

The Mysteries Of Ancient Freemasonry by W.Bro. Rob Lund

Our Masonic ritual refers to the “secrets and mysteries of ancient Freemasonry”.

Mmm....what *are* these mysteries? Well, as an example, we can refer back to the Eleusinian Mysteries, which were secret initiation ceremonies held in ancient Greece, and which initiated candidates into the ancient mystical wisdom teachings.

But what does this mysticism have to do with Freemasonry? Let me explain. As you well know, our ritual is “veiled in allegory”. That is, they contain hidden meanings. The word “mysticism” is derived from Greek words translated as “an initiate” and its root meaning “to conceal”. See the connection? OK. Now, what is Mysticism? Let’s take the Wikipedia definition: “the pursuit of communion with, identity with, or conscious awareness of an ultimate reality, divinity, spiritual truth, or God through direct experience, intuition, instinct or insight. Mysticism usually centers on practices intended to nurture those experiences”. Is that what the rituals of Freemasonry are alluding to? Well, if one is familiar with the teachings of Theosophy and of the Rosicrucians, the allusions to these Mystical teachings in our rituals are very obvious. For those who are not familiar with these ideas, Freemasonry is providing signposts to them, for the Mason to research and learn about them. This is what is alluded to in the first degree charge: “to make a daily

advancement in Masonic knowledge” , in the second degree: “you are now permitted to extend your researches into the hidden mysteries of nature and science”, and in the third: “that most important of all human studies, the knowledge of yourself”.

So, what *are* these mystical teachings? I am not going to inform you, for a couple of reasons: one, there is not enough space here to even scratch the surface; and two, because it is important that you do it yourself. What I will say is that these teachings, as given by organizations such as The Theosophical Society, and the Ancient Mystical Order Rosae Crucis, are those ancient mysteries propagated over thousands of years. They inform the seeker of truth and light about the true nature of the Creator and the Universe, and why we are here, that is, the purpose of our life. It provides a conscious awareness of the ultimate reality, the spiritual truth. They provide lessons in how to get closer to this reality.

This knowledge is not for everyone, though I wish it were. It is provided only to those who wish to find it, those seeking truth. I should also add that this knowledge is not, as in some religions, a theoretical concept. This knowledge was gained by scientific method and can be verified by those who learn how.