



Thomas Lodge "THE SILENT BOARD" Newsletter

In ancient Egypt the obelisk, known as the "benben stone", was a symbol dedicated to the sun god Ra, the creator of humanity and the source of all life. Some scholars have translated the name as "tejen", a word synonymous with protection or defense., and some others maintain that the Egyptians believed that they channeled the spirit of Ra during certain times of the year and were an important feature in ritualistic human sacrifice.

As a general rule, obelisks were erected in pairs and served to magically protect the temples; the needles of stone were supposed to perforate the clouds and by dispersing negative forces that might threaten their followers fulfill their original mission: defend. (the word comes from the Greek "obeliskos" meaning a roasting prong).

The Pharaohs of later dynasties continued the obelisk building tradition, but dedicated theirs to Osiris (God of the Earth, the Underworld and life after death). The Osiris myth contains a powerful message of reincarnation, since his son Horus resurrected him using a "lion grip". The connection between Freemasonry and ancient Egyptian gods could not be more explicit, and as stated in "Inside the Brotherhood": "if, as some historians claim, Hiram Abiff is really Osiris reborn, there could be no greater proof of Masonic ascendancy in modern world than Egyptian obelisks thrust by Masons into the heart of the West's greatest cities".

Paris got theirs in 1833, its installation supervised by Bro. Louis Thiers. London's is known as Cleopatra's Needle, and was finally delivered in 1877 when two prominent Freemasons: Bros. Alexander and Wilson parted with a small fortune for its transportation and installation. That same year, another was delivered to New York (Central Park) by two benefactors, Bros. Hulbert and Vanderbilt.- Therefore, prominent and powerful nineteenth century Freemasons were responsible for erecting at considerable expenditure of large sums of money, these fascinating monuments in three of the world's most significant cities: Paris, London and New York (The Vatican in Rome got theirs some time before, but Freemasons were not involved, obviously.)

In Freemasonry, obelisks are associated with the sun and various mythologized astronomical phenomena. They are symbols of continuity, power, stability, resurrection and immortality. And for all you Da Vinci Code/Dan Brown followers out there, I have provided sufficient meat and ammunition for the speculative development of the subject, therefore... may the weaving of entertaining stories and conspiracy theories begin...☺

MARCH NOTABLES

- 1314 Knight Templar Grand Master, Jaques de Molay killed by Pope Clement V and King Philip IV (The Fair).
- 1685 Born. Bro. Johann Sebastian Bach, noted and influential composer.
- 1727 Died. Bro. Sir Isaac Newton, famous physicist, mathematician and astronomer.
- 1732 Born. Bro. Franz Joseph Hyden, prolific composer (over 120 works) "father" of the symphony.
- 1767 Born. Bro. Andrew Jackson, 7th. US President.
- 1812 Born. Bro. Ignacio Commonfort. President of Mexico.
- 1869 Born. Bro. Flores Ziegfeld, showman/impresario founder of the Ziegfeld Follies.
- 1874 Died. Bro. Harry Houdini, magician and illusionist.
- 1884 Cornerstone Statue of Liberty laid on Bedloe's Island (NYC), sculptured by Bro. A Bartholdi.
- 1924 "Little Orphan Annie" comic strip debut, created by Bro. Harold Grey.
- 1955 Died. Bro. Sir Alexander Fleming, discoverer of penicillin

PRAISE BE TO GOD

Traditional obelisks were carved out of one single piece of stone, thus their limited stature (40 ft average) but modern versions like the Washington Monument (finished in 1888) were constructed many pieces and may reach considerable heights -555 feet 5 inches for the example in Washington DC, the tallest one in existence-

On the aluminum cap atop the Washington Monument there is an inscription consisting of two words: LAUS DEO , ("Praise be to God" in plain 'ol English.). The monument is but one example of the signature of God in our nation's capital, as it is unmistakably inscribed everywhere you look. We may forget the factual details of the monument, but no one who reads this will be able to forget the meaning of the words inscribed on its apex.

So much for secularism. ("Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain" Psalm 127:1

THE WAGES OF A MASON , By Benjamin Franklin

Masonic labor is purely a labor of love. He who seeks to draw wages of gold and silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are earned and paid for in their dealings with one another sympathy begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness and these are the wages of a Mason.