

## Liberal Art and Science

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Jointly Compiled by

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Forward; This article was a joint venture between two brothers namely Master Mason Brother George Kar, (Bro George resides on the Island of Corfu, member of the National Grand Lodge of Greece) & W Bro Ian MacIntyre (Irish Constitution). Both Bro George & W Bro Ian, have similar views of the concepts of ancient and modern Freemasonry in general. It has accepted and recognised, generally the Liberal Arts and Science are not touch upon generally within the Irish Constitution, however; it is expected that in other masonic constitutions, Liberal Arts and Science, may be or discussed and forms part of the Craft Degrees.

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### **Joint Article**

Brother George Kar & Myself, thought of getting our heads together to record our joint thoughts of the subject of Liberal Arts and Science; and how they may assist in obtaining further light for any freemason brother in their masonic journey; therefore, the following text is our views:

Whilst enjoying the morning sun with a wee chill in the air over a cup of cold coffee, whilst sitting on the sea front looking towards the sea, immersed in the daily routine, like many of others' we tend to forget to look around and appreciate mother nature and our world for what it is. We are all so comfortable with our immersed daily routines, we do not see the world round us being "here" we seldom wonder where and what "here" really is and means. When we observe the sun, moon, and the stars at night we are only inhabitants on a spherical rock which orbits like any other average star which floats aimlessly round space. On a personal view, which am sure my friend (Ian) in Belfast has slimier views; both of us find it amazing how this plant/star is nothing less than a grain of sand within the universe; and that human history and knowledge is not much more than noise.

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We both personally feel, it is sobering thought to understand humanity's place in this vastness, while having hopefully the intellect and self-awareness to try to make sense of it. In general, humankind gives a low priority to penetrating the mysteries of the cosmos, however personally believe that Freemasonry helps a man find and respect his place in the universe, and indeed within himself.

In our masonic journey, we hear many references in our ancient and modern rituals of freemasonry, to the great heavens above and beyond of the heavens, as we climb the staircase to the Middle Chamber, Astronomy is brought to our attention as one of the Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences, the very same Trivium and Quadrivium that led to the glory of the Renaissance. It would be easy to dwell on the cosmic menagerie of planets, stars, asteroids, comets, quasars, nebulae and so on, but it is more fun to speculate on the questions of how it all works, while also realizing that things may not be as they seem. George referred to a well-known prominent Greek called "Eratosthenes" (refer to Fig 1 picture of Eratosthenes).

Fig 1 Eratosthenes

Eratosthenes lived between 276 BC – 194 BC; during his life time he become one of the renowned mathematicians, astronomer, geographer, and poet of his time; Eratosthenes made an amazing combination of science and the arts. In his day Eratosthenes become the head of the Alexandria Library of Ancient Egypt; more than anything his experiment, so-called "Eratosthenes experiment"; whereby he calculated the circumference of the earth with the assistance a single stick, a physical observation and with a little geometry. He made observations, used the ancient knowledge of the spherical earth, and conducted the right knowledge and experiment needed for his calculations; which he proved that sometimes simple idea and curious mind is all you need to change things in life and indeed the world. Which appears at time, somethings that we are unfortunately unaware of today, looking for solutions that may be right in front of our eyes.



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Which that famous writer and thinker of the spirit and art told us, Brother” Nikos Kazantzakis” who wrote “Go everywhere that you cannot! We know and acknowledge there is something what is and know to us call “gravity” and we know its’ effects; however, wonder just how many of us knows, what really makes it work is still unknown.

Another good area to ponder is motion, in my experience the world just slowly ticks by as we all fail to perceive how we are in full motion. On Earth’s surface, we rotate at approximately 500 miles per hour at our location, but at 1,000 m.p.h. at the equator.

We orbit the Sun at about 67,000 m.p.h. the sun and solar system orbit the centre of the Milky Way at about 500,000 m.p.h. Our galaxy races toward a grouping of other galaxies (the “Great Attractor”) at about 2.23 million m.p.h. Which is moving at tremendous velocities and yet we do not have a perception of it. Even light requires time to travel, when we look at the Sun, we are seeing something that happened eight minutes ago.

This holds true for all distances, if we look into a mirror at ourselves at arm’s length, we see our reflection takes approximately six nanoseconds, then if we look into the heavens, we see mostly our ancient history; in other words everything we see now and hear has already occurred and passed into history.

Therefore; myself and Ian, would ask to think about for a while, so the next time you are immersed in your daily routine or looking up at the sun, moon or stars, remember we are not only in the universe, we are part of it and nothing is what it appears to be, take care and sleep well.

Thank you for taking time to read this short article.

-End-

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