

District of Columbia Supplement
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Right Eminent Grand Commander

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Masonic Allegory

We didn't invent these things... We were not the first to use these ideas, nor the only ones using them. It is unlikely that we will be the last to use them. When I was asking Brother Brian Lazar about joining Hiram-Takoma, he said something that was both interesting and that has resonated and stuck with me. He said to me that when I became a Mason, EVERYthing I thought I knew, I would see differently. And, you know what? He was correct. Buildings I've seen and/or visited, phrases I use routinely without even thinking about them, references I make all the time, books I've read and enjoyed, and even movies and TV shows I have and still do watch. As some of you may know, I am an avid sci-fi and sword and sorcery fan. If it is in print, or on the screen, or TV, I have or will have read or seen it. All of the stuff my parents told me NOT to read or watch have all become not only movies or TV shows, but popular, and often blockbusters. It was my generation's cultish love of Star Trek that got the shuttle named Enterprise, and flip phones (like in "Star trek" ~ coincidence? I think not) and cell phones invented.

Just as "blackballed" and "squared away", "on the level" have been added to the lexicon of our language, so has "warp drive", "communicator" "star fleet", "ion drive" joined our repertoire. The functioning concept of an ion drive is nothing so new. We have had that in existence since oh.. 1940 or so.... Look it up.... We didn't invent anything new.... we use what was there, already. But WHY does our moral value, resonate with us, and so many others. Why has it lasted and withstood the test of time and changes of cultures and imperatives?

Think about this quote: "If I take a lamp and shine it toward the wall, a bright spot will appear on the wall. The lamp is our search for truth... for understanding. Too often, we assume that the light on the wall is God, but the light is not the goal of the search, it is the result of the search. The more intense the search, the brighter the light on the wall. The brighter the light on the wall, the greater the sense of revelation upon seeing it. Similarly, someone who does not search - who does not bring a lantern - sees nothing. What we perceive as God is the by-product of our search for God. It may simply be an appreciation of the

light... pure and unblemished... not understanding that it comes from us. Sometimes we stand in front of the light and assume that we are the center of the universe - God looks astonishingly like we do - or we turn to look at our shadow and assume that all is darkness.

If we allow ourselves to get in the way, we defeat the purpose, which is to use the light of our search to illuminate the wall in all its beauty and in all its flaws; and in so doing, better understand the world around us." Sounds remarkably like something you would hear in a Masonic lesson, doesn't it. While parts of it certainly resonate with what we believe and strive for, this is a quote from "Citizen" J'kar, in the final season of Babylon 5. It was written by Michael Straczynski, and my best efforts to learn otherwise, convince me that he isn't nor was he ever a Mason. But that doesn't invalidate the lesson.

Here is another one: "The third principle of sentient life is the capacity for self-sacrifice, the conscious ability to override evolution and self-preservation for a cause, a friend, a loved one." I could have sworn I heard that, or something like that, in one of the lesson, but it is a quote from Delenn of Mimbar, again, Straczynski's Babylon 5. But, it sure sounds a lot like sacrifice, charity, and selflessness to others, something we profess to try to practice.

Delenn is talking with Commander Jeffery Sinclair, one day, in the "garden", where she is sharing information with him, semi-unofficially, and he questions her motives. Nearby is a "Zen garden", (anyone know what Zen garden is?) and she points to the rock in the "offset" center, with the rings of raked sand radiating out from it. She says to Sinclair, "Humans created this?" and goes on to suggest that he should study it, implying the lesson of the garden, and the far-reaching effects of a stone, thrown into water, creating ripples....

For those who do not know what a Zen garden is, the point being that the ripple of one person's actions can have far reaching and huge effects that may not have been anticipated, and can start or complete something beyond themselves. HMMMMMMMM!!! End of Part One

Yours in the Service of Christ,

Sir Knight Douglas Cohen

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**Grand Commandery of Knights Templar
of the District of Columbia**

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