Worthy Patron to be present in all affairs, which also means that this body is androgynous.

In 1874, Thornton A. Jackson received the degrees and works of the Order of

Eastern Star by a European Mason named C.B. Case who was an agent of Robert Macoy the Supreme Patron of the Rite of Adoption of the World. On December 1, 1874, Queen Esther Chapter No.1 of the Order of Eastern stars was established at the home of Mrs. Georgiana Thomas at 708 O Street in N.W., Washington, D.C. The black order has the same requirements as the white order; it uses the same ritual, symbols and regalia. It is an auxiliary among Prince Hall Masons just like all the other auxiliaries such as the Heroines of Jericho, Circle of Perfection, Cyrenes, Golden Circle and the daughters of Isis, which were copied off of its white counterparts.

From the African ideology, the African woman was an entity onto herself she was man's equal and there was balance in keeping with the laws of MA'AT. The European runs off of a Patriarchal system while Africa was run on a Matriarchal system. The Eastern Star from African interpretation represents the star Sothis, which represents Auset the African Goddess (Isis in Greek) who was wife to the African God Ausar (Osiris in Greek). When the star rose in the eastern sky it changed colors from red, blue and white. These colors are denoted in the emblem of the Eastern Star of black and white factions.

The Masons, Eastern Stars, and Shriners have been patterned after the white distorted and corrupt Masonic system. The ritual, customs and laws are based on the European thought process. The ritual deals with the building of King Solomon's Temple on Mt. Moriah, which does not exist. The temple was rebuilt three times according to scholars, however there is no evidence of its existence. The ritual talks about the Greek and Roman architecture works and how we are in debt for their ingenuity. One degree speaks of a Greek deity named Fides who represented fidelity. The Masonic ritual states that the great Light in Masonry is the Holy Bible, which is comprised of two major doctrines:

1. Old Testament- The Jewish Laws
2. New Testament- Christ Teachings

Its symbolism is drenched in Western Christian theology such as the two St. Johns of the bible; in fact a holiday is adopted among masons called St. Johns' Day.

Keep in mind that these doctrines are coming from the Western perspective and not African. The 25 Ancient Landmarks of Freemasonry are European based and are given as universal and unwritten laws of the Craft. All masons who are proclaiming to be legitimate are embracing these so-called ancient laws.

From the 1st degree to the 33rd degree, the mason knows nothing about from 'Whence He Came'. The average mason could not tell you about the Grand master builders of ancient Africa who were not just men, but women as well. The most knowledgeable Mason will be quick to tell you about the legend of Hiram Abiff, but knows nothing about Meruka of the 5th Dynastic Period, or Sequenre Tao I who was the African King murdered by Euro-Asian invaders called the Hyksos during the 'War of Liberation' and was inflicted with the same wounds as Hiram Abiff while he was attempting to leave out the several gates of the Temple.

They could not tell you that advancing on your left foot was a symbolic act derived from the Papyrus of Nesi Amsu, in which one advances on his left foot to trample upon evil so that the heart may go further. The kilts, or aprons worn in Kemet (Egypt) were triangular in form not square. The difference of the two is that the former is legend, or a story and the other is history.

Masons opt for fairytales over historical truth. What is even more pornographic is that, many of the Prince Hall Masons of today could not even give you any basic historical information on the founder himself and that the pictures of Prince Hall is only a conception and not his actual likeness because the members do not know. What is most peculiar is that the portrait

they have conceived is more European in feature than African.

One would think that March 6, 1775 is the birth of the organization and that we commemorate its genesis on that day, but it is not celebrated on that day. The day in which homage is paid is in the month of September. Why? Because it was the month in which Prince Hall and the members of African Lodge No.1 received their charter from England and became African Lodge No.459.

Instead of dealing with the spirit of Prince Hall and the 14 brothers initiation, one can see that they are more concerned with proving their legitimacy among Europeans. This also shows the actual thought process of Blacks having needed to justify their legitimacy through the eyes of Europeans. You hear a Prince Hall mention that his 'Charter' came from the Grand Lodge of England with pride not understanding that his authority is coming from his former slave master and oppressor, or are they?

### **Martin R. Delany: A Pan-African Scholar Among Masons**

**D**R. MARTIN R. DELANY (1812-1885) was a staunch Pan-Africanist of his time. Delany was a Prince Hall Freemason who was versatile in several fields. He was a physician, ethnologist, soldier, writer and historian. Bro. Delany was one of the few Masons with insight and consciousness dealing with African civilization and its relationship to Freemasonry. In 1853, Delany published a book entitled, Legitimacy of Freemasonry Among Colored Men and it was the first of its kind to address the subject matter of the origins of Freemasonry, or Africa's influence upon it that was written by an African scholar. In 1879, he published another book called, The Origin of races and Color, which he suggest that the first humans were African and these Africans were builders of the pyramids, sculptors of

the Sphinx, or Her-Em-Akhet and the original god-kings. His work shook the foundation of intellectual racism. The arguments made by present scholars of Pan-Africanism were already asserted by Dr. Delany well over a hundred years ago. Dr. Delany wrote regarding the African origins of Freemasonry and its natural inheritance among Africans. Delany writes, , 'And now, in presence of this vast assemblage, before all the world, in the name of the Holy St. John, calling God to witness, I this day acquit them of all blame in the matter of that which they did, in admitting the Grand Lodge Visiting Committee, promising it will never be done again!

The second, and probably most formidable objection raised to colored Masons was that they emnated from Grand Lodges, existing contrary to the general regulations of Masonry, in States where there were previously existing Grand Lodges. This objection will easily be refuted, when it is considered that under the government of England, whence the general regulations of Masonry take their modern rise, for the sake of the craft, prompted by necessity, the establishment of a Grand Lodge was permitted in Scotland and Ireland; and at one time, for a short period, probably Wales; although the Grand Lodges of England extended her jurisdiction over all of these provinces.

At the time, the Scotch, Irish, and Welsh, all had certain domestic, social, and political relations which seriously forbade their identity with the Grand Lodge of England; consequently, they severally established their own jurisdictions, all of which were cordially acknowledged and sanctioned by the Grand Lodge of the British Empire. I may be mistaken about the Welsh, but as to the others, I am certain. And even now, in consequence of the peculiar position and relations of the two places, there exists in the Canada a Grand Lodge for the British Provinces of North America, extending over Nova Scotia, New Brunwick, Canada East, Canada West, and the Hudson Bay Country, Sir Allen Napier MacNab, Knight Baronet, Right Worshipful Grand master, with full power to grant warrants and establish Subordinate Lodges throughout British America.

This Grand Lodges jurisdiction, was established, not to suit the conveniency of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of England, but the conveniency and peculiar circumstances of the people of British North America, who demanded the right, which was readily conceded by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, thereby acknowledging the legality of such separate jurisdictions, all within the same political and Masonic dependencies. And can there be a greater demand for an independent jurisdiction of Moses became a shepherd, consequently, keeping the flocks of Jethro his father in law watching them by day and by night, on hill and in valley. Here Moses continued to dwell, until called by the message of the Lord to sue before Pharaoh for the deliverance of Israel.

From whence could Moses, he leaving Egypt when young, have derived his wisdom, if not from the Ethiopians? Is it not a reasonable, nay, the only just conclusion to infer that his deep seated knowledge was received from them and that his learned wife, Zipporah, who accompanied him by day, and by night through the hills and vales, contributed not a little to his acquirements?

Certainly this must have been so; for the Egyptians were a colony from Ethiopia, and derived their first training from them, the former, as the country filled up, moving and spreading farther down the Nile, until at length, becoming very numerous, they separated the kingdom, establishing an independent nations, occupying the delta at the mouth of the river. Where could there a place so appropriate be found for the study of those mysteries as upon the highest hills and in the deepest valleys? Is it not thus that the mysteries originated, the habits of the shepherds with their flocks, leading them to the hills and valleys?

It was also in Ethiopia where God appeared to Moses in a burning bush; and here where he told him, 'Put off thy shoes from off thy feet; for the place

whereon thou standeth is holy ground.' And this 'holy ground' was in Ethiopia or Midian, the true ancient Africa. Truly, if the African race has no legitimate claims to Masonry, then it is illegitimate to all the rest of mankind. Upon this topic I shall not farther descant, as I believe it is a settled and acknowledged fact, conceded by all intelligent writers and speakers, that to Africa is the world indebted for its knowledge of the mysteries of Ancient Freemasonry. Had Moses or the Israelists never lived in Africa, the mysteries of the wise men of the East never would have been handed down to us. Was it not Africa that gave birth to Euclid, the master geometrician of the world?

And was it not in consequence of a twenty-five years' residence in Africa that the great Pythagoras was enabled to discover that key problem in geometry, the forty-seventh problem of Euclid, without which Masonry would be incomplete? Must I hesitate to tell Masonry among the Scotch and Irish than among the colored men of the United States? Certainly not.

Nothing like so great; as among them, it was a matter of choice, not wishing, for reasons better known to themselves, to be Subordinate to the Grand Lodge of England; while with us it was forced upon our fathers by necessity, they having applied to different Grand Lodges, at different times in different States, as in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, for warrants to work under them, and were as often spurned and rejected. What could, what should, or what would they do but establish an independent jurisdiction? If they desired to be Masons, they must do this; indeed to relinquish their rights as men, and certainly be less than Masons, and challenge the world to try us, prove us, and disprove us, if they can. The late Chief Justice John Gibson, as Col. J.S. of this city, a high Mason, will bear witness, when Grand Master of Pennsylvania, was known to acknowledge that the colored Masons of Pennsylvania were as legal as the whites, but intimated that it would be 'bad policy' so to decide publicly. Bad policy! Policy in Masonry! And wrong to do right!

Cherubim shrink back from the portals of Mercy, drooping their golden pinions in sorrow; and Justice casts down her balances, and cases her sword in despair! As the ultimum et unicum remedium, the last and only remedy, a resort has been made to prove that colored men in the United States are ineligible to Masonic privileges. And among the many who have made this attack, none stand forth with a bolder front than the honorable Jacob Brinkerhoof, of Ohio, ex member of Congress, who, in an elaborate oration delivered before the Masonic Fraternity of that State in 1850 or '51 on an occasion of a Communication of the Grand Lodge, declared that no man who ever had been a slave could ever be a Mason.

This coming from such authority, on such occasion, was eagerly seized hold of, and published in the news journals from Baffin's Bay to Behring Straits. It may have been sport to him, but certainly was intended as death to us;' and the honorable ex member of Congress, may yet learn that he is much more of an adept in legal than Masonic jurisprudence and much better adapted to State than Lodge government.

How will this bear the test of intelligent inquiry? Let us examine. Moses, as before mentioned, of whom the highest encomium is given, is said to have been learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was not only the descendant of those who had been slaves, but of slave parents, and himself at the time that he was so taught and instructed in this wisdom, was a slave?

Will it be denied that the man who appeared before Pharoah, and was able to perform mystically all that the wisest among the wise men of that mysteriously wise nation were capable of doing, was a Mason? Was not the man who became the Prime Minister and High Priest of Ceremonies among the wise men of Africa, a Mason? If so, will it be disputed that he was legitimately such? Are not we as Masons, and the world of mankind, to him the Egyptian slave, may I not add the fugitive slave, indebted for a transmission to us of the Masonic Records, the Holy Bible, the Word of God?

What says the honorable Jacob Brinkerhoof to this? Let a silent tongue answer the inquiry, and a listening ear give sanction to his condemnation. But if this doctrine held good, according to the acceptation of the term slave, any one who has been deprived of his liberty and thereby rendered politically and socially impotent is a slave and consequently, Louis Kossuth, ex Governor of Hungary, bound by the chains of Austria, in the city of Pateya, was, to all intents and purposes, according to this definition, a slave. And when he effected his escape to the United States, was (like Moses from Egypt) a fugitive slave from his masters in Austria and, therefore, by the decree of the honorable ex member of Congress, incapable of ever becoming a Mason.

But governor Kossuth was made a Mason in Cincinnati, Ohio, the resident State of Mr. Brinkerhoof, and therefore, according to him, the governor is not a Mason at all. He has been a slave! Is the Order prepared for this? Is Mr. Brinkerhoof prepared for it? No, he is not. Then what becomes of his vaunting against declarations to have a bearing. Let the deserved rebuke of silence answer. But was the requisition that men should be free born, or free at the time of making them Masons, intended morally and logically to apply to those who lost their liberty by any force of invasion and unjust superior power.

No such thing In the days of King Solomon, as mentioned elsewhere, there were two classes of men denied Masonic privileges: he who lost his liberty by crime, and he who like Esau, 'sold his birthright for a mess of pottage,' a class who bartered away their liberty for a term of years, in consideration of a trifling pecuniary gain. These persons were the same in condition as the Coolies (so called) in China, as the Peons of Mexico, both of whom voluntarily surrendered their rights, at discretion, to another. These persons, and these alone, were provided against, in the wise regulations concerning freemen, as Masons.

Did they apply to any others, the patriot, sage, warrior, chieftain, and hero, indeed, the only true brave and chivalric, the most worthy and best specimens of mankind, would be denied a privilege, of which, it would seem they should be the most legitimate heirs. The North American Indians, too, have been enslaved, and yet there has not, to my knowledge, been a syllable spoken or written against their legitimacy; and they, too, are Masons, or have Masonry among them, the facts of which are frequently referred to by white Masons, or have Masonry among them, the facts of which are frequently referred to by white Masonic orators, with pleasurable approbation and pride.

But to deny to black men the privileges of Masonry, is to deny to a child the lineage of its own parentage. From whence sprung Masonry but from Ethiopia, Egypt, and Assyria, all settled and peopled by the children of Ham? Does any one doubt the wisdom of Ethiopia? I have but to reply that in the days of King Solomon's renown and splendor she was capable of sending her daughters to prove him with hard questions. If this be true, what must been her sons! A striking and important historical fact will be brought to bear, touching the truthfulness of this matter; and discarding all profane and general, I shall take sacred history as our guide.

Moses was quite a young man, and, consequently, could not have been endowed with wisdom, when, seeing the maltreatment of an Israelite by the Egyptian, he slew him, burying the body in the sand; when, immediately after, the circumstances having become known to Pharaoh, he fled into Midian, a kingdom of Ethiopia. He here sought the family of Jethro, the Ethiopian prince and Priest of Midian, in whose sight, after a short residence, he found favor, and married his daughter Zipporah, Zipporah, being a princess, was a shepherdess and priestess, as all priests were shepherds, and Moses, consequently became a shepherd, keeping the flocks of Jethro, his father in law, watching them by day and by night, on hill and in valley. Here Moses continued to dwell until called by the message of the Lord to sue before Pharaoh for the deliverance of Israel.

It is frequently referred to by modern writers, as an evidence of the reverses of circumstances in the life of man, who, with some degree of surprise, tell us that king David was once a shepherd, and attended flocks. This is no strange matter, when it is remembered that all princes in those days were priests, and all priests as a necessary part of their education, had to be shepherds.

As we may reasonably infer, there were two objects in view in the establishment of this singular mythological ordinance. The first was that the shepherd, by continually looking out for a change of weather, and thereby gazing up to the heavens, might keep his mind more fixed upon the high calling that awaited him, administering at the altar, and thus assimilate the person of his deity; and the second, that by attending the sheep, he might be impressed with their innocence, and thereby learn the true character that should distinguish him before the gaze of the inquisitive eye. Of the seven daughters of Midian, the children of Jethro, all, as will be seen, were shepherdesses and consequently all priestesses. The world that, as applied to Masonry, the word, Eureka, was first exclaimed in Africa? But, there I have revealed the Masonic secret and must stop!

Masons, brethren, Companions, and Sir Knights, hoping that for this disclosure, by a slip of the tongue, you will forgive me, as I may have made the world much wiser, I now commit you and our cause to the care and keeping of the Grand Master of the Universe'.

**George G.M. James & The Legacy That Was Stolen**

**I**N his work *Stolen Legacy*; Professor James went to prove that Greek philosophy was a misnomer and that the Arts and Sciences was attributed by the Kemites (Egyptians). This book was a powerful instrument towards changing the mentality of Black people. This would make the African move from an inferiority complex to a state of consciousness, which would make the African race realize their greatness and contributions to the world. Bro. James would make comparison of the work of Freemasonry to the educational and spiritual system of Africa. According to Bro. James, the Masonic temples of the present day resembled the Kemetic temples.

He writes, 'That the Egyptian temples were surrounded with pillars recording the number of the constellations and the signs of the Zodiac or the cycles of the planets. And each temple was supposed to be a microcosm or a symbol of the temple of the Universe or of the starry vault called temple'

Professor James would discuss major philosophical subjects contained in Freemasonry, which were derived out of Africa, but attributed to the Greeks. They were:

1. The Transmigration of the Soul.
2. The Union of Opposites
3. The Doctrine of the *Suum Bonum* or 'Greatest Good'
4. Purification

The comparison of the Kemetic 'Ten Virtues' and the Greek 'Four Cardinal Virtues', which Plato constructed was plagiarized from the former. The Mystery System of Africa taught the initiate to subdue the passion for elevation of the 'Greatest Good' and like Africa, Freemasonry attempts to replicate that system by teaching the initiate to 'subdue his passion and improve himself in masonry' so he become more divine in his thoughts,

speech and actions.

Professor George G.M. James talks about the first University of the World and makes a statement regarding this 'Grand Masonic Lodge of Antiquity', he writes,

' An Egyptian Grand Lodge of Ancient Mysteries actually existed some five thousand years ago or more, on the banks of the Nile in the city of Thebes, and that it was the only Grand Lodge of the Ancient World whose ruins have been found in Egypt, and that it was the governing body which necessarily controlled the Ancient Mysteries together with the philosophical Schools and minor Lodges wherever they happened to have been organized.'

In my opinion, Bro. James had touched upon an area that would revolutionize Africans in America. This information that Bro. James was disseminating, would bring the masses of our people out mental and spiritual enslavement (which has begun). It would change the Black preacher, educator, scientist and even the Mason. His death was suspected to be a murder and the culprits, who committed this horrific crime, obviously did not want Bro. James to bring to light that would shake the foundation of white supremacy, which is deeply embedded into Freemasonry.

All Bro. James did was exposed the thieves who stole the Black man's birth rite. The time that his book was published was when the separate but equal propaganda was in the midst of Black and White society with the latter being at an advantage and the former at a disadvantage. This sense of inferiority is still perpetuated in the present day. The Black Mason is not invulnerable to its effects.

## **Mason Know Thy Self**

**T**HE writer needs to emphasize to the Prince Hall Masons, or any other black Masonic bodies; that the desire to be recognized by mainstream is only a sign of rejection and the inferiority complex among Africans. When Black Masons look at the pyramids and Her-Em-Akhet, the Temple of Ipet-Isut and the educational system, which the African had created and taught the world, there will be no need to profess the 'Charter' you received from England, nor looking for fraternal relations with your enemy and oppressor.

All schism between black Masonic orders will cease and will come together and work under the 'Craft of Amen-Ra'. **KNOW THY SELF-BLACK MAN AND MASON!** For you will truly understand from 'Whence You Came'.

In conclusion, the African Mason in America needs to return back to being African again. The African Mason needs to put the bottle of alcohol down, put the tobacco down, the drugs and all the other filth he has acquired from the white man's environment, and become part of the true 'Craft', that being the 'Craft of Amen-Ra'. It will be there that the African man and Mason will find himself a man, 'freeborn' and well recommended.

## **A Letter From Bro. Awotunde**

**I** WOULD like to share with you a letter that was sent to me from Brother Mason who was active with the organization, but found himself elevated by Ifa. This letter many Brothers and Sisters in the Craft who have

became more conscious about Africa and Africans struggle with this on a daily basis. I hope you read this because it is a "subject that afford serious contemplation." He writes,

*“Brother*

*I just got through reading your essay on Freemasonry. i had a few comments i wanted to make. the seven degrees that you mentioned are ALL Greek inventions. these degrees represent Kemetic religion as practiced by the Greeks in their various temples that actually centered around one Kemetic Neter which was Auset. Many misinformed brothers and sisters will take the info presented as if these were African degrees as practiced by the Kemites. In fact, from my studies and actual PRACTICE of African religion there is no such thing as degrees. There are levels of initiations but no elevating degrees as is done in the Western mode of operation.*

*Degree systems were created by Europeans to FRACTIONALIZE the profound wisdom of the African sages of old. This is the only way that their (European) sages could make these time immemorial African truths "digestable" to the Greeks, Romans, Teutons, Saxons, Slavs, Celts, etc. They knew or understood very little about the African concepts of Ase. And of course as we know there is no ase (spiritual power) being given in a Masonic lodge.*

*You mentioned the African priesthood of Kemet as being a brotherhood like masonry. To the Africans of Kemet this statement would have been quite unfathomable. At ALL levels of initiation women participated. These were not just priestesses either. The same is true for the indigenous societies of Africa that produced Ifa, Congo, Akan, Vodun, Lucumi, and Candomble just to name a few.*

*Brother I do understand that we can only draw off of the information that our scholars have presented to us. I have found that many times their research was very limited. sometimes they purposely distorted info to quicken the process of re-educating the African mind. the degree of "propheta" is presented as the "last" degree. i have read that in other places, including*

*James' book. it supposedly starts at age 7 and ends at age 47. i often wondered how were the other degrees presented in 6 years before age 7? We all agree that a certain degree of proficiency was required before advancing. could a 6 year old even in Kemet be a master teacher? when you are speaking about a system of degrees you are talking about one level being completed at a time before you go to the next. Is it true that several degrees were being conferred at one time? Were they receiving the first and the seventh degree all at the same time. i think that our African Ancestors would have had a better and more order approach to this.*

*You must keep in mind that what is mentioned about the 42 Books of Hermes, the seven degrees, and the "holy orders" were all reported by Clement of Alexandria who was a Greek residing in Egypt (the days of Kemet had been long gone). What Clement was reporting was the Greek version of the religion. why else would he call the 42 books the books of "Hermes" and not Tehuti? Hermes is not a Greek spelling of Tehuti. he is a messenger god that they always had, even though his concepts are very similar to Tehuti's. The greek spelling of Tehuti was Thoth as we both know. if he meant to refer to these books as belonging to Tehuti he would have more than likely said Thoth.*

*you mentioned that there is no evidence that jesus obtained more than the "first degree". this is very true. it is further true that there is no evidence that jesus was EVER initiated at all. this fabrication started when a man by the name of Levi (a christian) wrote the Aquarian Gospels of Jesus in the latter 1800s. No mention or thought of such a notion was considered before this time. He made up his "gospels" while traveling through and observing the rich cultures of India, China, and the remnants of Kemet. He wrote this book to try to give christianity a more prestigious connection- to help "explain" some loop holes. it was found to be pure fabrication. many African scholars have jumped on the aquarian gospel bandwagon to re-educate the african mind but it is totally unnecessary.*

*You mention the Essenes as a group of Gnostics. Essenes and Gnostics were two totally different organizations. Essenes were Jewish/Hebrew in nature*

*and indoctrination and the gnostics had a more metaphysical Christian outlook. they revered the feminine which opposed orthodox christianity.*

*Two other points. you mentioned Amen Ra as the sun or represented by the Sun. Amen Ra was not represented by the Sun. Amen's clan totem was the Ram or a Ram-headed man. Ra was actually represented by the "Sun Disk" and also a point within a circle that symbolized time and evolution according to its definition you called the serpent "Set". In actuality, the serpent was referred to as APEP which was considered strictly evil in this case. Set's animal totem was the "jackass".*

*The section you spoke of on the status symbolism was excellent. you are going to hurt a lot of feelings, especially negros like Joseph Walkes. it is also good that you presented Prince Hall in another light even from a physical perspective. you have done a good job picking at the rubbish that is the residual mental enslavement of african people. i only gave you those critiques so that your book can be as good as possible.*

*The time has come now for us to unabashed in our relinquishment of euorpean ideology and its accompanying symbolisms. Baba Akinkugbe Karade in his book "The Path to Priesthood: The Making of an African Priest in an American World" tells us that we are either a part of the culture or we are not. Either we are Africans or African-Americans. Either we are going to "let it go" or continue within the european traditions that have so retarded our growth. there is no blackenizing masonry or any other euro organization. WE HAVE OUR OWN TRADITIONS, RITES, CUSTOMS, AND BELIEFS that are just as sufficient for us today as they were thousands of years ago. Feel me?*

*I hope that my critique has been well received. i wrote this critique because of our conversations on the phone. i know you have the ability to revitalize dead spirits.*

*Peace and blessings  
Awotunde Ifaseeyin Karade*

*Peace and blessings to everyone. Ashe!"*



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