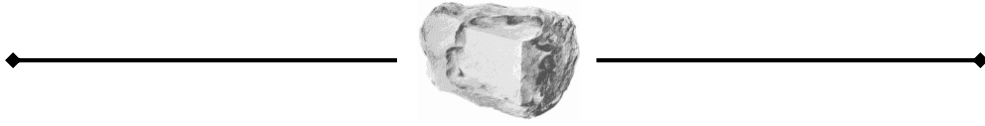


# THE STORY OF JONAH



## A Masonic Education Piece

Published by Longstreet Lodge No. 268

Free & Accepted Masons of Mississippi

Chartered January 30<sup>th</sup> 1864



Visit [www.longstreetlodge.org](http://www.longstreetlodge.org) for more publications

Danny Fisher, PM

August 2014

# THE STORY OF JONAH

My name is Jonah and I was rich in my time  
This is my story, in verse and rhyme

Because I worked hard, I had chickens a donkey and a goat  
They were the fruit of my labors, I owned more than most

I obeyed God's laws and I tried to live clean  
I was never hurtful, angry or mean

One day I heard "Jonah, my servant, listen to me"  
I wondered "Who in the world can that voice be?"

"I am the Lord God and I want you to go today  
To a place called Nineveh, very far away"



"Yes, Lord I know the city of which you speak  
It's full of hatred, anger and grief

Why do you want me to go to this wicked place?  
There are plenty of others to pick from in the human race.”

“The people in this city do not live by my laws  
Announce my judgment against them, once and for all.”

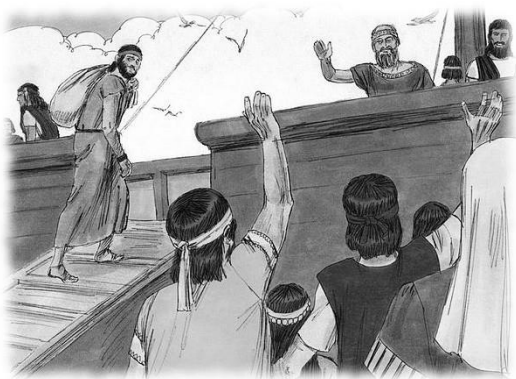
“Yes Lord, I’ll go, but they won’t listen to what I say  
I’m just one man and they are set in their evil ways”

I tried to sleep that night, but the dreams never came  
The more I thought about it, the more afraid I became

Those people might kill me and to God I just lied  
I’ll go someplace that He can’t find me and hide

So I travelled from my home and headed toward the sea  
To a port called Joppa to find a boat that would take me

As far in the opposite direction from Nineveh as can be  
God would never find one man in the Mediterranean Sea



So I found a ship that was  
headed out to sea  
And I asked if they had a place  
on board for me

I gave them all the money I had to get to come  
Someone said “I wonder what he’s running away from?”

I got on board and I went low  
Down to the bottom of the ship, as far as I could go

We sailed far out, many miles from the shore  
Maybe here God would forget and not want me anymore

I went to sleep and a huge storm appeared  
The Captain and the crew were overcome with fear

The sailors threw all of the cargo off the boat  
To lighten the load, so that the ship would still float



The Captain came to me where I slept in bliss  
He woke me shouting "How can you sleep at a time like this?"

We are all about to drown, so wake up and pray  
That your God will let us see another day.”

The ship master and all of his crew cast lots to see  
Which one of them caused the ocean, so angry to be?

I lost the toss and the lot fell on me that day  
The sailors were sure that I caused the sea to be this way

“What have you done to bring this fury down on us all?  
What do you do, Where are you from?” I heard them call

“I’m a Hebrew; I worship the One who made the sea and land  
And I’m running from Him, just as hard as I can!”

“Whatever you did you’ve got us in a fix we can’t win  
What do we need to do to make the ocean calm again?”



I told them “pick me up and throw me into the sea  
All of this trouble we’re in, is because of me”

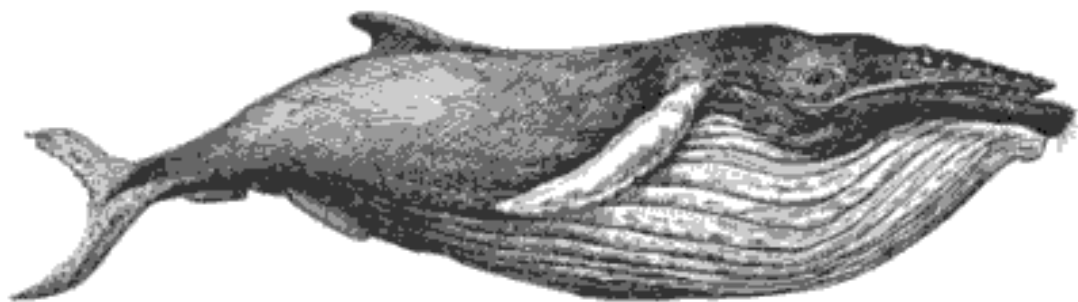
So I watched them try to get the boat to the shore  
And I knew right then that it wasn't worth trying anymore

"Lord please don't make us pay for what this guy did  
We'll be glad to throw him into the sea instead"

So they picked me up and threw me into the raging sea  
And the next minute the water was as calm as could be

Those sailors worshiped the Lord as much as they could  
But now I'm in the water and I don't swim so good

Down I went and I wished over and over again  
That I had just taken the time to learn to swim



The next thing I know a great fish came swimming my way  
And I sure hoped that he had breakfast that day

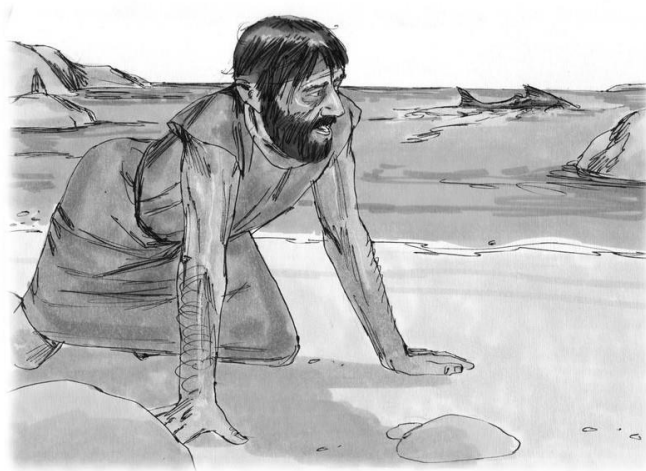
But no such luck, that thing swallowed me whole  
And inside his big belly, I was wet and cold

Just then I realized that I had air in there to breath  
And if I hadn't been eaten, I'd be at the bottom of the sea

So I thanked the Lord from the belly of that fish  
And if I get another chance I'm gonna follow His wish

For three long days and nights I lived in the belly of that beast  
It was dark and stinky, but I was alive at least

The next thing I knew that fish spit me out, that very day  
Right on the shore, just like it was planned that way



I hit the ground and the next voice I heard  
Said "Now, get up and go to Nineveh and spread the word"

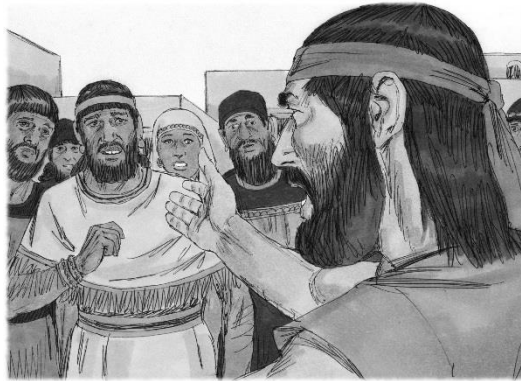
I said "Yes Lord, just watch me go, I'll not make another fuss  
I got the hint about which one of us is driving the bus!"

When I got to Nineveh, it took three days for me to see  
But I had a job to do and I would do it, even if they killed me

So I told them that the Lord was angry with them  
For the way that they were living in greed and sin



To my surprise, they listened and mended their evil ways  
And started worshiping the Lord that very day



But I found a spot on the top of a hill, wide and tall  
So I could sit and watch the big city fall

I was sure that God was gonna cook their goose  
For living their lives so fast and loose

But He had mercy on them and let them be  
Not a single one died and God was happy

I was mad at God, “I thought you said they had to die  
You put me through all this and I want to know why”

His answer came quickly, I couldn't say a lot  
When he said “I gave YOU another chance, did I not?”





This is a work of Danny Fisher, PM of Longstreet Lodge No. 268, Meridian, Mississippi (2015) and  
Iron Mountain Lodge No. 338, Iron Mountain, Michigan (1987)

It is provided free of copyright for your use in personal study or in the lodge.

Visit [www.longstreetlodge.org](http://www.longstreetlodge.org) for more publications



Longstreet Lodge No. 268 Challenge Coin