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September 2013 News Letter

Dear Family and Friends,

It is hard to believe that it is Fall Season again. It is time for harvesting the last few things in our gardens and of course back to school for the kids. Time marches on, whether you are ready for it or not! However, I've learned to love the change of seasons. Each one has its own benefits; and I love the change!

Our message for this month is: The Red Fez

MY DANGEROUS ENCOUNTER WITH SPIRITUALISM – By Katie Armstrong

When I was a young girl of about 9 or 10 years old my family and I were visiting my dad's sister in Ohio. Also visiting her at that time was my dad's brother. Although I wasn't aware of it at the time, during this visit I was being introduced to a form of spiritualism by my Uncle.

My uncle said he wanted to show us a new parlor game he had learned about and he thought everyone might enjoy it. My aunt had a huge wooden dining room table in her dining room. My uncle suggested we gather about the table and put our hands on the table. He turned the lights down. He said we would witness some strange things.

He told us we would be able to make that huge dining room table answer any questions that we might ask it. Of course It would have no audible voice but we would be able to make the table tap out answers for us. For an example; we could ask it to tap out one tap for yes or two taps for no. Also we could get it to tap out our various ages by taping once for each year of age. Everyone around the table was to keep both their hands on top of the table and be very still. It was not long

before we began to hear the sound of wood creaking and snapping and sure enough, one leg of the table began rising up. After this my uncle instructed us to ask it any question we wanted. Some asked how old they were while others asked it a yes or no question. It was strange but the table's answers were very accurate on the ages and other questions.

Afterwards someone asked what made this happen. My uncle said it was simply electrical impulses from our various brains going through our hands into the table. This seemed to be a satisfactory answer to all in the group and everyone believed it was just a harmless game. As far as I know, this was the end of the game; it was all forgotten and I never heard of anyone there trying to do this on their own.

However, years later when I was in the early days of my marriage, my uncle came to visit my husband and I and during the course of his stay with us he suggested we make the table raise. My husband would have no part of it but a cousin of mine was there and we joined with my uncle in making the table talk to us.

Over the next few years when my uncle came to visit, we would do this for a "past time".

Once my cousin and I decided we would try it ourselves. We had a small table. We asked if it could dance and It tapped out yes. So we said we would like for it to dance a waltz. It proceeded to tap out the rhythm.....1,2,3; 1,2,3; 1,2,3. It did this over and over until we told it to stop. When I asked if it could walk it tapped out yes, so we instructed it to go from the living room to the bedroom, turn around and come back from where it started. To our surprise the table began to scoot towards the bedroom. It scooted to the foot of the bed, turned around and proceeded to scoot its way back to the starting point in the living room.

Several years my uncle came again. During the course of this visit he wanted us to make the table talk. He took a small table, taped a writing pen to one of its legs. He took a large piece of brown paper and taped it to the kitchen linoleum floor. He sat the table on top of the paper. My uncle told me to ask it a question. This was very shortly after the death of President Kennedy so I asked it, "What great tragedy just occurred in our country?"

It wasn't long before the table began to move and scoot around on the paper. After the table had come to a stop we saw the message that it had written which said, "Kennedy killed."

After this happened, I realized that this was NOT "just electrical impulses going to our various brains and traveling through our hands and going through the table." I was not a Christian at the time but I could see there was an evil force at work here. This was, of course, the very last time I ever did this!

I really had believed this was just an innocent parlor game and it all originated from our own brains. But when my eyes were really opened I knew it was not so innocent, but actually the work of an evil mastermind - Satan himself!

After I became a Christian and learned about how Satan works, I knew for a certainty that this business of making the table talk was his work. I was so sorry for ever having anything to do with such an evil thing! Satan was setting his snare to battle for my very soul!

I thank God He was there in the background and was able to deliver me from this form of spiritualism. I NEVER again want to be fooled by this or any other satanic subtle inroad to spiritualism!

I was only nine or ten at the time of this first encounter so I was unaware of what spiritualism was or the damage it could do to you spiritually.

(Note: I have purposely left out details on how the table was made to rise to do our bidding. I did this so as not to be an encouragement for anyone to experiment with this type of thing.)

I really hope my story will prevent someone else from following a similar course. Please don't fall into Satan's snare! Stay far away from this kind of thing! (Examples: Ouija Boards, fortune tellers, palm readers, horoscopes etc.)

Be careful of anything questionable you may THINK is harmless or could not possibly affect you! Satan has many ways to battle for your soul! He uses novels on mysticism such as Harry Potter Series, Fairy Tales for the children, movies about witches, demons and the like.

The Bible clearly speaks against spiritualism. There is no way you can enter heaven if you are practicing any form of spiritualism. Rev. 21:8 "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and

sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

Isaiah 8:19 "And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? For the living to the dead?" (in other words, we should seek God for answers to our problems and questions and not to the dead)

Lev. 20:6 "And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people."

Deut 18:10-12 "There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee."

We must be very careful about the things we think and talk about, see, hear and do. The Bible tells us what we should think upon:

Philippians 4:8 "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

The Bible also tells us about King Saul and his encounter with the witch of Endor:

1 Samuel 28:7-20 "Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and inquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor. And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee. And the

woman said unto him, Behold, thou knowest what Saul hath done, how he hath cut off those that have familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land: wherefore then layest thou a snare for my life, to cause me to die?

And Saul sware to her by the LORD, saying, As the LORD liveth, there shall no punishment happen to thee for this thing. Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel. And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice: and the woman spake to Saul, saying, Why hast thou deceived me? for thou art Saul. And the king said unto her, Be not afraid: for what sawest thou? And the woman said unto Saul, I saw gods ascending out of the earth. **(note: out of the earth not heaven)** And he said unto her, What form is he of? And she said, An old man cometh up; and he is covered with a mantle. And **Saul perceived** that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed himself. And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up? And Saul answered, I am sore distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God is departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams: therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do. Then said Samuel, Wherefore then dost thou ask of me, seeing the LORD is departed from thee, and is become thine enemy? And the LORD hath done to him, as he spake by me: for the LORD hath rent the kingdom out of thine hand, and given it to thy neighbour, even to David. Because thou obeyedst not the voice of the LORD, nor executedst his fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore hath the LORD done this thing unto thee this day. Moreover the LORD will also deliver Israel with thee into the hand of the Philistines: and tomorrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me: the LORD also shall deliver the host of Israel into the hand of the Philistines. Then Saul fell straightway all along on the earth, and was sore afraid, because of the words of Samuel: and there was no strength in him; for he had eaten no bread all the day, nor all the night”

Note: While the prophet Samuel was alive, Saul would not heed his instructions from God. The witch of Endor did not bring up Samuel the prophet; what she did bring up was one of Satan’s

angels which impersonated Samuel. Remember the Bible clearly says, “For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion forever in anything that is done under the sun.” Eccl.9:5,6

“It is fondly supposed that heathen superstitions have disappeared before the civilization of the twentieth century. But the word of God and the stern testimony of facts declare that sorcery is practiced in this age as verily as in the days of the old-time magicians. The ancient system of magic is, in reality, the same as what is now known as modern spiritualism. Satan is finding access to thousands of minds by presenting himself under the guise of departed friends. The Scriptures declare that "the dead know not anything." Ecclesiastes 9:5. “Their thoughts, their love, their hatred, have perished.” The dead do not hold communion with the living. But true to his early cunning, Satan employs this device in order to gain control of minds.” {AA 289.2}

“The follower of Christ will meet with the "enticing words" against which the apostle warned the Colossian believers. He will meet with spiritualistic interpretations of the Scriptures, but he is not to accept them. His voice is to be heard in clear affirmation of the eternal truths of the Scriptures. Keeping his eyes fixed on Christ, he is to move steadily forward in the path marked out, discarding all ideas that are not in harmony with His teaching. The truth of God is to be the subject for his contemplation and meditation. He is to regard the Bible as the voice of God speaking directly to him. Thus he will find the wisdom which is divine.” {AA 474.2}

SPIRITULISM HAS SPREAD ALL OVER THE WORLD, AND COUNTS ITS ADHERENTS BY MANY MILLIONS. AS A GENERAL THING, SPIRITUALISTS HAVE DENIED THE BIBLE AND DERIDED CHRISTIANITY.

“While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, he will bring disease and disaster, until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation. Even now

he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous. Destruction will be upon both man and beast. "The earth mourneth and fadeth away," "The haughty people . . . do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant." Isaiah 24:4, 5. {CH 461.1}

"Spiritualism declares that there is no death, no sin, no judgment, no retribution; that "men are unfallen demigods"; that desire is the highest law; and that man is accountable only to himself. The barriers that God has erected to guard truth, purity, and reverence, are broken down, and many are thus emboldened in sin. Does not such teaching suggest an origin similar to that of demon worship?"--Signs of the Times, June 30, 1890. {Ev 608.1}

"The prayer of faith is the great strength of the Christian, and will assuredly prevail against Satan. This is why he insinuates that we have no need of prayer. The name of Jesus, our Advocate, he detests; and when we earnestly come to Him for help, Satan's host is alarmed. It serves his purpose well if we neglect the exercise of prayer, for then his lying wonders are more readily received."--Testimonies, vol. 1, p. 296. (1862)

"That time will soon come, and we shall have to keep hold of the strong arm of Jehovah; for all these great signs and mighty wonders of the devil are designed to deceive God's people and overthrow them. Our minds must be stayed upon God, and we must not fear the fear of the wicked, that is, fear what they fear, and reverence what they reverence, but be bold and valiant for the truth. Could our eyes be opened, we should see forms of evil angels around us, trying to invent some new way to annoy and destroy us. And we should also see angels of God guarding us from their power; for God's watchful eye is ever over Israel for good,

and He will protect and save His people, if they put their trust in Him. **When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.**" {CET 170.1}

HEALTH NUGGET

WHY SMOKING MAKES HIGH CHOLESTEROL MORE DANGEROUS

More than 45 million Americans smoke cigarettes, even though cigarette smoking is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States, accounting for more than one in every five deaths.

If you already have high cholesterol—too much of that waxy, fatty substance in your body's cells—smoking is especially risky. Low-density lipoproteins (LDL) and high-density lipoproteins (HDL) carry cholesterol throughout your body and ideally, you need healthy levels of both. LDL is usually known as "bad" cholesterol and can build up in your arteries, putting you at risk for coronary heart disease.

Smoking affects cholesterol in both a direct and indirect way, says David Frid, MD of the Cleveland Clinic's Dept. of Cardiovascular Medicine.

Research shows that smoking can lower levels of "good," heart-protecting HDL cholesterol, just the opposite of what's desirable.

"HDL's primary role is 'reverse cholesterol transport,' to transport LDL out of the system—out of places it shouldn't be," Dr. Frid says. "A lower HDL number means its benefits will be less and that LDL will hang around and won't get removed as easily."

Nicotine and tar from smoking also irritate blood vessels. Troublesome LDL actually "latches on" to those areas of irritation and inflammation, says Dr. Frid.

It gets into the blood vessel walls and starts developing plaque--a fat- or lipid filled bump in the blood vessel--and then blockages,"he says.

As plaque becomes more prominent, the vessel becomes more likely to rupture or have a clot attached, possibly causing a heart attack.

With LDL as a catalyst for plaque development, and high blood pressure and diabetes- also irritants to blood vessel walls- "you've set yourself

up for a process that is just out of control, says Dr. Frid.

So if you have high cholesterol levels, it's more important than ever that you stop smoking-and soon. Don't go it alone and you'll have a better chance of success. For help quitting smoking, contact the American Heart Association at 800-242-8721 or visit educationpackets.heart.org to request a Stop Smoking packet.

(HeartInsight Nov 2012)

APOSTLE JAMES THE SON OF ALPHEUS

James, the Lesser or Younger, son of Alpheus, lived in Capernaum (located on the north-western shores of the Sea of Galilee in Israel.) He was given that title either because he was younger than James the son of Zebedee or on account of his short stature.

Some scholars believe he was the brother of Matthew, the tax collector. Matthew was also the son of a man named Alphaeus, but the two were never referred to as brothers, whereas Peter and Andrew, and the apostle James and John, sons of Zebedee were consistently referred to as being brothers. Therefore it is possible but not probable that he and Matthew were brothers.

James is one of the little known disciples. He is listed as one of the twelve disciples in Mat 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:15; Acts 1:13. He heads the last group of four which includes Thaddeus, Simon the Zelotes and Judas Isacriot. He is not distinguished by name in any occasion reported in the Gospels or Acts. By Matthew and Mark he is coupled with Thaddaeus and by Luke and Acts with Simon Zelotes. Nothing else is said about James, son of Alpheus except he was among those who went to the upper room to pray after the Ascension of Jesus.

Hippolytus, the Roman Writer confirms that James met his death at the age of 94 years. It is said that he was stoned by the Jews, however, the stoning failed to kill him outright, so the Jews busted his head with a club. He was buried close to the temple in Jerusalem.

THE APOSTLE JUDAS/LEBBEUS/THADDAEUS

Jerome called Jude "Trinomious" which means "A man with three names.

In Mark 3:18 he is called Thaddeus. In Matthew 10:3 he is called Lebbeus. His surname was Thaddeus. In Luke 6:16 and Acts 1:13 he is called Judas the brother of James.

Little is known about Thaddeus but Bible scholars generally agree, however, that the four names used for him all refer to the same person.

The apostle Jude was believed to be from the Jewish tribe of Judah. And after the ascension of Jesus, Jude was one of the first apostles to leave Jerusalem for a foreign country

He is called Judas but is distinguished from Judas Iscariot. In the single epistle he authored, he calls himself "Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James." (Jude 1, NIV). Most scholars believe that brother would be James the Less, or James the son of Alphaeus.

Thaddeus preached the gospel as a missionary following Jesus' resurrection. He also penned the book of Jude. The final two verses of Jude (24-25) contain a doxology, or "expression of praise to God," considered the finest in the New Testament.

Jude 24-25 "To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen." (NIV)

Thaddeus learned the gospel directly from Jesus and loyally served Christ despite hardship and persecution.

Like most of the other apostles, Thaddeus abandoned Jesus during his trial and crucifixion. In his short epistle, Jude warns believers to avoid false teachers who twist the gospel for their own purposes, and he calls us to staunchly defend the Christian faith during persecution.

Jude 20-21 "But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life." (NIV)

Jude is believed to have evangelized the area of Armenia associated with the city of Edessa, in company perhaps of the apostle Bartholomew,

and for a brief time, with the apostle Thomas. One can, also, believe that Jude spent his years of evangelization in Syria and northern Persia. It is likely that he was martyred there and buried in Kara Kalisa near the Caspian Sea, about 40 miles from Tabriz, in modern day Iran.

The Disciples of Christ were not violent. They did not spread hate nor violence. They were not fighting a war against political powers nor establishments of the time. They did not seek to overthrow the Roman Empire. They did not incite Christians against King Herod or Emperor Nero. Jesus even told people to "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

Their only crime was spreading the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus. They were persecuted for spreading the message of Love and Forgiveness that Jesus had taught about when He was on earth.

We may not be able to accomplish what Jesus' twelve disciples did, however, we are all just as much Jesus' disciples as those twelve were.

THERE WERE TWELVE DISCIPLES

There were twelve disciples Jesus called to help him:

Simon Peter, Andrew, James, his brother John,
Philip, Thomas, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus,
Thaddeus, Simon, Judas, and Bartholomew.

He has called us, too. He has called us, too.

We are His disciples, I am one and you!
He has called us, too. He has called us, too.
We are His disciples, I am one and you!

(This concludes this series on Jesus 12 Disciples.)

FROM KATIE'S COOKBOOKS

Macaroni & Cheese Casserole

Prepare:

8 oz box whole wheat macaroni, cooked
1 cup cooked green peas

Saute:

1 cup chopped green onions
2 cloves of chopped garlic
1 cup sliced fresh mushrooms
¾ cup chopped celery

Pimento-Cashew Cheese

Prepare:

Blend until smooth:

1 cup water
2 Tbsp sesame seeds
1 ½ tsp onion powder
4 oz jar pimentos, chopped
¼ cup oil (optional)

1 cup cashew nuts (rinsed, raw) or 1 cup of Sunflower seeds

3 Tbsp nutritional yeast flakes

¼ tsp garlic powder

¼ cup lemon juice or 2 fresh medium lemons juiced

Mix 2-3 cups of Pimento Cashew Cheese with above ingredients. (salt to taste) Pour into casserole dish. Bake at 350 degrees until bubbly. YUM!

Rodney and I just returned from a short trip to Florida. My granddaughter just had a baby boy. I had never seen her first little boy who is two years old now. They are both so adorable! I really enjoyed myself while visiting with my grown children, grand kids, and great grand kids! It was so good to get together with all my kids at one time. The trip was tiring but it was well worth it!

I pray you will all have a very enjoyable Fall Season and that the Lord will bless each one of you.

Until next time,

Remember, God loves you and so do we!

Rodney and Katie Armstrong



THE RED FEZ

“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;” 2 Thess. 2:3

“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.” Ephesians 5:11

“For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,” 2 Thessalonians 2: 7-9

“And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” 2 Thessalonians 2:11,12

As a former Worshipful Master of a Masonic Lodge I am compelled to share and tell the absolute **truth** as my God would have me do. (*Jack Harris*)

In order for a person to become a Shriner, he must not only go through all the degrees of Masonry, make all those blood-curdling oaths, worship gods who are not gods except they are of Satan, but he must make a blood oath of allegiance to Allah as

his god and Mohammed as his prophet. The Shriner is then given a red fez with an Islamic sword and crescent jeweled on the front of it. This originates from 7th century Arabia when the Moslems under the leadership of Mohammed, **slaughtered all Christians** who would not bow down to Allah. Allah, by the way, was not another (generic) name given to God by Mohammed; Allah is the tribal deity --the moon god-- of Mohammed; it was the name of the god in the tribe that Mohammed was born into. That is why every mosque today has a crescent moon on the top of its spire

Now when Mohammed's army of men, out to slaughter all the 'infidels', came to the city of Fez, in Morocco, they found a community of Christians. After killing all the Christians there with their Islamic-style swords, they took their hats (called a fez) and **dipped them in the blood of the Christians**, and wore the fezzes throughout the land glorying in their victory over Christianity. Today Shriners put on red fezzes (representing the hats dipped in the blood of Christians) with the Islamic sword and crescent showing their allegiance to Allah and Mohammed (and the defeat of Christianity). **Men in Obscene Red Fezzes!**

In one of the Royal Institute of International Affairs top secret papers, the scenario is laid out as follows (in part): "...having been failed by Christianity, and with unemployment on every hand, those who have been without jobs for five years or more will turn away from the church and seek solace in drugs. That is when full control of the drug trade must be completed in order that the governments of all countries who are under our jurisdiction will have a **MONOPOLY** which we will control through supply.... Drug bars will take care of the unruly and the discontent, would-be revolutionaries will be turned into harmless addicts with no will of their own..." There is ample evidence that the CIA and British intelligence, specially M16, have already spent at least a decade working toward this goal. (John Coleman's **Committee of 300**)

" **Freemasonry** is a fraternity within a fraternity -- an outer organization concealing an inner brotherhood of the elect ... it is necessary to establish the existence of these two separate and yet interdependent orders, the one visible and the other invisible. The visible society is a splendid camaraderie of

'free and accepted' men enjoined to devote themselves to ethical, educational, fraternal, patriotic, and humanitarian concerns. The invisible society is a secret and most August [defined as 'of majestic dignity, grandeur'] fraternity whose members are dedicated to the service of a mysterious arcandum [defined as 'a secret, a mystery']." [Hall, *Lectures on Ancient Philosophy*, p. 433]

"When a Mason learns the key to the warrior on the block is the proper application of the dynamo of living power, he has learned the mystery of his Craft. The seething energies of Lucifer are in his hands and before he may step onward and upward, he must prove his ability to properly apply energy." [The Lost Keys To Freemasonry, Manly P. Hall, published by the Macoy Publishing and Masonic Supply Company, Inc., Richmond, Virginia, 1976, p. 48; Emphasis added]

"We are grateful to the Washington Post, The New York Times, Time Magazine and other great publications whose directors have attended our meetings and respected their promises of discretion for almost forty years. It would have been impossible for us to develop our plan for the world if we had been subjected to the lights of publicity during those years. But, the world is now more sophisticated and prepared to march towards a world government. The supranational sovereignty of an intellectual elite and world bankers is surely preferable to the national auto-determination practiced in past centuries."

Still Don't Believe In The New World Order?

Ever wonder why the Freemasonry meetings and gatherings are in **Total Secrecy**? Did you know that their rituals dishonor the person and work of Jesus Christ and give glory to the Prince of Darkness. The Masonic lodge is Satan's darkroom for developing negatives in the hearts and minds of the lost and unenlightened.

Many people go into Freemasonry today believing that it is just a philanthropic organization that does a lot of good work. They see advertisements for the Shrine hospitals and hospitals and the Masonic homes for the elderly; many view it as a fraternal organization, kind of an advanced boy scouts. One survey said that many men get into it out of social

reasons; their friends are in it; or they think it is a good place to network and do business.

What Freemasonry is, claimed in their own books, is a revival of the ancient mystery religions of Egypt and Balak, and from Persia and India. Albert Pike in his *"Morals and Dogma"* and Albert Mackey in his *"Encyclopedia of Freemasonry"*, say that masonry is a religion and that every Masonic lodge is a temple of religion. It is interesting that many Christians have gotten into this religion not understanding how pagan it is.

Everyone who joins the local lodge joins what is called the Blue Lodge, the meeting center, and has to go through an initiation ceremony. Every Mason, including those in our churches today, have gone through this initiation; it is the only way you can get into the lodge.

The first thing that happens is that a blindfold is put on them, a noose (called a cabletoll) is hung on their neck, their shirt is opened to bare their chest, and they are brought to the outer door of the lodge. There, a sharp point (of a compass or a dagger) is placed on their chest. Someone then asks, "Who comes?" to which candidate states "A poor, blind beggar looking to move from darkness to the light of Freemasonry." They are then brought (pulled by the noose) into the Masonic lodge where they must bow at an altar. Behind the altar stands a man they call the Worshipful Master of the Lodge (the leader of the lodge). Again the candidate makes his plea for Freemasonry. After answering a series of questions, the mason to be takes a series of blood oaths and promises not to reveal the secrets of Freemasonry that he will learn -- upon having his throat cut from ear to ear.

These are some of the actual oaths a Mason must take: In the first degree of the Blue Lodge, "Binding myself under no less a penalty, than having my throat cut across, my tongue torn out from its roots and buried in the rough sands of the sea..."