

June 27, 2026, #156

Dear Brethren and Friends,

Special Announcements:

June 30 (Tuesday) - 5th Tuesday Family Dinner night. Dinner at 6 pm. Lodge will supply the meat. Please bring a dish to share. We will play Bingo after dinner. Bring your family and friends.

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

The Reality of the Situation

Our next philosopher is Parmenides.

Parmenides	c. 515–450 BCE	Claimed true reality is eternal and unchanging; influenced metaphysics and logic.
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Born in Elea (modern Velia, Italy), Parmenides was likely from a wealthy family and may have been involved in law-giving. He presented his philosophy in hexameter verse, a common format for early Greek thinkers. Only fragments of his work survive, primarily preserved by later authors like Simplicius.

The core ideas of his philosophy are:

- **Reality is One and Unchanging:** Parmenides argued that "what is" (being) is eternal, indivisible, immobile, and uniform. True reality cannot come into being or pass away, nor can it change or be divided into parts. "It is" and "it is not" are mutually exclusive; non-being is inconceivable and impossible.
- **The Way of Truth vs. The Way of Opinion:** In his poem *On Nature* (Περὶ Φύσεως), he distinguishes between:
 - **The Way of Truth (*aletheia*):** Reliable knowledge gained through reason, which reveals the unchanging unity of being.

- The Way of Seeming/Opinion (*doxa*): The unreliable world of appearances, senses, and everyday beliefs (including plurality, motion, birth, and death), which he treats as deceptive.
- Rejection of Change and Plurality: This directly challenged thinkers like Heraclitus (who emphasized flux and becoming). For Parmenides, apparent change is an illusion; logic demands that being is timeless and complete.

He is a foundational thinker in metaphysics and the development of deductive reasoning.

His religious beliefs centered Apollo.

His beliefs do have some parallels with the Judeo-Christian religions. His belief in the an unchanging reality mirrors the unchanging nature of God. Exodus 3:14 I AM THAT I AM and Malachi 3:6 I the Lord do not change". James 1:17 the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness.

Parallels to Freemasonry are general in nature and can be summarized:

Unity and the "Grand Architect": Masonic symbolism often emphasizes cosmic order, harmony, and unity under a supreme intelligent principle (the Great Architect of the Universe). Parmenides' singular, perfect Being can be seen as analogous to this underlying unity or order behind apparent diversity. Some Masonic writers reference Eleatic or pre-Socratic ideas of the "One" in discussions of ontology and the harmony of the universe.

Light, Truth, and Reason: Freemasonry's focus on enlightenment, moving from darkness/ignorance to light/truth aligns with Parmenides' journey motif in his poem (guided to the goddess of Truth) and his elevation of rational insight over sensory illusion.

Geometry and Immutable Principles: Masonry reveres geometry and mathematical order as reflections of divine reason. Parmenides' logical, deductive approach to unchanging reality resonates with this emphasis on eternal principles.

Esoteric and Historical Context: Some Masonic texts or interpretations connect pre-Socratic philosophy (including Eleatics) to broader "Ancient Wisdom" traditions. However, mainstream Freemasonry does not center Parmenides; influences are more indirect via Plato, Pythagoras, and later Western esotericism. Claims of deeper connections often appear in fringe or symbolic readings rather than core ritual or doctrine.

He shifted the focus of Greek thought from cosmology (questions about the physical composition and origin of the universe) to ontology – the study of Being (what exists, what it means to exist, and the fundamental nature of reality).

His greatest questions where:

What is Being itself?

What can we truly say about our existence, independent of appearances?

Here is a timeline of the philosophers we talked about to date:

	600 BC	580 BC	560 BC	540 BC	520 BC	500 BC	480 BC	460 BC
Pythagoras		570	X	X	X	495		
Siddhartha		563	x	X	X	X	463	
Laozi	?	X	X	531				
Confucius			551	X	X	X	X	479
Heraclitus				535	X	X	X	475
Parmenides					515	X	X	450

Lord, allow us to recognize your unchanging nature. In His name I pray. Amen.

Lodge Calendar

June 30 (Tuesday) - 5th Tuesday Family Dinner night. Dinner at 6 pm. Lodge will supply the meat. Please bring a dish to share. We will play Bingo after dinner.

July 7 (Tuesday) - Stated communication. Dinner at 6 pm, lodge at 7 pm.

July 11 (Saturday) - 4th Annual Masonic Jamboree. 10 am to 3 pm. Location is Chandler Park, 6500 W 21st St, Tulsa, OK 74107. Masons, family and friends are welcome. No charge. Lots of activities for adults and children. You will also have a chance to dunk DDGM Echota West in the dunk tank.

July 14 (Tuesday) - Fellowship. Dinner at 6 pm.

July 21 (Tuesday) - Stated communication. Dinner at 6 pm, lodge at 7 pm.

July 28 (Tuesday) - Fellowship. Dinner at 6 pm.

August 17 (Monday) - District 12 meeting at Red Fork Lodge #505.

Sept 29 (Tuesday) - 5th Tuesday Dinner.

October 15 (Thursday) - District 12 meeting at Tulsa Lodge #71.

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

See you at Lodge!

Sincerely,

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

PS - I will be posting the weekly newsletter on our website at <https://bamason.org/newsletter> .