

# An Esoteric Perspective of Psalm 23

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In the Ontario working of the Third Degree, there is a passage from Ecclesiastes, a book of the Old Testament, which is a beautiful poem relating to aging, and is appropriate to the degree. In some American workings this is replaced by Psalm 23, which, I think, is even more appropriate. The following is from the King James version:

*1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

*2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.*

*3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

*4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

*5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*

*6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

Let us translate this from an Esoteric viewpoint and make it relevant as a deeper meaning to the Third Degree:

My vital and Immortal Principle is all I need to guide me to the path back to the Creator. It has enabled me, through self-discipline, meditation, and humility, to gain spiritual sustenance and tranquility.

It is strengthening my soul and leading me to a moral and righteous path.

Even though I face physical death and Spiritual dangers, I will be confident that what I have learned will protect and guide me.

It has provided me with the means of overcoming and defeating my inner enemies and weaknesses; it has given me wisdom and an abundance of new light and consciousness.

I will find divine Love and Truth at my un-erring centre throughout my physical life, and I will remain a spiritual temple forever.