



**ADDRESS TO A CONVOCATION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF ALL ENGLAND  
SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2007**

Brethren, today at our Convocation we have reached another milestone marking our progress towards the recovery of genuine Anglo-Saxon Freemasonry, not only in York, not only in England, but throughout the world. We are, of course, and can only ever be, work in progress. But having re-laid the foundation stone at York we are now in the process of re-erecting a stately and superb edifice, as perfect in all its parts as may be possible and, we fervently pray, honourable to the builders.

As Masons we could of course not be more aware that any construction requires the use of working tools and, being not operative but speculative, free or accepted Masons, we know that we apply a symbolic and spiritual import to those same tools. And, whilst this Convocation is not the occasion on which to dilate upon them all, there are perhaps two that we can conveniently and briefly consider this afternoon.

Operatively to lay levels and prove horizontals, one such working tool speculatively teaches us that we are all of one humanity and that, despite any apparent or temporary distinctions, we will all, dust to dust, eventually be reduced to the same state. It also surely indicates that we should contain our passions within reasonable bounds, maintain an equable disposition in all our dealings and carefully weigh every impulse.

Operatively to try and to adjust irregular angles and to assist in bringing rude matter into due form, another working tool speculatively teaches morality and justice. In our ceremonies we are symbolically instructed so to act, not just to other Brethren but to all mankind, just as we would have them do to us. Without Morality and Justice no society can endure.

Freemasonry, in its speculative teaching, presents us with ideals to attain for the good of ourselves and of wider society that on an individual basis may often seem difficult and contrary to our own impoverished nature. But if Freemasonry did not present us with such ideals, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols as they may be, it would not offer us the opportunity to bring our own rude matter into due form. In the mindless materialism and unthinking selfishness of present society we would all surely be the poorer.

Brethren, may I take this opportunity to extend to all of you here today, and to all our other Brethren in England, Ireland, America and in other parts of the world and to those Brethren

in Amity with us in continental Europe and elsewhere, the very best wishes of the season for yourselves, your families, and your connections. And, as we look forward to the promise of the coming year, let us all, as one of our operative Brethren put it nearly five hundred years ago, "strive to live with love and care, upon the Level, by the Square".

*Note: This quotation is taken from a brass square, dated 1517, discovered under the foundation of an ancient stone bridge in Ireland in 1830.*



**Brother John Gordon Graves, Grand-Master Mason.**