

## LUX AETERNA

John Grange (2.4.2001)

In one of his Freemasonry Today articles, W.Bro. Julian Rees told the story of the lady who had a transcendental experience in Grand Temple. Perhaps that remarkable building does indeed have that special and inexplicable 'something' that is conducive to such experiences. I would like to relate a wonderfully uplifting experience that happened to me at the meeting of the United Grand Lodge of England on March 14. As it was a most auspicious occasion, I arrived early in order to be sure of getting into the hall of Grand Temple and took a seat on the north side. Predictably, the hall and galleries of the Temple was soon packed full and I had an enjoyable chat with the brother seated next to me. The weather was not good that day but, about ten minutes before the opening of Grand Lodge, the clouds parted and the sunlight streamed in through one of the upper windows on the south side; just below - most appropriately - the symbol of the eye looking out from the sunburst. It was reminiscent of the Royal Arch 'The glorious sun · darted its rays with meridian splendour into the vault.'

It seemed as though a hush descended on the Temple in that fleeting moment before the light quickly faded as the clouds closed in once more. The brother next to me commented on the beauty of that ephemeral moment of radiance. But it had a far deeper effect on me than that of a mere natural phenomenon, however beautiful. I looked up to that magnificent lofty ceiling and at the words written around it:

He shall build me an house and I will stablish his throne for ever. I will be his father and he shall be my son. I will settle him in mine house and in my kingdom for ever and his throne shall be established for evermore. In that moment those words spoke their meaning loud and clear - The Great Architect of the Universe is indeed the Father and each one of us is the Son. The Son will build an inner house fit for the throne of the Father, and the Father will settle the Son in His house and kingdom for all eternity. In the words of Jesus (John 14: 2) 'In my Father's house there are many mansions.'

The subsequent proceedings were, of course, wonderful - it was a joy indeed to see Lord Northampton installed as the Pro Grand Master in the presence of so many brethren. But the elation with which I was filled as I left the Grand Temple that day also had a deep spiritual cause, for I had been blessed with an even deeper insight into the beauty of our Masonic Art.