

## Master Craftsman II 30<sup>th</sup> Degree Essay Knight Kadosh

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Essay #4 Man is Supreme over Institutions not they over Him.

*The secret thought of Hughes de Payens, in founding his Order, was not exactly to serve the ambition of the Patriarchs of Constantinople. <sup>1</sup>*

### **The Intent of the Order**

Throughout history there have been men and women who have understood the true meaning of life and have dedicated their lives to this Truth. We as Masons are part of a long lineage of men who have in some manner dedicated their lives to the spreading of and preserving of this Truth that we learn in our degree's. We are not the sole source of this Truth but yet we are counted and numbered among the men and women and more rarely among the institutions that have dedicated their existence to this Truth.

This truth is that there is one God who created and loves us, His law governs our existence, and all of us as humanity are brothers and sisters, emanating from this one God. We are also shown that the only path to this Divine Creator is by the individual looking inward and finding that part of himself which has a direct connection to this Divine Creator. We are instructed in this degree that our institutions of government and religion, have historically been sources of conflict in the goal of individual self sufficiency and knowledge of the Divine.

In this degree so we are taught that the individual is the focus of this life, because each of us individually emanate from the Divine Creator. God, our Creator, approaches His creation one person at a time through the process of enlightenment that we find so forcefully taught in our degree's. And we are shown through the story of the Knights Templar how the collusion of Political and Religious authority endangers not only physical life here on this sphere, but also establishes itself in direct conflict with the desire of the Divine to unite with His Creation.

### **The Role of the Knight Mason**

For much of our history as a country we have been guided by this understanding of the supremacy of the individual. Much of the foundation of our system of government and our culture came from the ideas of individual liberty, governance by the consent of the governed, personal responsibility for the outcome of our life, hard work, limited government, minimization of taxes and belief in a Divine Being. Our education started with the understanding that we, as individual Americans, were endowed by our Creator with these rights and our form of government reflected this reality. We also were taught that this choice was accompanied by the responsibility for the outcome of our individual lives. We were told that there were laws such as the law of reaping and sowing (Cause and Effect), The law of As above So below that instructed us to understand that there was and is ultimate truth and good in the universe.

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<sup>1</sup> Pike, Morals and Dogma pg 922

Our society no longer holds to many of these truths. We have forgotten much of what is incorporated within our system and have allowed institutions of government to become our source of supply and sustenance.

The first role of a Knight Mason is to stem this tide of expansion of institution over individual. That begins with us becoming self-sufficient and living in a manner that is free from the need for support from the institutions of government. It is Big government that poses the biggest threat to individual liberty in our society. Our current government is attacking our individual freedoms through the systematic process of making us dependent upon government for our existence. Through our paychecks, our healthcare, our retirement, our mortgages, the government has usurped our dependence upon the laws that we teach in our degrees. While our degree's warn us of the deadly combination of government and religion, we in America must also become aware that an equally dangerous combination has infiltrated our society, that being the collusion of big government and big corporations. This is an equally deadly combination that is leading us away from the supremacy of the individual in our society. By giving benefits and money big government is replacing our desire to be free and deluding us into thinking that we are secure when we have merely become dependent. This process also leads to collusion between government and influential corporations as "stimulus" is used to keep the individuals and families in our society buying the goods and services of politicians corporate supporters.

### **Education is Job #1**

The Knight Mason must dedicate himself to the lifelong process of education and pursuit of the truth. Much of what qualifies as education in today's public system would not be considered education according to the outline of true education in this degree. We must return to the teaching of contained within our degrees. We must understand where our true hope lies. It lies not in becoming dependent upon government transfer payments but in learning to master this life through understanding the truth of life as explained in our degrees and ultimately by entering into the sustaining relationship with the Divine, which is the goal of human existence. Our education system, if it teaches at all, teaches a blend of socialism (group over individual) and how to be a good employee. We must return to teaching the basics as we outline them in this degree. Trust that the individual if properly enlightened as to the divinity within, will find, through that relationship and reality the path that best suits he or she as an individual.

### **Self Sufficiency and Limited Government**

Ultimately our teaching exposes us to the truth that we are to find our sufficiency within our relationship as individuals to the Divine. It is not government that provides our security for existence but the higher hope that lies within our divine nature. We are meant to be free and self sufficient. Our history is one of small business's, entrepreneur's, and free enterprise. This has been replaced recently and most dramatically in the past 15 years, as big government and big corporate interests nearly collapsed our system. Big Banking interests were allowed to rescind the firewall known as Glass Steigal and essentially gamble with depositor funds. This is a direct result of the manipulation of political power.

Our role as Masonic Knights is to expose the truth and to live independently. To educate ourselves and find employment in a manner that does not lead us to make decisions that are at odds with our teaching but necessary for our physical existence.