



VOL. III, ISSUE 9

# THE PILLAR

NOVEMBER 2015

DIVISIONAL WINNER FOR BEST GROTTO NEWSLETTER 2013, 2014, & 2015

## MONARCH'S MUSINGS

*By Pro. David Andrew Labagh, Potent Monarch*

It's finally here. My last meeting as Monarch of Ubar Grotto and my last Monarch's Message for The Pillar. It's hard to say what was more difficult... presiding over a meeting full of shenanigans and "decisive" UBAR/FUBAR votes or writing these Pillar articles (which I'm 85% sure that nobody reads).

In lieu of a farewell speech at our November convivial or the Installation in December, I'd just like to extend my deepest thanks to the Prophets of Ubar Grotto and those other Prophets I have encountered throughout the Realm. The sympathy and good fellowship we have shared over the past year has been memorable to say the least and I can't wait to sit back on the sidelines, having little to no responsibility and heckling Pete... you know, because it's the Ubar thing to do.

This Grotto has evolved so much since we were constituted in 2011 and I've been privileged to be a part of it from the beginning. I can't wait to see how you, the Prophets of Ubar, continue to evolve what we do and how we do it. Evil Pete, these guys are your problem now. Good luck... you're gonna need it.

Good talk. See you out there.

*David*

(drops mic and walks away)



SYMPATHY

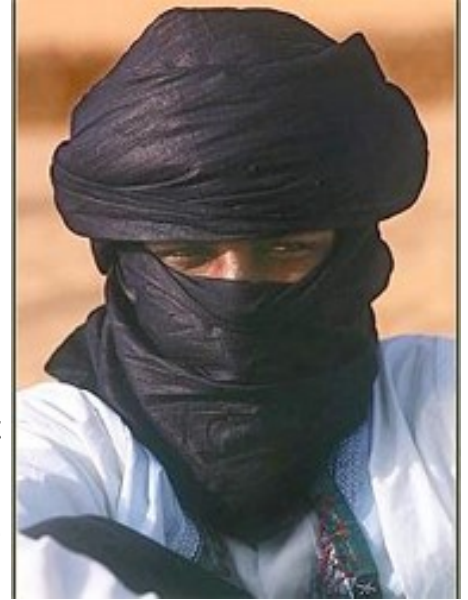
GOOD FELLOWSHIP

The Pillar is the official publication of Ubar Grotto, MOVPER, located in Elizabethtown, PA. Constituted July 23, 2011. Stated Meetings held on the 4th Sunday of each month, beginning at 6 PM, except July, August, and December.

## NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

Every now and then it's a good idea to learn a little bit about the organizations you belong to. The ritual of the Grotto makes no qualms that represents the story of the Veiled Prophet – "Mokanna." His likeness is the official emblem of Order and even our ladies branch is named for him. But, just who was Mokanna, and where did this story come from?

Let's start at the beginning; way back in time, around 779 AD. It was in that era that there lived a Persian man named Al-Muqanna, which roughly translates from Arabic as "the Veiled One." Starting life as a clothes pleater, he became a follower of the radical Abu Muslim of Khorasan. After Abu was murdered, Al-Muqanna founded a religious sect based upon the idea the Abu was a reincarnation of God and that when he passed, that mantle then came to Muqanna. This was as pretty much as radical as you can get, and Al-Muqanna was much reviled among the more mainstream members of the religious community.



It is said that Muqanna wore a veil to hide the splendor and magnificence of his features from his followers. However, locals (who didn't find his radical version of Islam all that enticing) believed he wore the veil to hide the fact that he was bald and missing an eye. He and his followers would eventually rebel, but it was short lived, as the authorities had him burned to death in his house. Doesn't sound like much fun, huh?

So, where does the story go from here? Flash forward about a thousand years (literally) when Sir Thomas Moore writes a romance called Lalla Rookh. In his novella, Moore describes a beautiful Princess, the aforementioned Lalla Rookh. She is set to marry a prince in a far off city and has just set out on her journey to meet him for the first time. She is understandably nervous, but finds distraction in a musician and story teller that is travelling with her. She listens to his wonderful tales, one of which is called the Veiled Prophet of Khorasan, which was about a man named Mokanna, who was likely derived from the historical figure. She later learns that the story teller was her Prince all along. They live happily ever after... yadda, yadda, yadda...

The ritual of the modern day Grotto is loosely based upon the story as presented by Moore, with plenty of Masonic embellishments along the way. Every Grotto has a slightly different interpretation of the work, including Ubar. So, if you ever get the chance to visit a Grotto doing an initiation, take them up on it! It's a great story that you will surely not want to miss!

Information for this article was mainly based upon internet resources and Wikipedia. We have to give credit where credit is due.



## NOTICE OF MEETING

A stated meeting (**see note about meals and beverages below**) of Ubar Grotto, MOVPER, will be held November 22, 2015, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Spring Garden Conference Center, 903 Spring Garden Road, Middletown, PA 17057.

### **Program: Convivial Fun**

**By Order of:** Pro. David A. Labagh, Monarch  
**Attest:** Pro. Seth C. Anthony, PM, Secretary

**Meal Information:** This month is a convivial meal. There is no additional cost, but you must register in advance. Meal will consist of prime rib with all the fixings. Cash bar, as usual.

*Click here to reserve your spot now!*

<http://ubarnovember2015.eventbrite.com>

## GET OUT AND VOTE

The process for balloting on contested elections is as follows:

Each candidate will have a chance to address the Prophets with his ideas and plans. Following these remarks, a ballot will be provided to each Prophet with which to vote. If no majority is reached, the lowest vote getting candidate will be removed and another vote will be taken. This process will be used until one candidate has reached a majority of votes. Votes will be tallied and certified by the Monarch and Past Monarchs.

## INSTALLATION INFO

The installation of the 2016 officers of Ubar Grotto will take place on Saturday, December 12th 2015 at Tellus360, 24 E King St, Lancaster PA at 2pm. The 'ceremony' will be informal and brief followed by libations, toasts, and holiday cheer. If you decide to stay, Monarch Elect Pete Ruggieri will be hosting the Lancaster Santa Stumble beginning at 4pm. Since 2010 Santa Pete and his helpers have raised over \$30,000 for the Lancaster City Mounted Patrol and K9 units. If you'd like to make a donation visit:

[www.lancastersantastumble.com](http://www.lancastersantastumble.com)

## FAILED UNITS

*Wherein we imagine Grotto Units that failed to capture the attention of the Prophets.*



### **Ubar Grotto High Altitude Typing Team**

Made up of only the nerdiest Prophets, the typing team were the world champions for three years straight. Then Wilmer died when his keyboard exploded and he asphyxiated.

## PAY YOUR DUES!

Dues notices were mailed in early November. Monies are due to the Secretary by December 31, 2015.

Any Prophets who have not paid their dues by the February stated meeting will be suspended, per Supreme Council Code.

**Total dues for a member in 2015 is \$105.**

## '16 DUES AND FEES

### **New members dues and fees:**

Initiation Fee -	\$100
Dues -	\$55
Convivial Fee -	\$50
Enchanted Lantern Fee -	\$1

### **Total New Membership Fee:**

\$206 (Beginning Jan. '16)

### **Total Existing Member Fee:**

\$105.00

## MEMBERSHIP

- As of 1/1/15: 105
- Demits since: -1
- Suspensions: -12
- Deaths since: 0
- Initiations: +25
- Affiliations: +1
- **Total Members: 118**
- Goal for the Year: 20
- Petitions on File: 3

Number to left to recruit  
to reach 2015 goal:

**0**

## CHARITY CORNER

- Number of members with Enchanted Lanterns:  
**104 of 118**
- Number of Enchanted Lanterns Purchased so far in 2015:  
**58**
- Total Humanitarian Foundation Donations for 2015:  
**\$3,050**

## OFFICERS—ELECTED AND APPOINTED

### **Chief Justice**

**Pro. Peter J. Ruggieri**

Contact information removed  
from online edition for privacy.

### **Potent Monarch**

**Pro. David Andrew Labagh**

Contact information removed  
from online edition for privacy.

### **Master of Ceremonies**

**Pro. Mark G. Mattern**

Contact information removed  
from online edition for privacy.

### **Venerable Prophet**

**Pro. Shaun A. Spongale**

Contact information removed  
from online edition for privacy.

### **Secretary**

**Pro. Seth C. Anthony, PM**

c/o Ubar Grotto

P.O. Box 8

Elizabethtown, PA 17022

**Phone:** (717) 421-4546

**Email:** [ubarsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:ubarsecretary@gmail.com)

### **Treasurer**

**Pro. Douglas R. Harms**

Contact information removed  
from online edition for privacy.

### **Marshal**

**Pro. Jay M. Laser, SoU**

### **Chaplain**

**Rev. Dr. Pro. Christopher D. Rodkey**

### **Captain of the Guard**

**Pro. Christopher D. Reed**

### **Sentinel**

**Pro. Horace W. Mason**

### **Viziers**

**Pro. Andrew V. Sterling &**

**Pro. Chad J. McComsey**

### **Supreme Council District Deputy**

**Pro. Victor L. Mann, PM (Azim)**

**Phone:** (646) 423-8738

**Email:** [mann@whafh.com](mailto:mann@whafh.com)

## COMMITTEES, COORDINATORS, AND HONORS

### **Audit**

**Pro. Horace W. Mason, Chairman**

**Pro. Kimber D. Smith, PM**

**Pro. Bryan L. Hill**

### **Charity & Community Service**

**Pro. Brian K. Shaffer**

**Pro. Galen D. Klienfelter**

**Pro. Michael E. Riggi**

### **Fundraising**

**Pro. Daniel P. Loughin, Chairman**

**Pro. John W. Croumer**

**Pro. Scott A. Smeltzer**

**Pro. David P. Werner**

### **Jurisprudence**

**Pro. John W. Croumer, Chairman**

**Pro. Allen D. Moyer**

**Pro. Seth C. Anthony, PM**

### **Membership & Retention**

**Pro. Jeffrey A. Fulton**

**Pro. Steven D. Park**

**Pro. Abram M. Shaffner**

**Pro. Brian D. Smith**

### **Trustees**

**Pro. Russell W. Baker, SoU (1 yr)**

**Pro. Tracy A. Bitner (2 yrs)**

**Pro. Teddy D. Sizemore (3 yrs)**

### **Coordinators**

**Dr. of Smiles - Pro. Jack F. Harley**

**Enchanted Lantern - Pro. Jay M. Laser, SoU**

**Fraternal Relations - Pro. Russ E. Kratzer &**

**Pro. John T. Brobst**

**HF Rep and Liaison to Scott Matincheck -**

**Pro. George H. Hindson, PM**

### **Coordinators (Cont.)**

**Highway Cleanup - Pro. Abram M. Shaffner**

**PM Jewel Fundraiser - Peter J. Ruggieri**

**Publicity - Pro. Seth C. Anthony, PM**

**Regalia - Pro. Arthur L. Dinger**

**Youth - Pro. Christopher M. Fry**

### **Sheiks of Ubar**

**2012 - Pro. Thomas R. Labagh**

**2013 - Pro. Russell W. Baker**

**2014 - Pro. Jay M. Laser**