

October 9, 2026 #171

Dear Brethren and Friends,

Grand Tyler Message

I am honored to be serving at Grand Tyler for this year. To that end, I will need volunteers to help with the following schedule:

Grand School at the Grand Lodge Building - 102 S Broad St., Guthrie, OK 73044:

Wednesday, Nov 11 - 8 am to close

Thursday, Nov 12 - 8 am to close

Friday, Nov 13 - 8 am to 10 am (tentative)

Grand Lodge at Guthrie Scottish Rite Building - 900 E. Oklahoma Ave., Guthrie, OK 73044

Friday, Nov 13 - 12:30 pm to close (GL opens at 1:30 pm)

Saturday, Nov 14 - 7 am to close (GL opens approx. 8 am to 8:30 am)

If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact me at scott@alphamac.com or call me at 316.209.7400.

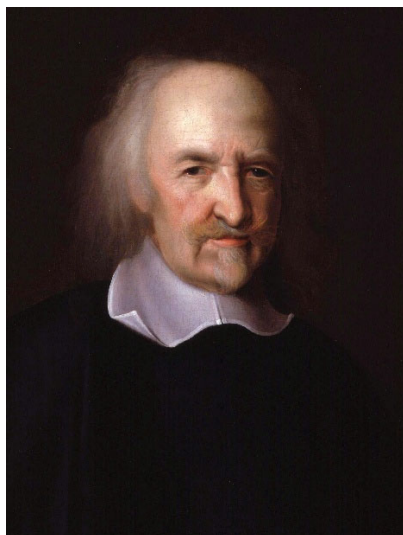
I can't do this on my own, so I need some dedicated Master Mason brothers to help.

Saying of the Week

"The life of man, solitary, poor nasty, brutish, and short". Thomas Hobbes

My Ramblings by W:. Scott A. MacDonald © 2026

You Are a Brute!



Thomas Hobbes was an English philosopher who lived through a period of intense political and religious conflict, including the English Civil War (1642-1651). He witnessed the devastating consequences of competing claims to political and religious authority, which helped shape his lifelong concern with peace, security, and the role of government.

Hobbes believed that one of humanity's most urgent problems was how people with competing interests, fears, and ambitions could live together without descending into violence.

His most influential work, *Leviathan*, published in 1651, offered a bold answer: people need a common authority powerful enough to establish laws, enforce agreements, and prevent society from collapsing into conflict.

His central ideas

- The state of nature: Hobbes imagined what human life might be like without a government or common authority. Because people are vulnerable to one another and compete for resources, even those who desire peace have reasons to fear others. The result could be a condition of persistent insecurity.
- The social contract: People agree to establish a governing authority to secure peace and protection. Government is not simply a matter of tradition; it serves a fundamental human purpose.
- Security before prosperity: People cannot reliably build businesses, develop knowledge, raise families, or enjoy their property if they constantly fear violence or disorder.
- The power and limits of government: Hobbes favored a strong sovereign because he believed divided authority could lead to civil conflict. His theory raises a lasting question: how much power should society give government in exchange for security?

Hobbes did not argue that every person is naturally evil. Rather, he argued that even ordinary people can become dangerous to one another when fear, uncertainty, and competition operate without effective rules.

Hobbes's greatest contribution was that he forced humanity to confront a fundamental question: How can people with different interests, beliefs, and ambitions live together in peace without depending entirely on everyone being good?

1. He helped explain why law and order are essential to civilization.

A society cannot function on goodwill alone. Laws, courts, and effective institutions help people trust that agreements will be honored and disputes can be resolved without violence. Hobbes gave a powerful philosophical explanation for why these institutions matter.

2. He helped establish the social contract as a central political idea.

Hobbes argued that political authority must be understood in relation to the needs and interests of the people it governs. Later philosophers, including John Locke and

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, developed different versions of social contract theory. These debates helped shape modern thinking about consent, rights, and the legitimacy of government.

3. He challenged the assumption that good intentions are enough.

Even people who want peace can become suspicious, defensive, or aggressive when they believe others may take advantage of them. Hobbes recognized that cooperation requires more than individual virtue: it also requires dependable rules and institutions. This insight applies to families, businesses, communities, and nations.

4. He exposed the difficult trade-off between freedom and security.

People surrender some freedom to gain protection, but how much authority should they surrender? Hobbes favored a sovereign with exceptionally broad powers. His theory therefore raises a problem that remains unresolved: government must be strong enough to protect society, but excessive power can itself threaten the people it is supposed to protect.

Hobbes recognized that fear, competition, and distrust can undermine cooperation even when people are not inherently evil. His work helps explain why stable institutions matter and why peace cannot always be maintained through personal morality alone.

However, we should not accept his conclusion that exceptionally powerful, largely unrestricted government is the necessary answer. People also cooperate through family bonds, friendship, voluntary associations, shared moral principles, commerce, and community traditions.

Hobbes identified a genuine human problem, but his proposed solution gives government an enormous amount of power to address it.

Hobbes was an important thinker because he shifted the discussion from what makes a good person to another equally important question: what conditions allow people to live together without fear?

That distinction matters. Society needs individuals who exercise self-control and treat others fairly, but it also needs systems that discourage exploitation and protect people when trust breaks down.

His legacy is not that humanity must be controlled at every turn. It is that peaceful civilization requires a structure of mutual obligations, reliable rules, and protection against the abuse of power.

For a study of philosophy and human development, Hobbes provides an important counterpoint to thinkers who place greater emphasis on virtue, wisdom, or inner transformation. He reminds us that becoming a better person and building a society in which people can live safely are related, but different, challenges.

Connection to Freemasonry: Hobbes emphasized the need for order, rules, and mutual security. Freemasonry similarly values moral discipline, brotherhood, and peaceful conduct,

although Freemasonry emphasizes personal moral development and voluntary fellowship rather than Hobbes's theory of strong sovereign authority.

Lord, help us to understand our inner nature and move towards peace and tranquility. In His name I pray. Amen.

Lodge Calendar

Oct 13 (Tuesday) - EA Degree. Dinner at 6 pm with degree to follow.

October 15 (Thursday) - District 12 meeting at Tulsa Lodge #71 located at 5925 E 9th St, Tulsa, OK 74112. Dinner at 6 pm with meeting to follow at 7 pm.

Oct 20 (Tuesday) - Stated Communication. Dinner at 6 pm. Lodge at 7 pm.

Oct 27 (Tuesday) - Fellowcraft degree. Dinner at 6 pm with degree to follow.

Oct 31 (Saturday) - Broken Arrow Spooktacular - 5 pm to 9 pm. The lodge will be handing out candy and popcorn. We need lots of volunteers to help. The popcorn will be made at the lodge beginning mid-afternoon. Wear your favorite costume if you like and bring your family! Also, please buy some candy and bring to the lodge.

Nov 3 (Tuesday) - Stated Communication. Dinner at 6 pm. Lodge at 7 pm.

Nov 10 (Tuesday) - Fellowship. Dinner at 6 pm.

Nov 11 - 14 - Grand Lodge and Grand School in Guthrie. See schedule above.

Nov 17 (Tuesday) - Stated Communication. Dinner at 6 pm. Lodge at 7 pm.

Nov 24 (Tuesday) - Fellowship. Dinner at 6 pm.

Dec 1 (Tuesday) - Lodge election night and Stated Meeting. Dinner at 6 pm, Lodge at 7 pm.

Dec 6 (Sunday) - Officer Installation. 2 pm light refreshments to follow.

Dec 29 (Tuesday) - 5th Tuesday Dinner

International Order of the Rainbow for Girls Assembly #74 - Calendar

The month of October Rainbow will be selling Amish Jellies. Members of the Assembly will be bringing sign-up sheets to the lodge during the month.

Nov 1 (Sunday) - Potluck Party. Costume Party - Theme is Feast of the Gods. Hosted by IORG Assembly #74 and BA OES Chapter. 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. BA Rainbow will provide the meat; guests are asked to bring a side dish to share. Girls ages 7 to 20 and their families are invited. Held at the Lodge.

See you at the Lodge!

Sincerely,

W.: Scott A. MacDonald, Treasurer and Membership Calling Chairman