

# Masonic Light and Darkness

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As Master Masons, we are aware of the symbols of light, from the three great lights of Masonry to the three lesser lights. Master Masons should be in search of light, but what is the form of light you seek, and is that light a true beacon that motivates and inspires others in our Fraternal order and community?

If we are to understand light, would it be a worthy endeavor to understand what darkness is as well? We come through the West Gate hoodwinked, and if I may be so bold to say, perhaps just as the Great Architect was in darkness prior to His creation of light. Clearly, there is no comparison but a similarity for us to ponder.

Research on colors and symbols in psychology has revealed that dark is often associated with power, authority, and strength, whereas light is often connected to righteousness, goodness, and peace.

What light does the Freemason seek? The light given in the great creative spark can therefore be equated with the will of The Creator, from which all forms emanate in perfection and from which the spiritual core of man emanates in subsequent creation.

"The light of a Master Mason is darkness visible." It was very pertinently observed by the great scholar Socrates that "Those great moments when you realize how little you know are the very moments when you are on the threshold of great knowledge."

I find it intriguing that there are dangerous forms of light too. Our Sun, while creating the life-sustaining light we need and which rules our day, if overexposed to its effects, a consequence of pain and suffering is inevitable. Sun poisoning, burns, droughts, magnified light through a lens that can burn immediately, and overexposure to the Sun can cause material failures. All of the aforementioned items are a real consequence we suffer when exposed to too much or concentrated Sun.

While it is ok to be in the light and to seek those items mentioned above that, reflect the goodness of light, which can encourage, motivate, and inspire others, we need to be mindful of the inherent dangers that can be brought about by seeking the wrong light, which I would consider to be all those inherent dangerous forms of over exposure to light.

As a beacon of light to one another and our communities, we are to be taken seriously and conduct ourselves in a manner that provides a high level of esteem to our Fraternal Order. The elegance and beauty of our symbology of "light" cannot be overstated enough; seeking light is not just traveling to another lodge, raising funds, or providing a book cover of education.

It is bringing brethren up with encouragement that inspires, motivates, and makes them better than they were; it is spending time, making an effort, and investing in improving one another. It is using an instructive tongue and not a destructive one. It makes our actions repeatable and reproducible by being a force multiplier. It is to quietly do those things that help others without seeking recognition for helping.

So I'll ask the question again, what light is it you are seeking? Is it the spotlight, or is it that righteous light? What can you internalize with an objective eye to determine what motivates you to search for it?