

Brethren, family and friends of Clear Lake Callayomi Masonic Lodge,

Meeting announcement:

Tomorrow night, Wednesday November 6 is our November Stated Meeting. I am pretty sure there will be a dinner, so the temple board meeting will be at 5:00, dinner at 6:00, Stated at 7:00. I haven't been able to get a confirmation on dinner, so if there is a change I'll send out a message tomorrow if I hear otherwise.

Last month I announced our lodge's Hiram Award recipient for this year. It is our Jr. Deacon, Robert Jordan. Despite many challenges Bob has always been there in various capacities to support Clear Lake Callayomi. He is well deserving of this honor. We will update you on his award ceremony and dinner when it's set.

Stated meeting will be winter dress (tie and jacket).

Election of officers for next year at this meeting.

I am loathe to appear to brag so do not ever use my various affiliation nomenclature in my signature, but my time in the east is coming to an end, and some of you may not know I am a three times past master of Napa Valley Lodge, and now, thank you brothers, two times master of Clear Lake Callayomi. I know the long form of the first degree lecture and can play all the parts of our degrees. I like memorizing :-)

I am also a past master (although it goes by different terms) of Royal Arch, Commandery, and the Scottish Rite. I am also an officer in a Freemasonry college which is somewhat secret and I can not speak much about it, but I am the second most prolific author of the organization. Freemasonry is very important to me. When you read my articles, know that I know that of which I write. I am grateful for the opportunity to sit in the east for our lodge, and I am always willing to either serve, or support those that currently do serve. I love our lodge, I love Freemasonry, and I love you. my brothers in our most Gentle Craft. Be well. Seek Truth.

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I think last month's article might have been one of the best most concise articles I've written on the True secret of Freemasonry. Reflection on it moves one into the immediacy of the Great Architect's enduring presence. This month's article touches on a simpler, outer teaching theme of Freemasonry, but as we will see, even the most basic outer elements of Freemasonry lead directly to the Perennial Secret of our Craft.

Michael's Masonic Esoterica

The Symbolism of the North in Freemasonry: A Dark and Mysterious Direction

In Freemasonry, the direction of the North holds profound symbolic meaning, often associated with darkness, mystery, and even death. This association is not simply arbitrary; rather, it is deeply rooted in both ancient traditions and the philosophical underpinnings of the Masonic system. The notion of the North being "dark" carries multiple layers of interpretation that extend beyond the literal absence of light. Understanding this symbolism requires exploring the historical, spiritual, and esoteric contexts in which it exists.

Freemasonry, like many other esoteric traditions, uses directionality as a means to impart deeper moral and spiritual lessons. The North is often depicted as the most remote, shadowy point on the compass. It is the direction opposite of the East, where the sun rises and symbolically represents enlightenment, knowledge, and the active forces of creation. In contrast, the North is devoid of sunlight, as it is associated with the winter solstice, the darkest time of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.

This absence of light plays a critical role in Masonic symbolism. Light in Freemasonry is not just physical; it is the metaphorical illumination of the mind and soul, representing knowledge, wisdom, and moral enlightenment. The North, therefore, stands in contrast to the idea of light, symbolizing a place of obscurity, ignorance, or even spiritual death. This is not a negative concept, but rather a necessary stage in the journey of personal transformation. Darkness is viewed as a place of potential, a space where the seed of new understanding can be planted and nurtured.

One of the most significant symbolic associations of the North in Freemasonry is its connection to the grave. In many Masonic rituals, the North is referenced as the direction where the "grave" is located. This idea ties into the broader Masonic theme of death and resurrection.

The grave, symbolizing the end of one's earthly life, is often associated with the North due to its connection to the winter months, a time when nature appears to die before being reborn in spring. Just as the grave is a necessary part of the cycle of life, death, and rebirth, the North represents a place of introspection, transformation, and spiritual renewal. Members are encouraged to contemplate the "darkness" of the North, understanding it as a metaphor for their own mortality and the inevitable journey toward the afterlife, while simultaneously recognizing that death is not an end but a transition into a new form of life.

Beyond the more tangible interpretations of darkness, the North also represents the esoteric, hidden aspects of knowledge. Freemasonry is a system that values the pursuit of hidden wisdom—truths that are not immediately visible to the untrained eye. The North symbolizes this hidden knowledge, the mysteries that can only be unlocked through diligent study and personal development. As such, it serves as a reminder that the path to enlightenment is not always clear and may require one to navigate through the "dark" unknown before reaching the light of understanding.

In Freemasonry, the North is considered dark not in a purely negative sense, but as a symbol of the unknown, the hidden, and the transformative. It represents a place where the individual may encounter metaphorical death, but also the opportunity for growth, renewal, and the discovery of deeper truths. Whether viewed as the abode of the grave, the site of esoteric wisdom, or a necessary counterpart to the light, the North is a powerful symbol in the Masonic journey, encouraging members to embrace both the darkness and the light as essential parts of their spiritual evolution.

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