
Fiat Lux

by W. Bro. Rob Lund

Fiat Lux! *"Let there be light!"* Every Mason will remember his Initiation, especially that point where these words were spoken, and he was suddenly returned to the *blessing of material light*. Not only was it a shock to his eyes, after being, for a considerable time, *in a state of darkness*, but a shock to his mind – not only by the sound accompanying this revelation but seeing, for the first time, all the paraphernalia of a Lodge at work: the furniture, ornaments, and symbols, and wondering what it was that he has just gotten into. That is exactly what it was meant to do. That is how the ritual was designed.

After having taken the solemn obligation of an Entered Apprentice Mason, the first thing that the new Mason is asked is: *"What, at the present moment, is the predominant wish of your heart?"* The answer, given is: *"Light"*. The new Mason's wish is granted with the words above, and the accompanying sound.

Despite the bewilderment of the moment, he may have wondered to himself just what this might mean – what *light* was being referred to. He may even have entertained some exotic ideas, but the ceremony continues, there are more things happening, and there is no time to dwell on it.

Sometime later: days, weeks, months perhaps, when reading the ceremony or thinking about it, he comes across the words again. At that time, he may start to think about it. It becomes obvious that the light being referred to is *not* the material light. But, what is it then?

In the ancient mysteries, candidates being initiated, clothed in white, went into dark caverns and ended up in a place of light. That was probably where this part of our ritual is derived.

Let's look at what other writings have to say about Light.

Many early religions saw light as being life-giving, and worshipped the sun as the bringer of light.

The Zoroastrians saw light as standing for all **the good of life.**"

In the Kabbalistic book, Zohar: "By the word Light is meant **perfect love.**"

In the New testament is written: "But the Saviour knew that at first men would not understand him, and he said: "You will not be able to bear at present the full light of my doctrine; but, when the Spirit of Truth shall manifest himself, he will teach you all **truth**, and he will cause you to understand the sense of what I

have said unto you."

In the Hermetic work, The Vision of Hermes, Hermes is told by Osiris: "The light thou didst first see is **the divine intelligence** which contains all things in potentiality, enclosing the models of all beings. The darkness in which thou wast afterwards plunged is the material world on which the men of earth live."

Another Hermetic work, The Kybalion, states: "**The soul is a veiled light.** When neglected, it flickers and dies out, but when it is fed with the holy oil of love, it shines forth like an immortal lamp."

Also from The Kybalion: "There have always been a few Initiates in each generation, in the various lands of the earth, who kept alive the sacred flame of the Hermetic Teachings, and such have always been willing to use their lamps to re-light the lesser lamps of the outside world, when **the light of truth** grew dim, and clouded by reason of neglect, and when the wicks became clogged with foreign matter. There were always a few to tend faithfully the altar of the Truth, upon which was kept alight the Perpetual Lamp of Wisdom."

In The Mysteries of Religion and Science by Valerius: "**Truth** - The light which truth sheds upon human steps is the only certain guide through this valley of tears. It is not only the "foundation of every virtue," but will guide to the highest happiness."

A Theosophical writer, M. Collins, in Light On The Path, says: "Seek it by **study of the laws of being, the laws of Nature, the laws of the supernatural**, and seek it by making the profound obeisance of the soul to the dim star that burns within. Steadily, as you watch and worship, its light will grow stronger. Then you may know you have found the beginning of the way. And when you have found the end its light will suddenly become the infinite light."

Theosophy speaks about: "the flashing light of **spiritual power and vision.**"

Also: "... through your own heart comes the one light which can **illuminate life** and make it clear to your eyes."

Also: "Human beings need to have the light of **truth** always before their eyes, or else they tend to lose their sense of direction and to wander about aimlessly, trying to find peace and happiness in ways that lead neither to peace of heart nor to general

well-being.”

From the above, you may realize that the majority of these writings refer to light as **goodness, knowledge** and, mainly, **truth**. These three aspects are linked. Truth cannot be discerned until one has knowledge. Linking together bits of knowledge is the only way to realize Truth. In other words, the light of knowledge lights up the path to truth.

So, finally, we learn that our ritual is telling us to go and *find* knowledge, in order that we may begin to *understand*, and find truth.

Light! Into that one word is distilled all of the principles of Freemasonry.