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THE PARADOX OF THE THIRD DEGREE

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PREFACE

When I was first invited to speak before THE LODGE OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH it was my intention to make just an oral presentation, this unfortunately would not do, they required a written Treatise for Circulation. I have never previously presented a Paper on Speculative Philosophy nor have I the slightest idea how it should be done, but as a Speculative Freemason, I should at least try.

The reader will perhaps bear with me and forgive the fact that I may not dot the eyes or cross the tees where details of the subject are presented. Most of the information will be drawn from my memory of studying ancient history for the last fifty years, this is my hobby, carried out for my own insatiable curiosity! I cannot remember all the sources I am drawing from. Fortunately, I was able to obtain access to some in our local library, and was not only able to content myself with refreshing my memory, but also updating it.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

King James Version	The Bible
Flavios Josephus	The Antiquities of the Jews
Henry Frazer	The Golden Bough
Cambridge University Press	History of the Bible
Dr K.M. Kenton	Royal Cities of the Old Testament
James Hastings	Dictionary of the Bible

THE BIBLE

(more specifically the Old Testament)

The Bible being the oldest book giving the details of the first Temple at Jerusalem, it is necessary that its origins should be explained for the benefit of the brethren. When reading the Old Testament, it gives the reader a sense of continuity from start to finish, unfortunately that is not the case. Serious objective Bible scholars are of the opinion that the Bible was written after the exile of Babylon, it is known that it was drastically edited between 400-200 B.C. by a succession of Priestly Scholars until it became Canon Law. It reflects the Oral Tradition of Twelve Semitic Nomadic Tribes together with Jewish interpretations of Babylon's ancient History. the intent of the publication was to keep the tribe of Judah as a whole, if at any future date they should be subjected to Exile or Diaspora.

GEOGRAPHY

Palestine proper, extended from Gaza to the vicinity of present day Saida. It consisted of a coastal plain occupied by Phoenicians in the north, Philistines in the south, together with a Limestone Plateau from the Coastal Plains and extending Eastward down to the Valley of the Jordan. This Plateau

was occupied by the people of Canaan, it was indeed as the Bible reports a Land of Fruit and Honey. The climate then was similar to Vancouver Island wet winters, dry summers. The western face of the Plateau was covered with trees, in the north it was cedars. The coastal plain cedars mixed with deciduous trees. The plateau and Eastern face olives and fig trees where cultivated and elsewhere it was Acacia trees and Savannah country. What we see now is a land that is suffering from deforestation and overgrazing by sheep and goats. The Plateau was the Key situation as it was the High Road from the North for caravans to Egypt and at its narrowest point was controlled by the City of Jerusalem. the Phoenicians and

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Canaanites were of Semitic ethnic origin similar to the nomadic Jewish tribes. The Philistines were the remnants of the Sea people who settled there after their defeat by Rameses of Egypt. However at the time we are speaking about 1000 B.C. they shared a common language and communicated with each other.

JERUSALEM

The Cities of Canaan had one thing in common, a year round supply of water. Originally a meeting place of Nomadic Tribes, they eventually became trading centres with a permanent population of skilled trades. They cultivated all the area in their immediate vicinity, both for their own use and for trading with Nomads for meat. These Cities were Self Governing, and controlled the Land in their immediate vicinity but were separated from each other by uncontrolled wilderness of Savannah and Acacia trees.. Jerusalem was an average sized City of its time and from the archaeological digs described by Dr. Kenyon covered no more than eleven acres, - i.e. is about the size of Duncan's downtown shopping area. Jerusalem nowadays is looked upon as a Holy City by Muslims, Jews and Christians at the time when King David captured it, there was nothing particularly sacred about it. The Citizens had their own small Shrines of their local Gods, and there were no legends regarding the area. David purchased the threshing floor of NACHON which was on the North side of the City Wall and there he set up an ALTAR AND THE ARK.

RELIGION

Well, it is quite surprising when one studies the subject. David built an Altar on the Threshing floor and placed the Ark beside it. But the Altar of Phoenician make, it had Horns on each corner and therefore Pagan. Solomon went a bit further, he had graven images of Cherubs, Oxen and Lions in the Sacred court of the Temple, in contravention of the Laws of Abraham and Moses. David married Bathsheba - a white Caucasian, who bore him Solomon, also against Jewish Laws. I am of the opinion that neither of them were Monotheists. Abraham is regarded by both Muslims and Jews as the genetic ancestor of all Nomadic Semetics, both Jews and Arabs and Josephus says that he studied Astronomy in Sumaria and later when his father was transferred to Chaldea he was exiled to be a nomad for blasphemy . The Tribe in Exodus which was led by Moses was only a small portion of the Jewish Race, my own opinion is that it was probably the Benjamins.

CHARACTERS

"DAVID" He is described as a humble shepherd boy. When I first came to Canada, nearly every other millionaire boasted of having started with a paper route. Remember the geographical characteristics of Canaan on the east side of the plateau was acacia forest, turning to savannah as we moved east. Any shepherd would have to deal with lions, wolves, hyenas and jackals, this would require a high degree of skill with sling and spear. It also appears that David

was well accustomed to using a sword. David had great leadership capabilities and for the first time was able to organize twelve Semitic tribes into a single unit. He was of the Tribe of Judah which was the largest. When he died there was great accumulation of treasure due to his taxation policies and the plunder taken from the Cananite cities and the sacking of Damascus.

"SOLOMON"

Solomon became King at about twelve to fourteen years of age. He owed his position to the political machinations of his mother Bathsheba. Zadok the high priest and Nathan, all of whose relatives received high appointments at court including that of the Official Scribes (for this reason all accounts of his succession are highly suspect). Zadok's pay-off was the building and control of a Temple. The first years of Solomon's reign appeared to be under a Regency of Bathsheba and Zadok, Bathsheba sat on a throne to the immediate left of King Solomon when all public business took place. The first acts of his reign was the execution of Adonijah, the elder son of David born of a Judean wife, followed by the

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execution of Joab at the Altar. Who actually controlled the Kingdom, whether it was Solomon or the Priesthood in Power is not discernible from the records. At the end of Solomon's reign the country was bankrupt due to extravagances of the King's Court and the heavy taxes levied on the Northern Tribes together with the decline of morality of the Judeans, eventually led to dissolution of the Kingdom..

"HIRAM, KING OF TYRE"

Hiram was a Merchant Prince, highly educated with the ability to read and write. Otherwise he could not have held the job. He ruled over a Phoenician marine empire, from a small country, which consisted of the City of Tyre together with the hinterland of the Lebanon forest. It is not generally known that the Phoenicians were also the finest operative Masons of their time. The writer has seen photographs of their work at Meggido. (Dr.K.M. Kenton). Oblong stones smooth faced and. absolutely square at the corners (like the perfect ashlar).

"HIRAM ABIF"

Hiram Abif was definitely of the priestly caste, such persons if successful in their apprenticeships were in possession of the seven liberal arts. Not only was he well skilled in the overseeing of large bronze castings, Josephus asserts that he also was well skilled in other Artifices. His father was a man of Tyre, his Mother a Jew and no doubt that it was this qualification that decided he would be the Chief Architect.

"THE TEMPLE"

Nothing now remains of the First Temple at Jerusalem, indeed nothing remains of Solomon's Jerusalem except some hidden grottos of pagan worship. Herod's Jerusalem and Temple were destroyed by the Romans after the final insurrection of the Jews in 135 A.D. The Romans then built on the site, the city known as "Aelia Capitolinae", using Herod's Jerusalem as a quarry. The Moslem Jihad of the seventh century led to the building of the Mosque known as the Dome of the Rock which is believed to cover the site of the original Temple. The only remains of Solomon's Temple is that here and there building stones of Phoenician work are found. All the alleged plans of Solomon's Temple seem to

originate from descriptions of that build by Herod. Herod's temple is known to have a much bigger sacred enclosure. However as most archaeologists differ on many points, most of them concede that the Holies of Holies was probably the same size and cubic in origin. No doubt similar to the original Kasba in Mecca which appears to have originally been a similar Temple.

"THE LEGEND"

Briefly speaking;- "The Temple of Jerusalem" was nearing completion when Hiram Abif was murdered at High Noon by three Fellowcraft stationed at three differing entrances, after he was returning from offering up his prayers to the Most High in the Inner Chamber. They then fled, apparently taking his body with them and passing the hordes of workmen in the Sacred Enclosure, through the City Gates and at some distance away from the city buried his body. Solomon ordered three parties, each of five men to search for his person, when one squad returned empty handed, another accidentally discovered the body which they re-interred and stuck a sprig of Acacia to mark the spot. The third squad pursued their search in the direction of Joppa where they found three men who allegedly confessed to the crime and were executed. Finally all the secrets were lost because Hiram Abif had died before the Temple was completed.."

EXAMINATION OF THE EVIDENCE

FIRSTLY

Hiram Abif retired to the Temple each day at High Noon to pray to the Most High. 12.

a.) The Temple was not yet consecrated, and until it was, it was workmen's territory. When it was later consecrated by King Solomon and Zadok the High Priest, there was a vast concourse of important persons with the leading representatives of all Twelve Tribes and 120 Trumpeters. (See 1st Kings, Chapter 8.) Therefore it would not be used at this time for prayer.

SECONDLY

b) In Herod's Temple and in Temples of a similar nature throughout Canaan, Phoenicia and Ugarit there was only one entrance, and as the ascent to the Upper chamber was in the thickness of the Temple wall, there would be one entrance there. The only other opening to the Upper Chamber would be a slot or oriole window (dormer) on the south side of the roof. To keep the rest of the legend in context the body would have to be removed from the Temple in broad daylight, or kept there until dark and risk it being found before the perpetrators made their escape.

c) The usual actions that happen when that type of killing takes place, is for the murderers making a hasty escape leaving the body on site.

d) Before the overseers of the work reported him missing to King Solomon, they would certainly search the Temple where workmen were busy placing the gold veneer on the interior of the Temple. The Temple Guards of Zadok would also be on duty in the courtyard, guarding against theft and while they would not worry about material coming in, they would certainly inspect a bundle big enough to conceal a body going out.

THIRDLY

King Solomon then ordered a search through all the departments of work, when three of the same class of overseers were found to be missing and twelve others voluntarily confessed to being part of the original conspiracy, his fears

were naturally alarmed for the safety of this chief Architect

a) To put it politely the above statement stinks. Searching through all the departments of work would take several days, from Succoth to Bethlehem, all the quarries, the caravan routes, the smelting foundries, etc, interviewing departmental heads, questioning several thousand workmen.

b) In these days it is not unusual for a group of criminals or would be conspirators either to plea bargain or turn Queens evidence and either receive extremely light sentences or go free. That was not so 3000 years ago, especially among Semetics it would be tantamount to torture, immediate execution and their families reduced to slavery, when all they had to do, was to keep their mouth shut and nothing would happen. It is the opinion of this writer the there were false witnesses hired to give corroborative evidence against the three accused.

FOURTHLY

Three separate parties of five men set out from the Temple, in search for the person of Hiram Abif. The first party returned empty handed after several days of useless search. The second party (somewhat later we presume) accidentally discovered the body, reinterred it, and planted a sprig of Acacia to mark the spot, and returned to inform the King of his death. Solomon then spoke of the secrets which were lost and gave them instructions regarding raising the body and bringing it to Jerusalem. Third party accidentally discovered the three alleged self-confessed suspects, brought them to Jerusalem where they were executed.

a) It is presumed that- the first party searched the area adjacent to Jerusalem and no trace being found, they returned to Jerusalem.

b) The second party were more fortunate, they accidentally stumbled on the place where Hiram Abif was buried and in order to mark the spot planted a sprig of acacia near the grave and returned to inform the King. From this statement we can assume that the body was buried in the east side of the plateau in the acacia groves. From there on what follows does not make sense. A sprig of acacia to mark

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the spot! Why not a cairn of rocks? A stake driven into the ground? But a sprig of acacia, can one imagine going on the Leechtown Road looking for sprig of Douglas Fir which marks a significant spot, - one sprig among thousands? - NO WAY. The secrets were lost, who said that? Solomon, the Grand Master; Hiram, King of Tyre would have known them, after all he was a Priest King. Obviously Solomon did not know them, because they were never communicated to him. From the time Hiram Abif went missing until the body was found must have been about three weeks at the least and in that hot climate it would be in advanced state of decomposition. No wonder they had to grasp the sinews of the right wrist, convincing detail. How did the rest of the body stay together (no body bags in those days.)

c) The third party who had gone in the direction of Joppa accidentally found three suspects in a cavern. Too many accidental findings, first the body and then the suspects. The suspects could have been Phoenicians on the way to Joppa to catch a boat to Tyre to report to King Hiram, a distance of 35 miles, surely if they had fled as soon as the murder had been committed, they could have reached there in seven days walking five miles a day. Walking at three miles an hour, they would have made it in two days Remember that there were no telephones in those days, it was not chariot country and men were not riding horses at that time

FIFTHLY

Hiram Abif body was buried as close to the Sanctum Sanctorum (Upper chamber of the Temple) as Israelitish Law would permit.

a) The closest place would be under the Spiral Staircase hidden in the wall of the Temple.

SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS

DEDUCED FROM EXAMINATION OF THE EVIDENCE

1) Nearing the time of the summer and winter Solstice, Hiram Abif would be going to the Upper Chamber for at least three weeks before hand and three weeks after, to establish the Marks of St. John. This would give an accurate time for the spring and fall and also help to fix the time for moving and gathering of wheat, which was the most important produce of these interior cities. He would have at least two assistants possibly three, these assistant priests would be those who had shown the most merit in their studies of geometry and astronomy . They would be aware of the theory of what they were doing and would through applied experience gain mastery of their craft of Speculative Freemasonry. They would be Phoenicians, as the Jews through being previously Nomadic, would only have three or four lower caste scribes together with Canaanite merchant Scribes.

2) The taking captive of Hiram Abif (or his Murder) could only have taken place on one particular day, a day when the Temple (unconsecrated) would, except for Temple guards, be deserted ie. the Sabbath Day when no Jew or any of his family might do anything which could be construed as work. Hiram Abif and his assistants not being Jews were not constrained to follow Mosaic Law and still came to the Temple to chart the sun's path. Therefore what took place in the Temple that day was done by the authority of the government in power. But in the authors opinion the three assistants would be taken at the same time.

3) Envy, professional jealousy or Sacrifice what was it? All Semitics, Arabs and Jews, had not practiced human sacrifice for thousands of years. Abraham in not sacrificing Isaac was the legendary figure who stopped the practice. But Bathsheba was a Hittite, a white Caucasian and Zadoc and Nathan were her supporters. Unfortunately while Caucasians heavily indulged in human sacrifice, Menelaus sacrificed his daughter before attacking Troy. The Irish had their Banshee who pointed out the victims to be disposed of. The Saxons were not far behind until they were converted to Christianity . The burning of heretics by both Protestants and Catholics could be construed as such.

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4) The writer's opinion is that both professional jealousy and the need for sacrifice was the motif. Zadoc and company would be motivated by jealousy and national pride, that no Jew was involved in the final touches to the Inner Chamber and Bathsheba would be motivated by her religious beliefs of a genuine need for sacrifice and who better than the Principal Architect. The three assistants would be taken and held captive until the time came for their public execution as perpetrators of the crime. Hiram Abif's body would no doubt be buried under the staircase hidden in the walls, which would be the nearest place to the Sanctum Sanctorum

5) The last sentence of our Traditional History provides the most accurate information "The squared pavement was for the High Priest to walk upon it and that was all the High Priest could do, The Israelites never had an accurate calendar until it became a Roman Province and until this very day The Passover

and by inheritance Easter are celebrated according to the phases of the moon.

CONCLUSIONS

1) Well is the Legend as passed on, The Truth, after all our organization insists on the Truth. Yes it is the Truth of the story put out by the High Priests. Altered a little by Time and differing translations, but the Truth.

2) Were the secrets lost? No they were not. The plane of the Tigris and Euphrates were well endowed with Temples to differing Gods, but all had their small cubic chamber at the top of a Ziggurat (stepped pyramid) where the passing of time was observed so that the sowing and harvesting of the crops, together with the various religious ceremonies could take place at the proper time. More especially "Tammuz" the sun which was always represented by an Ear of Corn near a Pool of Water"

ADDENDUM

1) Hiram, King of Tyre, would certainly be able to deduce what had happened. However Solomon still had David's Army intact, and therefore would take no action that would affect his Mercantile trade or the welfare of the people.

2) The kingdom of Israel was an accident of history, the internal troubles at that time of Egypt and Babylon left a vacuum which was filled by David and the Twelve Tribes. The United Kingdom of Israel lasted seventy years The Northern Tribes then exasperated with misgovernment, heavy tributes to Jerusalem, together with growing Paganism in Judah broke away. They established their capital at Samaria and became known as Samaritans. Although the heads of government and the intelligentsia were removed to Persia by the Assyrians, those who worked in the fields remain to this day and are known as Palestinians.
