

Comments on W. Bro. Abel's Latest Paper re: GL of the Caribbean

The paper prepared by W. Bro. Abel represents a monumental piece of research, and whether it was commissioned by the DGL of Barbados, EC., or done on his own volition, it stands as a *tour de force* on its own merits.

There are a few points raised in his paper which need to be challenged, and I will go through the paper and point out those items which I would personally question.

My comments are listed below.

INTRODUCTION

Paragraph two is a *non sequitur* to paragraph one. In our lodges in the Caribbean, we are already doing and enjoying all the things mentioned in paragraph one.

All that follows until the middle of page 7 is purely historical and political and has little to do with the necessity or desirability of having a Grand Lodge to replace those we already have.

On page 7, THE IMMEDIATE TRIGGER OF THE PRESENT GRAND LODGE DISCUSSION, Sections (a) and (b) raise interesting questions.

Under (a), did the complex at Salters engender a desire to form a Grand Lodge to occupy it? Or was the converse the reason for the Salters complex in the first place?

Section (b) what discussions, if any, have taken place between the DG Lodge of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean with the UGLE in order to redress these seeming changes in their treatment of their members in the Caribbean? If any such discussions have taken place will the results of these discussions be shared with the members of the District?

There follows three sections accurately setting out how the present District Grand Lodge operates, and is a cogent recommendation for continuing along the same lines.

AT WHAT STAGE ARE WE IN THE PRESENT PROCESS?

Herein lies the crux of the matter.

It is stated that the District Board of General Purposes was charged to make due enquiry among the members as to whether there was a desire to form a GL of the Caribbean.

How was this referendum to be done? Was it ever done? In which lodges was there any discussion or vote on the matter?

I have never been polled on the matter, and I have not heard the matter discussed in open lodge in any lodge in which I have been present, either as a member or as a visitor.

Therefore, I am emboldened to consider the statement that there was an affirmative vote on the matter to be an assumption which some might consider a presumption.

I have no idea what a Worshipful Grand Lodge is. Grand Lodges are usually referred to as such, but if it is needed to qualify a Grand Lodge, surely it must be Most Worshipful!

All that follows has little relevance to the basic questions which need to be answered about the proposed formation of a Grand Lodge of the Caribbean.

The questions which members of the existing lodges in the two District Grand Lodges of Barbados need to answer are as follows:

Is there a need for a Grand Lodge of the Caribbean? If so, what creates this need? If we have been disadvantaged in any way in the association with our present Grand Lodges, have we approached them in order to correct these problems?

Is the formation of such a Grand Lodge a desire on the part of members of lodges in the Caribbean?

If the concept of forming such a Grand Lodge originated within the District Grand Lodges of Barbados, English and Scottish, because they consider this to be in the best interests of Freemasonry in the Caribbean, how should we deal with their concept at the lodge level?

What are the advantages in purely Masonic terms in forming such a Grand Lodge?

Will the proposed Grand Lodge solicit membership from lodges other than those now comprising the District Grand Lodges of Barbados, English and Scottish, in order make it a truly Caribbean Grand Lodge?

Should any of the existing lodges in the Caribbean consider that they should apply for membership in any such proposed Grand Lodge in order to share in the advantages which this Grand Lodge is expected to provide, and to dissociate themselves from their present Grand Lodges? Which should they do first?

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