

## **The 5 Minute Mason – Masonic Myths and Outright Falsehoods**

### **(Part I)**

Masonic myths and outright falsehoods have been spread concerning Freemasonry for hundreds of years. Throughout the centuries Freemasonry has taught its valuable lessons through allegory and symbols. Many historians and Masonic speakers use anecdotes to illustrate the points they want to make. These methods emphasize the search for truth in an interesting and factual manner.

Myths on the other hand, can be innocent or dangerous. They can be outright lies or the continuation of distortions handed down through the generations. Many of these were invented by Masonic writers and speakers to enhance the image of Freemasonry. Some of these corruptions have caused the Craft problems with creditable historians because they were just plain outrageous lies.

**Myth:** Freemasonry is a religion.

**Fact:** Absolutely false. This is one of several arguments employed by certain religious fanatics in publications and on web sites in an attempt to discredit Freemasonry. They quote Albert Pike and Henry Wilson Coil, among others, neither of whom was a man of the cloth, to "prove" their statements. Most of the hundreds of thousands of words they wrote came from their own mind, or the minds of others with whom they agreed. Coil wrote millions of words about Freemasonry, and he was a lawyer and an excellent Masonic researcher. Most of the time the words of these and other writers are taken out of context to "prove" the thesis of the anti-Masons. Freemasonry's enemies conveniently ignore the thousands of Christian ministers, and Rabbis, who prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that Freemasonry, although religious is far from being a religion. Here are just three of these Doctors of Divinity who have proven the critics in error: Joseph Fort Newton, Norman Vincent Peale and Forrest D. Haggard.

**Myth:** Freemasons are Satanists, because in their Lodges they do not pray to Jesus Christ, but to a generic God.

**Fact:** What rubbish, Freemasonry encompasses all religions. Just because we do not pray to one specific being does not make us satanic. If you follow their logic that we Masons are Satanist because we do not pray to Jesus then all Canadians must be Satanist because their National Anthem, which in itself is a prayer has the words, "God keep our Land," not Jesus keep our Land. All Americans who sing "God Bless America" which also in itself is a prayer would be satanic because they do not sing Jesus Bless America, even all Englishmen, must be satanic because they sing "God Save the Queen," not Jesus save the Queen. Anyone who has been a witness in court and who has sworn to tell the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth, "So help me God" must also be satanic, because they do not say So help me Jesus. To say Masons are satanic is pure rubbish.

**Myth:** Freemasonry is a secret society.

**Fact:** Unequivocally false. This is widely stated and believed, even by some Freemasons. Many older Masons believe this so strongly they won't even talk to their wives and families about the Craft. Many writers of yesteryear helped promote this error. Sometimes even our ritualists have added to the belief. The critics of Freemasonry want the world to believe in this secrecy because they have little else on which to stand. Yet by no stretch of the imagination can Masonry be termed a secret organization. If it was, no outsiders would even know it exists. Anything that is known is not secret. Without question there are many secret organizations throughout the world, but only men and women within those circles are familiar with them. Most, if not all, ritualistic religions have conclaves (literally: rooms locked with a key from outsiders). Should these be condemned along with Freemasonry? Secret means: "Kept from general knowledge or view; kept hidden; operating in a clandestine manner"; and on and on. Secret groups meet in places known only to the few. Freemasons meet in places clearly and proudly marked for the public to see. Secret organizations never record anything that might become public property.

Members of secret organizations never advertise their affiliation; Freemasons proudly wear the Square and Compasses and other emblems. So let us dispel the myth that Freemasonry is a "secret Organization." It isn't. It never has been.



... The 5 Minute Mason: # 80 in a series of nuggets from the Quarry of Freemasonry.<sup>SM</sup>

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