

FREEMASONRY AND FAITH

I am grateful for a faith that makes the divine a part of my life and at the same time helps me to recognize the good in every other person's faith. There is no place in my religious faith for a narrow sectarianism that excludes those that do not happen to see God as I see Him nor for the kind of religious bigotry that blinds me to the good and precious in other people's faiths. I am grateful for a faith that enables me to embrace all men who believe in God. I am grateful for a faith that lead's me to love all mankind and see through that love the means of bringing together all the nations of the earth in a brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God. I am grateful for a faith that humbles me in the presence of position or power and compels me to live my life in service to others rather than to spend the days of my years seeking to climb the ladder of fame, fortune, or success, and perhaps thereby lose the faith that I had.

Freemasonry is not for me a religion, but it is an institution that has served to deepen my faith and enlarge my concern for the welfare of my fellow man. Freemasonry has served to make me a better man, for it has led me to see that Freemasonry and our faith, linked together, are the twin pillars of strength for the development of character and the enriching of one's spiritual life. Freemasonry has reached beyond creeds and cultures to make the eternal truths of all ages the property of all men who declare their faith in a Supreme Being. Freemasonry is a sacred thing, not because it is religious in nature, but because it is able to see the religious in all men's creeds and apply those values to the making of better men and a better world.

We dare not use our faith for what we get out of it, and we get many wonderful things from our faith, but we use our faith to bring us closer to God and to one another. We dare not use Freemasonry for personal gain, though we gain so much from Freemasonry, but we dare to use Freemasonry for the far more noble and glorious purpose of making Brotherhood a reality.

The Reverend Lansing B. Harmon, Jr.
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