

Father Stephen

Supreme Magus

Glastonbury Annual Convocation 2016

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to our Convocation and I hope you have all had a very positive year. I'm very grateful to have this opportunity to speak to you once again and to begin I am going to ask you each a question. For you, what sort of events may constitute an indication that something really important is changing in our world?

Well, I guess some of you may immediately think of the In/Out Euro election, only a few hours away now - and this certainly has the potential to change the course of our own particular nation's journey.

And there may be some who look across the water to our cousins in North America, who face the choice of appointing Hilary Clinton or Donald Trump as the new President and no doubt the impact of their decisions will affect much of the world.

Others may reflect on the mass migration of refugees from the world's war zones and anticipate the change for their own society, as cultures blend and national traditions are put under the scrutiny of outside influences.

Or maybe it's going need to be proof of life on another planet, or UFO's appearing in the skies.... Or indeed Christ returning in the clouds that is the Glory of God.

Certainly how much any of these, or the many other signs you may have thought of will really affect the world is down, in part to your own subjective way of thinking. And, as a Brotherhood we are much the same.

In this last 12 months we have had to say goodbye to Father Stephen Pajotte – who served our Brotherhood and its causes for decades. He visited Britain on a number of occasions, the last being in the year 2000, when he addressed the audience at our annual convocation here at Glastonbury. And it was Stephen, who, for many years provided the beautiful flower arrangements that sit before the Throne.

He was an important man, not just in the support he gave to our order, but also how, as a black American he challenged and overcame the racist bigotry which afflicted many institutions – including his own church and rose to become a greatly respected and active participant in its future guidance and direction.

It has been said that we all have our own cross to bear. And Stephen, believe me, bore his with a steely resolve that furthered the work of the Kingdom. He shall be greatly missed by us all.

So, with the passing of Father Stephen Pajotte – following only a few years from the passing of our previous Supreme Magus - Father Ronald, the Brotherhood says goodbye to the last of the early Essenes that helped to establish our order and our work.

And it is this, I can now reveal to you, which for a member of our modern day Brotherhood constitutes an indication that something of real importance IS changing in OUR world. But it also may affect you as well, and I will explain why.

The Brotherhood will be closing its doors to new membership enquiries as of 31st December 2016. It may be that these doors remain closed for a number of years.

Our annual convocation, our one public meeting in the year will continue as normal throughout this period and we look forward to welcoming all those who want to come and listen to what we have to say, experience one of our ceremonies and have the opportunity to ask questions.

But if you are considering coming closer to our Brotherhood and becoming a companion of our Order, I strongly suggest you make this desire known to us in the next few months, because it may be quite some time before the opportunity arises again.

Why are you taking these steps you may ask me?

And I will reply.... Because the Time is Now.

Main Address

One of the questions facing all religious organisations is how far they should become involved in politics. The Brotherhood of the Essenes is a religious body, that is, as an organisation we demonstrate a belief in and reverence for God.

But we find ourselves increasingly entering the political arena to bring attention to those areas that we maintain need urgent action, most commonly concerning animal welfare, but by no means exclusively.

Perhaps we are coming to understand the fact that, as the influence of the Age of Aquarius takes hold, the Piscean traits of spirituality, organised religion and philosophy that have been prominent over the past 2000 years are being pushed aside in favour of the new focus on idealism, intellectualism and indeed politics that Aquarius represents.

There is no doubt in my mind that in the future it is going to be more difficult to enthuse someone with the benefits of adopting the Piscean way of a deeply spiritual and personal faith, which, in religious terms I would contrast with the modern growth of zealous idealism – very much Aquarian influences in action.

So, if you follow this train of thought you may arrive at the point where you will ask me a question... *“So, what does this all say about The Brotherhood of the Essenes – aren’t you basically a Piscean organisation that is, in your own words, going to struggle with the new Aquarian influences? Are you really relevant for today’s world?”*

And my answer may surprise you..... “I agree”.

But that’s not the end of the matter. Not by a long way. Let me explain why I look forward to a very busy and positive future for The Brotherhood of the Essenes.

In my opening remarks I commented that we have now reached a point where all of the Essenes associated with the formative years of our work have passed away. Most of the Brethren that you see before you tonight, with a couple of notable exceptions, were initiated into the Brotherhood around 25 years ago. This group, was formed from individual members of the audience just like you who expressed an interest in coming closer to the centre, and were the first group that became Companions, and have, over many years dedicated themselves to Essenism and its causes.

If you ask any one of us – and you will have the opportunity later, then I am sure each will say that their journey with the Essenes has been remarkable. Of course, everyone’s tale is different – but at the root of all the individual stories there is a common factor..... and that is something to do with how our faith in the Essenic doctrine has been constantly reinforced by personal experience.

But – I hear you thinking, that is all so subjective... it’s not proof at all. It comes as no surprise to us that after 25 years of being in one organisation you frame all your experiences with that way of thinking.

And this observation I would also have to accept. In fact there are many, many criticisms that could be aimed at our Brotherhood, which I would struggle to counter or defend. So, where am I going with all of this?

Well, perhaps I should step back a little. The Brotherhood has declared a number of points that are central to our purpose for existing.... to summarise –

The Brotherhood of the Essenes:-

- Venerates in the highest degree the Inspired Word of God
- Prepares for the coming of Our Lord
- Is to found the new Aquarian Church
- Heralds the New Kingdom, thus sanctifying all Animal Creation
- Develops the true system of Natural Healing
- Preserves and protects the Mysteries of the Greater Arcana

I think I can speak for all our Companions when I say that these are still our purpose, and I, as Supreme Magus do believe that these are possible and should be our ultimate aim.... however far off they may seem at this point. And I concede that in many respects the challenges we set ourselves are enormous and maybe even unlikely.

But equally, as has been quoted on numerous occasions from this stage *“By their works ye shall know them”*. I for one am not going to acknowledge any failure of our efforts or reduction in our resolve. And in this first 100 years or so, look what has been achieved in the world in raising the greater consciousness to the plight of the Animal Kingdom and the natural habitat.

Our children and grandchildren will now all naturally form strong opinions about how animals should be treated, make their own choices about vegetarianism and veganism, understand more about the importance of the maintaining a balanced environment and so many similar issues that were hardly ever talked about even 50 years ago.

And it should be remembered that the Essenes will be before the public for somewhere approaching 250-300 years, and so we are barely one third of the way through this particular cycle of our work.

But I do sense that this is an appropriate time for the Brethren to pause and take stock of where we are, and how we are going to concentrate our efforts in the future. So, as a body I am initiating a period of quiet reflection and introspection – some internal navel gazing you may say.

Whilst we will continue to meet before you once every year at our Annual Convocation, in private there is much for us to do before we are ready to release the next burst of energy to further our public work.

I anticipate that, during this process many things may change, and it may be that these changes are noticeable to you year on year, as we as an organisation start to respond to the new influences that we are beckoning towards us.

I am sure this has become necessary, I am sure that the time is right to start this period of reflection and I am sure that there will be changes.

I am equally sure that the Brotherhood of the Essenes will emerge stronger, with greater clarity, more potency and relevance to this increasingly Aquarian world.

Part of me wants to reassure you that some things will not change.... but I am not going to do that. I would ask all of my Brethren in the Essenes to be bold and confident about our future. Use your Aquarian intellect, underpinned with your Piscean faith to help you along this journey we will make together.

As I have mentioned, we will be closing the doors to new membership from 31st December 2016 whilst we go through this process of renewal. But new aspirants are very welcome up until that point... so don't wait too long in letting us know of your intention. You too could be involved in shaping our work for decades to come. (PAUSE)

And now I offer you a chance for renewal. Sit back, relax and spend a few minutes letting the voice of our Centre wash over you and prepare you for the coming ceremony.