

"Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity;-liberty regulated by law; equality of rights in the eye of the law; brotherhood with its duties and obligations as well as its benefits."
-Albert Pike

Ashler Lodge No. 121 Trestle Board-Bothell, WA



Issue No.0001

ashler121@outlook.com

NEWS FOR TODAY!

bothellmasons.org

PRICE: \$3.57

Walk The Talk-February

On December 3rd at 2:00 PM, Ashler Lodge 121 had its installation of officers in Bothell. Special thanks to everyone who came! For those of you who could not join us, the installation went smoothly, Worshipful Brother Mike McKamey took up the mantle of

Worshipful Master for this Masonic term of 2023, and scrumptious refreshments were had afterwards, courtesy of Worshipful Brother Gary McPherson and his lady, Paula.



Bro.Dale Miller, WB.Fred Wagner, Bro.Stephen Metz, Bro.Marcus Martin, Bro.Isiah Brazil, WB.Mike McKamey, Bro.Aaron Margolis, Bro.Charles Negrón, WB.Gary McPherson, Bro.Sopheak Sib, WB.Don Schumer

This Paper Includes...

...only good things to come!

Monthly Spotlight Special: Ashler No. 121 Installation **pg 1.**

Worshipful Master's Masterpiece **pg 2.**

A Word with Brother Aaron **pg 4.**

Ashler Lodge No. 121 Calendar for 2023 **pg 5.**

Tibute to Illustrious Sir. David Brady of Ashler Lodge **pg 7.**

Worshipful Master's Masterpiece

A few words from this year's Worshipful Master, Mike McKamey.

Good day, Brothers! It is good to think about some of our Fraternity's key principles, like faith, hope, and charity, as we start the New Year. These values serve as our guides in both our personal and Masonic obligations, and they are crucial to edifying a strong and enduring Lodge of Brethren.



WB. Mike McKamey

Everything else is built on the basis of faith. It entails putting trust in a higher power and knowing that everything will turn out for the best. Charity is the love and compassion we demonstrate for others, while hope is the optimism and confidence that the future will be wonderful. These three ideas are connected and work together to build a solid and encouraging community. We can influence the world for the better by acting with kindness, hope, and faith. Together, we can improve the quality of life for everyone in our neighborhood and make our community a better place to live and work. Let's work to uphold these values consistently, and may we serve as an example to everyone we encounter.

So, hold firm as we move forward on our adventure as Ashler Lodge, Brothers; for these principles serve as the cornerstone of our fraternity and the legacy of our forefathers. They direct us in everything we do. Let us set an example for others, demonstrating the beauty and power of a neighborhood and Lodge built upon such a foundation.

Let us all work to strengthen our faith, raise our hopes, and show more kindness to people around us in the upcoming year. Let's live by these principles and set an example for others to follow in order to improve lives, communities, our Lodge, and everyone's future.

Wishing you peace and happiness, Brothers!

Fraternally,

Brother Mike McKamey

Worshipful Master

Ashler Lodge #121

Reflections on the West

from Isiah Brazil.

Peace and Love, my brothers...

As Senior Warden, I end my night at lodge by informing the Brothers at the request of the Worshipful Master that Masons should meet upon the level, but I find myself asking “who defines and determines the level?”

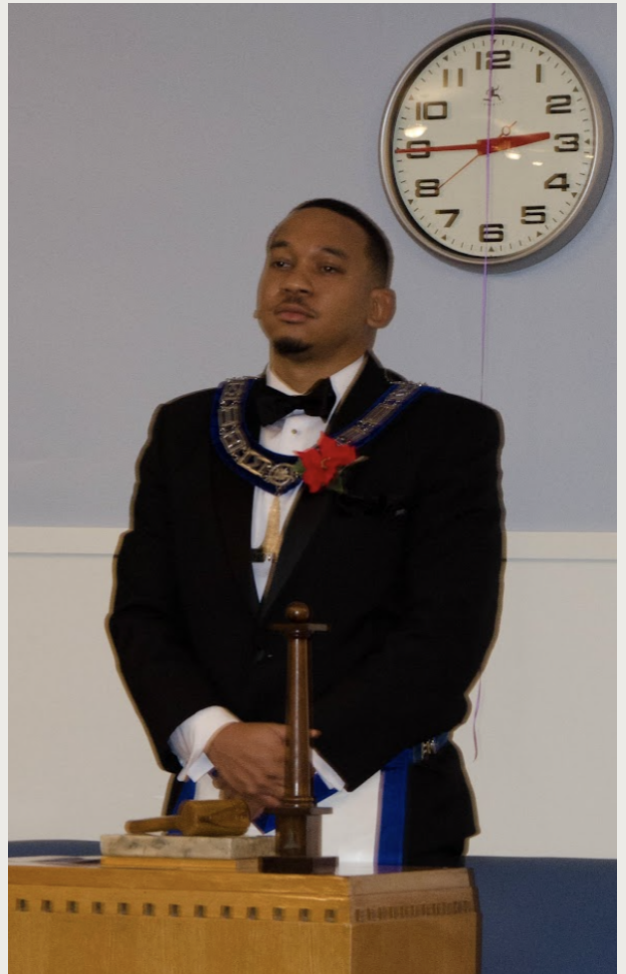
Many times you may hear the usage of the term “on my level” in a way that defines level in terms of steps, one being higher and the other being lower, which can be an expression of superiority and inferiority. Recognition of the level in that sense has sadly become common usage in society, but I urge the Brethren to remember that we use tools for more noble and glorious purposes. Remember that knowledge should be looked at as a blessing and with that blessing comes a deeper responsibility. Recall when there were times in your life when you were not as knowledgeable as you are today. Know that there will be times when you will be in need of guidance and help from others more experienced than you are in this moment. But should being on a different level stop you from seeking improvement? And should that be reason enough for them to withhold that improvement?

As the Master of the Lodge stepped down to meet you as a candidate in search of light, be mindful of self-created highs and step down to meet humanity with the same humility you were met with. Allow yourself to be reminded that we are forever students seeking mastery of our lives and most importantly, stay mindful to be equitable and balanced with all you encounter so there will be no doubt that we will always meet upon the level.

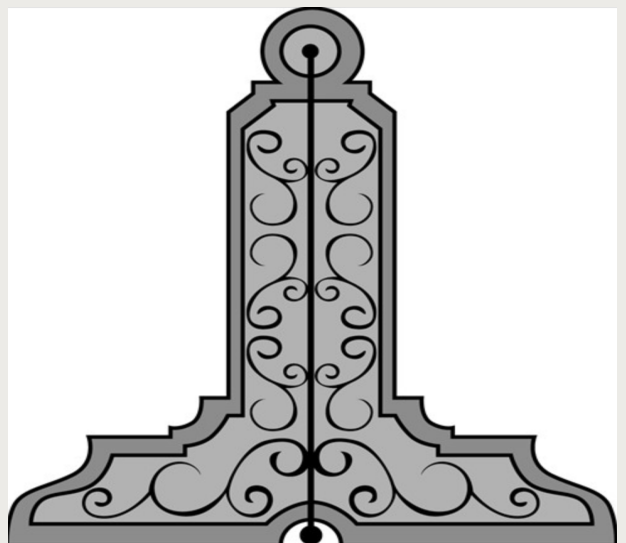
Peace and Love Brothers.

Bro Isiah Brazil

Senior Warden



SW Bro. Isiah Brazil



Masonic Level

A Word with Brother Aaron

An Article on Masonic Philosophy

What is truth? Philosophers have struggled with this question since antiquity. We are taught in the first degree that the three great tenets of Freemasonry are: brotherly love, relief, and truth. Truth, we are told in our ritual is “a divine attribute” and “the foundation of every virtue.” Further, the explanation states “while influenced by this principle, hypocrisy and deceit are unknown among us.” To understand this explanation, we must unpack and analyze what is meant by 1) a divine attribute, 2) a foundation for every virtue, and finally 3) we must nail down the concepts of hypocrisy and deceit. Once these three tasks are accomplished, we will more fully comprehend what is taught to us in the first degree and masonry’s understanding of truth. Then we can explore other concepts of truth from the various philosophers who have wrestled with this concept. Finally, educated and informed, we can formulate and justify our own theory of truth.

Part One: A Divine Attribute

Masonry, through the lecture of the first degree, claims Truth is a divine attribute. But to claim something is a divine attribute is to simultaneously claim at least some knowledge of the divine. Is masonry justified in making such a claim? Since there is no Masonic god and no Masonic revelation (as Masonry is not a religion in the commonly understood definition of religion) it would appear that such claims are not justified by anything within Masonry itself.

I understand that after hearing Truth is a divine principle, many Masons might reflect and say, “yes, that sounds right, I believe truth is a divine attribute”. But the Mason reflecting on this issue is most likely just reflecting on the teachings of his own religion and deity and not on a justification for Masonry to make independent claims on the topic.

Also, saying truth is a divine attribute is still not definitional or explanatory. Asking what is truth and being told “truth is X” just begs the question: ok, what is X? In our current example, X is “a divine attribute”. Since in many traditions, the divine (god) is ineffable, saying something is an attribute of something which is ineffable (i.e. not capable of expression in words) is to say truth is something which cannot be expressed in words. And that isn’t helpful at all in improving our understanding of the concept of truth.

While it may still be the case that truth is a divine attribute, being a divine attribute does not immediately help us understand what truth is. I will demonstrate.

Consider the following argument.

Premise 1: Aaron is a man.

Premise 2: Men have attributes of manhood.

Conclusion 1: Therefore, Aaron has attributes of manhood.

While the argument above may be sound and valid (that means it has true premises and proper format) the conclusion of this argument does not explain what a man is.

Likewise:

Premise 1: Truth is a divine attribute.

Premise 2: Divine attributes are _____ ...

Well, there isn’t much agreement on what are divine attributes. They are (can be) controversial, undefined, ineffable, unknown, known but not specific... etc. Even within Christendom, there is no agreement as demonstrated by the fact there are thousands of Christian denominations, each with some great or small variation from the others on divinity. Then consider the fact most people are not Christian.

Then the logical conclusion of premise 1 and premise 2 is truth is _____ controversial, undefined, ineffable, unknown, known but not specific, etc. To say truth is controversial or unknown is to say nothing helpful in the pursuit of understanding what is truth. It was our discussions starting point. Even if we eventually want to believe that there is no truth or truth is controversial or truth is unknowable, we must first describe what it is that’s controversial, unknown, or not knowable.

In conclusion, the approach of identifying truth with some other concept only shifts us to having to figure out some other concept. In this case, saying truth is a divine attribute immediately requires us to go wrestle with concepts of the divine. And how would we know if any divine concepts are true or false without first understanding the concept of truth?

We will need to tackle the concept of truth head on eventually, but not yet. First, we will complete our analysis of the masonic approach to truth. In the next part of our journey, we will analyze the idea that truth is the “foundation of every virtue.”

Ashler's Calendar for 2023

Mark the Dates!

January

- 5th Officer's 6 p.m. and Temple Board 7 p.m.
- 12th Masonic Education 7 p.m.
- 19th Stated (Jobies) Guest Speaker Dinner 6:30 p.m. Communication 7:30 p.m.
- 21st Pancake Breakfast at Lodge 8 a.m.

February

- Officer's 6 p.m. and Temple Board 7 p.m.
- 9th Masonic Education 7 p.m.
- 16th Stated (Rainbow) Dinner 6:30 p.m. Communication 7:30 p.m.
- 18th Pancake Breakfast at Lodge 8 a.m. Street Cleanup 9 a.m.

March

- 2nd Officer's 6 p.m. and Temple Board 7 p.m.
- 7th Shoreline Visit 7:00 p.m. Stated, 6:00 p.m. Dinner
- 13th Masonic Education 7 p.m.
- 16th Stated (Jobies) Grand Master Ed Wood Visit & Chili Night 6:30 p.m. 17th-19th Masonic Leadership Retreat
- 18th Pancake Breakfast at Lodge 8 a.m.
- Leadership Retreat - Date TBD

April

- 6th Officer's 6 p.m. and Temple Board 7 p.m.
- 8th Game Night 7 p.m.
- 13th Masonic Education 7 p.m.
- 20st Stated (Rainbow) Guest Speaker Dinner 6:30 p.m. Communication 7:30 p.m.
- 22nd Pancake Breakfast at Lodge 8 a.m.
- 22nd Ladies Night 7 p.m.

May

- 4th Officer's 6 p.m. and Temple Board 7 p.m.
- 9th Yancy C. Blalock Visit 7:30 p.m. Stated, 6:30 Dinner
- 11th Masonic Education 7 p.m.
- 18th Stated (Rainbow) Dinner 6:30 p.m. Communication 7:30 p.m.
- 20th Pancake Breakfast at Lodge 8 a.m. Street Cleanup 9 a.m.
- 27th Bowling Night Kenmore Lanes 7 p.m.

June

- 1st Officer's 6 p.m. and Temple Board 7 p.m.
- 3rd Shoreline Crab Feed 6p.m. – 9 p.m.
- 8th – 10th Grand Lodge Annual Communication Wenatchee, WA
- 15th Stated (Business Casual) Dinner 6:30 p.m. Communication 7:30 p.m.
- 17th Pancake Breakfast at Lodge 8 a.m.
- 22nd Masonic Education 7 p.m.

July

- 4th of July Parade – Downtown Bothell
- 6th Officer's Meeting 6 p.m.
- 13th Masonic Education 7 p.m.
- 20th Stated (Hawaiian Shirt Night) Dinner 6:30 p.m. Communication 7:30 p.m.
- 22nd Pancake Breakfast at Lodge 8 a.m.
- 29th Barbeque at Blythe Park Noon

August

- 3rd Officers Meeting 6 p.m.
- 10th Masonic Education 7 p.m.
- 12th Family Barbecue Noon Blythe Park
- 17th Stated (Jersey Night) Dinner 6:30 p.m. Communication 7:30 p.m.
- 19th Pancake Breakfast at Lodge 8 a.m. Street Cleanup 9 a.m.

September

- 7th Officer's 6 p.m. and Temple Board 7 p.m.
- 14th Masonic Education 7 p.m.
- 19th Millcreek Visit 7:30 Stated, 6:30 Dinner
- 21st Stated (Jobies) Dinner 6:30 p.m. Communication 7:30 p.m.
- 23rd Pancake Breakfast at Lodge 8 a.m.

October

- 5th Officer's 6 p.m. and Temple Board 7 p.m.
- 7th Family Bowling Kenmore Lanes
- 12th Masonic Education 7 p.m.
- 19th Stated (Step-up Night) Rainbow Dinner 6:30 p.m. Communication 7:30 p.m.
- 21st Pancake Breakfast at Lodge 8 a.m. Street Cleanup 9 a.m.
- 21st Game Night 7 p.m.
- 31st Safe Halloween 5 p.m.

November

- 2nd Officer's 6 p.m. and Temple Board 7 p.m.
- 9th Edmonds Visit 7:30 Stated, 6:30 Dinner
- 16th Stated (Jobies) Dinner 6:30 p.m. Communication 7:30 p.m.
- 18th Pancake Breakfast at Lodge 8 a.m.

December

- 2nd Installation
- 7th Officer's 6 p.m. and Temple Board 7 p.m.
- 21st Stated (Rainbow Girls) Dinner 6:30 p.m. Communication 7:30 p.m.

Illustrious Sir. David Brady of Ashler Lodge No. 121

March 23, 1954 - January 28, 2023



Illustrious Sir. David Brady Past Potentate of Nile Shrine Mountlake Terrace, WA

On January 28 of 2023, our WB David Brady, Past Potentate of the Nile Shrine, lay down his working tools. He fought numerous health battles over the last 6+ years with an amazing strength and attitude. Dave's lapel pin for his year as Potentate, was a smiley face wearing a fez, in 2015. WB Dave was the brother who was responsible for starting our annual chili cook off, though many questioned his thinking, of filling Brothers will chili, and then going into a closed meeting for the evening. WB was a loving husband to my sister, Karen Brady for over 48 years, as well as father to brother, Dave Brady Jr, and Kelli Brady Marletto. WB Dave loved his Brothers of Ashler Lodge, District 2, and throughout the state and world. The family appreciates all of the Brothers who were understanding and supportive of us during great times and difficult times. WB proudly served Ashler Lodge as WM in 1997, and Potentate of the Nile in 2015, as well as involvement as an adult leader in all three Masonic Youth groups and Grand Lodge Youth Committee. I hope that thinking of WB Dave makes you Smile knowing you were able to call him your Brother. He is missed but fondly remembered. There will be a Memorial service and Celebration of his life on Sunday February 19th at 1pm at the Nile Shrine. In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations to the Shriner's Children of Spokane or Portland.

-WB Wayne Donelson