



Missouri Supplement

Russell S. Hanson, PGC, Editor
107 S. Williams St., Fayette, MO 65248-1017
573-864-4434 (cell)
hansonr@missouri.edu



He Is Risen!

GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Sir Knights,

As Christian Masons, Easter is one of the most important times of the year. I would like to start this month's message with a verse from the Gospel of Matthew. "... Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for **HE IS RISEN**, ..." (Matthew 28: 5-6, KJV). I wanted to emphasize this verse since every Knight Templar should seek Jesus and know that He was sacrificed for our sins and that **He Is Risen!**

The Grand Commandery Hospitaler Committee has provided several additions to the Missouri Supplement during this Templar year. This month the Committee has provided an Easter Message for your reading pleasure. The Hospitaler Committee is under the chairmanship of Sir Knight Dennis A. Abernathy, Grand Captain General.

He is Risen!

Sir Knight Clark A. McLemore, Grand Commander

THE SERPENT, THE SHELL GAME, AND THE GREAT NUTCRACKER AN EASTER TAIL (SSSSS)

It's October at the time of this writing and I am thinking about my responsibility as a member of the Hospitaler Committee to pen an Easter message. I am finding great difficulty achieving focus on the ever so important message of Easter. Each morning when I rise and tune into the news, I am bombarded by negativity, divisiveness, scandal, and vulgarity. It makes me feel that I am farther away from Easter than the months would indicate. How can I break past this nut shell to focus on what is truly important? This is one tough problem and will require a powerful tool to fix it. A "Great Nutcracker" per se.

As I reflect on my task, I realize that I am being distracted from what is important. Not only am I being distracted, I find myself being deceived. Who could possibly want to deceive me and our great and God-Fearing Nation? The conclusion rings like a giant liberty bell in my mind. Who? Who indeed could possibly want to pit the righteous against the righteous? Now my mind's eye is churning and begins painting a mental picture of a Giant Serpent running a shell game in our country to keep you from seeing the true message of Easter. A trick meant to take your eye off the ball.

When I think of nutcrackers, I think of Christmas. But, in this case, I think of a great light cracking (crushing) the nuts on the shell game table. Just as Jesus, the Christ, shown his Great Light on the tables of the money changers in the Temple and turned them upside down. When you find yourself anxious and overwhelmed by the deluge of harmful information being directed your way on your television, computers, tablets, and smart phones; take a step back and realize that there may be a Serpent with a motive trying to put distance between you and the Great Light. Realize that you have the power of the "Great Nutcracker" at your disposal. Unplug yourself from the man-made technology and turn off the shell game. Sit down and open the Bible, our Great Light. It will tell you what you need in order to see the truth behind the Serpent and his Shell Game. In it you will find the message of Easter that the shell game is designed to obscure and deny you. Let me provide a couple of examples.

"He will use every kind of evil deception to fool those on their way to destruction, because they refuse to love and accept the truth that would save them. So God will cause them to be greatly deceived, and they will believe these lies. Then they will be condemned for enjoying evil rather than believing the truth." (2 Thessalonians 2: 10-12, NLT)

"He will be a master of deception and will become arrogant; he will destroy many without warning. ... " (Daniel 8: 25, NLT)

"For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths." (2 Timothy 4: 3-4, NLT)

My message for you is this: if you feel like you are anxious and having difficulty finding the message of Easter in these turbulent times, then perhaps there is a reason. If you need help to discern fact from fiction, then slow down, unplug from the shell game, and open the Great Light. Use it to smash the shell game keeping you from the true message of Easter.

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." (John 3: 16, NLT)

Keep your eye on the message and use the "Great Nutcracker" to smash the shell game whenever required!

Sir Knight Michael C. Rohman, Grand Senior Warden
Member, Hospitaler Committee

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EMPTY TOMB

What we should find so wonderful about Easter is that it is a celebration of God's ultimate answer in our lives. God has revealed himself throughout human existence. We see God's power in creation. We see God's love in the entire ministry of Christ. However, nowhere is God's ultimate word of response more conclusively stated than at the empty tomb we celebrate at Easter.