



**N°9 - 15/06/2024**

**English edition**



## **Making the voice of universal brotherhood heard!**

**The divisions affecting the Masonic order are not insurmountable. Many of us believe that what brings us together beyond borders and barriers is more important than what divides us.**

**Of course, it would be simpler if susceptibility, « wounded » honor and ambitions didn't interfere with this love of our ideal. Life experience shows that we need to know how to forgive in order to consider only what is essential.**

**Isn't the most important thing today to strengthen our ties and bring us together?**

**This is what FIL-INFOS could modestly do, by offering a space for expression open to all, without bias. The contributions included in this magazine are the sole responsibility of their authors. We simply make sure that there are no fratricidal diatribes!**

**We accept to publish any contribution that concerns Masonic activity, while respecting freedom of conscience and mutual tolerance.**

**Alain,**



**Christine**



**and Milton**





# Mag's Mood Swings

## On Recruitment

« *We need effective initiates* » is a phrase that should never be forgotten during recruitment. And God knows recruitment is not what it used to be. It seems that obediences are becoming businesses; not entirely false; they buy premises and real estate. Is that what Freemasonry is about? Let's take a closer look at Freemasonry. What is Freemasonry?

Roger Dachez explains it simply in the preface he wrote for the book: « Who is Regular? Pure Masonry ». Written by Oswald Wirth with a preface by Roger Dachez, for whom things are as simple as

they are evident and can be summarized in two points:

1. Freemasonry is independent of rituals and institutions of any kind.
2. Freemasonry is a spirit, a doctrine not explicitly formulated but an invariant of Freemasonry since time immemorial.

Roger Dachez dares to say and write that "regularity results from forgetting pure Freemasonry in favor of the governance of the Grand Lodges system." And it is not false that the Masonic Order, Freemasonry, and the Royal Art have been betrayed by obediences for more than a century. I return to this: recruitment often becomes a matter of survival for some lodges, which is incomprehensible since new lodges are constantly being created. Why try to initiate at all costs? To make numbers or to fill the treasury?

Let's not forget that the path to the Temple's door is almost an obstacle course. The person knocking at the Temple's door will go through several stages: Profane, obviously; then candidate, postulant, and finally recipiendary. The recipiendary must not believe that his goal has finally been reached, far from it. He has simply obtained "the right to pass" to begin his journey towards the light. It is not surprising that some stop very quickly considering what is asked of them, the work to be done, the rough stone to be carved and re-carved. The initiate quickly becomes aware that he is becoming a seeker, a researcher, a curious person... a search that will last all his life.

Beresniak and Wirth never ceased to explain that certain prerequisites were indispensable to « deserve » initiation. What did they mean by that? Simple things like education, a cultural base, a notion of civility, a sense of respect, intellectual capacity.



Magali Aimé

[Read the rest of the article](#)

# CLIPSAS at the Crossroads: Resilience and Democracy in the Face of Adversity



The recent election of Louis Daly as president of CLIPSAS has raised controversy and debate in the international Masonic community. Amidst questions and doubts about the legitimacy of the electoral process, it is essential to analyze the events with objectivity and a spirit of good faith. In this column, we will explore the nature of the accusations, the validity of the CLIPSAS regulations and the meaning of the election results. In addition, we will address the history of the organization and its resilience in the face of past challenges, and finally reflect on the future of Freemasonry in a global context.

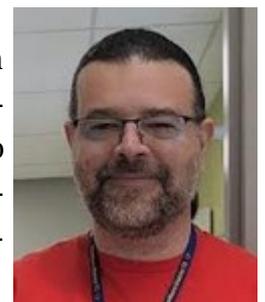
In observing the reactions following Daly's election, it is important to distinguish whether there is immaturity on the part of the losing group, or if on the contrary there is bad faith in seeking to delegitimize the electoral process. In Freemasonry, we expect our brethren to always act with integrity and honesty, accepting the results as a reflection of the collective will.

In the digital age, information circulates quickly and often without due scrutiny. We have seen how Masonic media have published doubts about the legitimacy of the CLIPSAS elections, based on the absence of a second round supported by the allegations of one of the parties.

However, it is crucial to remember that the CLIPSAS regulations only require a simple majority, i.e., half plus one of the votes present and represented. Insisting on a second round, when it is not provided for in the regulations, raises a fundamental question: What is truly democratic? The answer lies in respecting the social contract of the organization. Democracy in CLIPSAS is not measured by the number of electoral rounds, but by adherence to its established rules.

The demand for a second round, defended as morally superior, can be interpreted as an attempt to impose by force a minority position. This contravenes Masonic principles of respect and tolerance, transforming the brethren into something more akin to hooligans than Masons. With 35% of the vote among six candidates, Daly not only won legitimately but with a significant majority. His election should be seen as a clear expression of confidence from a significant portion of the CLIPSAS membership.

The history of CLIPSAS shows that threats of withdrawal from obediences with large numbers of members are not new. In the 1990s, obediences with large membership left CLIPSAS, but the organization not only survived, but grew stronger, so those same obediences returned in the second decade of the 21st century. This demonstrates the resilience of CLIPSAS and its ability to adapt and grow in four continents despite the challenges.



Milton ARRIETA-LOPEZ

[Read the rest of the article](#)



# CLIPSAS Today: An Interview with Ivan HERRERA MICHEL

**Question : When you took office as president in 2021, in what state did you find CLIPSAS and what were the main challenges you faced at that time?**



**Ivan Herrera Michel :** The 25th President of CLIPSAS, who will lead the period 2024 - 2027, finds a healthy financial state, with a capital equal to what is needed to operate throughout his term. A CLIPSAS with almost a hundred Obediences located in four continents and in about 50 countries. A CLIPSAS managing an important project with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. And a Liaison Center ready to pursue its message of universality of Freemasonry under its own initiative.

Three years ago, I was elected President, under unprecedented and very difficult circumstances, in a telematic Assembly, in the midst of international sanitary restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. With our finances facing a sharp decrease in income due to the departure of the Obediences with the most members. Some historical Obediences bet on the end of CLIPSAS. The good relations with European liberal Freemasonry had disappeared. And applications for admission of new Obediences were at an all-time low. Moreover, the Bureau was being accused of doing "Masonic tourism" with CLIPSAS money. The situation could not have been worse.

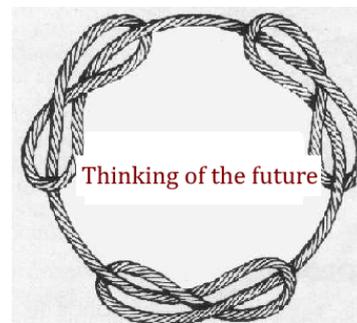
**Question : What do you consider to have been the most significant changes and achievements of CLIPSAS during your mandate?**

**Ivan Herrera Michel :** To those who bet on a fragile and weak CLIPSAS, I must say that we faced the challenges with determination and today we have a strong CLIPSAS. With balanced finances. We met in Albania with the largest attendance of all our history. Fourteen new Obediences have joined, which is the largest number of new members during a presidential term. I always cared more about the quality of the Obediences than the quantity of members and, for this reason, we radiated 19 Obediences that did not meet the requirements of our Regulations. The fact that in Albania we have had 6 candidates for the Presidency with very active campaigns is a proof of how vital our internal democracy is.

Interview by Milton ARRIETA-LÓPEZ

[Read the rest of the article](#)

# Hail, Holy Light



*From him who, in the happy realms of light  
Clothed with transcendent brightness did outshine  
Myriads though bright.*

John Milton 1608-1674

Adam had been raised to the third degree about eighteen months previously, and had made great progress already in decoding some of the more easily accessible allegories and insights which had come his way through the degree ceremonies. In addition, he had started to read the lectures in the three degrees.

His impressions of this new and intriguing world in which he took his first masonic steps were mixed. He had asked some of the older brethren in his lodge, after the glories of the first and second degrees, how he should properly understand the bleak despair of the third. They had smiled indulgently, and given him some spiel, the upshot of which was that he should not take it all too seriously.

But at the same time, he had made friends with some younger brethren newly graduated from university, who had some insights of their own in regard to nature and science, and the influence of the great thinkers of the late seventeenth century, and the Royal Society in particular. One of the aspects which had made a firm impression on Adam was the juxtaposition in so many ways of light and dark, black and white.

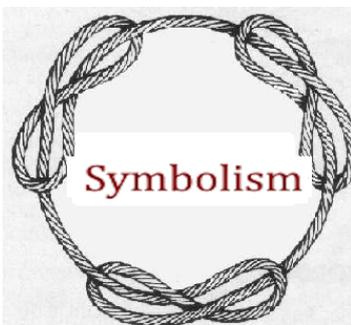
He recognised that in the ceremony of initiation he had progressed from darkness to light, had regained the 'blessing of material light' only to meet with the inescapable square pavement, reminding him that the darkness from which he had come was not a darkness removed from his proper experience but a darkness which was the complement of the light, and represented ever-present danger lurking at the perimeter of the light. But light sources there were a-plenty apart from these: three great lights, three lesser lights, the Blazing Star or Glory in the centre of the lodge.



Ah, but wait: he had even unearthed an apparent paradox – the lecture, speaking of the ornaments of the lodge, had said that 'the blazing star refers us to the sun' which was clearly not so, since the blazing star and the sun were depicted next to each other on the tracing board. He had in fact read elsewhere that the Blazing Star, being positioned at the top of Jacob's Ladder, represented the presence of the Almighty. Still, he was having a great time looking at other light sources. Jewels after all reflected light did they not? And each one in its own individual colour, so there lay a rich store of discovery, three movable jewels and three immovable. And all this just in the first degree – who knows what he would in due time discover in the other two?

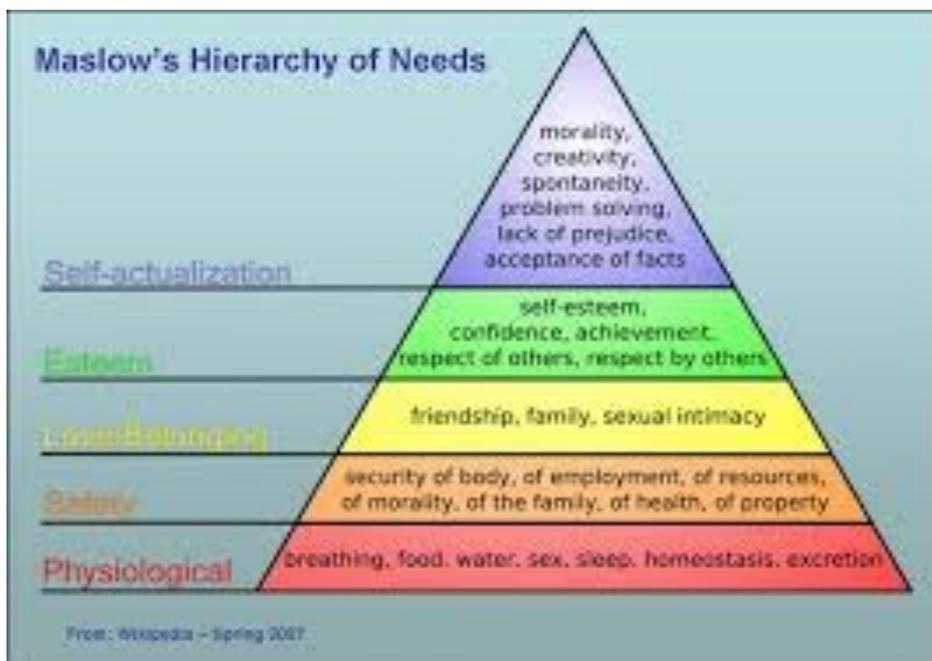
Julian Rees

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# Hierarchy and Liberty

Hierarchy is defined as a classification in which terms are placed in a relationship of subordination, each term depending on the previous one and controlling the next.



In a community or a society, the hierarchical system defines people, their states, their functions, according to different levels, each level corresponding to a degree of power, responsibility, competence or dignity, higher than that of the level immediately below.

Under the name of hierarchy, the secular world accepts a set of people who are granted the right to decide and rule.

The biologist Pattee affirms: "Hierarchical organization is a fundamental principle of nature and an essential characteristic of life." Another biologist, Jevons, states: "In biology, the organizational hierarchy, establishing a bridge between the parts and the whole, is a central and essential concept."

The concept of hierarchical organization is a fundamental condition if one wants to try to introduce unity in the diversity of sciences. It leads to a coherent philosophy of nature and to an unification of its laws. Each living organism or society is made up of elements with two opposing characteristics:

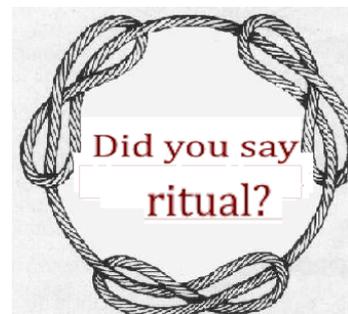
- a tendency to integrate in order to function as part of a whole.
- a tendency to disperse in order to preserve its autonomy.

Sis. Christine Hilcenko.

Lodge International Concord No. 977

[Read the rest of the article](#)

# You said 33? ... You said 95 ?



There arises a multitude of questions. Often with a mocking smile... sometimes with a touch of admiration. The vindictives are on the scale, if I may put it that way.

In numerology the difference between 33 and 95 is 62...and as we all know, 62 is equal to 8. The number 8 is the symbol of foundation...

- 33 has the value 6, the symbolic representation of which suggests a perfect balance of polarities ("point up" triangle and "point down" triangle, to achieve a fusion)... A difficult balance to achieve, however, which is why Masons know that like "Ordo Ab Chaos."
- 95 has the value 5 which is the perfect symbol of the man in the making. Which through its asceticism reaches its completeness through the 10 (its double), that is to say Unity... that which perfectly brings together what is scattered...

Note that  $9+5$  is worth 14. That's 12 and its double. 12 is the number of windows open, in our temple, towards the sacred vault. The ratio of 10 to 12 is well known to builders: It is part of an intimate link between  $\pi$  and  $\phi$  (An invitation to consider the spirituality of matter).



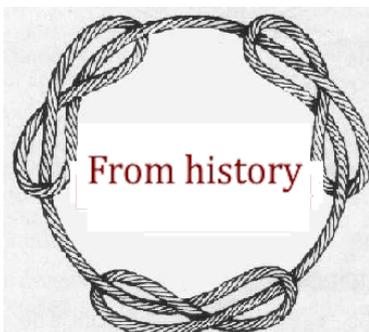
To simplify our subject, the number 8 which separates 95 from 33 is the symbol of the foundation.

This meditation concerns, the reader will have guessed, more particularly the so-called Egyptian Rites which we know moreover only bear the name since claiming to refer to Ancient Egypt to accomplish its spiritual metamorphosis. It seems to me to be somewhat little daring if we look at the symbolic, Philosophical, Alchemical and Hermetic materials actually worked.

**Before I share my meditation with you**, I think it would only be fair to introduce myself. I was born a second time on February 27, 1983 at the Respectable Loge Jean Moulin du Grand Orient de France in the Orient of "rue cadet" in Paris. My godfathers are brother Paul Fortunet and Eric, my brother twice. In this "sacred" space I practiced the French Rite until 1996. My Christian and Tibetan cultures could not fully express themselves, the Brother Great Orator directed me towards an Obedience fully recognized at that time:

Brother Gerard Baudou Platon

[Read the rest of the article](#)



## ANNIE BESANT: FREEMASON, THEOSOPHIST, SOCIALIST, REFORMER AND FEMINIST



Emma had only been working in the factory for a year. At first, she ignored the tooth aches and the swelling of her gums. She was happy that she had the job which despite the long hours and hard conditions afforded her a salary allowing her to feed her three children and put a roof above their heads in that small and cramped tenement in Dorset Street.

Eventually, the pain become unbearable and when she finally managed to save the fee for the local physician, a rather aloof and stern middle-aged man, he diagnosed Emma with a case of 'phossy jaw'. Emma already knew. Two of her work colleagues, Mrs Murphy and Miss Ingham had already caught the disease.

Mrs Murphy was lucky that her husband, a coach man, had savings and a good job as well as a kind disposition but there was nobody who took care of poor Miss Ingham who had emigrated from Liverpool and was alone in the world. One morning her body was found in the Embankment, her petty coat filled with stones.

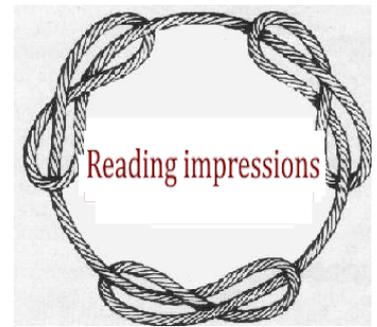
Emma already knew what the tooth pain and the yellowing of her skin meant but the words of the physician had a catalysing effect and she started to cry. The physician reprimanded her and asked her to leave. It was time for his lunch, and he didn't want a stupid, hysterical woman crying in his office. Emma's husband had died of cholera last summer. She too was alone. What would her children do once the full effects of the sickness hit her? The foul discharges, the deformation. If luck was on her side, she would be able to get operated on which would turn her into a monster as the jaw-bone would be taken out completely making her look like that poor fellow, John Merrill. Emma fell to her knees and cried. One of the passers-by shouted out 'Get out of the way, you silly moo!'

The above is a fictionalised account. But phossy jaw, with all its horrid connotations was real and people like Emma and her two other fictional colleagues lived and suffered an unbearable fate.

Darren Lorente-Bul

[Read the rest of the article](#)

# « Segurant Le chevalier au dragon. » edited by Emanuele Arioli



First of all, this is an exceptional discovery of a lost medieval tale scattered all over Europe, based on an Italian manuscript written in French in the 13th century. Its &quot;inventor&quot; is Emanuele Arioli, a medievalist, archivist-paleographer and former student of the École Normale Supérieure in Paris, the École Nationale des Chartes and the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa. Highly qualified and highly skilled in ancient languages, this researcher had to spend 10 years researching and piecing together the scattered fragments of the story of this Dragon Knight, written alongside the stories of the Round Table - in which the main heroes of King Arthur's court appear - but now forgotten, unlike all the tales of Chrétien de Troyes and other storytellers of the time.



moyenagepassion.com

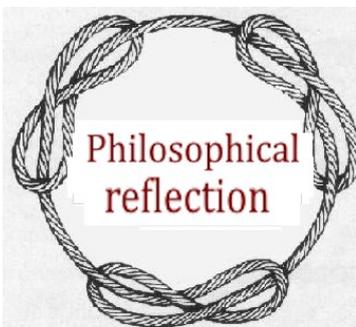
Here, then, is a text that resurrects the Middle Ages, taking us into the wonderful world of knights, engaged in tournaments to prove their courage, admired for battles won against enemies, Christian heroes loyal to their King, whose quest for truth never ceases.

The first Arthurian novels were written between 1190 and 1240, and production continued until the 16th century. The most complete version of *Ségurant le Chevalier au Dragon* is preserved in a manuscript in the wonderful Arsenal library in Paris, and is a 15th-century compilation: many episodes are interwoven with « the Prophecies of Merlin » and it was here that Emanuele Arioli discovered the trace. The first version of the Arthurian novel: « les Prophéties de Merlin » was written in French in Venice around 1270. (Note the use of French already widespread throughout several European countries) This « basic version » refers to much information familiar to the habitual reader of Arthurian novels. Most of the locations are imaginary places from the Round Table stories, or real places already introduced in Arthurian fiction. But one in *Segurant* is the island of NonSachant, his homeland, the island that doesn't exist.

Odile Griver

[Read the rest of the article](#)





# From zenith to nadir

Worshipful Master, and all my sisters and brothers in your grades and qualities, as a preamble, I must warn you of the darkness of this gloomy board, and ask you to consider above all the symbolic nature of what you are about to hear.

« *The devil investigator had been caught in the trap of his investigations, so he decided to leave a testimony before sinking: "I won't tell you my name. You will never see my face. You'll pass me by without seeing me... Yet my past was glorious. In my field, I was considered the best. The best, until that cursed day... »*

**Each man is always in the middle of the surface of the earth and under the zenith of his own hemisphere, and over the centre of the earth.**

Leonardo da Vinci

My sisters and brothers, you have agreed to renounce your former life to be reborn as Masons; I have lived a similar adventure, in another universe. But I didn't decide it, I didn't choose it, it was imposed on me; I've come here to tell you about this misadventure.

When I was alive, I descended a steep, slippery staircase into darkness, and never came back up.

In the world above, sense had lost its way. Those who loved me seemed to want to talk to me in an attempt to save me, but enclosed in my glass

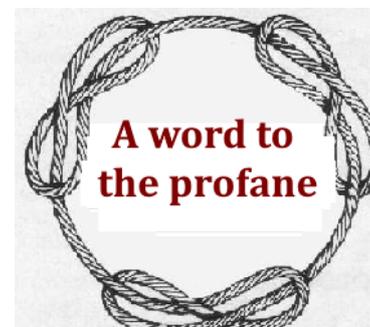
bubble, I heard only reproaches, in a deafening silence. I worked during the day, started again at night, and had been doing so for months, gradually sinking into the quicksand of absolute melancholy. The day's worries had not even been dealt with, and the torments of the following day were already looming over them. Whether they should have been mine alone or not, that's how I perceived them, caught up in the endless screw of depression.

In the bestiary of my enemies, a new entry stood out. An ordinary enemy, I thought at first, whom I thought I'd overcome quickly, because she wasn't intelligent. But it didn't really matter to her: she'd never believed that this quality had ever served any purpose, and from experience she knew she didn't need it. In her opinion, perfidy was a far more useful asset, provided it was practiced with talent; in fact, she was right, and the outcome proved it. In short, she was the dregs of the human race, Belial disguised as a granny, and all the more formidable for it.

Bruno Giordano

[Read the rest of the article](#)

# And what does initiation mean to you?



## **For Denzo: above all, it's about receiving information.**

*« As a soccer coach, initiation allows young athletes to try out new things, and to join or not join the activity. Initiation enables the acquisition of sporting codes and norms through a person who acts as a transmitter of knowledge. The athlete learns through training and repetition »*

## **For Samuel: it's the passage to an apprenticeship**

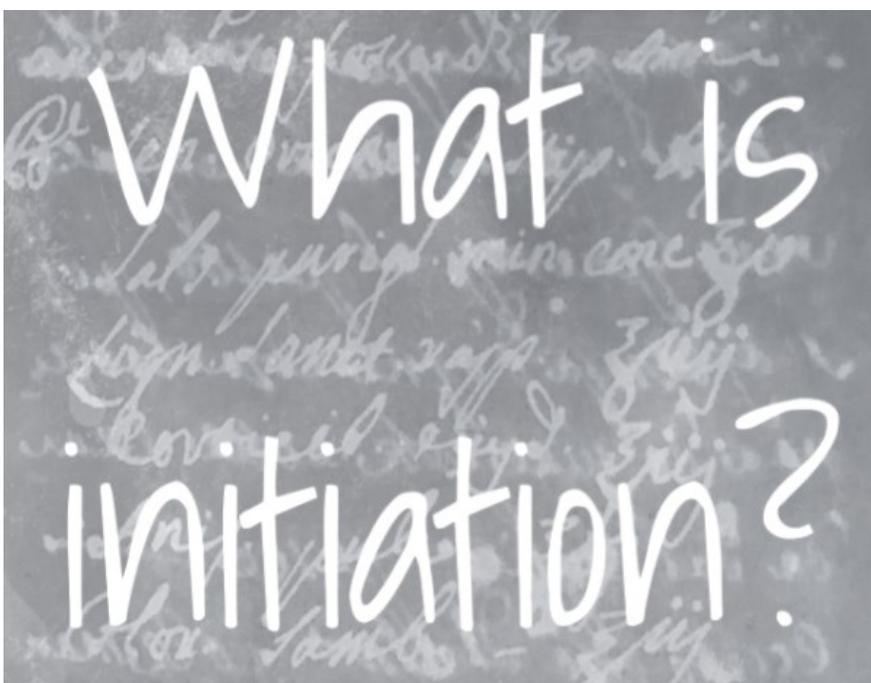
*« Initiation seems to be a ritual act aimed at learning a standard. Many tasks not naturally acquired by man seem to require initiation. As a teacher, I initiate my pupils into learning to write »*

## **For Hugo: Initiation is a notion of balance**

*« For me, initiation involves three criteria: social, physical and intellectual. It gives you access to new skills and improves your self-esteem. A positive change that can evolve over the long term »*

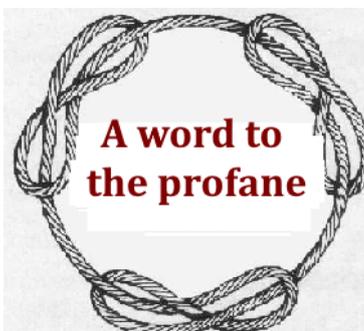
## **For Léa: initiation means falling and changing state**

*« For me, in the word initiation there is depth. It's falling down to learn how to get back up again. Right now, I'm pregnant and this period is an initiation into my new life as a mother. In my life, I've fallen in love, and these social interactions have enabled me to change the way I perceive myself »*



**Initiation is a suspended spiritual moment that belongs to you alone, out of time and forever etched in your mind.** Initiation is like that smile, the one addressed to the whole audience but which lets you believe it's intended for us, for you at the back of the room. It's furtive, lasts only an instant, but plunges you into a second state. A smile that carries humanity. That smile is Hervé's.

Pauline Léon



## Questions of profans

**Question: Are there many Freemasons and many obediences in France? Asks Marie-Joëlle.**

Answer: Yes, in France there are many, and increasingly more small obediences. Here, we will talk about the 5 major obediences dating back to the 18th century.

- The Grand Orient (GO - 1783) with nearly 53,000 members
- The Grand Lodge of France (GLDF - 1895) with nearly 36,000 members
- The Human Rights (DH) with 17,000 members. Mixed
- The Women's Grand Lodge of France (GLFF) 14,000 members
- The National Grand Lodge of France (GLNF) after its implosion, split into several obediences.

Since 1960, other obediences have emerged. In 2016, 42 obediences were listed, with the number of Freemasons estimated at 190,000. Since then, has this landscape changed significantly? Today, there are a plethora of them. Today, a brother told us that there were at least 200 obediences and that new ones are created almost every day. It is better to refer to the Wikipedia site. There, a great

### PROFANE

A word used by Freemasons to refer to non-Masons. Although probably not intended as a pejorative, it nonetheless comes across as such due to how the meaning of the word has changed over the years. Within the context of Masonic ritual the word maintains value, however outside the lodge it should not be used.

- Source: [MasonicDictionary.com](http://MasonicDictionary.com)

surprise because since the 1980s, obediences have been born in all directions. I remain questioning: where is the universality of Freemasonry? What is the need to create obediences over and over again? Isn't it just a matter of ego?

**Question: I was rejected after the blindfolded passage, and it offended me!**

Answer: I understand, for the good reason that it happened to me! Strange feeling: anger, humiliation, disappointment, but who do they think they are to reject me???... 10 years later... it's not the same perspective. Do not be negative. There are several explanations that should not make you feel guilty. You were certainly very good, but perhaps you responded too quickly to some questions, incorrectly to another, you were intimidated by the presence of so many people around you, and you couldn't see anyone. Was your mind free that day? A worry, a problem, even a minor annoyance can drain your energy. Above all, do not feel guilty or angry. Take the time to reflect on yourself and your state of mind that day. You will find the answer. And dare to reapply.

Magali Aimé

[Read the rest of the article](#)

# St John of summer, together for hope!

by Mateo



It's an ordinary date, a day before harvest,  
But for us, it triggers an exquisite attention!  
Memories, remembrance, and always passion,  
To honor Saint John, patron of Freemasons.

On all continents and in all orients,  
In this month of June, when nature celebrates,  
At the peak of life, reveals itself to be perfect,  
Freemasons meditate, silent and conscious!

The power of the Word ignites Fire,  
Behold the heirs of affirmed greatness  
Continuing the path of ancient initiates  
Seekers of their knowledge, always determined!

Dear friends, Sons of Light,  
Here we are today, in a sad universe,  
A war has arisen, imposing cruelty,  
Perverse impulses we thought we'd forgotten.

Innocents dejected, happiness doomed,  
For a few acres of land turned into mass graves.  
So many people massacring, blindly,  
Oblivious to the lessons they have learned!

In this lawless world, we are deserving,  
Without weapons and without violence, respecting the law,  
To ward off fear and restore meaning  
To the lives of all who seek a way!

Educated and trained to be awakeners,  
We work tirelessly for a new destiny.  
In this world of illusions, let's keep misfortune at bay,  
Let's generate hope that we won't live in vain!



# The crystal pearl

A furious desire to write down the silences of my thoughts  
To lay these pearls on thin strips of wood, a few sparks of paper  
4 hands, Delivering and binding us together  
Worthy conquest, Caressing the marble reflections of our childhood dreams

Let's rediscover the man and woman we piously locked away

Whose polished purity, like an amethyst  
Hidden, broken, cracked  
Whose subtle vibratory forces  
Form a magical union, repaired

Color of crystal pearl  
1001 scents of peppermint  
Let's find Calm and Softness  
Limiting side by side our Fears



In a glass we drink them disguised by courage  
You my vault, sheltering my star returned from shipwreck

Yes, in your golden heart I see the Universe  
So sometimes I think of this crystal pearl  
Where our hearts melt into a metal  
Like the one Thorgal's swords are made of

Transparent vitriol  
Like those Worms burning  
One by one our crystal chimeras will laugh away

Vanessa



## 'A Freemason Walks into a Bar'

Currently a member of the Israeli Pioneer Federation of the National Order of Freemasonry for Men and Women LE DROIT HUMAIN, W. Bro. Moshe Shanon served as Worshipful Master of Shorashim (Roots) Lodge No. 2022 in Tel Aviv in 2023.

This is a guided discussion where every one of the participants is encouraged to contribute his experience and opinion on how freemasonry is perceived and how to answer the hard and sometimes embarrassing questions about freemasonry. By celebrating the work of Jiri Slava a caricaturist who devoted a whole book to freemasonry we get a glimpse of a non-mason humoristic and critic's eye of masonry. The participants are encouraged to express their opinions and to offer solutions.

**Wednesday 19 June 2024**  
**19:00 to 20:00 (GMT, UK time)**  
**by Zoom**

June 19, 2024 18:45 (GMT, UK time)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83455726209?pwd=M1S5GvsOU MaPbEx6nhaOlgxITjyyLZ.1>

Meeting ID: 834 5572 6209

Passcode: 844555

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### Thanks

This magazine is the fruit of a collective effort involving Christine, Magali, Odile, Pauline, Vanessa, Bruno, Darren, Gérard, Julian, Mateo and Milton. We would like to thank them. all.

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**If you would like to write about a subject that corresponds to one of the sections of this magazine, please do not hesitate to send us your text to [fil.infosloge@gmail.com](mailto:fil.infosloge@gmail.com)**

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## World Conference of the Masonic Fraternity 2024

***The First World Conference of the Masonic Fraternity will be held in Medellin, Colombia, on July 12-14, 2024.***

*The following objectives are provided with the purpose that each attending Brother to the conference can develop their presentations or contributions to these objectives beforehand.*

***Promote Human and Social Development:*** *The conference aims to analyze and*