

## Prologue

Masonry, from its origin as a craft Guild shifted in the late seventeenth century and has ever since become an intellectual pursuit. Masons became the ambassadors and quarrymen of Mind, of cerebral extension and of the application of mental faculty into form and habit. Masons are meant to engage in the diligent extension of mental practices and the enlightened realms of thinking.

Not only are we as Masons obligated to do so, but it is a vast affront to the consciousness of the G.A.O.T.U. not to use that incredible and powerfully manifesting gift given to us. Throughout the ages it has proven to be the most useful, life altering and socially benefiting attribute known to Man. All form then, begins with thought, with Mind and with the miraculous electro-chemical transfer of such into action and creation.

To be a Mason is a privilege of the highest order. One of duty and to the further pursuit of knowledge, understanding, and the practical usage of that which in every sense of understanding, sustains us. Let us begin here today, to engage, synthesize, debate and imbibe, knowledge, understanding, personal challenge, and enlightened thinking!

image008.png@01CEE8EFesoteric Parallels In Modern Masonry

An Address to Mimico Lodge No. 369 - T.H.V.D.

February 12, 2008

A lecture by: Bro. Terrance H.R. Van Horne

J.W. Antiquity Lodge No. 571

District Historian, Toronto Humber Valley

This lecture is prefaced by noting that it should be viewed as little more than an expression to be shared. Masonry is an expression and calls us; as does Life, to explore and make a daily research into its mysteries and wonders. Such is this.

Esoteric Parallels In Modern Masonry

To correctly understand the panorama of Masonry is a study which might take countless years to complete. It's enough to know that the Craft has been designed in such a way as to cater to and satisfy every level of curiosity and interest, regardless. There is not another single institution, body or organization that can come close to Masonry in this respect. As a result, we find its participants cover a spectrum wide in diversity and with a variety of interests that could appear paradoxical. It may seem an

odd statement at first but in reality whether for personal, egocentric, philosophical, or intellectual reasons, Masonry is easily able to engage any person and carry forth his pursuits regardless.

Today though, we are more interested in some of the subtle and not so well recognized aspects of our beloved Craft. We note then that our souls are hungry and yearn for knowledge, that our bodies burn the fuel of life, that our minds search for and crave understanding and therefore we want to bring to light,

First: a simple realization, that there is a far more subtle and a finer reality within ourselves, within our environment and within Masonry as well.

Secondly, that each of us here is fully immersed in it, whether conscious of it or not. By not being aware of such things, by no means makes it not so nor cease to exist. The higher realities do not operate with the same tools as our mortal bodies, eyes and ears although they do act as a tool for such.

Lastly, we want to identify that elusive "Secret"; if indeed there is such a thing. That hidden aspect of our World which seems so illusive yet, has kept men clamoring and fighting over it for centuries.

Let's begin then with an explanation of seven elementary haunting and mysterious terms that at first appear to be and that bring to mind, elements of mystery, secrecy and magic, but which for all intents and purposes are in reality quite ordinary.

#### 1) Mundane:

- \* that which is typical of the material or corporeal world, seemingly of, or relating to

#### 2) Ethereal:

- \* Highly refined; delicate. Of the celestial spheres; heavenly or spiritual.

#### 3) Esoteric:

- \* Intended for, or only understood by a particular group.
- \* Relating to something known by a limited or restricted number of people

#### 4) Arcane:

- \* Obscure; appearing to be secret, mysterious

#### 5) Alchemy:

- \* The process of turning of one thing into another ( a bit like soups or stews )
- \* A seemingly magical power or process to transform something.

#### 6) Occult: NB: No there is no recorded meaning, but it is understood to relate to:

- \* Hidden Knowledge of the Universe or answers to Great Mysteries
- \* Things hidden from view; or concealed as mysteries

- \* Beyond the realm of general comprehension

7) Mana:

- \* A supernatural force believed to dwell in a person or within a sacred object
- \* An impersonal, super power that manifests itself with extraordinary phenomena and abilities. In one of the Scottish Rite degrees it is said :

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches ( meaning the congregations ).  
To him that over-cometh, will I give to eat of the hidden mana.

Alchemy, Esoterica and the Arcane - what are they, where do they actually come from?

Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth - what exactly are they, where do they come from?

It has often been said, that to keep a "Secret", secret; you place it in plain view. In this manner the truth of a thing appears to be far too obvious to be genuine. Secondly, you confound it with duality. You make it seem more complex and illusive than it really is.

Truth usually is stranger than fiction and that which changes or alters things in seemingly no time at all, is usually painfully simple.

To begin, we must understand and appreciate,

a) that Masonry provides a broad forum and panorama for the segments of interest and

full diversity of all men seeking it's Light.

b) As if this were not enough, it further provides a subtle yet intensely active vehicle for

transition of those looking to embrace the more elegant and higher aspects of our

world and Being.

One begins by isolating and understanding the dualities of life and by recognizing that there is both a Material and Ethereal ( corporeal )( spiritual ) aspect to all things. Thus recognizing this duality in all of life, we see the Light with the Dark, matter and anti-matter, the perfect with the imperfect, as above so below and as within, so without etc. We take this "Mundane" meaning which is typical of our material or "corporeal" Form for granted and spend most of our time entrenched in its rich but veiled solidity and Form oriented energy.

We accept of course the Ethereal or spiritual, as its dual counterpart and cleverly elusive twin. However, we rarely address this dual aspect directly, let alone even search to draw it out in any active or profound manner within ourselves.

The words "Mundane" and "Esoteric", bring many thoughts to mind. As creatures of form and physicality and having been steeped in a blurred and manipulated history, we relegate our researches to that of the physical world and thus, we satisfy our inner ponderings with only that which can be measured quantitatively or mathematically.

Ethereal pursuits are basically left to philosophers, clergy, the illumined and a handful of the seemingly deep thinking individuals in our society. It's generally felt that these subject matters are far too complex and difficult for the average person to understand; and way too out there for us to come to terms with. And so it is that we leave this uneasy and emotionally charged research to others who dispense and redefine it on our behalf.

Secrets:

Let's look at Secrets. To understand the true nature of Secrets; either esoteric or occult ( meaning Universal ), it's worth looking at the origin of the words. This word "Esoteric", is derived from the Greek word esoterikos, formed of the root word eso, meaning 'within' and terikos as having reference to Terra or Form. Quite probably referring to having a subtlety or secret "shrouded in or contained within " hard Form. The word occult is derived from the Latin word occultare, meaning 'concealed' or occultus, literally meaning 'Secret' . Both of these words are used to describe the study of arcane wisdom, the spiritual mysteries, and magical or hermetic philosophies.

Therefore: 'Secrets' form the basis of most mystery schools, occult organizations, and magical applications. Often there are various oaths and obligations one is expected to undertake and uphold; even if one ends that personal association with the group or its philosophy. There often was, and still is said to be a punishment for revealing the 'Secrets' of a group to non-members. These at times being enforced by members of the group, via karmic law or perhaps a self-inflicted punishment through the guardian of one's own soul.

Many reasons can be given for the control of such secretive information, for instance, that it might be abused, or even ridiculed by non-occultists, that it's incredibly powerful and even dangerous in the wrong hands or the novice practitioner. Generally what it boils down to though is control, either through a leader or hierarchy seeking to control who can and who can't learn the so-called 'Secrets' peculiar to their system. Sometimes, and for some groups or ideologies, the careful controlling of secrets is to cover up the lack of any true wisdom or understanding. Here though, we wish to focus on the opening statement regarding some of the more subtle aspects to Masonic Light.

1st - Realization:

To realize something, one must first experience it or, have a firsthand knowledge of it. It's rare for anyone to do so otherwise. So how is this done?

The following might be a simple example to offer a child who cannot realize for himself what up to now, he is basically unaware of. If you apply this example to yourself as well, you may come to understand that there could be a wider view or perhaps a hidden view that formerly you have been unaware of yourself.

Let's take heat as a basic example. In simple form, we project a thought which prompts us to physically turn on a stove element; perhaps light a fire. We know this thought produces a result; ie. Heat within a short period of time. Once that intangible thought has been physically acted on, we know the result will be a warm soft glow upon the stove top or in a fireplace. Yet even before that occurs, a subtle action precedes it and then transforms to manifests itself. That subtle action is our hidden mana alchemically producing physical energy.

Note: That simple thought put into action, opens an energy release mechanism that now allows energy ( what we call in material or mundane terms, electricity ) to flow to the reservoir of the element. There it is collected, contained and utilized. Even before the element begins to glow, you can feel an emanation of energy radiating outward. That radiation allows us to realize a number of things about the situation.

1 - That thought put into action, yields a result. This is very clear for us!

2 - That it takes energy to draw out or produce energy and usually, thought alone is

enough to manifest the vital or active components necessary for the desired result.

3 - Most importantly, that there are subtle changes which occur before we physically see the end result or a gross material change to any desired goal. From this outcome we can now proceed to a range of other more basic activities. Cooking food, warmth, secondary flame, and light etc.

Therefore, there is a subtle and gross nature to all things. If left uninterrupted, it flows naturally from one thing to another. When this flow is altered or interrupted, the results will vary greatly and may prove to be disappointing or possibly even disastrous. What we cannot see then, has a direct relationship and correlation to our physical requirements.

Example 2 - Fog, is something that can be seen in the physical realm. But, it begins unseen far out on a lake or ocean where the sun evaporates the water letting it lightly rise into the air. It floats unseen and suspended until it meets a cooler mass of air whereupon it begins to become heavier and slowly descends. It isn't quite heavy enough or dense enough to become rain but, it still falls to the ground in a mirky wet substance that is hard to see through. It becomes lightly tangible or physically recognizable as Fog.

To follow through the above examples is to realize something of the nature of any given thing. Not to know its workings, doesn't mean it has no reality or make it not so. It does however, contain and bring to mind a significant duality of both spiritual and physical material ( ethereal and corporeal ) in order to exist. Dreams then, are but unseen mists of hopes and passions brought forth through the alchemy of duality into present form.

2nd - Immersing or absorbing ourselves:

Better known as Alchemy, the same can be said for the Higher Realities. They begin with a subtle thing that may not be visibly evident; either at the beginning or even part way into whatever is taking place. In this respect, we are immersed in and surrounded by seemingly higher realities. Realms of life and interaction, that either are or can be far beyond belief and explanation. It's interesting to note that in recent years, scientists of quantum physics have assigned a spiritual recognition and quality to their work. They have concluded that every atom has both a physical and non-physical counterpart. This tells us something quite profound. It means that our general social acceptance of things is in need of a greater realization and broader understanding.

So, just as we can be immersed in fog or feel the radiation of heat, even before it is seen, we are indeed surrounded by other realities that seem to be either unseen or non-existent. This though is not a secret. It is a simple non-recognition of some basic but higher realities. You see, we blindly accept that these other realities exist but, we only relate to those which we can see, touch, hear or feel. Try to understand that you can literally touch, see, hear and feel those other realities as well. It would have to be said here though, that there is a safe guard for us in not directly being in contact with such powers and natural mechanisms. A limited understanding protects us in many ways. If it were not so, we would injure and hurt ourselves along with others in countless ways. Even as adults, we fail to comprehend many predictable things ahead of us; much the same as children fail to comprehend elementary things which lay ahead for them.

This is why, we as Masons are charged with being patient with ourselves, our fellow humans and our progress. Reality for one is not reality for another. We recognize this for example, through understanding the different lifestyles each of us has and lives. Sometimes we are challenged to see how any given lifestyle can be possible for one but not another. Patience and reserve in such matters allows for each to develop according to natural need, ability and perception of attainment.

Lastly, the Secret - what is out there and is so compelling, that we search for it century upon century and even kill each other for. Again, in basic terms such a Secret is no real secret at all - that's simply Power. The type of power, that some require in order to justify themselves and to make them feel superior over others. That secret is abused and well recognized; yet sadly, throughout society today, our daily lives and business we are all far too entrenched in.

For us though, the Secret Masonry holds is far different. Masonry has carefully wrapped it's Secret into the folds of Brotherhood, warmed it with empathy and relief, care and love and placed it in front of the world so plainly, as to have them all bewildered by it's simplicity. As such, I would suggest that true occult, esoteric and Masonic secrets cannot be revealed - they must be experienced, thereby making the revelation of them and the information portion of such 'Secrets' relatively useless to someone who has no context or understanding for the information. True secrets tend to be of a personal nature and gained by experience, intuition, and revelations from the Higher Self. Esoteric secrets of course, are the secrets within us as are Occult secrets too, but hidden deep within our psyche.

Gnothi Seauton ( Know Thyself ), is inscribed over an archway in Apollo's Temple at Delphi, and gives us an indication that knowledge of the Self, is a central part to learning these and other Mysteries. It is only via the Self that we can access the Higher Body and profoundly subtle Realities- that part of our fabric and nature, which can only be described as from a soul oriented, or higher dimension.

This may be less than satisfying or even disappointing for some here, but I say not so! For those that might feel this way, I urge you to consider the many things in your life where you have not known of

such things, but either it came about, materialized, or curiously presented itself to you. A wish, that somehow manifested into a physicality, a person you longed to meet and suddenly came by, the love you share with your family which manifests in many forms and ways; the bond that unites us in Brotherhood.

The hidden secrets in Masonry are such that through our ritual, the reading and re-reading of the work and the daily researches, one will eventually begin to perceive things that for now, only sound philosophical, mystical or even far-fetched. If this is what we as Craftsmen think, what then is it that we claim to safeguard? Pause for a moment, reflect and allow for those subtle evasive realities to manifest. At the very least, ask what is it that has caused so much mystery for all these many centuries?

Understand this about yourselves, that just the simple practice of holding to a virtue and correctness of mind or body, is enough to send others; not understanding why you do such a thing, into a frenzy of innuendo, speculation and gossip, that builds with such momentum, that it cannot ever be stopped. Even with an earnest desire to be truthful about it. Sometimes; even often, a real or practical truth is not accepted for its simple reality. From this standpoint alone it can be said that as a Mason, you have, and protect, certain "Esoteric Secrets" that the non initiate thinks are far more powerful than they are. ( to you at least ) In reality, your example of the upright man, makes you far more powerful than even you think, and if tempered with moral and virtuous behavior, will have you stand out and behave as if you did have and protect such Secrets. It will also empower you to desire to stand out as a man among men, and for your higher qualities.

As you progress along your Masonic path, I urge you to stop and reflect upon such things. To ponder that what you consider to be secretive and hidden, actually becomes regular and mundane, once infused or activated within your self and psyche.

You literally become the mystery!

Due to the individual nature of our personal journeys, knowledge that is a revelation to one, revealed through study or by our Higher Self, or even through others, may have little importance to someone else's path or journey. It is; and becomes, far more important for them to learn and understand how to arrive at their own conclusions, their own wisdom, and understandings, and essentially their own "Secrets".

Once someone is familiar with the process of learning from their own Higher Self, they no longer require other's to reveal secret knowledge to them. The source of all their wisdom is easily accessible and the truth of the 'Secrets' can easily be demonstrated or observed, both internally and externally. Others may well know these truths, secrets, and principles already, and they may carefully guard those secrets or control who can and

who cannot be told them. If the secrets are Universal principles, and not just relevant to an individual, then it is relatively pointless wasting one's energy to conceal them, as they are already concealed from those who do not currently understand how to discover them for themselves. If however, the 'secret' is of an individual nature, and only of use to that individual's purpose and journey, then it is likewise a waste of time to conceal the secret from other's; as other's cannot benefit from the knowledge anyway.

In conclusion, as a Mason you are gaining this experience of realization, both subtle and gross, material and spiritual. The realities are abundant and all around you to explore.

Secondly, you are already immersed in such things; both in and outside of the Craft. You need simply to have a look around your life to see it. Be open, explore, research. Let the subtle things have time to develop for you.

And lastly, the secret is only secret until you have absorbed the information or activity in an alchemical manner; so as to change from within. What you once perceived as an outer mystery will become a deepened and growing reality. It will transform with and through you. Note again, there are higher realms of realization and life. There are secrets too wild to know from this vantage point. There is a mystery to life and Masonry, however, it only remains so until you adjust yourself to meet it on the level and, as a regular occurrence.

Remember, that Masonry like Life is a long road. It takes time to unfold and to discover. You cannot judge from where you are now, how it will come to reveal itself, or the changes it will make in you. Give it that time. You are invited to explore and discover for yourselves, that these are some of the subtle, hidden and "Esoteric Parallels Within Modern Masonry" !

Remember,

You are a man of distinction, a Mason:

See it, Feel it, Live it. .... Thank you!

The following pages are informational only!

Use them as a part of your exploration into Masonry and Life.

See below.

Huna Teachings

The Huna teachings are very similar to the Egyptian teachings of initiation into the Order of Melchizedek during the Third Dynasty. Huna, in Hawaiian, means "secret." Huna, in its purest form is ancient knowledge enabling a person to connect to his or her highest wisdom within. Understanding and

utilizing the fundamentals or "seven principles" of Huna is intended to bring about healing and harmony through the power of the mind. This healing art and earth science is spiritual in nature, experiencing its concepts gives us the opportunity to integrate mind, body and spirit. One might acknowledge Huna teachings as one of nature's tools helpful in development of inner knowing and enhancing innate psychic abilities.

#### Seven Principles of Huna

- \* IKE -The world is what you think it is
- \* KALA -There are no limits, everything is possible
- \* MAKIA -Energy flows where attention goes
- \* MANAWA -Now is the moment of power
- \* ALOHA -To love is to be happy with
- \* MANA -All power comes from within
- \* PONO -Effectiveness is the measure of truth

Huna teaches that the high self cannot manifest a prayer unless it receives the needed mana from the middle and low selves. Thus, it is essential, according to Huna teaching, to accumulate a surcharge of vital force before beginning to pray to the high self. A great deal of emphasis is given in the Huna teachings to how this is done. Huna teaches a number of ways to accumulate extra energy:

#### Huna Energy:

- 1) Asking or commanding the lower self to build up a surcharge of vital force to use  
in prayer
- 2) Physical exercise
- 3) Deep breathing, which causes more blood sugar to be burned - this is the main  
method utilized
- 4) Posture
- 5) Nutritious food
- 6) Visualizing vital food rising like a fountain of water from the base of the spine up  
through the top of the head

- 7) Holding a mental attitude of gaining personal power and strength such as the attitude you would maintain when preparing for a race
- 8) Proper sleep and rest
- 9) Affirmations spoken out loud, "The universal life force is flowing into me now.

I can feel it!"

In addition to the need for a surcharge of mana, there is the need for "the Clearing of the Path." Clearing the path means removing all thought forms that could sabotage the prayer. Such thought forms can occur in the conscious or the subconscious mind.

Huna teaches that the only sin that exists is hurting another person. You must balance out the hurt on all levels.

The last step in the process is to create a proper thought form prayer. Huna teaches that thoughts are like seeds. They create reality. You clear the path, remove negative thoughts in the low and middle self. You can write your thought form prayer on paper. Now visualize it. Build up vital force in the shadow body of the lower self for the use of the middle self when the prayer action begins. Say the prayer aloud three times. Now you must see the prayer manifested. Do this daily until the desire result is accomplished.

#### Additional Discovery Information & Web-sites

From His Holiness Maharishi Mahesh Yogi - Jan. 21, 2004, press conference:

"In the softest thinking is the total potential of natural law." "Softest thinking is most effective thinking. It is like watering the root, instead of putting water on the trunk. The trunk is an area which has expressed itself high above the root. So the softest and most effective way of supplying nourishment to all aspects of the tree is to water the root - from where the sprouting begins. That is softest; is the most tender part of the growing tree. ...The trunk has already become too hard."