

Personal Jesus (Finding the Great Architect Within)

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Many of you probably have heard the song “Personal Jesus” by the seminal synth-pop band Depeche Mode. The song was released on August 28, 1989, as the lead single from their seventh album, *Violator*. You’ve probably still heard it in one form or another, as it’s been covered by the likes of: Johnny Cash, Marilyn Manson, Def Leppard, Sammy Hagar, Gravity Kills, and The Vitamin String Quartet among others. I was in my Junior Year in High School when it was released. I had probably recently become a fan of Depeche Mode at that point, it’s hard to remember when I started listening to them, but I know it was most likely my sophomore year of High School. Full disclosure, I’m a huge fan of Depeche Mode. I’ve seen them in concert several times, and I try to see them every time they roll through either Chicago, St. Louis or Indianapolis. None of that is important, what is important is what the song evokes. The lyrics that stick out to me the most: Are at the beginning of the song, and also its chorus. Lyrics courtesy: Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC, used under fair use for educational purposes. Songwriter: Martin L. Gore

“Reach out and touch faith
Your own personal Jesus
Someone to hear your prayers
Someone who cares
Your own personal Jesus
Someone to hear your prayers
Someone who's there”

Listening to it now, I can’t help but think about the second section of the Master Mason’s degree.

Anytime you’re writing about the 3rd Degree, it’s tricky. You write in code, omitting things that might be found in violation of the obligation you took during your 1st degree. Using the ritual that William Morgan published in “*Illustrations of Freemasonry*” it’s that part in our ritual that states something like: “Furthermore, do I promise and swear that I will not write, print, stamp, stain, hew, cut, carve, indent, paint, or engrave it on anything movable or immovable, under the whole canopy of heaven, whereby or whereon the least letter, figure, character, mark, stain, shadow, or resemblance of the same may become legible or intelligible to myself or any other person in the known world, whereby the secrets of Masonry may be unlawfully obtained through my unworthiness.” To be honest, all of us writing for “The Midnight Freemasons” blog, or anyone who has ever written anything about Freemasonry would be guilty of violating the strictest interpretation of the above. In my jurisdiction, Illinois, that part is not omitted in our un-ciphered book of standard work. I would therefore say that if my Grand Lodge doesn’t think that part is a secret of Masonry then I’m safe to allude to it. I am sure that there will be some Freemasons who read the above and shake with anger over my mere mention of it. I will endeavor to be careful to not violate my interpretation of that part of the obligation. I also want to state for

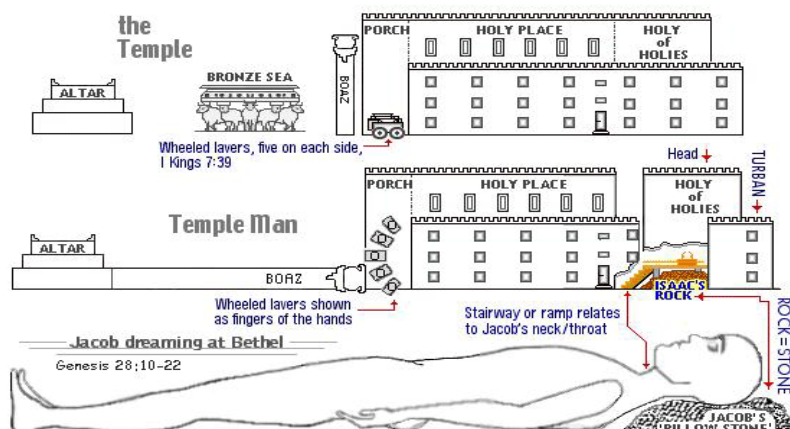
the record that the below is my personal interpretation of what is being taught in the 3rd degree, and that it does not reflect the opinions of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, or the Midnight Freemasons.

Watch any show about Freemasonry on Discovery, History or the American Heroes channel, and you'll inevitably be told about what we call the "Temple Legend" or the "Legend of Hiram Abiff". I don't think I'm revealing any secrets here when I state that Hiram Abiff is the chief architect of the Temple of Solomon and a Master Mason. Three fellowcraft, who do not want to wait until the temple is complete to learn the secrets of a Master Mason waylay Hiram. Hiram is attacked and ultimately murdered. What always puzzled me is how he is attacked and how he is murdered. If you pay strict attention to the degree, the first ruffian, Jubela's blow is a direct allusion to the penalty of the First Degree. The second ruffian, Jubelo's blow to Hiram is a direct allusion to the penalty of the Second Degree. Following this logic, you would think that the third ruffian, Jubelum's killing blow would parallel the penalty of the Third degree but it doesn't. Hiram's skull is crushed.

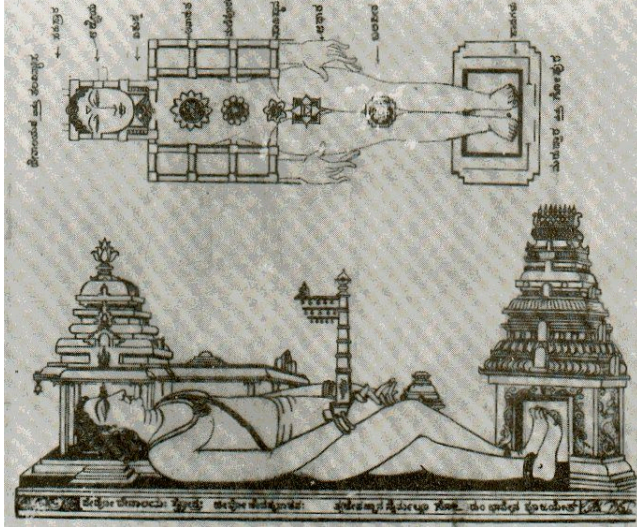
We have to understand what I believe Hiram symbolizes before we can start to understand why I believe the above occurs. Once again, I want to stress this is my own interpretation that I'm sharing. Hiram represents the sum of each of us as a man. Hiram is our ego, our sins, our triumphs, our failures. He is the physical self, governed by his emotions more than his reason. If you don't believe what I just wrote, scroll through your Facebook feed. You'll quickly agree that reason is often overruled by emotion. Hiram is the sum of each of us, and he represents everything that the candidate portraying him carries inside him at that point.

I've already stated, that Hiram is the chief architect of the Temple of Solomon. He is the Grand Master. He puts each day's work instructions on the trestle board for the rest of the craftsmen to follow.

It should come as no surprise that the Temple of Solomon is a blueprint for the Temple that we are building within ourselves. If this is the case, how would the temple look if superimposed over the human body? Using the below images taken from <http://www.templesecrets.info/> and using them under fair use for the educational purpose of this article, you can clearly see how this applies:



But this idea is just borrowing from one of the world's oldest religions. The Hindus had a similar concept long before the Temple of Solomon became the blueprint for the Temple Man.



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We are taught that our lodges are situated like King Solomon's temple. Yet, I find it interesting that Hindu Temples share the below with King Solomon's Temple and Masonic Lodges:

The Hindu's perform circumambulation within the temple. We perform circumambulation within our lodges.

The Hindu Temple is not thought of as the meeting place of the congregation, rather the temple is the focal point of the community of the congregation. A Masonic Lodge is not the building where the members meet, rather it is the community of members.

The heart of the temple is where the most important icon is placed (garbha grha). The heart of our Lodge room is the altar where the 3 greater and 3 lesser lights reside.

Pillared halls and Porticos were added to the Garbha Grha. King Solomons' Temple had both Pillars and Porticos. We keep a representation of the pillars in each Lodge Room.

Hindu Temples were very ornate. This is due to their belief that things that were not ornamented were imperfect. King Solomon's Temple was heavily ornamented, and we represent this with the ornaments on each pillars.

Something else that both have in common is displayed in the diagrams of each Temple Man. In the examples above, King Solomon's Temple Man and the Hindu Temple Man both have man's connection with the divine in his head. In the Hindu Temple Man, the Sahasrara (or Crown) Chakra represents this. In the King Solomon's Temple Man, the idea that the Holy of Holies resides there, represents this. But don't take my word for it as 1 Corinthians 6:19 states: "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own".

But what is man's connection with the divine? The ancient Greeks had two forms of Knowledge. Gnosis and Logos. Gnosis was knowledge of how to do something. For example, how to build a house, ride a horse, plant

and harvest crops. In contrast, Logos was academic knowledge, such as knowledge of mathematics or logic. Logos was primarily taught through words, whereas Gnosis was taught through practice and repetition.

In spiritual terms, Gnosis is knowledge of one's connection with the divine. Socrates said: "To know thyself is the beginning of wisdom." Philo of Alexandria understood gnosis to be knowledge of God and his Sophia (Wisdom), but also of oneself, nature and the great work (Magnus Opus). The Egyptian proverbs found inscribed in their temples and tombs show they understood this as well. Some of these proverbs are as follows: "The kingdom of heaven is within you; and whosoever shall know himself shall find it.", "The body is the house of god. That is why it is said, "Man know yourself.", "Your body is the temple of knowledge.", and "True teaching is not an accumulation of knowledge; it is an awaking of consciousness which goes through successive stages."

Logos meaning "Word", "Reason", or "Plan", was thought of in Greek Philosophy to be the divine reason which gives the cosmos form and meaning. This idea can be traced back to Heracleitus, who observed in the cosmos a reasoning power like that of man. The stoics defined Logos as an active spiritual and rational process that permeates all reality. Philo of Alexandria thought of Logos as the mediator between God and the Cosmos. Logos was that created the universe but that also that which allows man to comprehend God. Both Philo and Platonists believed that Logos was both intrinsic to the world, but also the transcendent mind of God. John 1 1:5 identifies Logos, stating: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it." And John 1 14:16, he equates Jesus Christ as this Logos, saying: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.¹⁵ John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ^[i]is preferred before me, for He was before me.' "¹⁶ ^[e]And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten ^[h]Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*." Later, in John 8:12, he makes the final connection between Jesus and Logos when Christ says: "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Gnosis then can be linked with Logos, as knowing oneself can be attributed to knowing God, and thereby knowing Logos. As the brain is the seat of knowledge, it is where Gnosis resides, and therefore where your connection with God resides. This ties back to the above, where I mention the head as being the place where the divine resides in the temple man. There's a reason that halos are depicted around the head. It is the place from which the Logos or the divine light emanates from, and is the place where the connection with the divine resides.



According to the New Testament, Jesus died and was buried, but on the third day rose again. Taken Exoterically, Jesus is the fulfilment of the scriptures for those that believe in him. Esoterically what is the crucifixion teaching us? According to Matthew 27:33, Jesus is crucified at Golgotha. Golgotha is a Hebrew word meaning: "The skull or the place of the skull." This tells us that the crucifixion happens in our skulls. Hebrews 9 16:18 states: "For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth. Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood." This simply means, In order to have an understanding of God within us, in order to reach Gnosis, we have there must an allegorical death of the physical self. One cannot find God while one is concerned with the things of this world, one must surrender themselves in order to find God. I think Galatians 2:20 states this concept best: "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Luke 23 33 states: "And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left." Luke repeats the message of Matthew, but gives us some instructions on how to perform the crucifixion. Calvary comes from the Latin word for skull. The malefactors on the right hand and the left hand refer to our eyes. Once again, in order to gain Gnosis, the physical (which we comprehend through our eyes which are ultimately thieves because they hide the non-physical world), must be crucified. The Christ in the middle is the mind's eye, or the third eye which remains shut. We have to meditate or pray to open it. Meditation or prayer is how we achieve gnosis. Referring back to the Hindu Temple Man, the kundalini must travel up the spine from the root Chakra (Muladhara) to the 3rd eye Chakra (Ajna), so that the Crown Chakra (Sahasrara) can be activated. As mentioned earlier, the Crown Chakra is the connection to the divine. Luke 23 44 "And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour." There are 12 cranial nerves inside of the brain, and Jesus had 12 apostles. The 6th nerve, called the Abducens Nerve, controls outward eye movement. The 9th nerve, called the Glossopharyngeal nerve, controls your ability to speak. Luke is telling us that in order to undergo the crucifixion we must sit in darkness in silent prayer or meditation (in order to open the third eye), until the word of God (Logos) is understood (resurrection of Christ is understood allegorically for awakening your connection to the divine).

Mark has a different way of informing us of this. In Mark 15 25, he states “And it was the third hour, and they crucified him.” Later in Mark 15 34 he says: “And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” The third cranial nerve, the Oculomotor nerve, controls the eyes ability to focus on objects as well as its response to light by controlling the size of the pupil. It takes Jesus six hours to die according to Mark, which aligns him with Luke’s esoteric message. Mark is saying that you have to kill the 3rd nerve, (Sit in Darkness in prayer or meditation) until the word of God (Logos) is understood.

The temple legend is teaching the same message. Jubelum crushing Hiram’s skull is analogous to Christ being crucified at Golgotha or Calvary. The physical self (represented by the candidate/Hiram Abiff) must be allegorically killed. The 12 fellow craft represent the 12 cranial nerves. The 3 ruffians attacking the candidate and meeting at low twelve (in darkness) to bury him on Mount Moriah is a reference to have the 3rd nerve killed (needing to be in darkness in prayer or meditation which is why the candidate is blindfolded for the second section until he is “raised”). The 3 fellow craft that find Hiram’s body are a reference to the 3rd eye which is needed to be open in order for the awakening of the connection of the divine to take place. The raising of Hiram by King Solomon, Hiram King of Tyre and the 12 fellowcraft, is analogous to the resurrection (understanding Logos to awaken your connection to the divine).

King Solomon raising Hiram represents the wisdom which is needed to obtain Gnosis (or understanding of Logos). The way in which King Solomon raises the candidate/Hiram Abiff is a direct reference to Christ’s resurrection (esoterically the understanding of Logos and awakening your connection with the divine), as Jesus is called the Lion of the tribe of Judah. Note that the fellowcraft and Hiram King of Tyre were unable to raise Hiram (Raise their consciousness or awaken their connection with the divine) because only King Solomon had the wisdom to do so. The Word (Logos) being lost is a reference to this knowledge needing to be lost (hidden). The substitute word given to the candidate isn’t a substitution but a summary of what just occurred to them. The candidate is given a definition of what the lost word means during the 3rd degree. This however is not the true definition. The true meaning of the substitute word is “the Grand Lodge door opened”, which is to say if the candidate truly understood the lesson imparted to them in the 3rd degree, then they will be able to open the door to the “Grand Lodge”, or the spiritual realm (achieve Gnosis).

John 2 13:16 states: “And the Jews’ passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting;¹⁵ And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers’ money, and overthrew the tables;¹⁶ And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father’s house an house of merchandise.” The lesson being taught her esoterically is that our temple should not be tainted with the vestiges of the physical world. By practicing meditation or prayer in darkness, and by crucifying the physically self (focusing only on the internal meditation or prayer and not on

the external influences), one is able to awaken their connection with the divine. In doing so, in achieving Gnosis, each of us can find the personal Jesus (Logos) that resides inside of our bodily temple, in the holy of holies inside of our brain.