

Society Rosicruciana in Anglia

Province of the Home Counties

Thomas á Beckett College's 30th Anniversary of Service

Awareness Day

To be held at Wokingham Masonic Centre

The Musings of a Past Celebrant No 13

The Book of Constitutions of this Grand Lodge or Ahiman Rezon

This was a constitution written by Laurence Dermott for the Antient Grand Lodge of England which was formed in 1751. "Concerning God and Religion" *(Taken from the Internet)*.

"A Mason is obliged by his Tenure to believe firmly in the true Worship of the eternal God, as well as in all those sacred Records which the Dignitaries and Fathers of the Church have compiled and published for the use of all good Men.

So that no one who rightly understands the Art, can possibly tread in the irreligious paths of the unhappy Libertine, or be induced to follow the arrogant Professors of Atheism or Deism; neither is he to be stained with the gross errors of blind Superstition, but may have the Liberty of embracing what Faith he shall think proper, provided at all times he pays a due Reverence to his Creator, and by the World deals with Honour and Honesty ever making that golden precept the Standard-Rule of his Actions, which engages, to do unto all Men as he would they should do unto him: For the Craft, instead of entering into idle and unnecessary disputes concerning the different opinions and persuasions of Men, admits into the Fraternity all that are good and true."

This leads me to enquire what is Deism? *(from the Internet link)*

Deism (pronounced /'di:ɪzəm/, US dict: də' ɪzm) in the philosophy of religion is the standpoint that reason and observation of the natural world, without the need for organized religion, can determine that a supreme being created the universe.

Further the term often implies that this supreme being does not intervene in human affairs or suspend the natural laws of the universe. Deists typically reject supernatural events such as prophecy and miracles, tending to assert that God (or "The Supreme Architect") has a plan for the universe that is not to be altered by intervention in the affairs of human life.

Deists believe in the existence of God without any reliance on revealed religion, religious authority or holy books. Two main forms of deism currently exist: classical deism and modern deism.

So far, the first-found usage in print of the English term "deist" is 1621, and "deism" is first-found in a 1675 dictionary. Deism became more prominent in the 17th and 18th centuries during the Age of Enlightenment — especially in Britain, France, United States and Ireland — mostly among those raised as Christians who found they could not believe in supernatural miracles or the inerrancy of scriptures, but who did believe in one God.

It has been claimed that many of the Founding Fathers of the United States were deists and were heavily influenced by enlightenment philosophies.