



## **GAND COMMANDERY of KANSAS**

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How do you explain the trowel? How do you explain the receiving tool? How do you explain the perambulation? How do you explain the apron, and its shape? Then there's the due form at the altar for all three degrees; how do you explain them? These are all put together by our forefathers before us, and they, the forefathers, did nothing by mistake but with a specific reason. These explanations, rather how you explain them to the initiate, are critical to our pursuit for light. All the articles we use in our work, and how we come to understand them, are called the esoteric work of the lodge, and they all have meaning to our growth, or pursuit of light, which is another form of esotericism.

Masonic Esotericism is the implied or intended understanding, by a small number of people with a specialized knowledge or interest in the mysteries of Masonry. It is the philosophical thoughts and ideas of our ritual and its intended purpose for our lives.

Esotericism is identifiable by the presence of six fundamental characteristics, or components; four are intrinsic, or absolutely necessary, and two are secondary, or not so necessary.

A. Correspondence: The invisible is in direct relationship with the visible. There are both real and symbolic meaning between our working tools and what they mean to us as masons.

B. Living Nature: The tools are lifeless, yet there is a hierarchical and spiritual meaning with a divine purpose and design for our Masonic, as well as non-Masonic lives. Our working tools allude to the immortality of the soul, or our spiritual lives.

C. Imagination and Meditation: Through our imagination and the thoughts on our working tools, or our ritual and symbols, we discover a deeper meaning behind the tools—we are always in pursuit of more light.

D. Experience and Transmutation: The application of the lessons we learned via initiation and symbolic instruction can transform a man into a better version of himself than he was before.

E. Practice of Concordance: The idea is that there is a common current of Truth to be found in all major religions, and there is but One unifying Source from which all Truth emanates—The Grand Architect of the Universe, GOD.

F. Transmission: This Esoteric teaching must be taught in some form of Master-to-Pupil method or initiation in order to be most effective. In our Masonic ritual, we teach this to our youngest Entered Apprentices by way of a Master Mason Mentorship when we assign the new EA a Coach. In this manner, the Esoteric Work is carried on into the future—Further Light is accomplished.

Esotericism is related to Christian Apologetics as was used by Jesus in His teaching by use of parables; to the believer, the spiritual meaning was revealed by the individuals understanding of the lesson behind the story. We grow through both Apologetics and Esoteric teaching from our mentors, both Christian and Masonic. Our lives are brought to light and we grow into the better men intended by our Creator, God, The Grand Architect of the Universe.

This article is my esoteric understanding of an article written by my Masonic 32\* Brother Taylor Nauta, and used with his permission. Much gratitude and thanks to WB Nauta.

Fraternally

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