
Mediaeval Mystery Plays, Ritual and Drama

Bro. Dr. Albin Wallace, Court of Kori's by

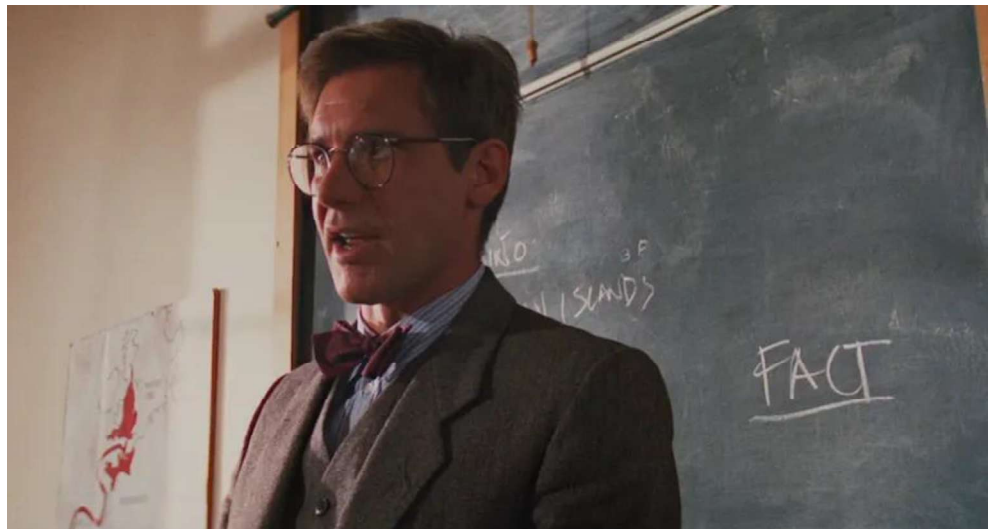


Overview

- **Guilds in Mediaeval Society**
- **Emergence of Mediaeval Drama**
- **Mystery, Miracle and Morality Plays**
- **Guild Participation and York Cycle**
- **Ritual vs. Drama: Intersections & Differences**
- **Freemasonry Connections**
- **Legacy and Modern Relevance**



"Archaeology is the search for fact... not truth. If it's truth you're looking for, Dr. Tyree's philosophy class is right down the hall"



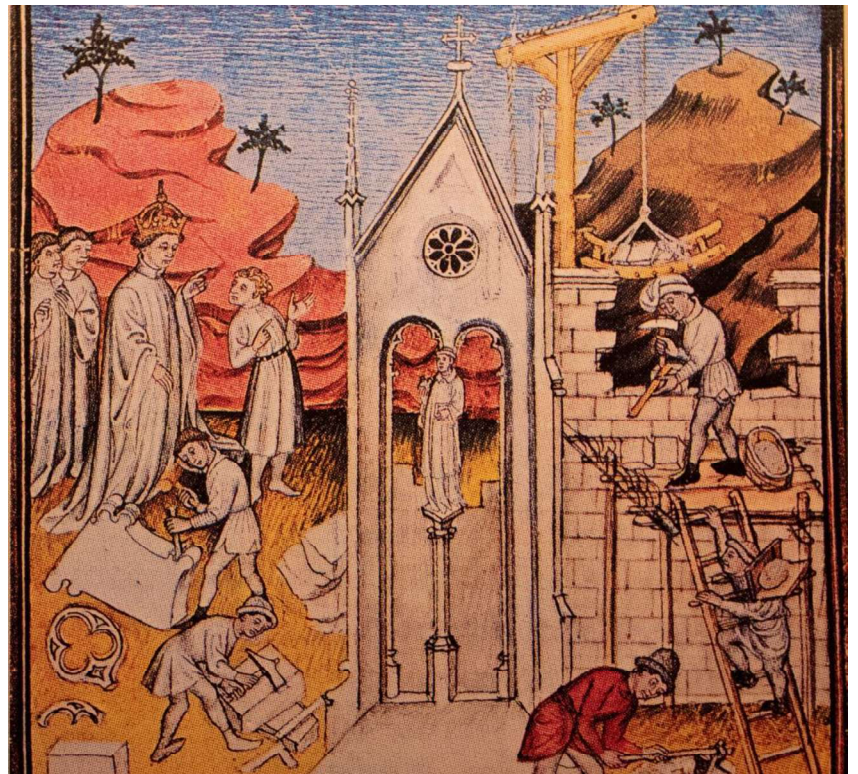
**Why the
"mystery"?**





**The mediaeval
guilds. Our
brothers, or
distant cousins?**

**Yn tyme of good kynge Adelstonus
day;
He made tho bothe halle and eke
bowre,
And hye templus of gret honowre,
To sportyn hym yn bothe day and
ny[g]th,
An to worschepe hys God with alle
hys my[g]th.**





Quem quaeritis?

- **Interrogatio:** *Quem quaeritis in sepulchro, o Christicolae?*
- **Responsio:** *Jesum Nazarenum crucifixum, o caelicolae.*
- **Angeli:** *Non est hic; surrexit, sicut praedixerat. Ite, nuntiate quia surrexit de sepulchro*

**“I pray you all that be present
That you will here with good intent,
And lett your eares to be lent
Hertffull, I you pray”- The Banns**



The great Mystery Play Cycles: York, Chester and Lincoln

Miracle Plays: The lives of Saints



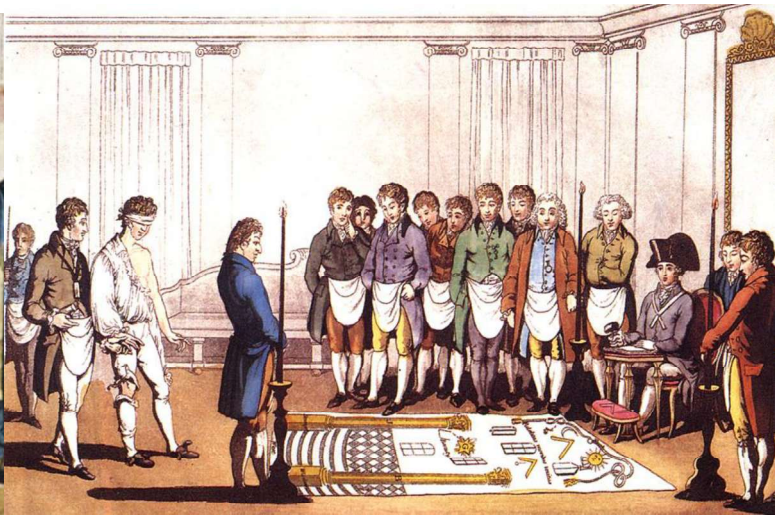
Morality Plays: a link with Freemasonry?



The stonemasons, Freemasons, drama, ritual, and morality.



The builder is slain...



**Ritual,
drama and
archetypes...**



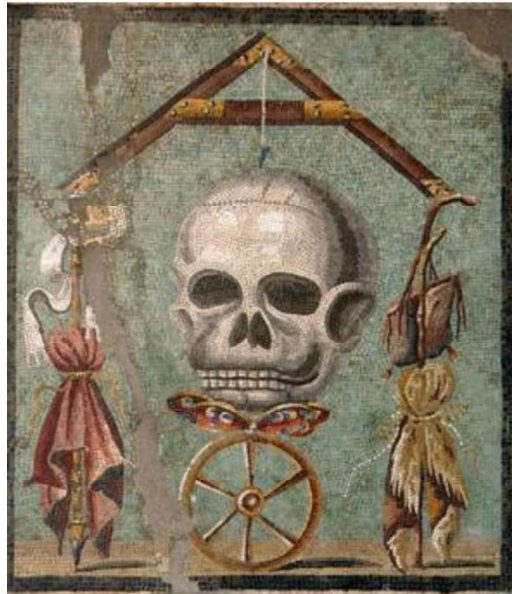
Theatre, spectacle and ritual

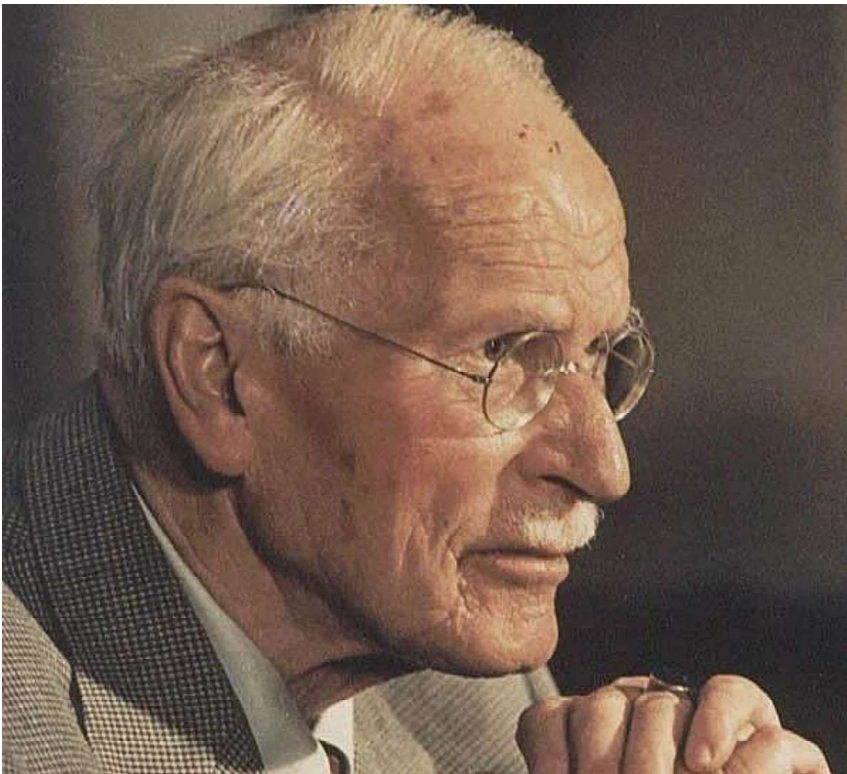




Miracle Plays and Freemasonry

Memento Mori





"For thousands of years, rites of initiation have been teaching spiritual rebirth"
-Carl Gustav Jung



Building of Solomon's Temple

Mystery Plays, Archetypes and Ritual



MEDIAEVAL MYSTERY PLAYS, RITUAL AND DRAMA

BRO. ALBIN WALLACE, COURT OF KORI'S BY:

*"I pray you all that be present
That you will here with good intent,
And lett your eares to be lent
Hertfull, I you pray". The Banns*

During the Middle Ages in England, guilds or "gilds" were associations of skilled craftsmen who worked together to regulate their crafts and protect their social, professional, and financial interests. Guilds were an important feature of mediaeval society and played a vital part in influencing the economic and social structures of the Middle Ages. They were typically shaped by the craftsmen who shared a common trade or skill (or "mystery") such as goldsmiths, haberdashers, or ironmongers. Each guild was governed by a set of rules and regulations, known as the guild's constitution, which enforced the standards for workmanship, set prices for goods and services, and regulated the behaviour of members of the guild. Guilds also provided a structure and standards for the training of new apprentices and gave support and assistance to their members, especially those who had fallen on hard times. For example, guilds might provide financial assistance to members who suffered during a period of illness or economic hardship. Membership of the guilds was highly prized, and entry to the organisation was strictly regulated and often required an apprenticeship and a journeyman period before junior members could become full members. Guilds were also responsible for the strict enforcement of their regulations and standards, and fines or other penalties could be imposed on members who were in breach of the guild's rules.

Guilds also played an essential role in the mediaeval economy, as they facilitated the regulation of trade, and ensured that goods and services met the high standards of quality that were set. They also assisted in the promotion of economic development and modernisation by encouraging healthy competition and inspiring their members to develop innovative practices and technologies. Guilds played an important role as social institutions in mediaeval society, facilitating a sense of local pride, community and loyalty amongst their members. They were important participants in religious and civic events, and often highly influential in local politics.

Mediaeval plays were a form of theatre that appeared in Europe during the Middle Ages between the fifth and fifteenth centuries. These plays were performed as part of religious festivals and were usually intended to teach the mainly illiterate local populations about religious principles and moral standards. Mediaeval plays were sometimes performed by

albinwallace@gmail.com