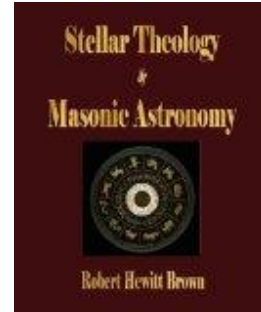


Stellar Theology and Masonic Astronomy

by Robert Hewitt Brown



This book, written in 1882, starts off by showing the importance of Astronomy to the ancients and what it meant to them. Some of it may be deemed Astrology but, in those days, there was no distinction between the two. It tells of how the rites of the ancient mysteries which taught the myths of the old gods were allegories contain knowledge of Astronomy. Since we know that our Masonic ritual has its roots in those ancient mysteries, it follows that that knowledge may be incorporated into our ritual.

The author proposes that these are also contained in allegorical form in Jewish, Christian, and Muslim mysticism, and explains some of the mysteries of the ancient mysterysystems and the early forms of worship. Egyptian, Indian, Eleusinian, Bacchanal, Ceres, and Dionysiac mysteries are mentioned. Many pages are devoted to providing some astronomical facts, without which knowledge, the next part could not be understood.

The next part goes into detail about what the author calls Masonic Astronomy, in the architecture, words and ritual of Freemasonry. He reveals relationships between Masonic ritual and symbols and the Temple of Solomon, and identifies these with Hiram Abif.

He then shows an astronomical allegory of the death and resurrection of the sun (which was a symbol of the god of old). This allegory, in poetic form can be found in another part of this newsletter.

The last part of the book contains further explanations of the emblems, symbols, and legends of the mysteries, the Zodiac and the relationships between Masonry and astronomy.

This is a very detailed work and scholarly work, and is extensively illustrated, which makes understanding the concepts a lot easier.

I recommend this book to any Mason who has an interest in ancient mysteries.