

Book Review

The Lost Key by Robert Lomas

Subtitled “The Supranatural Secret of the Freemasons”, this book, to me, is the most interesting, from a Masonic point of view, that Robert Lomas has produced so far.

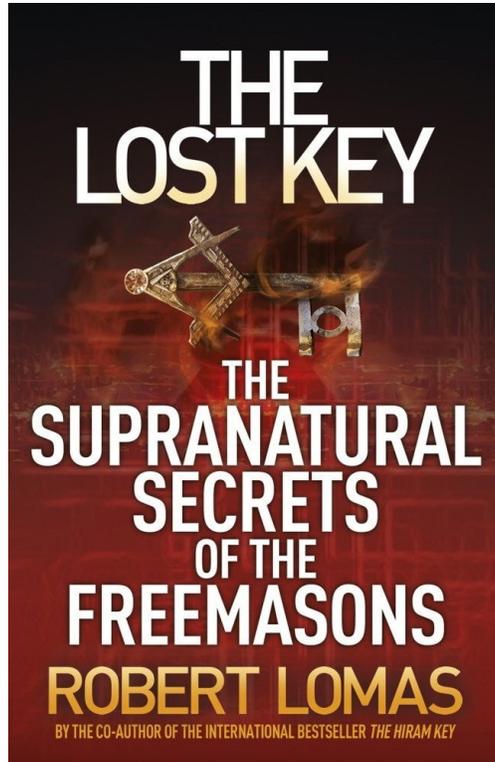
This book retraces his Masonic journey, from his childhood through to his current state of enlightenment. The account of his progress resonates strongly with me, as it reflects, in many ways, my own Masonic journey.

As is typical of Lomas’ books, there is a lot of reference to the history of Masonic origins. He insists that Masonry came from the Operative Lodges, and traces the earliest Lodge to an Operative Lodge in Aberdeen in Scotland, in 1483. This is something I just do not subscribe to. This idea is too much of a leap from Operative to Esoteric. However, I don’t think that Masonic history is of much importance, in terms of the ultimate purpose of Freemasonry.

Being a scientist, Lomas has always tried to reconcile Masonic knowledge with scientific knowledge. His initial understanding of the Great Architect Of The Universe was simply seen as the great force of creation and the laws of physics. This approach was used to reconcile the symbolism and allegory of the three craft degrees. He then talks of his frustration at not finding the “lost secrets” of Masonry. Searching further, he finds some answers in Royal Arch Masonry, in the Mark Master and Royal Arch degrees. However, this does not satisfy his search and even considers leaving Freemasonry.

Fortunately, he is invited to visit the Lodge of the Living Stones and here he discovers something different. This Lodge, which was founded by Walter L Wilmshurst, whose books are the most enlightening that I have come across in Freemasonry. This appears to be a Traditional Observance Lodge, whose meetings are started and ended with a period of silent meditation, and whose

work is approached from a purely spiritual point of view. Education in this Lodge is all esoteric. Here, especially after an experience of cosmic consciousness, he begins to find the truth he has long been seeking. What is extraordinary is his constant internal struggle to explain his experiences in a way that is scientifically feasible. Not surprising, to me, is his success, as a quantum physicist, at showing that nothing he has learned actually contradicts the laws of quantum mechanics. He often quotes other enlightened scientists, including Einstein, who reinforce his new found truths. What I also find interesting, and which reflects my own conclusions, is that his definition and understanding of the Great Architect Of The Universe has changed, and is no longer uncomfortable in using



the name “God”.

His journey is an experience that I hope every Mason will take, for it leads to a greater understanding of the true nature of the universe, and the purpose of our lives on this world.

This book will be an eye-opener for many, and I highly recommend it to all Masons seeking further light.

W. Bro. Rob Lund