



Provincial Grand Chapter of Warwickshire

The Long Lost Writings

Q. What Biblical evidence is there for our reference to finding 'part of the long-lost Sacred Law'? Is such evidence the source of our legend?

A. The wording refers to the Principal Sojourner's report to the three Principals of the Chapter regarding the discovery made in the vault; you will recall he said he had found 'part of the long-lost Sacred Law promulgated by Moses...

In the Second Book of Kings, chapter 22 and in the Second Book of Chronicles chapter 34, we find a reference to the priest Hilkiah discovering a law-book during the execution of repair work in the Temple at Jerusalem. The relevant wording from verse 14 in the Second Book of Chronicles, (using the Authorized Version of the Bible) is: he Lord given by Moses. Biblical commentators commonly identify the book found with the kernel of the fifth Book of the Bible, Deuteronomy. This is the source of the Irish Royal Arch legend.

The source of the legend we use in England may be found in a fourth century document describing the descent of a workman. The information given in this document is very similar to the narrative of the Principal Sojourner's descent into a vault. The workman found a book as good as new; he gave a signal to his companions to bring him to the surface. When he opened the book he had found it showed the words of the first verse of the Gospel according to Saint John; 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.' This verse played a very important part in our early Royal Arch ceremony; it was dropped at the time of the 1834-5 ritual revision.

E. Comp. Harry Mendoza