

## Whence Came You?



### The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio Committee on Education and Information

#### Preparation:

Read the lesson in its entirety and familiarize yourself with the terminology used to avoid the need to read it word for word.

#### Instruction:

To understand this allegory, it is necessary to understand the terminology used. The meaning of the Hebrew word “Jerusalem” is given as “a place of perfect peace”. The name “John” comes from the Hebrew word “Jochonan” which in English means “favored of God”. The word “Lodge” used here refers to a state of existence rather than a physical place, just as does the phrase “*the Lodge on High*”.

Thus the answer of “From a Lodge of the holy Saints John of Jerusalem” can be translated to mean, “From a place of perfection favored of God”. Which is an allegorical narrative of man’s experience in the Garden of Eden. A place of perfection, favored of God where man was able to enjoy the warmth and knowledge of the Light of God. As a consequence of man’s temptation and fall from Grace, he was expelled from His presence and cast into a world of chaos and darkness. This idea is echoed in each of the Degrees as the Candidate enters our Lodge blindfolded. This would seem unnecessary in both the Fellow Craft and Master Mason Degrees as the Candidate has already seen the Lodge, the Brethren thereof, and has had an opportunity to take part in meetings opened in the EA Degree. Thus the lesson taught is that we are always traveling from that place of darkness towards that place of Light. It is not until the Master Mason Degree that we are taught that that which we seek can only be obtained through the Grace of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

Freemasonry has no interest in man's devolution; its interest in him is after that event. All men err and fall short of the Glory of God. Thus our Fraternity is not looking for Candidates which are perfect, as there are none; but rather we are only looking for good men which are imperfect. Our object is to assist and hasten these imperfect men's evolution back into the Grace of God or LIGHT. The candidate wishes to regain "that which has been lost", his previous state of completeness of being "favored of God".

Demonstration:

None

Assessment:

The Brethren should have a deeper understanding of one of our proficiency questions that, like many of our phrases and statements, we never wonder about. This is a good example of ritual statements that we do not question and hopefully, will encourage the Brethren to seek out "More Light" on our customs, habits, and ritual.