

## The Top Hat

The year was 1995 and M.W. Brother Alfred Allsbrook had invited me to attend the ladies night of Sumter Masonic Lodge. The entertainment was a magician. He began with the standard show we all have seen, changing a red scarf to a multi-colored scarf only to make it vanish before our eyes. When the time came he asked for a volunteer to assist him and to my surprise my dear friend Worshipful D. Walt Elder volunteered me for the daunting task. As I climbed the steps to the stage I did it with uncertainty of what would follow. I was asked to examine his top hat to verify nothing was hidden inside, then with a wave of his wand to our surprise he pulled a white rabbit out! It was a night of great joy and expectation as we laughed with amazement at the magic show.

Then M.W. Alfred called the roll of our departed brethren and we honored our widow's by presenting each of them a token of our esteem. The night closed with each lady receiving a gift. I have thought a lot about that night which occurred many years ago. I believe people experience the world with the same awe of the rabbit being pulled from the top hat. Some accept the trick as entertainment. While others want to know how the magician performed the magic trick. I have a friend of mine when someone does something astonishing he says' "You are smarter than a white mouse". It is his assertion that white mice have a high IQ. For years scientist have had white mice run through a maze, and magicians have pulled white rabbits from a top hat. So we must ask ourselves are we a white mouse, or are we a white rabbit?

The challenge for us is not to go through life as the white mouse runs through a maze. Consider the rabbit it does not know it is part of a magic trick. We are part of something more magical than a magician's trick. Has monotony dulled your senses and you now experience life as a white mouse running through a maze? When was the last time you taught a child how to ride a bicycle? Now here is a daunting task! I helped my niece learn how to ride her bike and the look on her face when she learned was worth more than money could buy. Children view life and everything in it with astonishment and joy. Here is something to ponder, what is the most important thing in life? To the white mouse it is getting to the end of the maze for the reward of food. To the white rabbit it is being pulled from the top hat and then returning to its sanctuary off stage. If we were to ask someone dying of thirst it would be water, someone dying of starvation it would be food, someone dying of cold it would be warmth. To these we can add love and protection. When our basic needs have been satisfied will there be something that everyone needs?

I opened the Great Light and found the answer in Mathew ch: 4 vs. 4. Jesus answered and said, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God". We were created for fellowship with God and to serve others. Don't allow monotony to dull your senses compelled to go through life like a white mouse through a maze. Remember the white rabbit when it was pulled from the top hat and the look of astonishment as it viewed the audience. I hope we all remember when we learned how to ride a bicycle and the joy we felt. Embrace life as the wonderful gift God has given each of us. What is the most important thing in life... to love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our strength and with all our mind; and to Love our neighbor as ourselves.

**Your friend and brother from Inman**

*Jay Adam Pearson*

**Grand Master**



June 2011  
Masonic Light on  
[www.SCGrandLodgeAFM.org](http://www.SCGrandLodgeAFM.org)

## MASONIC EDUCATION CORNER

*A legacy to be Proud of*

Brethren,

We have just completed our 274<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication held in Greenville, and special thanks go out to our local committee and each of you for attending and making it a successful Grand Lodge. It is my desire as we transition into another year that we have a continuation of the dedication and cooperation noted in the past 274 years of masonry in our beloved South Carolina. We each are obligated to support our new Grand Master, Most Worshipful Jay Adam Pearson. I encourage each of you to go to the Grand Lodge web site and learn what designs he has placed upon the trestle board. It will take the labor of us all working together to make a difference. Please pray for his safety, as well as for the other Grand Officers, as they traverse our great state and visit in our Lodges and other Grand Jurisdictions.

Our Fraternity of Brothers affords us many opportunities to renew old acquaintances and make new friendships but "we have to be a friend in order to have friends." The greatest and best of men come from all walks of life, from a wide spectrum of backgrounds, and are men who love God, Family, and Country. Truly my best friendships were made in our lodges. Our great American heritage was founded on these principles and we need to be just as loyal to our Fraternity as we are to the aforementioned areas of our lives.

Let us be found faithful to all the guiding principles of freemasonry as we support and attend the functions of our fraternity. Whether in the subordinate Lodges or Grand Lodge they enrich our lives and are a legacy to be proud of.

### THE NEW YEAR

We cannot erase the departed past,  
The record stands firm and clear,  
But we can face tomorrow  
Without regret or fear.

A New Year looms before us,  
Its pages clean and bright,  
And we can write upon them  
Messages of Hope and Light.

Let us look toward tomorrow,  
Determined to do our very best,  
And with generous minds and hearts,  
Find contentment, peace, and rest.

Dewey H. Wollstein

I would like to share a verse that has meant a lot to me over the years from our Great Light recorded in Proverbs 6:5-6: "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

**Word of the Month:**

Inveterate: settled or confirmed in a habit, practice, feeling, or firmly established by long continuance.

**Question of the Month:** Who was Euclid?

**Answer:** Search in Ahiman Rezon (2010) and Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry. I will post the answer in the next article, good hunting.

Fraternally,

*William B. Rogers*

William B. Rogers, Senior Grand Warden  
Chairman Masonic Education Committee