

## EASTWARD, IN SEARCH OF LIGHT

For many hundreds of years the fraternal society known as Freemasons has labored towards the establishment of an enlightened democracy amongst the nations of the world. This grand and daunting task, which in truth is now just beginning to bear fruit, could only be attempted by those who are possessed of a certain background of knowledge, of philosophy that is at once both ancient and new. Knowledge is indeed a most powerful tool, capable of boldly striking down fallacy and superstition as well as buttressing and supporting many of those tenants which faith alone has carried unswervingly since before written memory. As with a fine sword, knowledge is best kept sharp and bright through constant use, honed in battle as it were and not left to rust in the scabbard, undrawn and forgotten. For what is steel without the hand that wields it? And what is knowledge if it remains unused or unshared? Like steel its luster fades and its edges, once keen, grow brittle and flake, should there be none who care enough to apply the whetstone.

To this end our venerable Worshipful Master, Vernon W. Mahaffey, has created here at Acacia lodge a Masonic education committee, consisting of myself, brother Jefferson Banks Young, and our Senior Warden, brother Lyth B. Clark. It is his intention that a monthly lecture be added to the regular business meeting agenda, to enlighten and entertain the brethren in lodge with lessons and legends from our past. The first will discuss the Masonic influence in the rise of democracy, traces of which can be seen far earlier than one might suspect. Other forthcoming topics will include Masonic links to the Qaballa, all but forgotten by most contemporary lodges, and the legacy of Rosslyn Chapel, built by the Knights Templar with a more than coincidental resemblance to Solomon's Holy of Holies.

The search for light is truly the labor of a lifetime. Indeed, in order for one to journey from that ill-fated edifice in Babylon to the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite (atop Mount Moriah) by traveling eastward, one must very nearly circumnavigate the entire globe, following an ancient road whose signposts are often obscure or misleading. We who tread the illumined path share a charge, a responsibility to guide by example that vast majority who grope in darkness. As such we must keep our torches bright, our steel sharp, for rust never sleeps and the darkness conceals many pitfalls for the unwary. Help us provide a little more illumination, for the benefit of our lodge and of Masonry. Come and whet your thirst for knowledge and light. Hone your mind as you would a good sword. Join us this Thursday, won't you? I promise not to bore you.

Brother David P. Stuard, Jr.  
Senior Deacon