



## *Was Moses a Freemason?*

The implications of this question strike at the very foundation of our institution. If the answer is 'yes' then it implies that Freemasonry must have existed some three thousand four hundred years ago. If this is the case then we are truly an ancient institution. Even if the answer is 'No' then there is still an implication that some sort of organisation must have existed.

In order to find the truth an examination of the life and times of Moses himself is necessary.

If we go back in time to the period just before the birth of Moses we find that a large number of immigrants had settled in the Nile delta. These people were of Western Asiatic origin known as Hibiru. They were accepted by the Egyptians into their country and were given mostly menial tasks.

Over the next couple of hundred years these people increased in number and became a concern to the Egyptian authorities as they were beginning to outnumber the Egyptian nationals. They were given the menial tasks of labourers, clearly in an attempt to discourage others from coming. The Egyptians began to fear that their culture and way of life would be overwhelmed by the new comers.

The Egyptian King decided to take draconian steps and ordered all new born males to be killed. We read in the Old Testament that one mother totally distraught at the prospect of her son being executed put him in a wicker basket and floated him down the Nile where she hoped he would be found and taken care of.

The three month old baby was found by an Egyptian Princess who was herself unable to bear children and had prayed for a son. This was a gift from her Gods. Her name was Thermuthis. She named the boy Mousos. *Mo* means 'water' and *usos* means 'someone who has been rescued'.

Mousos was raised as an Egyptian Prince and as such was given an excellent education. He was entrusted with the secret knowledge that was handed down

through the priesthood and the royal line. This secret knowledge contained information that was closely guarded and severely restricted. This wisdom was never written down but passed on by word of mouth and was protected by signs and pass words.

His education included what became termed in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries as the Liberal Arts and sciences, of which arithmetic, geometry, art and the study of the cosmos or astrology were the most important.

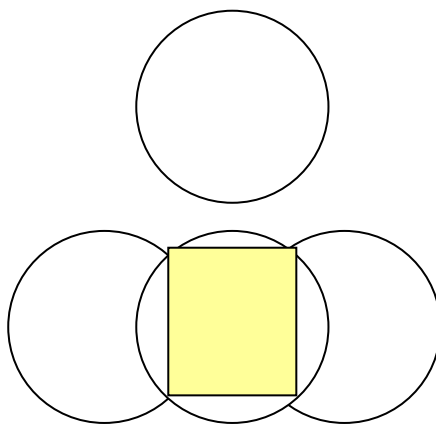
And of these the ones most relevant and precious to a Freemason are geometry and astrology. In our Lodges we say that the 'G' is in the centre. And in our ritual we ask what is a centre? We answer a point beyond which all parts are equidistant. In other words – a circle.

So there it is. Clearly stated in our ritual. The circle is the most important of all shapes in Geometry and therefore in Freemasonry.

Why should this be? Why is the square not the number one? After all from a square you can produce a circle simply by finding the centre and from that centre describe a circle that touches each side of the square.

Correct. But how did you produce the square? And having produced one square how can you guarantee that you can produce another exactly the same? The answer is that you cannot. At least not with the same accuracy and ease as you can draw a circle!

Anyone can take a stake, place it in the ground, tie a piece of string to it. Attach a pencil or marker at the end of the string and then by keeping it taut a perfect circle can be drawn. And what is more that circle can be repeated as many times as you like and every one will be identical.



*The Circle : all points equidistant from the centre*  
*The Masons perfect square.*

If you now take your first circle and by placing one point of your compass anywhere on its circumference and placing the other point with its marker at the centre of the first circle, you can describe a second circle which overlaps the first.

Do it again with the second circle and you now have three perfect overlapping circles.

Where these circles overlap draw a vertical line and then join those vertical lines with horizontal lines. You now have the masons perfect square. From that square you can produce a right angle triangle. By selecting different points on the overlapping circles you produce an isosceles triangle. You can produce almost any angle you want. You can draw an arch – the strongest of all structures used by the builder.

So from one circle the entire science of geometry can be devised. Not only that but the second most important science known to mankind can be derived – namely architecture. Why do I say that? Because architecture solves the second of man's essential requirements for survival – shelter. Somewhere to live, to keep warm. to be protected from the elements and from predators. Architecture and agriculture – shelter and sustenance. The first dependant upon a knowledge of geometry the second on a knowledge of the cosmos.

Moses was well schooled in the value of the circle but he also was taught of its symbolic value. He was taught that the centre was seat of all learning and all understanding and that while he understood that no matter how far he travelled, all the time he kept within due bounds of that centre he would not err.

He was taught that the centre was represented by the Sun, the centre of the Universe. The Sun itself was symbolic of knowledge and of understanding. How amazing it is that these ancient Egyptians knew so much about the cosmos all those years ago. Detailed, most accurate knowledge that even today with all our advanced instruments and satellites, cannot be improved upon.

Their knowledge was accumulated over years and years of observation. It was clear to them at a very early date that the Earth must revolve around the Sun. Forasmuch as the Sun appeared to rise in the East they knew that was an illusion. It had to be that the earth was spinning on an axis and that it revolved around the sun in an orbit that appeared to take 365 days. The earth took a day to spin round giving the impression that the sun rose and set.

They also observed the position of the stars and that their position seemed to change in relationship to the earth and the sun. They devised a name for the constellations. We know them by the signs of the zodiac. They calculated that the Earth remained in a constellation for about 2,160 years. The Temple of Solomon was built during the age of Aries. Jesus was born at the start of the age of Pisces. That age is coming to an end. It is said that it will bring turmoil, financial chaos, war, devastation even famine and destruction from the elements and from man himself. The new age, the age of Aquarius will see a new dawning, a new World order. The Lord of life will trample the King of terrors beneath our feet and raise our eyes to a new age. This will happen in 2012 A.D.

The most amazing of all discoveries, and one has to wonder at the brilliance of the men who made the deduction, is the understanding of precession.

What is precession?

As the world spins on its axis in its orbit around the sun, it wobbles. They calculated that it would take 25,920 years for the world to wobble from one extreme to another, that is to complete the circle of the wobble. This information was available to Moses! Modern calculations cannot fault its accuracy!

This wealth of information was passed on by word of mouth through the priests and the royal line until the Greeks appeared on the scene. Men like Erastosthanes and Pythagorus began to write it all down. And for that thank goodness. The thought that such advanced knowledge could be lost is too much to contemplate. But Moses would have passed his knowledge on to his sons and to his most trusted managers. This was the secret wisdom that was passed on and which we try to emulate in our lodges today. The link between Moses and freemasonry is becoming more apparent.

But let us return to Moses.

Mousos performed his duties as a Royal Prince with distinction. He was a brilliant military tactician. But it was on the return from one of his campaigns that he was told the truth about his origins.

He was dumbfounded. The shock of discovering that he was not who he thought he was, must have been devastating.

He was confused.

Was he an Egyptian or a Hibiru? Was he a prince or a slave?

It was while in this state of mind that he observed a slave being beaten by an Egyptian overseer. He remonstrated with the Egyptian and in a rage killed him. It was now quite clear to Mousos that he had to make a quick getaway. The Egyptians had turned against him and especially the King who feared that he would lead an insurrection against him.

He fled to Midian where he met and married the daughter of a local priest. Her name was Zipporah.

After eight years Mousos returned to Egypt to demand the release of his people. What happened next is well documented and known. Suffice it to say that eventually Mousos set off on his exodus to find a land where his people could settle in peace.

We are told that Moses led tens of thousands out of Egypt. In reality it is more likely that he left with a much smaller group and then other groups followed in his footsteps later. As they went on their forty year journey they attracted other nomadic groups.

What was the driving force behind Moses determination to establish a new nation? Why was it so important to him to convince all these people to follow

him? What right did he have to bring all this hardship on them, all in the name of his dream?

Moses was a well educated man. He had the secret knowledge. He knew about the 'mysteries'. His future as an Egyptian was assured. He was destined for the top. But when his origins became known his future position in Egyptian society was denied. He had nothing to look forward to. What could he do?

As with all of us, our roots are of great importance to us. To Moses, a highly educated and motivated man, the prospect of doing hard labour would not be attractive.

But what if he could create a new nation? What if he could take his people to a new land? A fertile land where the crops grew in plentiful supply. A land where the rain gave bountiful nurture to the young plants. Where olive trees grew where the grapes provided ample wine.

Moses knew about the seasons from his study of the cosmos. His understanding of the succession of winter, of spring, of summer and of autumn meant he could plan and make provision for the future,

This was the first of the two greatest sciences of all – agriculture – sustenance – survival. He knew when to sow and when to reap.

The land he chose was in the North beyond the Sea of Galilee in the area known as Canaan.

The idea of setting up his own nation became an obsession. His knowledge, his experience, his determination, his skills in man management meant that he could do it.

It so happened that his journey brought him close to his second wife's home of Midian. When news reached the town that Moses was approaching, Zipporah's father in law, a man called Reuel set off to meet him. They welcomed each other and talked into the night.

It became obvious to Reuel that Moses was trying to do too much. As is the case with many leaders they do not delegate. Reuel pointed this out to Moses and told him if he carried on this way he would be dead within months. He had to let go and let others share the burden.

Moses accepted the wisdom of his father-in-law and took a step back from the daily work and adopted an overview.

It was just as well. Although his people had blindly followed the dream of Moses they were now beginning to ask questions.

Where exactly were they going? When would they get there? Who precisely was this Moses? Who was this man who had persuaded them to leave their homes where they had regular good food and a reasonable degree of comfort, to go on this journey where they did not know where the next meal was coming from and where they had to suffer the heat all day and the cold at night?

Moses knew he had to do something to quell their fears.

Moses was not a religious man. He was God fearing of course but he was a warrior and administrator, a man of action. It was fortunate therefore that he should have met Reuel.

Reuel also known as Raguel or Jethro, was a priest. He knew that in order to restore the trust of the people, Moses would have to do something dramatic. Something bordering on the theatrical. It was clear to him that Moses had to introduce a set of rules. The Hibiru had no guidelines as to how to behave, no rules to follow, no regulations to obey.

Reuel saw clearly that this was an essential requirement if Moses was going to succeed. But how to introduce rules with an authority that would not be questioned. If Moses faced his people and said "Last night I had a dream and I came up with this list of do's and don'ts", they would have laughed at him. So Reuel devised a plan.

Moses would climb Mount Horeb. He would take his brother Aaron with him but half way up they would separate and Moses would go on alone. After a period of time Moses would come down carrying two tablets of stone on which would be carved the rules that the people would live their lives by.

He would claim that they were given to him by God himself.

Such a dramatic act would impress the people who would take the rules seriously and obey them.

The rules themselves and the way in which they were presented could only have come from someone with the secret wisdom.

The rules or the Ten Commandments were a masterpiece in clear thinking. They laid the ground rules for an organised, caring and sustainable society.

Whether they were the work of God, or Moses or even Reuel, their importance at the time and since cannot be questioned.

The plan worked.

Civil and moral order was established and Moses went on to realise his dream although he never made it to the promised land.

So what conclusions can we come to from all this.

It is clear that the ancient Egyptians had a secret wisdom which was passed on to a privileged few. The secrets were closely guarded and only conveyed after strict examination and qualification of the recipient. We can draw parallels with the rules and regulations of Freemasonry. Moses being an Egyptian Prince would have been privy to these secrets and would have passed them on to selected people in his own Nation. As much of this secret wisdom was based on geometric principles it follows that it was passed on to builders. In this way great buildings and especially religious buildings would be constructed in accordance with the rules of the cosmos. We know how they identified the exact position of East and West. From this the builder knew where to place his first or foundation stone.

Do you know how they knew exactly where to place the first or foundation stone?

The answer is clearly stated in our ritual. The Senior Warden is placed in the West to 'mark' the setting sun. The Junior Warden 'marks' the sun at its Meridien that is at mid day.

So let me explain.

If a pointer or marker or obelisk is placed in the ground at noon when there are no shadows and a second marker is placed at a distance to mark the point where the sun rises with a third where the sun sets, a line now drawn, linking all three markers will give you a true East/West divide. If you now take a line at right angles to this you can find North and South. It is now a simple task to find the North East corner. All religious buildings have their foundation stone in the North east corner. The obelisk is clearly the surveyors most valuable tool.

It is this knowledge, this secret wisdom which has come down over the centuries and now forms part of our own ritual. Veiled in allegory and illustrated with symbols.

Moses would not have been known as a freemason of course. The word did not exist in those days. But it is likely that a description of some kind was used. A word that showed he was a member of that exclusive club that knew about the universe, about geometry and about the need for social order. So I would contend that if Moses was alive today he would indeed be a Freemason. This being the case it follows that freemasonry has existed since time immemorial albeit by different names.

R W Bro Roy Martin.

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