

2 0 1 1 T H I R D E D I T I O N

“THE KEYSTONE”

SYLVESTER “Pappy” CANN No. 11

APRIL-JUNE 2011

4TH QUARTER



H.R.A.M.

“As We Three Did Agree in Peace, Love, and Unity.”

“Mission Statement”

"To bring the blind by a way that they knew not: to lead them in paths they have not known; to make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight; these things to do unto them, and not forsake them." To maintain and promote Royal Arch Masonry. As an integral part of Freemasonry in the State of Washington and its Jurisdiction, and to ensure all Master Masons have the opportunity of embracing the Principles of Royal Arch Masonry. Just as the Most Excellent Master degree is necessary to complete the unfinished story of the degree of Master Mason. The Royal Arch degree is necessary to bridge the gap for that which was lost.



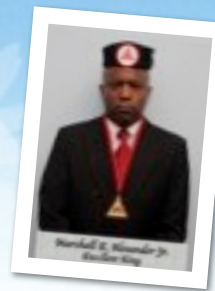
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Most Excellent Grand High Priest Corner:

"What Induced You To Become A Master Mason"

You heard this statement communicated at the opening of each lodge meeting but have you ever wondered the meaning of the answer given? That I may obtain the master's word; this entails the death of Hiram Abiff and the lost of the word that was shared between them. This tells of the ones that did not posse the master's word and continue to search until it is found. Travel in foreign countries: This tells that during your search even into foreign countries you will meet Brotherly Love because you have the substitute word to be used during their search.

During the ancient times the majority of the lodges were overseas and Masons traveled the four winds and was met on the square as they practice and fellowship into Freemasonry. Today, we have several jurisdictions throughout the United States and our travels within our own boundaries have faded. Have we changed or are we trying to change the path that Prince Hall set for us? Work and received Master wages: There is a message in the Mark Master Degree about work and how the wages we received and how we collect it was given to you. It also talked about how some of those got angry because those that got to the vineyard first got the same amount as the ones that were last. Contribute to the relief: What causes are we actually contributing to? Do your community actual know that we even exist? Some of us use to see those men dressed in their Black and White suites and we wondered who they were and what they were doing. We seen or heard about the things they did in the neighborhood. We grew up and wanted to become one of those men. Where are those men now? What induced you to become a master mason?

Fraternally Submitted,

Most Excellent Companion Robert D.: Cassidy 33 KYCH*

Grand High Priest

Most Excellent Prince Hall Grand Chapter

Holy Royal Arch Masons

Jurisdiction of Washington State Inc.



Excellent High Priest Corner:

First giving praise and thanks unto the Great "I Am" for his many mercies and blessings he has bestowed upon us. On behalf of our Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Robert D. Cassidy; RE DDGHP Everett Gilliam and the Most Excellent Prince Hall Grand Chapter of Holy Royal Arch Masons, Washington and Jurisdiction, it is indeed an honor for me to communicate with you today and render many thanks to each of you for your constant support in reviving our Chapter, Sylvester Pappy Cann #11.

"In darkness there is no choice. It is light that enables us to see the differences between things; and it is Christ who gives us light." I can truly say that it has been an honor indeed to serve as the Excellent High Priest of SPC #11. SPC #11 still have a line of proven leaders to help keep the legacy going. My "Wise Council" and other Officers of SPC #11 have truly energized a corps of faithful men lonesome for the home of divine fellowship. True success can only be measured through the lives you have changed and I feel we continue to do just that. I cordially welcome and invite to the Grand Chapter Officers, Past and Present High Priests, Members and visiting Companions to seats in the Council and elsewhere throughout the Chapter during the regular convocations to be held monthly at the Camp Foster Masonic Hall on the second Saturday at 1500 hrs. Thanks again for your continued Masonic friendship and Brotherly love. Looking forward to fellowshipping with each of you at our 16th Annual Session on July 9, 2011 at Pasco. May God continue to bless you and your families. Holiness to the

Fraternally
Under the sign 3X3

Errol Spence

Errol Spence
Excellent High Priest
Sylvester "Pappy" Cann #11



District Deputy Grand High Priest Corner:

First giving honor and praises to God, our Father in Heaven, because without him nothing is possible. It's been humbling to help lead, mentor, and assist EHP Spence and his "Wise Council" as they displayed engaged leadership to make SPC #11 the premier Chapter once again. This was no small feat with the many nay-sayers and Companions departing the jurisdiction on official military duties. However united we stood and ultimately we increased positive membership to ensure SPC and future York Rite houses exist for years to come. These faithful Companions and I have worked hard to build more family and youth programs focused on acts of charity that involve other Prince Hall Masonic families.

Again this has been a busy year for SPC #11. This could not have been possible without the help and support from Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Robert D. Cassidy and the Grand Chapter. I say humble thanks, and the Companions of SPC #11 say thank you for allowing us to continue to bring the blind by way they know not. We have worked hard all year stepping over obstacles to re-establish ourselves as a strong Chapter in the Washington Jurisdiction. Excellent High Priest Spence, Excellent King Alexander, Excellent Scribe Robinson and the rest of the Companions; you are the epitome of a Royal Arch Mason. Everything thing that was asked from the Grand Chapter or myself, you conquered without hesitation. You made my job easy as your DDGHP this year.

Special thanks go out to Companion Alexander for your hard work on the "Keystone" Newsletter. I appreciate the hard work that allows the world to see SPC #11's Good Work, True Work, Square Work. As we approach the middle of the year before our annual Convocation, let's continue to take care of one another. We have so many great ideals for 2011 so let's continue to press toward the Mark. Although we are small in numbers, SPC #11 do the best that they can putting service before self. Many members have received several certificates, coins, and awards for their involvement in the community. SPC #11 continue to grow in membership; however, we look for "Quality versus Quantity" in District #7. We are united to assist the sick and distressed, comfort the lonely and disabled, be dedicated to all that we set out to do, and ask that the Lord to guide us by his wisdom.

Thank you to Most Excellent Grand High Priest Robert D. Cassidy for bestowing your trust and support in me as the District Deputy Grand High Priest for District #7. It is my sincere pleasure to serve as your District Deputy and the Deputy of York Rite for Okinawa, Japan. I am delighted to serve each of these dedicated Companions who continue to strengthen the community and unite the symbolic houses. Holiness to the Lord!

Fraternally,
3 X 3

Everett L. Gilliam

RE DDGHP Everett L. Gilliam
Deputy of York Rite for Okinawa, Japan
PHP SPC #11 R.A.M.



Growth of the Chapter

During the fourth quarter, the Chapter has continued to grow. We have exalted (3) new Companions into the Royal Arch ranks. These illustrious Companions were the last to join the ranks of our body of dedicated men who have journeyed along that rough and rugged road in order to receive the "Lost Word." These Companions exposed the ultimate of Masonic symbolism. The laborer in the symbolic Blue Lodge concerns himself with symbolism of the material life however Royal Arch Companions' attention is directed to the symbolism of the spiritual life, in which he is taught to look forward to the erection of a spiritual temple which shall survive the earthly one, and wherein his life constitutes one of those fundamental stones whereupon to complete the structure. It was during this rebuilding of the Temple of God that these Companions made a discovery that brings to light the greatest treasure of a Mason--the long lost Master's Word. The value of Royal Arch Masonry is appreciated by all who are exalted to that most sublime degree, particularly by those who are seeking to complete their Masonic education. As it has been said, "at the burning bush the ineffable name of God Almighty was communicated to Moses; so

overwhelming was its glory that the people pronounced it in whispers."



Excellent King's Corner:

St. John the Baptist

I decided to give the lecture on St. John today and looked forward to the opportunity with great zeal. I took to the task as I do everything, doing it from a different angle with the thought of putting a new spin on the same old lecture. We all should be familiar with the story of the St. John the Baptist. If not I will go over his story briefly but first I want to discuss my thought on how I approached this subject.

In my readings on different branches of Masonry I came across an idea. If Masonry is not secular in nature why do we celebrate the St. John's? This struck a creative cord within me. I wondered if the two Saints were exclusive to Christianity. Would this idea shake the lodge room once I discussed the topic? Would masons of different religions be offended by celebrating these two holidays?

Before I answer the question, "Does St. John the Baptist transcend or apply to other religions?" I want to give the background on St. John the Baptist for those who may not know his story. This is but a brief synopsis.

Background

St. John's coming is foretold in first chapter of the Gospel of Luke, Gabriel told Zechariah that his wife, Elizabeth, would bear a son and they will be joyful and glad. The sons name will be John and he will not drink wine and other strong liquids, he will turn many of the sons of Israel to the

Lord their God, and he will prepare people for the Lord.

St. John's life was notable for five reasons; he was the messenger foretold by Isaiah; he was a forerunner and witness to the Christ; he proclaimed baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins; he heralded the coming of the Messiah; and, he recognized Jesus as the Messiah and baptized him.

St. John also denounced the sins of Herod Antipas, especially his marriage to his brother's wife, Herodias. Herod imprisoned John because John persisted in embarrassing Herod with this accusation.

The four Gospels, the Books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, as found in the Bible's New Testament, all describe this man in almost exactly the same language. The Baptist, who was a cousin to Jesus Christ, is spoken of as "A voice crying in the wilderness," whose purpose was to, "Prepare the way of the Lord and make his paths straight." He must indeed have been an important man for all four Gospels to refer to him with exactly the same terminology, as this is extremely rare. In the Gospel of Luke, in fact, Jesus himself says of John, "Among them that are born of women, there has not risen any greater than John the Baptist."



Connection to Freemasonry

Why did Freemasons adopt John the Baptist as their patron saint? In 16th century England, guilds and craft were required by English law to dedicate to some patron saint. However, some Masons dispute the theory that early English Masons belonged to guilds. The integrity of St. John the Baptist, which induced him to forego every minor consideration in discharging the obligations he owed God; the unselfish firmness with which he met martyrdom rather than betray his duty to his Master; his steady reproof of vice, and continued preaching of repentance and virtue, make him a fit patron of the Masonic Institution.

Why is St. John the Baptist honored on June 24th? The date was fixed in the late 4th Century as June 24th, six months before Christmas Day because according to Luke, Elizabeth became pregnant six months before the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary.

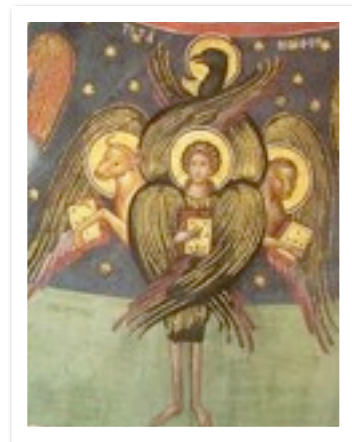
June is also the time of the summer solstice. The summer solstice has been a time of celebration since early-recorded time. Thus, our celebration of St. John the Baptist is a continuation of ancient customs. In looking toward the future, St. John the Baptist Day is an appropriate day for Freemasons, as it is a good day to come together and reflect in our past and our future.

St. John the Baptist gave us this important lesson about our conduct: Standing for the truth is more important than life itself. St. John the Baptist stood for truth, and was not afraid of the consequences. He spoke against sin, urged repentance, proclaimed the coming of the

Messiah, and denounced Herod's incestuous marriage. He was executed because he told the truth. How are our lives? Are we willing to sacrifice our lives to stand up for the truth?

Catholic Religion

In the book of Ezekiel St. John is mentioned in the following passage: "The word of Yahweh was addressed to the priest Ezekiel son of Buzi, in Chaldaea by the River Chebar. There the hand of Yahweh came on him. I looked; a stormy wind blew from the north, a great cloud with flashing fire and brilliant light round it, and in the middle, in the heart of the fire, a brilliance like that of amber, and in the middle what seemed to be four living creatures. They looked like this: They were of human form. Each had four faces and each had four wings. Their legs were straight; they had hooves like calves, glittering like polished brass. Below their wings, they had human hands on all four sides corresponding to their four faces and four wings. They touched one another with their wings; they did not turn as they moved; each one moved straight forward. As to the appearance of their faces, all four had a human face, and a lion's face to the right, and all four had a bull's face to the left, and all four had an eagle's face." This is called Tetramorphs.



The most common symbolism of the Tetramorphs is their relation to the four evangelists. St. Matthew is the man, the lion is St. Mark, the bull is St. Luke, and the eagle is St. John. Tetramorphs are not restricted to Christian traditions. Each evangelist is also ascribed a sign of the Zodiac.

St. John the Baptist is also mentioned in the book of Revelations. “In the center, grouped around the throne itself, were four animals with many eyes, in front and behind. The first animal was like a lion, the second like a bull, the third animal had a human face, and the fourth animal was like a flying eagle. In Isaiah a passage reads: “A voice cries, Prepare in the wilderness a way for Yahweh. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.

St. John the Baptist is known as a prophet who was the voice in the wilderness who foretold of the coming of the Messiah. He says: “I baptize you with water; he who is mightier than I is coming, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Also he is one of the symbols in/on the Tetramorphs.



Judaism

There is no mention of St. John the Baptist by name in the Torah but there he is referenced in a passage. The Haftarah for Shavuot it says: “The word of the Lord came to the priest Ezekiel son of Buzi, by the Chebar Canal, in the land of the Chaldeans. And the hand of the Lord came upon him there. I looked, and lo, a stormy wind came sweeping out of the north — a huge cloud and flashing fire, surrounded by a radiance; and in the center of it, in the center of the fire, a gleam as of amber. In the center of it were also the figures of four creatures. They had the figures of human beings. However, each had four faces, and each of them had four Each of them had a human face the front]; each of the four had the face of a lion on the right; each of the four had the face of an ox on the left; and each of the four had the face of an eagle the

back].” Shavuot means weeks. It also means “oaths” for on this day God swore eternal devotion to us, and we in turn pledge everlasting loyalty to him.



Islam

The Qur’an also like the Torah does not mention St. John by name. It does mention what he preaches. It says: “ And that is My Path, a straight (one); so follow it closely and do not follow the (other) ways, or then they would make you part away from His way. That (Literally: those “rules”) is what He has enjoined you with, that possibly you would be pious.” This is a reference to St. John the Baptist preparing the way and making it straight for the Lord.

Conclusion

While the two religions, Judaism and Islam, do not make mention of St. John the Baptist followers of both religions are familiar with his ideas and principles. Fellow brethren would find nothing our Masonic lectures to make them uncomfortable or out of place. There is even mention that St. John has a correlation to Druids and Celtic priesthoods of the sun. I did not dive into those as it was out of my scope. In answering the question: "Does St. John the Baptist transcend or apply to other religions?" I will say yes. Ideas extend beyond bounds where people may not go.

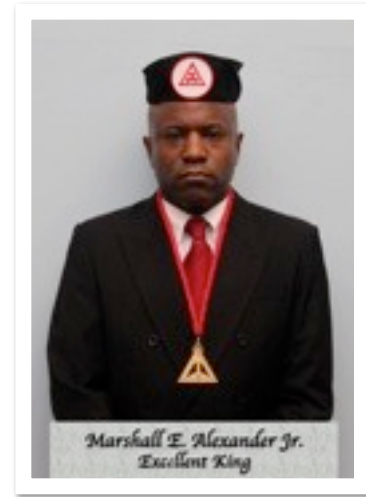
Fraternally,

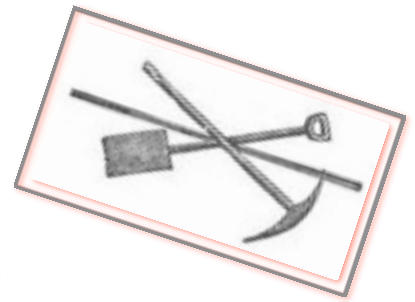
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Marshall E. Alexander Jr.

Excellent King

Sylvester "Pappy" Cann No. 11





After the Royal Arch Degree



A Council of Royal and Select Masters confers the three Cryptic Degrees:

The Royal Master Degree takes the candidate back to the day before the death of the Builder, who once again is the central character, as he was in the Master Mason Degree.

The Select Master Degree also predates the Master Mason Degree and relates events which occurred during the building of the first Temple.

The Super Excellent Master Degree deals with the destruction of Jerusalem and teaches a lesson in fidelity.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

In the Commandery, the Chivalric Orders of Christian Knighthood are conferred as follows:

- The Illustrious Order of the Red Cross
- The Order of Knight of Malta
- The Order of the Temple

The **Illustrious Order of the Red Cross** is founded upon Truth - a divine attribute, the foundation of every virtue.

The **Order of Knight of Malta**, first called Knights Hospitaller of Saint John of Jerusalem, is known to have been in existence as early as 1099 A.D. It was the first organized body whose avowed purpose was the succor and care of the injured on a field of battle. The teaching of the Christian application of Masonic precepts begins with this order.

The **Order of the Temple**, the crowning glory of York Rite Masonry, has been characterized by many as the most solemn and impressive experience in Masonry. Here the aspirant progresses step by step, the way trod by Jesus of Nazareth until the empty tomb joins with the Sprig of Acacia to teach that at last we shall dwell forever in realms of life and light eternal.



Photos from the Chapter



Proclamation #11-02

To: Right Excellent Deputy Grand High Priest, Right Excellent King/Scribe, Past Grand High Priests, Elected and Appointed Grand Chapter's Officers, Past Grand High Priests, Excellent High Priests, Excellent Kings/Scribes, Officers and Companions of Most Excellent Prince Hall Grand Chapter of Holy Royal Arch Masons:

Greetings,

By the power vested in me, pursuant to Section IV of the Constitution and General Laws for the Most Excellent Prince Hall Grand Chapter, Holy Royal Arch Masons, and Jurisdiction of Washington State.

I, Robert D. Cassidy, Most Excellent Grand High Priest, hereby call, Past Grand High Priests, R.E. Deputy Grand High Priest, R.E. Grand King, R.E. Grand Scribe, R.E. Grand Secretary, R.E. Grand Treasurer, all elected and appointed Grand Chapter Officers, Excellent High Priests, Excellent Kings, Excellent Scribes of the Most Excellent Prince Hall Grand Chapter, Holy Royal Arch Masons of Washington Jurisdiction to meet in our 16th Annual Session on July 9, 2011. Commencement will start proximately at 8:30 a.m. with the opening of a chapter of Royal Arch Masons by the host Chapter. The location of our Annual Session will be held at:

Red Lion Hotel Pasco
2525 N. 20th Avenue

Pasco, Washington 99301 Tel: 1 509) 547-0701 Internet: www.redlionhotelpasco.com

Individual registration for the conference is \$65.00 in advance and \$75.00 for registration after June 2, 2011. Additional Banquet Tickets are \$35.00. Registration forms and other information are posted on our website at <http://www.hram-wa.org>; click the event tab and then click the form for 2 the Grand Chapter. Forms should be mailed to the Grand Secretary R.E. Milton F. Jones at P.O. Box 573, DuPont, Washington 98327-0573.



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