

The Relationship Between Freemasonry and Theosophy

by W. Bro. Rob Lund

The more I study our Craft ritual and try to understand the veiled meanings behind them, and the more I learn about the ancient mysteries, the more I see the connection between them. There is not enough space here to provide the details of this connection. For more information, see my lectures on the deeper meaning of the various degrees.

The ancient mysteries are preserved today in the teachings of Theosophy, and are propagated by the Theosophical Society. Freemasonry does not, however, teach Theosophy, but does incorporate signposts to these teachings in the rituals of the Craft Degrees.

I will not go into details about Theosophy, as its subject matter requires much study and contemplation. I will, however, attempt to show how some of the Masonic principles relate to Theosophy.

One of the fundamental principles of Freemasonry is that of Brotherly Love, and “to view in every son of Adam, a brother of the dust”. The first Object of the Theosophical Society is: “To form a nucleus of the Universal Brotherhood of Humanity, without distinction of race, creed, sex, caste, or colour”.

As in Masonry, no member of the Theosophical Society is bound by creed or dogma – the only “authority” being their own reason and conscience. The Society imposes no fixed beliefs but points toward the source of unity beyond all differences.

As we Masons practice Relief and Universal Beneficence, and have the Masonic Foundation that focuses on charity, so the Theosophical Society has the Theosophical Order of Service, to carry out formal charitable works.

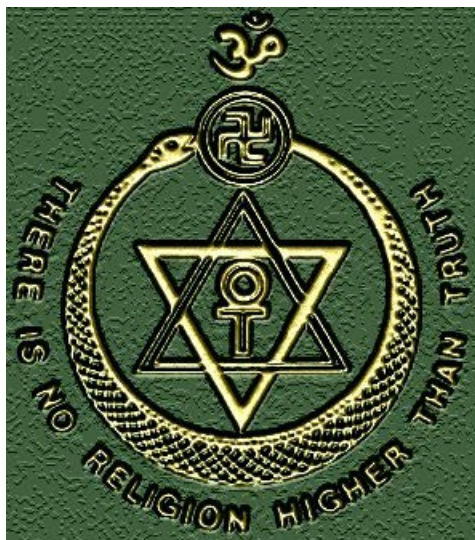
Another fundamental Masonic principle is Truth. The motto of the Theosophical Society is “*There is no religion higher than Truth*”.

Freemasonry encourages the study of the Liberal Arts and Sciences. The second Object of the Theosophical Society is “*To encourage the study of Comparative Religion, Philosophy, and Science*”.

In the second degree, the Fellowcraft is told “*you are now permitted to extend your researches into the hidden mysteries of Nature and Science*”. There is more to this statement than most people think. The third Object of the Theosophical society is “*To investigate unexplained laws of Nature and the powers latent in the human being*”.

The important allegory of Hiram Abif and the Raising of a Master Mason promotes the idea of “*a vital and immortal principle*”. Theosophy “*puts death in its rightful place, as a recurring incident in an endless life*”. This philosophy has been suppressed in the “modern” Abrahamic religions.

There are symbols in Freemasonry which also occur in Theosophy. For example, the Ankh, which is broken down into a Tau cross (seen on a Master’s Apron) and



a circle (which is discussed in the Master Mason Degree). The interlaced triangles, implicit in Masonic symbolism, is part of the emblem of the Theosophical society.

These connections, that I have discovered, have become clearer to me over time, and have prompted me to share this information with all Masons in the hope that it will encourage you to look deeper, and to go and find these ancient teachings. They have inspired in me the desire to study further the teachings of the Theosophical Society, to go where our Brethren of old are pointing me, to seek that Truth and Light that Freemasonry so powerfully tells of.