

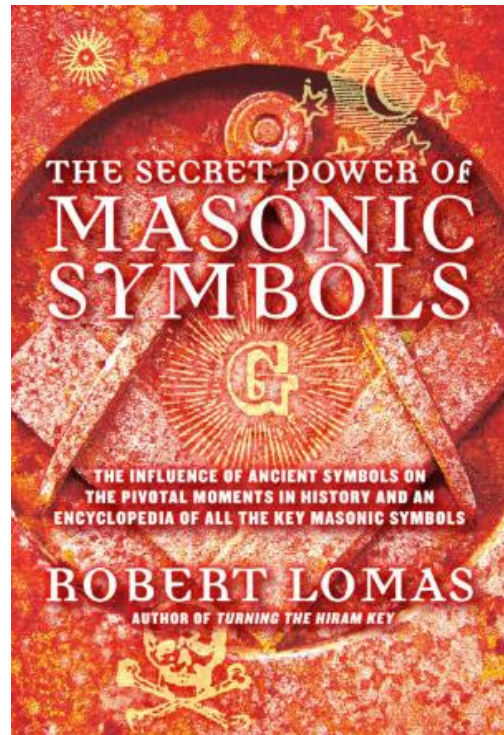
Book Review by W. Bro. Rob Lund

## The Secret Power of Masonic Symbols — by Robert Lomas

This book, published in 2011, contains two parts: the first describes the influence of ancient symbols on pivotal moments in history; the second part is an encyclopedia of key Masonic symbols.

Lomas describes why symbols are more powerful than words. A symbol being a pictorial device that evokes a concept in its entirety by bypassing the intellect, and talking straight to the emotional side of humans, evoking understanding without the need to convey verbal information.

At least 70,000 years ago, humans in South Africa painted and engraved symbols which, even today, create emotions and insights in our unconscious minds. Lomas proved this by doing experiments on volunteers who were hooked up to a Galvanic skin response monitor. Showing various symbols to the volunteers, the ones that showed the greatest responses were the *ancient* symbols. One of the ancient symbols is the lozenge which, in freemasonry, we find is created by the square and compasses. He describes: how symbols helped hunters turn into farmers; how symbols created kingdoms; and their power on the human brain.



He describes how symbols created Freemasonry, then goes on to describe the secret symbol of political stability: the two pillars, in both ancient and modern settings. These pillars united Upper and Lower Egypt and were moved to England and the United states to re-unite them after war of Independence.

He talks about the Masonic symbols that went to the Moon.

The second part of the book provides a description of each Masonic symbol found in the lodge, including the Royal Arch, and also provides his own personal interpretation of them.

To me, that's the power of Masonic symbols: each person can interpret them in their own way.