

# The Museum Collection

No.23

## Symbology in Buffaloinism



A short lecture on the Hexalpha Symbols

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PHILANTHROPY

-:- LECTURES -:-

on

# Symbology in Buffaloism

by

Bro. G. GRILLS, K.O.M., P.K.C.



No. I.

THE HEXALPHA.

TRUTH

JUSTICE

HARMONY

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **“Symbology in Buffaloism”**

This book in the series of Museum Collections is the latest in a long line of documents which have been loaned to me as they play an important part in the history of the R.A.O.B. and is copied almost exactly as I can from the original copy, the original booklet size has been enlarged to fit in with the current size of the Museum Collections.

The typeface has been changed to Bookman Old Style and the size has also been changed to 12 point to make it a lot easier on the eye.

This publication deals with the lecture given by Brother G. Grills K.O.M., P.K.C., relating to the Hexalpha, publication date unknown.

It is another of those lectures that try to trace our history back to very ancient times and if the truth be known it has undertones of that other organisation which has similar objects as our own.

Thanks are extended to Brother Martin Curtis R.O.H., Grand Chamberlain G.L.E. 2009 for the loan of the original book.

Read and enjoy.

## Also available in the Museum Collection series

- No.1 General Laws of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.
- No.2 Minutes and Proceedings of the Finance Committee August 1895.
- No.3 Culshaws Story of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.
- No.4 Claims and Fantasy Part One.
- No.5 Minutes of the first meeting of the Grand Primo Lodge of England.
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- No.11 Dowlings Origin of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.
- No.12 The Royal Lights.
- No.13 The Mystic Ring.
- No.14 The Old Ritual.
- No.15 League of Light.
- No.16 The York Weston Super Mare.
- No.17 The Seminars.
- No.18 Benevolence.
- No.19 Peter the Hermit.
- No.20 Light.
- No.21 Gradus
- No.22 Mystic Buffaloism

Copies of these and other publications by the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes Grand Lodge of England can be obtained from the Grand Secretary, Grove House, Skipton Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 4LA



**R.A.O.B.**

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SHORT LECTURES  
ON  
ITS SYMBOLS

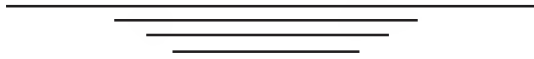
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1

**“THE HEXALPHA”**

(Ring and Star)

Dull listener, placed amidst the harmonious whole,  
Hear'st thou no voice to sense divinely dark?  
The sweetest sounds that wander to the soul  
Are in the Unknown Language, pause and hark!  
Lord Lytton.



## **Foreword**

An English Brother wrote to a Jersey Lodge for an explanation of the various Symbols displayed in the Lodges. The writer of this lecture was asked to furnish the reply. In doing so he does not claim that his interpretation is absolutely correct. If, therefore, any reader is of a different opinion, then let him put that opinion into writing, for there is no doubt that a few lectures or pamphlets on the inner work of the Order will be of great benefit and of vital interest to deep thinking Brothers, and it is these Brothers who will eventually extend the Order and uphold its dignity.

Before proceeding, all Brethren will agree that it is very difficult to write on this subject, as we all know we must not “divulge”, “cause to be written”, etc., any of the Secrets of the Order in its various degrees. Therefore, to you Brother Buffs, I quote a passage from a Great Book:-

“He that hath an ear, let him hear; he that hath an eye, let him see; and to he that hath an heart, let him understand”.

## **CHAPTER 1**

**I**n the first place, what is a Symbol?

A Symbol in simple language is something which we can locate with one or more of our five senses, which represents another thing that we cannot locate, but by reason of our full senses in unison we know exists.

A Symbol is a visible thing standing for something invisible, yet real, something tangible representing something intangible, but a reality. Thus Symbols are used to teach invisible but undisputable truths.

To quote Stukely, he says: "In truth the first learning of the world consisted chiefly in Symbols. The wisdom of the Chaldeans, Phonicians, Egyptians, Jews of Zoroaster, Sanchoniathon, Pherecydes, Syrus, Pythagoras, Socrates, Plato, and of all the Ancients which has come to our hand, is Symbolic".

We may safely add to this that the teachers of the wisdom of the divine truths, even Christianity itself, have used, and still use Symbols in their methods of teaching. Therefore the R.A.O.B. cannot err in adopting the same lines of tuition.

Now if we ask ourselves what Buffaloism stands for, what are its objects, or what lesson does its precepts teach, then surely we shall soon be able to trace somewhat the meaning of its Symbols.

The three great principles of the Order are Justice, Truth and Philanthropy (Love). Three virtues centred on Truth. Truth in all things, in itself, in its Lodges, in its Members, in their words and deeds, and in their very thoughts. Men true to their religion (whatever may be their faith) true to their country, and to the constitution under which they are subjects, true to one



another, to their neighbours, and to all whom they deal with or come into contact with. A Buff should be a “true Man” in the fullest sense of the word. The Order has no place for the false or disloyal individual, neither has such individual any sympathy for the Order. If this great Truth Is realised, then Justice and Philanthropy will automatically follow in its wake.

Now true men are not found in any particular nation, country or province. They are found in all parts of the world. True men are not found in any particular doctrine, politic, class or calling. True men (and unfortunately false men, too) are found of all colours and creeds.

It is these true men that the R.A.O.B. today enlists to carry on its great, noble and beautiful work, that is, to bring Peace, Harmony and Good fellowship to mankind.

To this end, to accomplish this great work, the first task of the Order is to create a brotherly feeling between its actual members. An Order which was continually warring in itself, and in a perpetual state of strife and chaos, could not hope to bring peace and harmony to the outer world.

Now as already stated, the Order is composed of Brothers of many and various creeds, etc. To maintain our own internal harmony, we must therefore base our ritual and our ceremonies, shall we say, “Found the religion of Buffalotism”, on a rock foundation, its Zero at a point where all these thousands of true men, of different faiths and nationalities, can stand linked hand in hand to commence the Order’s great work, with single heartedness.

This Zero, this starting point, must be a truth. It must be understood by all Brothers. All Brothers must have faith in this starting point. All Brothers, be they Jews,

Brahmins or Christians, or of a hundred thousand other doctrines, must have faith and respect, in and for, the “Doctrine of Buffaloism”.



## **CHAPTER 2**

### **“The Circle”**

**N**ow where and what is this Zero?

It is a well-known fact that in all parts of the known world there is some form of religion. The most obsolete island in the great oceans, when first discovered by European navigators, already possessed some form of religion. Some were very complicated, some very crude indeed, but there it was. It is also a remarkable fact that with all these different peoples, with their varying languages and customs, one certain Symbol is always found which carries the same meaning.

That Symbol is the “Circle”. And the “Circle”, universally and in all ages, has stood for Eternity (Endless). And all religions yet discovered have been based on two Mighty Truths or Principles.

One. The belief in a Supreme Creator.

May we here repeat these lines of Ausonius:-

“Ogugia calls me Bacchus, Egypt thinks me Osiris,  
The Musians name me Ph’anax, the Indi consider  
me Dionysus,

The Roman Mysteries call me Tiber, the Arabian race  
Adonis”.

To this we may surely add: “And the chosen people  
Adoni and Jehovah, the Gentiles Holy Trinity, and The  
Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes : The Great Grand  
Primo”.

Two. The belief in the Immortality of the Soul. This in  
itself is eternity, the Circle which is blazoned in our  
Lodges and on our Regalia throughout the Order, to

which all and every Brother pays homage at the opening and closing of the Lodge. ("So Many") "Good, True and Loyal Brethren", standing on a level footing, hand in hand, linked, encircled, in themselves forming a symbol of the greatest of all truths, in which, in spite of the varying creeds, etc., they all agree to believe in and uphold.

There are many extensions to the interpretation of the Circle, but here let us be cautious as danger to our Order is nigh in them, of which more will be said later.

We must deal with the Circle from a purely Buffaloistic point of view. That is, just and only, in its Symbology of Eternity. This is the first lesson we teach to a novitiate. As soon as he sees the Light, as soon as he is "Born Again," we introduce him to the Circle and invite him to "Rejoice and sing of the Glories of the Mystic Ring". Our new initiate will recognise the Symbol, no matter of what faith he may be, and join in the Anthem. He will feel "at home". He will be quite satisfied that he is not being enrolled in a false doctrine, but a true one. A Society which recognises those Mighty Truths which he himself did hithertofore: a Brotherhood with whom he will not scruple to fraternise. And he will rejoice with us. "Rejoice! again I say Rejoice!"

Before leaving the Circle, I suggest that when this Symbol is fashioned or portrayed for use in the Order it should be coloured white. White is in itself symbolic of several things. For instance, Light; but I think in this case, that is the Circle as used at an Initiation Ceremony of the Order, white represents neutrality. It is a neutral colour. The Circle neutralises all ideas as regards religion, etc., and initiates of all nations find a "Neutral Port", as it were, a place of rest and peace, both mentally and physically, and are "united in the bonds of friendship and brotherly love".

There is also a world wide tradition, a story which is found In some form, in every people and nation. It is found amongst the most barbaric and uncivilised tribes of the world. The tradition was known to the ancient Japanese, to the ancient Druids of Britain, and had even crossed the Atlantic, and at the discovery of America by the Europeans was found to be in the possession of the Incas of Peru and others on that vast Continent. It is the story of an “Universal Inundation”.

The hero of the story is not always Noah, but his exploits are remarkably similar, and in fact the whole of the narrative is practically the same, detail for detail, as will be found in the first Book of the Christian Bible.

This is another levelling point in the Order, another note struck to bring the Brethren into unison. Antediluvian, before the Flood. There is little cause to doubt that the inhabitants of the earth in antediluvian days and to within a comparatively short period of the Flood, were a united people, one nation, with one God and one purpose. The Flood, we are told, was the penalty for deviating from this state of unity.

We Buffaloes claim to be Antediluvians, a united Brotherhood with one God, the Supreme Creator, whom we designate as “The Great Grand Primo”. We are a Brotherhood with one purpose.

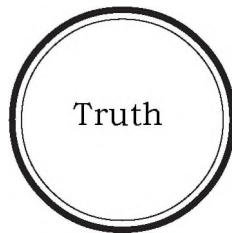
The story goes on to say that antediluvians again started to people the earth with one family of survivors who had not deviated from the ancient landmarks of truth, until again they worshipped false gods, and confusion followed with terrible results. This was about the same date as Nimrod built a “city” and a tower; whether it be Nineveh, Tel Nimrod, Babel, or any other such place, the remains of which can assuredly be traced in Assyria to this day matters little. We Buffs

have been duly warned not to let history repeat itself, not to deviate from the landmarks of Justice, Truth and Love, but to remain Antediluvians, a “Great and Mighty” Brotherhood of “Hunters before the Lord, ever seeking Truth and Peace”.

Being a Brotherhood, we must then acknowledge one Father, “The Lord of All”, “The Great Grand Primo”. From Him let us seek Peace and ensue it.

### The Six Points of Buffaloism:-

Patience  
Resignation  
Fortitude



Temperance  
Gentleness  
Affability



## **CHAPTER 3**

### **“The Mystic Star”**

**N**ow let us proceed with another Symbol which is used or portrayed in the Order, always in close proximity to the Circle, i.e., “The Mystic Star”.

The Star is composed of two equilateral triangles, one forming a pyramid or cone, and the other inverted. The triangle alone is a very significant Symbol. Its greatest meaning is appertaining to the Triune Deity (another belief which is universal), but this is amply symbolised in the working of the Order in other ways.

Returning to the two triangles, when brought into conjunction they should be interlaced. Thus they become one Symbol, not two Symbols close together. To go into full and complete details, history and interpretation of this Symbol would take a very long time, and fill a book in itself. This Symbol has been adopted and used in many religions, and in almost every Mystic Order. It has also a place in Magic Arts, being there known as a “pentacle”, and used in conjunction with the mystic word “Abracadabra”, as a key to the Tarot, though very few know how to apply it. In the art or science of Astrology we still find it, where, as with the Cabalists, its spaces and angles are used to contain the Symbols of the seven great celestial orbs.

In some mystic Orders, and in various religions, the Symbol is known as “King Solomon’s Seal”, and by many of these is reputed to be the actual “mark” or seal used by that Great and Wise King.

The Symbol itself is a source of wisdom, both from a geometrical and a numerical point of view. Many lessons

can be learnt from its lines and angles, and the whole can well be called a “Symbol of Wisdom”.

The ancient pagan philosophers used the same symbol to illustrate the two greater elements, Fire and Water, as a natural flame always forms a pyramid, and water, in finding a hollow to rest in, forms an inverted cone. Thus the two combined also represent the four elements, as fire cannot function without air, and water cannot function or become a sea without the support of earth.

For this reason the “Buffalo Mystic Star” should be coloured top triangle red, to represent fire and the lower triangle blue, to represent water.

In this manner the Mystic Star is symbolic of the human being, and in fact of all living things, all flesh being composed of earth and water, and sustained by air and fire, fire here meaning the flame or spark of life, the vital energy. This theory is in accordance with all the old philosophers, though some put one and some another of the elements in the prime position, as Thales put water.

The Pythagorians used the “star” to represent the science of numbers, as when it is produced from numbers or by a numerical method, one, and only one, of each of the numbers from one up to nine, is used in its construction.

Now we will see how this applies to the Order of Buffaloes. The Motto of the Order is “Nemo Mortalium”, etc., “Mortals are not wise at all hours”.

We are told that Queen Elizabeth presented us with a banner bearing this motto. She may have presented the banner, but she did not compose the motto for us, for in matter of fact this was a quotation from Pliny the Elder, and Pliny was a philosopher as well as a



professional in several arts. If, therefore, the story of the banner is true, we can have great reason to believe that the Order (as it was then) already possessed the motto. I strongly suggest that our ritual should read: “bearing their motto”, etc.

To return to the point. With this motto we caution the initiate to exercise wisdom in all things and at all times. After the ceremony of initiation, that of the First Degree, is completed and the newly enlightened is versed in the “minor mysteries and privileges”, he is allowed to attend the Minor Lodge. It is here that the Mystic Circle and Star are hung as a perpetual reminder of the “Two Mighty Principles”, the supreme Creator and the Immortality of the Soul—Eternity—the Circle.

From the Circle our eyes are next directed to the Mystic Star. Wisdom is the greatest gift that the Supreme Creator has, does or will give to mortals next to life itself. The Star is there to remind us to exercise that gift. “Wisdom is better than much fine gold”.

Pythagoras demanded complete silence from his initiates for the first seven years. Evidently be believed in the proverb, “A still tongue maketh a wise head”. Many of us Buffs would do well, at times, to remember this!



## **CONCLUSION**

### **“The Circle and Star”**

**N**ow let us advance another step and endeavour to apply to our working the Circle and Star combined into one symbol. For it is thus we find it portrayed on our Regalia. That is, the Star encircled.

The climax of the Initiation Ceremony is when the candidate sees light, or sees the truth as revealed in Buffaloism by the “S.P”. He has had the outline of the Order described to him in the lecture. He now begins to see, to realise things. The scales the hoodwinks fall from his eyes, and he beholds the Awful Truth of Eternity represented by the Circle held aloft by the S.P., and he now realises that all men are Brothers and, therefore, must love one another, and he rejoices with us. The S.P., proceeding with the ceremony, now places the Mystic Star inside the Circle, while all the enlightened ones around chant and appeal to the initiate to still rejoice, but not to “mar the glories of the Mystic Star”.

When dealing with the Circle, I said that there were extensions dangerous to the Order. It is this danger that I now refer to. The danger of “marring the Glories of the Mystic Star” (The Star of Wisdom), and the danger lies in the introduction of dogma into the Order.

It is an historical fact that the ultimate downfall of the ancient religions and nations has been caused in the first place by a difference in opinion, this leading to the following of false gods, divisions, splits, revolution, bloodshed, and often destruction, proving the truth in the reverse of the principle, Unity is Strength.

We are told in all the ancient traditions that the Flood was caused by the antediluvians having differences in their mode of worship, which eventually led them

completely astray. Christianity to-day is paying the penalty of its multitudinous divisions, and undoubtedly is straying.

Buffaloism alone stands unique. The Order is the uniting element of all divisions.

Our unwritten law forbids us to introduce subjects of a religious or political nature. We must not argue, split, and fall. We must stand as one united. Here is Wisdom.

The S.P. places the Mystic Star inside the Circle, and in Symbolic language says:-

You know all about Eternity that mortals can know. You believe in the Two Mighty Truths. You know the One True God made you and all things. You know in Him you will live again. Now be wise. Also understand this Star represents the four elements, which in turn represent the earth and its manifold blessings. And as you are a human Buffalo, be kind and be merciful to your fellow creatures, whether they be mankind or dumb animals. By the geometrical truths of this Star design your life, by perfect and just dealing with those whom you come into contact with, and by its numbers remember your deeds, good or evil. Remember the good ones and see that they be not few. Remember the evil ones so that you may atone them. I, the S.P. of this Lodge, now place the Star in the Circle, so that in the days and years between the “Two Great Truths”, “Creation and Eternity”, you shall not introduce anything but wisdom. In wisdom love one another. In wisdom refrain from introducing any dogma or politic into our Lodges, as these things create discord, strife and chaos, and so break the bonds of love and friendship which make and keep us social and happy. Like the Wise Men of old, “Follow the Star”.

Brethren, will you complete the link?

## ***A PRAYER FOR THE BRETHREN OF THE R.A.O.B.***

O Mighty Being, we Brethren bow down to the earth before Thee, as the Prime Creator, Eternal God of Gods, Thou wert Harmony before all Gods; the Ancient of the ancients, and Father of Atlas. Thou art the Supreme City and Mansion, and by Thee, O Infinite Form, the Universe is spread abroad for us and in Wisdom Thou hast never tarried. Thy Gift is Wisdom. We greet Thee, we thank Thee, we salute Thee, and observe Thy Mystic Star, set by Thee, O Apex of Space and Zero of the Bottomless, to guide us to Love and Light Eternal.

S.S.W.A.



## Notes