

FROM THE ORGAN LOFT

THE TRUE MASONIC LODGE - REFLECTIONS BY MANLY P. HALL

Manly Palmer Hall (1901-1990) was a Canadian-born author and mystic. He is perhaps most famous for his work *The Secret Teachings of All Ages: An Encyclopedic Outline of Masonic, Hermetic, Qabbalistic and Rosicrucian Symbolical Philosophy*, published in 1928 - when he was only 27 years old!

It is claimed that Hall was made a knight patron of the Masonic Research Group of San Francisco in 1953, although he was not raised as a Mason until 22 November 1954 into Jewel Lodge No. 374, San Francisco. He later received his 32° in the Valley of San Francisco AASR (SJ). In 1973 (47 years after writing *The Secret Teachings of All Ages*), Hall was recognized as a 33° Mason (the highest honor conferred by the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite), at a ceremony held at PRS on December 8, 1973. The definitive Manly Palmer Hall Archive states that Hall received the 33°, "despite never being initiated into the physical craft." In his over 70-year career, Hall delivered approximately 8,000 lectures in the United States and abroad, authored over 150 books and essays, and wrote countless magazine articles. Hear his words on - *The True Masonic Lodge*, from his book, "The Lost Keys of Freemasonry":

"A Mason is any person who daily tries to live the Masonic life, and to serve intelligently the needs of the Great Architect. A Mason pledges himself to assist all other temple-builders in whatever extremity of life; and in so doing he pledges himself to every living thing, for they are all temple-builders, building more noble structures to the glory of the universal God. The true Masonic Lodge is a Mystery School; a place where candidates are taken out of the follies and foibles of the world and instructed in the mysteries of life, relationships, and the identity of that germ of spiritual essence within...The Mason views life seriously, realizing that every wasted moment is a lost opportunity, and that Omnipotence is gained only through earnestness and endeavor. Above all the other relationships he recognizes the - Universal brotherhood [sisterhood] of every living thing. The symbol of the clasped hands, explained in the Lodge, reflects his attitude towards all the world, for he is the comrade of all created things. He realizes also that spirit is a glowing, gleaming jewel which he must enshrine within a holy temple built by the labor of his hands, the meditation of his heart, and the aspiration of his soul. Freemasonry is a philosophy which is essentially creedless. It is the truer for it. Its brothers bow to truth regardless of the bearer; they serve light, instead of wrangling over the one who brings it. In this way they prove that they are seeking to know better the will and the dictates of the Invincible One. No truer religion exists than that of world comradeship and brotherhood, for the purpose of glorifying one God and building for Him a temple of constructive attitude and noble character." *(end quote)*

May we all continually meditate on these most important admonitions.

FRATERNALLY,

GREG "SUDS" SUDMEIER, M.M.