

# **The Power in the (Masonic) Apron**

**by Laura Maragnani**

## **Who is Brother (and heretic) Gioele Magaldi?**

I got to know Gioele Magaldi – who was already Venerable Master of the prestigious Roman Masonic lodge “Monte Sion” in the obedience of the Grande Oriente d’Italia (GOI), and was to become Grand Master of the Masonic “opinion movement” Grande Oriente Democratico (GOD) – in May 2010, when he was a simple dissident of the GOI and opponent of the then Grand Master Gustavo Raffi. “Simple”, however, is a rather misleading term: nothing in Magaldi was simple, nor is it so today. Still under forty, he was not very tall but sturdily built and muscular, with a torrential flow of speech and a lively gaze, always immaculately dressed – sometimes to the point of flamboyance – and always late, invariably with the somewhat mysterious air of one who has just emerged from a meeting where decisions have been made on the destiny of the world. In those days, in actual fact, it was his destiny in the Grand Orient that was being decided. He had been initiated at the age of 26 at the insistence of two heavyweights of Palazzo Giustiniani, namely the future Grand Secretary Giuseppe Abramo and the ex-deputy Grand Master Ivan Mosca, a noteworthy esotericist. Young Magaldi, a graduate in philosophy and a student of alchemical mysteries, was already at the age of 34 Venerable Master of the “Monte Sion” Lodge and 30 degrees of the ancient and accepted Scottish rite. A record: the youngest Venerable Master in Italy.

Having become just as swiftly a protégé of G. Ruffi and given preferential treatment by the top officials of the GOI, he had ended up before long on a full collision course with the Palazzo Giustiniani establishment, challenging practically everything: the function of Grand Master, the shady business affairs, “the deficit of democracy, pluralism and inner freedom”. For this he was cautioned a number of times, then suspended and finally expelled. But he had not given in: and in order to be reintegrated into the major obedience of Italian Freemasonry he had resorted, before the dumbfounded gaze of his Brethren, to a civil tribunal of the Republic. Something unprecedented in the entire history of Freemasonry. Place the internal affairs of the initiates in the hands of the profane? And a female judge, at that! It seemed more like a joke, seeing that women are not even admitted into the GOI. Still worse: it stank of provocation, smelt of heresy.

For an admirer of Giordano Bruno, however, to be a heretic is a supreme virtue. “The true reasons for my expulsion lay in my being a “heretic”. I was expelled for “crimes of opinion”, for having dared to criticize the officiating Grand Master. It was just like the medieval Inquisition. Far removed from the free thinking of Masonry.” [Magaldi was reinstated by the Tribunal of Rome, but expelled again, repeatedly. But meanwhile he was able to acquaint himself with Freemasonry around the world, and no longer sought reinstatement in Rome. Instead, in 2010 he founded, within the Grande Oriente d’Italia, an official dissident movement called Grande Oriente Democratico (abbr. GOD), with a website revealing to the public all details of the legal battle. Something never before known in Freemasonry.]

## **Brother Silvio**

Many things, in fact, were never seen before Magaldi came along. In July 2010 there appears on the GOD website “Open Letter No.1 to Brother Silvio Berlusconi”, followed shortly afterwards by “Open Letter No.2”. Berlusconi, our Prime Minister, a Freemason? Well I never! Known already was the initiation im-

parted to him directly by Grand Master Giordano Gamberini in Jan. 1978 in Rome, in the presence of Licio Gelli, Venerable Master of the "P2" Lodge – an initiation then renounced by Berlusconi himself as if it were a mere jest. But Masonic Initiation, as Brother Gioele reminds Brother Silvio, once conferred, is irrevocable: "Indelible as any ordination into priesthood and its mysteries."

Thus, the Berlusconi as described by GOD is a very different from the one we are used to: he is a keen practitioner of astrology, a student of Egyptian esotericism, a subtle employer of esoteric-Masonic symbolism in his gardens in Sardinia and his mausoleum in Arcore, a frequenter of international Masonic circles, with close relations, dating from 1992-93, with the most conservative ranks of Anglo-American Masons. [To begin with, G. Magaldi's campaign is ignored or ridiculed by the media. But, gradually, interest grows in the revelations made public on the GOD website, regarding the 'back office' activities of Freemasonry.] No denial of the allegations has been received from Berlusconi.

### **In the back office of Masonry**

Now we have reached the main point. The "back office". Magaldi is the first to have revealed on the GOD website the existence of a "room behind the scenes" where "the real questions of power in our times" are discussed and deliberated. A back office that is clearly Masonic and whose chief protagonists are all Freemasons, just as are the heads of State and political leaders (or they are at least para-Masons), who put diligently into practice the decisions taken by the privileged ones in the privacy of their most exclusive cliques. ... In July 2010 the project of the present publication by Magaldi is born. But why the subtitle? – "Because the Freemasons as a whole have been and still remain to an unlimited degree responsible for the principal events in recent history and in the present day."

The book was planned to come out in spring 2011. But it fails to appear by then. In January 2011 Magaldi disappears. He becomes uncharacteristically silent and uncommunicative. Every so often he informs us that he is off to London, maybe also to New York. We are told that he must "see certain documents", that he has to "speak to certain Brothers", that he is "studying", that he is "working very hard". Then, silence. It goes on like this for nearly four years.

We are glad to report that he is still alive. He had already told us, in half seriousness, that he was not "called to be a martyr or unarmed prophet" and that he had deposited documents and life-saving memoranda in the most reliable hands. Thanks to GOD (website), we know that Magaldi is organizing an association for "liberal socialism" dedicated to one of his totem figures, the Freemason Eleanor Roosevelt, mother of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and wife of Franklin D Roosevelt who saved Europe from Nazi-Fascism and set it back on its feet with the help of the Marshall Plan. Roosevelt and his Secretary of State George Marshall were both Masons. As was also John Maynard Keynes, by whose economic principles the Marshall Plan was inspired.

All this is information that we will find, in the end, in the interminable manuscript (1350 sheets of paper) with which Magaldi reappears in June 2014: the manuscript, still unfinished, which will become the Trilogy "Masons" of which this is the first volume. What does it tell us? – That behind the scenes there is a command centre or, rather, various command centres more or less allied with, or opposed to, one another according to historical circumstances. Because Freemasonry is not a monolith, Brother Gioele explains: it is a universe populated by progressives and conservatives, libertarians and neo-aristocrats, oligarchs and democrats all engaged in an eternal process of confrontation/encounter from which emerge the great chal-

lenges of modern times, with their illuminist dreams of liberty, equality, fraternity, but also the nightmares of Nazi-Fascism in Europe and the dictatorships in Latin America and the Middle East.

But what about the names? – you will ask – of course. It's the first thing the reader looks for in this endless sea of pages ... and there are lots of names – from Barack Obama to Francois Hollande, from Angela Merkel to Vladimir Putin, from Giorgio Napolitano to Mario Draghi. The reader's inevitable reaction will be: But this is not possible. The people mentioned will deny it. This author is crazy. Where are the proofs.

### **The Secrets of the Ur-Lodges**

In 2010, the famous year in which Gioele Magaldi vanished from our radar, he became a member of the "Thomas Paine", the oldest Ur-Lodge in the world (founded in 1849-50). And here we must explain what the Ur-Lodges are, whose existence, revealed for the first time in these pages, was for a century and a half one of the most closely-guarded secrets of modern Freemasonry. The super-Lodges, says Magaldi, are the "Masonic cliques actively guiding contemporary history", that is, "groups and individuals with an orientation and a mission structured on a supra-national and cosmopolitan level". And they have "outstripped by far the modest influence of ordinary Freemasonry". How do they differ from ordinary Freemasonry? And what do the Ur-Lodges do?

Magaldi gives the following answer: "Ordinary Freemasonry is that embodied in the circle of the Grand Lodges (federations of Lodges which, generally speaking, employ the same ritual) and of the Grand Orients (federation of Lodges which often choose to employ different rituals but are self-administering in a unitary and centralized manner) , organized on a national basis and standing in international diplomatic relations with other Masonic bodies. We have here a circle that has fostered, grappled with, overcome the great challenges of the modern world, but is now in a serious state of crisis and decline owing to its conservatism, the sclerotization of its structures, its pseudo-ecclesiastical dogmatism, its tendency to excommunicate any heretical and critical voice in its midst, its non-inclusive and unwelcoming attitude towards lesser Masonic communities, its blameworthy inclination to "divide what is a whole" instead of "reuniting what is scattered" – a typical phrase and typical initiatory duty of genuine Masons. But the problem, above all, is the loss of an avant-garde mission on the ideological and cultural level, in view of the challenges of a hyper-complex and globalized world such as we have today". While, as for the circle of Ur-Lodges – "it is a network of super-Lodges constituted on a cosmopolitan basis and with a supra-national mission with regard to their identity and their activity. These super-Lodges, from the beginning, have adopted invariably and exclusively the most eminent and important members of ordinary Masonry, who have thereby found themselves in the privileged situation of moving with ease in both spheres and having access to the best instruments of each circle for the pursuit of their goals. We should also mention the initiation ex novo of women and men from profane society, but of particular prestige in politics, economy and finance, the media, the churches, intellectual and artistic activity etc., on the sole condition that there are manifested in them unquestionable signs of a genuine desire for perfection in wisdom and esotericism ... There are conservative Ur-Lodges – the "Edmund Burke", the "Joseph de Maistre", the "Compass Star-Rose" and the "Pan Europa", the "Three Eyes", the "White Eagle" just to name a few – and there are progressive ones, starting with the "Thomas Paine" and continuing with the "Montesquieu" the "Christopher Columbus", the "Ioannes", the "Hiram Rhodes Revels" and the "Ghedullah". All with an international mission, just as their field of intervention in the world is international.

From the “Thomas Paine” have come Freemasons who made the history of Italy and of the planet, such as Giuseppe Mazzini, Giuseppe Garibaldi (who was also the first Grand Master of the Grande Oriente d’Italia), John Stuart Mill, Victor Hugo, Jules Michelet, Louis Blanc, Pierre-Joseph Proudhon. But also Charles Darwin, John Dewey, George Bernard Shaw, Alexander F. Kerensky, John Maynard Keynes, Mahatma Gandhi, George Orwell, Altiero Spinelli, Nelson Mandela, Arthur Schlesinger Jr., Eleanor and Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who was however, also closely connected to the Grand Lodge of New York State and was in fact initiated in 1911 within the “Holland Lodge” No.8 in the Orient of the Big Apple. These names are enough to convey an idea of the immensely rich history and the international significance of this super-clique of super-Brothers

Well, in 2010 the ex-Maestro Venerabile of the “Monte Sion” had the opportunity to gain access to the documents conserved in the (highly secret) archive of the “Thomas Paine”, and in the four years that followed he was able to examine a mountain of papers definitely not meant for profane eyes: minutes of meetings, diplomas, texts, letters, architectonic tables, membership lists, documentation of work done by the Lodge. And then? “Together with the other Brothers who collaborated on the preparation of this book (Massoni) we had access to the documents conserved in other Lodges, such as the “Ioannes”, the “Montesquieu”, the “Edmund Burke”, the “Three Eyes”, the “Compass Star-Rose”, the “Leviathan”, the “White Eagle” and the “Hathor Pentalpha”. Then, cross-referencing enabled us to reconstruct given events with the maximum philological and hermeneutic rigour.

But the documents? The proofs? The final validation? – “The originals remain with their natural custodians, that is, the secretaries and archivists of the various Ur-Lodges.” And there they must stay: in their hands. “But the undersigned (Magaldi) and the other Brothers working on the draft of ‘Massoni’ went to the trouble of photocopying all the material examined, plus the vast amount still to be examined, and of depositing it in duplicate with various solicitors and lawyers in Paris, London and New York”. ... Magaldi hopes one day to get permission to publish an anthology that would make the material available also to students outside the Masonic Fraternity. “If open denials and challenges arise, the documents will be released, with the help and involvement of the media.” But not only this. Four eminent members of the world-wide Masonic establishment, Brothers who have contributed to Massoni “with their precise and fully substantiated revelations” and who, for the present, in the book, hide behind an initiatory pseudonym, have declared themselves ready to “step forward publicly in their true identity”. This is not just any kind of book. The publication of Massoni is a declaration of war against the oligarchic, technocratic and anti-democratic projects concocted by the most reactionary and neo-aristocratic members of the Ur-Lodges in our time. They are projects involving Italy, Europe and the West, and thus the planet as a whole.

### **The Pursuit of Power with Set-Square and Compasses**

So, what is Freemasonry today, Magaldi? “Freemasonry always goes in the same direction, namely, towards knowledge and power, both material and spiritual.” And who are the personalities involved? – Angela Merkel, Gerhard Schroder, Nicolas Sarkozy, Francois Hollande, Jacques Chirac, Francois Mitterand, Tony Blair, Margaret Thatcher; almost all the U.S. Presidents except Jimmy Carter, Richard Nixon and Ronald Regan, who were not Masons but para-Masons; and Deng Xiaoping, Vladimir Putin and before him Michail Gorbachev, Boris Yeltsin, Josef Stalin, Vladimir I.U. Lenin. And the Shah of Persia Reza Pahlevi, Golda Meir and Moshe Dayan, the anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi, even a Pope who has recently been canonized, John XXIII, Gianni Agnelli, Giorgio Napolitano, Francesco Cossiga, Massimo D’Alema. We could fill a telephone directory with this avalanche of names. All Masons – All belonging to an Ur-Lodge

... And if Magaldi says: “Mario Draghi belongs to five Ur-Lodges”, the profane reader can only believe – or not believe.

Magaldi, today the power is Masonic. The real power. Is that so? “Without a shadow of a doubt. Real power is Masonic.” Does there exist any world leader at this moment who has not been supported by Freemasonry in his ascent to power? – “No there is no chance for anyone who is not himself a Freemason or supported by Freemasons to rise to a position of real importance. We are unaware of it, but the aproned Brothers are behind every important event of our history. And there is a tough dialectic, at times fratricidal, between the back offices of different orientations. There are democrats versus the neo-aristocrats; the progressives versus the conservatives. And it is not always easy for us to understand who and what, and on which side he stands and why. For example, the rise of a Mussolini or a Hitler also came about thanks to the unscrupulous support and still less scrupulous financing on the part of the conservative Anglo-American Masonic milieu, and their defeat was due to the efforts of two Freemasons of solid liberal or democratic conviction, namely Churchill (initially a conservative and pro-Fascist) and F. R. Roosevelt. So far, everything is straightforward. Things get more complicated when we discover that Churchill and Roosevelt, before they could declare war on the Nazi/Fascists, had first to overcome a powerful anti-war movement among the Brothers. And those opposed to an intervention in Europe were conservative Masons (some of whom, paradoxically enough, were Jews) who were doing lucrative business with the Nazi-Fascists.

Shall we complicate the picture still further? In those same years the conservative Brothers were also doing business with the U.S.S.R., another theoretical enemy, thanks to their Masonic connections with the Communist establishment born of the 1917 Revolutions. These Revolutions were financed, so “Massoni” assures us, by the same array of Ur-Lodges which officially were engaging in the struggle against Communism during the Cold War that came later. The Masons have always been extremely good at playing at more than one table at the same time – whether on this side or the other side of the Iron Curtain.

Though in fact the ordinary Lodges were strictly forbidden in the U.S.S.R. and the whole Eastern European bloc – as in all the totalitarian dictatorships, and in the Catholic Church (a coincidence?) – the Party chiefs always found it more profitable to follow a double track. Important figures like the General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party and his successors Yuri Andropov and Kostantin Chernenko, Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin, but also heads of the KGB and future leaders such as Vladimir Putin, requested, and were quietly granted, membership of a number of the Ur-Lodges active between West and East, with firm roots in the Middle European region. And is it not peculiar that the super-Lodge most courted by the Communist nomenclatura was fiercely reactionary and conservative in its orientation?

The “Joseph de Maistre” is a very, nay extremely, élitist institution with an incredible history: created in Switzerland at the beginning of 1917, it actually had as one of its promoters Vladimir I.U. Lenin, who organized its refounding in March 1921 on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. This was the same Congress, as Magaldi reminds us, which “issued, amongst other things, a dictate forbidding the forming of movements within the Party”.

One thing I don’t understand, Magaldi – Why did the Communist leaders have to attend Masonic gatherings where they would have been rubbing shoulders with the German and Euro-Atlantic jet-set of conservative Freemasonry – with the enemy, in other words? – “Because these Ur-Lodges were in a position to link hidden Communist power circles with Western cliques that are just as secret.” But why choose, as Brezhnev did, a super-Lodge like the “De Maistre” which was firmly opposed to an easing of tension between the Western and Soviet blocs?” Precisely for that reason. So that the areas of tension between the

two super-powers could be planned in such a way, that both sides could profit both politically and economically.” Very simple to understand! – And this, ladies and gentlemen, is how the back office works ...

### **From the Trilateral to Bilderberg. Diabolical para-Masons?**

The Trilateral Commission. There we have it. The obsession of legions of conspiracy theorists who, for years, have doggedly asserted the existence of a supreme authority steered by a handful of Illuminati who decide the fate of the world, together with the members of the Bilderberg Group – another diabolical entity which operates covertly – and a series of other clubs and associations more or less openly offshoots of Freemasonry. – Is all of this true, Magaldi? Brother Gioele bursts out laughing – “Of course not. The Bilderberg Group and the Trilateral Commission, just like the Bohemian Club, the Fabian Society, the Pilgrim’s Society, the Round Table, the Royal Institute for International Affairs, the Council of Foreign Relations, the Mont Paladin Society, the Group of Thirty, the Bruegel, the Gruppo Spinelli, and so on, all stand under the iron control of the Ur-Lodges. They are para-Masonic associations with only secondary functions relative to the goals pursued by the Masonic élite in the strict sense.” – Does this mean they decide nothing whatever, despite the fact that at every meeting of the Trilateral or Bilderberg opinion leaders from everywhere imaginable are present? – “Yes, it is really so. ... Societies like the Bilderberg or Trilateral, however they may differ in their style of communication ... have the task of acting as lightning-conductors, distorting mirrors, smokescreens and distractions on behalf of the Masonic back office where the real questions of power today are discussed and deliberated. ...”

### **The Empire Strikes Again?**

Isis. The Egyptian goddess. Patroness of magic and of spiritual and material power, feminine cosmic counterpart of the god Osiris. She who in esoteric myths and rituals is often made to coincide with another goddess: Hathor. – “Hathor Pentalpha”, the Lodge of vendetta and blood-thirst. The rabid Ur-Lodge, joined in 2009 by an obscure member of Al Qaeda in Iraq who had been imprisoned in 2004 as a dangerous terrorist and who, immediately after joining the Lodge, had been miraculously released – to the great consternation of the military in charge of him. – Abu Bakr el-Baghdadi. The leader of Al Qaeda in Iraq. The man who in April 2013 proclaims to the world the birth of Isis and the start of global war against the infidels, while in America (is there anyone left who still believes in miracles?!). – “the official launching takes place of the candidacy of “Hathor Pentalpha” Brother Jeb Bush for the White House presidential elections of 2016.” John Ellis Bush, Republican. Governor of Florida until 2007. But, more importantly, son of George Herbert Walker Bush, 41<sup>st</sup> President of the U.S.A., founder of “Hathor Pentalpha” and father of George W. Bush, President no. 43, also a member of “Hathor Pentalpha”. – Is the circle closing? From now to 2016, thanks to the advance of Isis, met without resolve by an Obama administration that was “taken by surprise”, and thanks to the daily horror of decapitations on TV, the fundamentalist proclamations against Western civilization, the massacre of the Yazidis buried alive by bulldozers, or that of the Kurds armed (of course) very little and poorly by the big powers, thanks to all this. ... a formidable global campaign will be conducted to install a new Bush in Washington. Yet another warlike Bush, again able to seduce American voters, and not only them, with the promise of a “global war” on the terrorism that threatens our civilization and our security. This will bring us “new wars without end in the Middle East”, and new billion dollar trade deals for the military-industrial complex, and new freedom-destroying laws in the entire western world, imposed to guarantee the security of worthy citizens against the threat of the jihadist enemy. It will be in short, the triumph of

that “Clash of Civilizations” anticipated back in 1996 by Samuel Huntington, friend of Bush and “Hathor Pentalpha” Brother, and author of what we can confidently regard today as the ideological manifesto of the new Masonic policy. ... The most brutal, violent and bloodthirsty Freemasonry against which we must absolutely “show a common front”, if we are not to risk finding ourselves in “a still more tragic world scenario” than that of 9.11.

So, now we begin to understand better what kind of war Brother Gioele is pointing to in the first pages of “Massoni”. We see what is the “fratricidal” conflict now taking place, we see what has prompted a section of Freemasonry to come out into the open with this book and what are the “involved projects of oligarchy, technocracy, and anti-democracy” conceived by the “most reactionary and neo-aristocratic Ur-Lodges of our time”, to which “Massoni” represents an open declaration of war.

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[N.B. This is a heavily abridged translation of Laura Maragnani’s 32-page introduction to Gioele (pron. Jo-ay-lay) Magaldi’s 600-page book ‘Massoni – Società a Responsabilità Illimitata’. The first Volume is entitled ‘Discovery of the Ur-Lodges’.]