



THE GAVEL

MONTEZUMA LODGE NO. 1 AF & AM

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October 2023

From the East...



Greetings Brethren!

This month at our Stated Meeting we will be having our step up night. Following up on October's focus on the EA degree, we had a discussion at our last Brotherhood Night about the working tools of an Entered Apprentice. There was a wide range of topics related to use of the 24 inch gauge and the common gavel. The 24 inch gauge offers us a way to lay out our day so that we stay focused on the right activities throughout the day and get enough rest to function at our best. One of the thoughts I had about the idea of planning the day was how poor eating choices can derail good plans. This is where the common gavel comes in, so that we can divest our hearts and consciences of all the vices and superfluities of life. I personally find that when I am making poor choices with food, and drinking too much caffeine, I am not very effective at the tasks I am trying to complete. Furthermore, many times bad habits, or vices, lock us into a vicious cycle of continuing the bad habits and experiencing greater frustration and less effectiveness. I also notice that my thinking seems to be more clouded when I'm making poor food choices. This makes planning a day much more difficult and follow through highly unlikely. Relaxing at the end of a day and watching a tv show or a movie is one thing, but getting drawn into a show and 'binge watching' it is an entirely different thing and falls into the category of superfluity. Staying up too late leads to getting less sleep and needing more caffeine to get through a day, which has the added bonus of making it more difficult to get good rest the next evening. Somehow these 2 working tools that we are presented with during our Entered Apprentice degree complement each other. When used correctly they can turn us into better and much more effective men. There is much we can learn from the application of these tools, and when we keep asking questions, it gives us the opportunity to learn more about ourselves and maybe to find an easier way to live. The more bad habits I am able to shed, the more positive things I am able to add in, which always feels good to me. I sometimes think I don't have enough time, but when I am able to be honest with myself, I usually find that there is more than enough time if I am willing to let go of habits that don't serve me well. I have been removing sugar from my diet and suddenly I am finding more time and energy for memorizing ritual, which is always a good thing to spend time on. I also find that I am more patient with my children, and being a better father is high on my list of things to do. It was really great to have this as a discussion topic for brotherhood night and hear how other brothers use these working tools. This month for brotherhood night we will have WB Chuck Hannaford presenting an interesting topic related to archaeology in New Mexico.

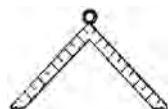
Our next brotherhood night will be on Tuesday November 21 at 6pm.

Our next Stated Meeting will be on Monday November 6 at 7pm with dinner provided by Brother AJ at 6pm.

I look forward to seeing you all on Monday, November 6 for our Stated Meeting!

Christopher J Williams

Worshipful Master



Regular Meetings

RECURRENCE

First Monday
 Fourth Wednesday
 Second Tuesday
 Third Tuesday
 Second Wednesday

EVENT

Regular Communication at 7:00 PM, Dinner at 6:00 PM
 Property Management Board at 6:00 PM
 Regular Communication at 7:30 PM
 Regular Communication at 5:30 PM
 Regular Communication at 7:30 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM

ORGANIZATION

Montezuma Lodge No. 1
 Montezuma Lodge No. 1
 York Rite Bodies
 Santa Fez Shrine Club
 Cerrillos Lodge No. 19

We have been holding our Quest meetings every Saturday morning at 10:00 AM. Quest Club is a forum for everyone. Mason and non-Mason alike can voice ideas and discuss any topic.



Special Notices And Events

Property Management Board

The next monthly meetings of the Property Management Board will be held on **Wednesday, October 25th** at 6:00 PM in the library,

Happiness

Worshipful Brother Jee Hwang in now officially a Citizen of the United States.

Election of Officers

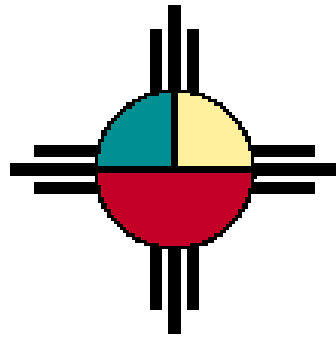
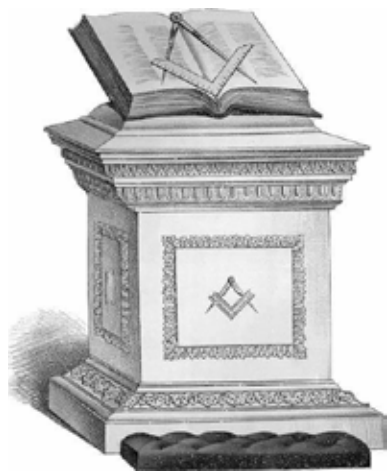
The annual election of officers is scheduled for the December stated meeting: December 4, 2023

Step-up Night

The stated meeting on November 6, 2023 will be the annual step-up meeting. Stationed and appointed officers would be wise to familiarize themselves with the appropriate ritual work.

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Southern California Research Lodge

Fraternal Review

SEPTEMBER 2023



The Rise of Rhetoric



WHAT IS THE ROLE OF RHETORIC IN FREEMASONRY?

The Rise of Rhetoric

by Ian Evenstar Laurelin

Freemasons use the art of rhetoric to effectively communicate our teachings, principles, and values to ourselves and the larger community. We employ rhetoric in public speaking, persuasive communication, rituals, ceremonies, and lectures to promote clarity, eloquence, and understanding among members and to unify the fraternity. Studying and practicing rhetoric is crucial as it guides us through the Craft and provides a foundation for mastering the remaining six liberal arts and sciences on our journey to the Sanctum Sanctorum.

But why is there so much emphasis on rhetoric? One obvious reason is that most of us joined Freemasonry to improve ourselves. And what does Freemasonry do as an institution? It helps good men become even better. If we dig a little deeper, we can ask ourselves how it achieves this and what processes it follows. This is where we find the answer at the core of it all—Freemasonry places great importance on developing its members' intellectual and oratorical abilities.

Would it be fair then to say that rhetoric is the essence of Freemasonry? After all, the sacred text that we are instructed to follow extends this Truth, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1, King James Version). The Great Architect was (and is) the Word.

As Fellowcrafts, we are taught to learn the seven arts and sciences that are crucial for our growth and well-being. These seven liberal arts and sciences include Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic, Arithmetic,

Geometry, Music, and Astronomy. However, it is unfortunate that many Freemasons today do not give due importance to this instruction or explore these arts in depth.

Grammar forms the basis of language, enabling effective communication through words and syntax. Rhetoric aids in crafting persuasive arguments to influence others. Logic, on the other hand, is the science of reasoning, allowing us to evaluate arguments and reach conclusions. Together, these three components make up the Trivium.

The Trivium—Grammar, Rhetoric, and Logic—is crucial, as it forms the foundation of critical thinking and effective communication. It equips us with essential skills to analyze and present ideas clearly and convincingly. Grammar helps us understand and use language, rhetoric teaches persuasive expression of thoughts, and logic enables accurate reasoning and discerning truth. These three disciplines provide essential tools for intellectual growth and meaningful discourse. They are the first steps towards wisdom and enlightenment in Freemasonry.

The Quadrivium consists of the last four arts and sciences. Arithmetic focuses on numbers and their properties, while Geometry explores shapes and spatial



relationships. Music involves learning about pitch, beats, and harmony, while Astronomy allows us to observe and understand celestial bodies' movements, structures, and composition. The Quadrivium connects physical sciences and abstract mathematics, enhancing our understanding of numbers, proportions, and patterns.

In Freemasonry, the seven arts and sciences are integral to our teachings. They provide knowledge and help us understand ourselves, our environment, and our place in history. Mastering these disciplines allows us to contribute positively to society, using our wisdom to benefit all. By developing analytical skills, communication abilities, and exploring mathematics and science, we gain insight into ourselves and the world. This journey as Freemasons is not solitary; it is a communal activity where we share collective knowledge and experiences. Rhetoric serves as a powerful means to connect and share with others.

The guidance to study, practice, and effectively use rhetoric enables us to share our profound teachings, principles, and values with the wider community. Through persuasive communication, passionate delivery during rituals, and captivating public speaking, we engage our minds, develop our character, and enlighten others. Rhetoric plays a significant role in Masonic rituals, ceremonies, and lectures, fostering a deeper connection and understanding among members and candidates. By practicing rhetoric within Lodge, we unite and strengthen our fraternity's noble pursuit of knowledge, truth, and self-improvement.

Beyond the confines of our Lodge, we are witnessing a remarkable resurgence of rhetoric in our everyday lives. Rhetoric is now present in various aspects of modern society, permeating our phones and devices. There is an overwhelming amount of persuasive rhetoric in today's society. This becomes particularly relevant as the wealthiest individuals and organizations use their capital to shape public opinion and gain support for various causes. The ever-increasing challenge of distinguishing truth from manipulation sets this era apart from the past. The blurred lines between authenticity and manipulation make it increasingly difficult for us to navigate the complex landscape of information.

At this time, Freemasons must hone their rhetorical skills to counter this wave of manipulative rhetoric. During our Fellowcraft degree, we are charged with this instruction: if we wish to receive our wages in full, we are therefore obliged to use our understanding of rhetoric within our brotherhood and in service to society at large. We must strive to apply our rhetorical skills to promote truth, rational thinking, and balanced discussions in a world increasingly dominated by the interests of a select few. Through the artful employment of rhetoric, we can illuminate the path of wisdom and reason, standing as beacons of discernment amid the tidal waves of misinformation. This is our duty as Freemasons, and now, more than ever, it is the need of the hour.

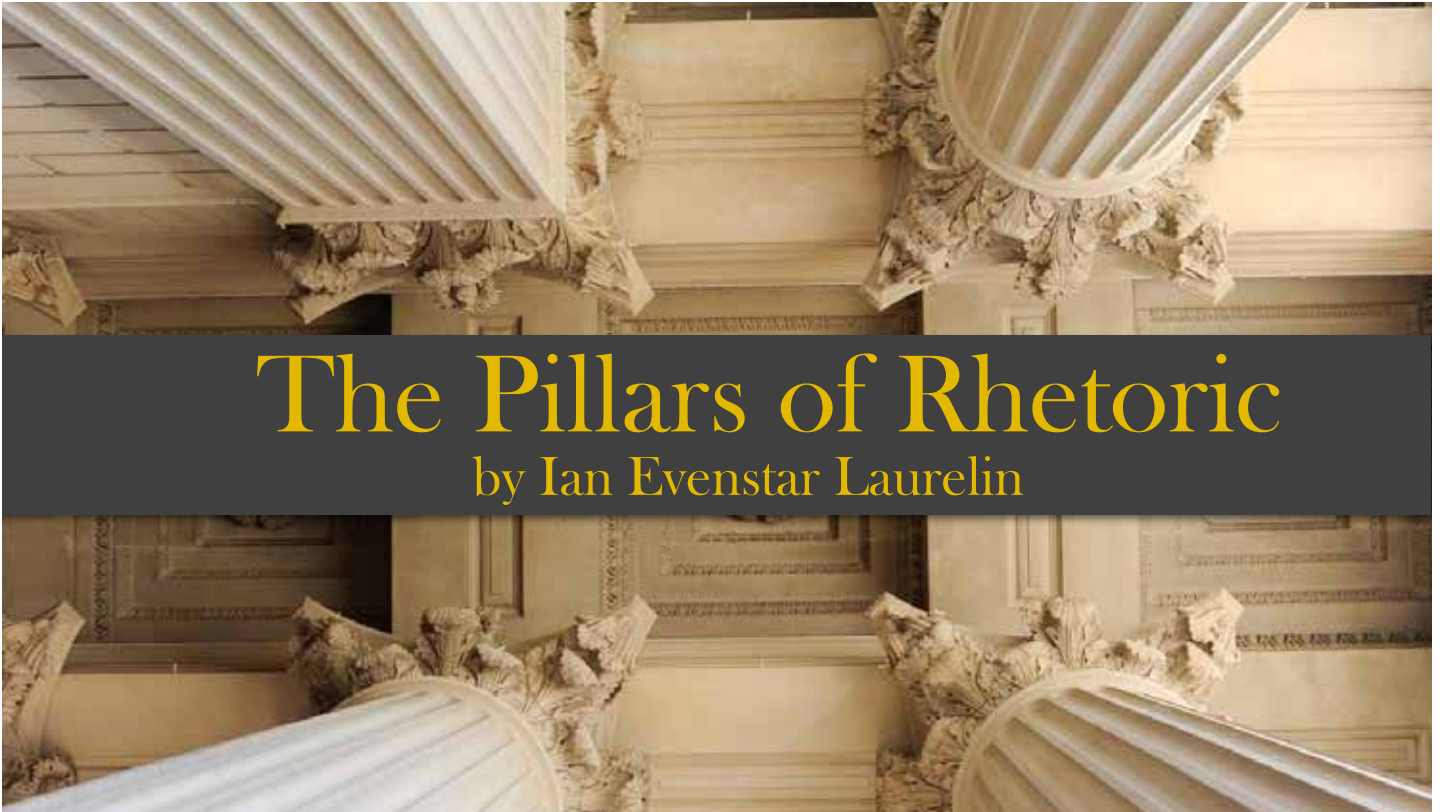
As Freemasons, we have a unique opportunity and responsibility to foster meaningful conversation through thoughtful, purposeful language. We are stewards of timeless values, which can be transmitted through the lens of rhetoric—allowing us to reach large audiences and create positive change within our communities. Whether through public speaking engagements or social media publishing, sharing our philosophies and values through persuasive communication enables us to spread the Masonic ideals of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

At its core, rhetoric is about connecting with people. It's about emotionally engaging them to inspire action or enhance understanding. Throughout history, rhetoric has proven to be a powerful tool, and it remains relevant in our society today. Our commitment to self-improvement and education through rhetoric should extend beyond the Lodge. We should practice rhetoric daily, honing our skills and applying its lessons in all aspects of our lives.

Effective communication is a skill that can be developed, and by studying the fundamentals of rhetoric, we can unlock opportunities to make a lasting impact. Understanding these principles opens a world of possibilities, helping us become better communicators and agents of change. Through our words and actions, we can unite people from diverse backgrounds to work together for the benefit of all. Let us use rhetoric to have transformative conversations, challenge convention, and foster meaningful dialogue about important issues facing us today.

As Freemasons, we must embrace this challenge and step up to the Rise of Rhetoric!

“We must strive to apply our rhetorical skills to promote truth, rational thinking, and balanced discussions in a world increasingly dominated by the interests of a select few.”



The Pillars of Rhetoric

by Ian Evenstar Laurelin

More than two millennia ago, Aristotle noted that the art of rhetoric was based on three key concepts: ethos, pathos, and logos. Ethos refers to the speaker's credibility or ethical appeal, demonstrating their character and building trust with their audience. Pathos appeals to the audience's emotions, values, or imagined experiences, aiming to persuade by evoking an emotional response. Logos relies on logic and reason, using evidence and facts to support our argument and appeal to the audience's rationality. When used effectively together, these three pillars of rhetoric create a compelling discourse that informs, shapes perception, and inspires action.

These three "pillars" of rhetoric can be used strategically to promote the values and principles of Freemasonry to a wider audience. We can create compelling arguments and stories that resonate with the public by leveraging ethos, pathos, and logos. Ethos is established by highlighting Freemasonry's historical legacy and commitment to morality and ethics. Pathos is invoked by sharing stories of how Freemasonry positively impacts members' lives and their communities. Logos is demonstrated by showing how Freemasonry's principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth contribute to a prosperous and harmonious society. Through public speaking, social media campaigns, and engaging dialogues, rhetoric can be used to promote Freemasonry's values and principles, thus fostering a better understanding and appreciation for the

fraternity among the wider public.

However, we must not deceive ourselves by assuming that this will be a simple undertaking. Finding the right balance between ethos, pathos, and logos can be most challenging. It requires thoroughly comprehending an audience's values and perceptions, and applying logic to engage them emotionally, while maintaining credibility by presenting logical arguments.

To further understand rhetoric, we should reflect on the fact that rhetoric is not just about words; it is also about a certain way of thinking that involves looking at the world from different angles and perspectives to create meaningful dialogue and engage with others. This type of discourse encourages us to think deeply about our own beliefs and opinions while also considering the needs of those around us.

In conclusion, Freemasons should embrace the art of rhetoric by studying, practicing, and embodying its three pillars. In this way, we may answer the call to master rhetoric and use it to enlighten ourselves, our fellow brethren, and our communities. Together, we can nurture a more enlightened society for future generations; and by understanding and implementing the key principles of rhetoric, we can also foster meaningful conversations about Freemasonry as a whole.

In our ever-evolving world, there is an undeniable need for honest, open, and searching discussions that delve into critical questions. These discussions are vital for personal growth and cultivating a well-rounded man who can navigate the complexities of life with wisdom and understanding. By engaging in these thoughtful conversations, we can gain valuable insights, broaden our perspectives, and continuously strive to become the best versions of ourselves. Let us embrace this opportunity to explore and expand our knowledge, sparking meaningful dialogue that fuels personal and collective growth.



The Legend of the Winding Stairs by Albert G. Mackey, M.D.

In the seventh century, and for a long time afterwards, the circle of instruction to which all the learning of the most eminent schools and most distinguished philosophers was confined, was limited to what were then called the liberal arts and sciences, and consisted of two branches, the *trivium* and the *quadrivium*. The *trivium* included grammar, rhetoric, and logic; the *quadrivium* comprehended arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy.

“These seven heads,” says Enfield, “were supposed to include universal knowledge. He who was master of these was thought to have no need of a preceptor to explain any books or to solve any questions which lay within the compass of human reason, the knowledge of the *trivium* having furnished him with the key to all language, and that of the *quadrivium* having opened to him the secret laws of nature.”

At a period, says the same writer, when few were instructed in the *trivium*, and very few studied the *quadrivium*, to be master of both was sufficient to complete the character of a philosopher. The propriety, therefore, of adopting the seven liberal arts and sciences as a symbol of the completion of human learning is apparent. The candidate, having reached this point, is now supposed to have accomplished the task upon which he had entered—he has reached the last step, and is now ready to receive the full fruition of human learning.

So far, then, we are able to comprehend the true symbolism of the Winding Stairs. They represent the progress of an inquiring mind with the toils and labors of intellectual cultivation and study, and the preparatory acquisition of all human science, as a preliminary step to the attainment of Divine truth, which it must be remembered is always symbolized in Masonry by the WORD.

Mackey, Albert G., *An Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*. (The Masonic History Co., 1921) Vol. II, p.852.

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November Dinner
Menu



Join us on November 6th for dinner at 6:00 PM before the stated meeting. The entire family is invited. Our chefs have planned an excellent menu. If you have any dietary restrictions please contact the secretary so that we may arrange suitable alternatives.

- Deep Fried Turkey and Dressing
- Sweet Potatoes
- Vegetables
- Tossed Salad and Dressings
- Watermelon, Pies, Ice Cream
- Coffee, tea, and sodas



2022-2023 Officers

- Worshipful Master:** - Christopher J. Williams
(C): (208) 995-6922
- Senior Warden** - Jose M. Montano
(C): (505) 692-9183
- Junior Warden** - Jee W. Hwang
(C): (704) 654-1270
- Treasurer** - Patrick J. Varela
(H): (505) 471-2555
- Secretary** - Don L. Helberg, PDDGM
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(H): (505) 983-9508
- Senior Deacon** - Nathan W. Metheny
(C): 505-930-9390
- Junior Deacon** - Gregory O Pringle
(C): 505-920-7012
- Senior Steward** - Timothy R. Gilmore
(C): (505) 660-5919
- Junior Steward** - Open
- Marshal:** - Alfonso J. Rodriguez
(C): 505-501-0078
- Tyler:** - Jerry Noedel, PM

What is the purpose of Freemasonry?

“To admit, make and pass Freemasons according to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Lodge. To advance the moral and social interests of its membership; to foster good citizenship, honest industry and upright living; to cultivate the exercise of charity in its best and broadest sense; to assist the widows and orphans of its deceased members; to stimulate friendship, harmony and Brotherly love and generally to promote, in its own way, the happiness of mankind — it is a fraternity of good men, linked together by honorable and indissoluble bonds, to accomplish these noble purposes, eschewing all interests in factional politics and sectarian religion and free from the dictation of both.”

For more information about Masonry:

- Call the Lodge at 982-0971
- Stop by the Lodge
- Visit our website @ www.montezumalodge.org
- Ask any Mason