

Masonry And The Masters Of The Far East

By

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Presented to A. Douglas Smith, Jr. Lodge of Research, #1949

On

June 30, 2007

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In my studies as a metaphysical minister I often find myself reviewing the notes of metaphysicians from ages past. Recently I was studying a volume of Life and Teaching of the Masters of the Far East which was written by Baird Spalding in the early 1920's. In the series Spalding describes his journeys in the Far East around the turn of the 20th Century. During one such journey starting in 1894 and lasting three and a half years, he and 11 other researchers detail some experiences that seem to have amazing parallels with Masonic legend and history.

During a guided journey in the Himalayan range of Tibet, Spalding and his party encountered a healing temple known to the local inhabitants as the Temple of Silence. Strangely enough, it was also known as *The Temple not made by hands*. According to local legend the temple was built at the direction of a group of Masters who told the villagers they would be spared from the ravages of wild animals that had almost wiped out the village if they dedicated their lives to God. Spalding's description of the temple is sparse but he does mention two distinct points: it was made of *white marble* and *constructed about 6,000 years ago*...the same period as the start of the Masonic calendar. Now, anyone who has ever worked with marble would quickly point out that a marble building would not have much chance of surviving in any recognizable condition for 6,000 years as the stone is relatively soft¹. When questioned on this point, the local inhabitants said the temple was self-repairing and had never needed maintenance. When asked why the temple was called the Temple of Silence, the party's guides replied that silence was the power of God and that when one drew themselves to a

center...*a single point of force*, they will have contacted God. They further replied that it was in this silent place, this point within us all, that Jacob found God. It is *Jacob's Ladder*, the ladder of consciousness, that we must all climb to find the *silent, secret place* of the Most High.

This healing temple not made by hands and representing the single point within us all was also said to allow the expression of only Life, Love, Harmony, and Peace. Not only were words of inharmony or imperfection, not allowed within the temple, so strong were the vibrations of harmony and love after 6,000 years of devotion that such words had no power and those of the expedition who tried to express inharmonious thoughts found it physically impossible while within the walls of the temple. In fact, the vibrations of love and peace were so strong within the walls that those who were ill needed only walk through the structure to be instantly and completely healed. It was for this reason and others that *John the Baptist* was said to have visited and studied at the temple during his years of wandering.

Brethren, in this very short talk I hope I have awakened some curiosity within you. Curiosity to seek that point within your circle of life where you may start, or resume, the climb to that silent, secret place of the Most High. I also hope you will take to heart the concept that a temple where no word of inharmony or imperfection is allowed is a healing place that serves as a haven for all brothers seeking to heal the scars of a lifetime or even just the bruises of a difficult day.

To be continued...

¹ Marble is a three out of ten on the hardness scale whereas granite is six to seven on the same scale.

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