



## The Meaning of Masonry

*W.L. Wilmshurst*

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For more than two centuries, *The Spirit of Masonry* has been the essential source for anyone exploring the inner mysteries of the Masonic Fraternity. When it first appeared in 1775, it was hailed as the first work to deal with the religion, purpose, and the deeper significance of Freemasonry; and its popularity among Masonic scholars has never decreased. In this fascinating book, author William Hutchinson has discussed several subjects including the orders of Freemasonry, the rites, ceremonies and institutions of the ancients, the nature and furniture of the lodge, the apparel, jewels, and occupations of Masons, the temple of Jerusalem, as well as the secrecy of Masons, charity, and brotherly love. This is the classic study in the history and philosophy of Freemasonry, the oldest fraternal order in the world.

## The Meaning of Masonry Details

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Author : W.L. Wilmshurst

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## From Reader Review The Meaning of Masonry for online ebook

### **Ken Gibson says**

Every Master Mason should read this. Provides an entirely different perspective on the meaning of Masonry.

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### **Corey says**

I really enjoyed this book and would recommend it to any brother mason. The first 3 chapters are a must read for any mason in search of the veiled allegory within the symbolism of the craft. This is a perfect starting point if you're interested in doing your own lectures in lodge, especially if you are wanting to delve into the more esoteric without going too far off the deep end.

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### **Jeevan Anandaskaran says**

This book is the eye opening book about masonry you have been looking for, While not a mason myself this book in my research answered so many questions and put many historical timelines into context. This book is a lesson in self reflection that brings meaning to what has become wrote ritual. I understand more the reason for secrecy but also how outdated that concept is today. I also understand the power of the times we live in where the works cited in this book like the complete works of Plato are just a kindle download away and available to all.

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### **Frederick Cheeseborough III says**

#### **Mandatory reading for every lodge officer**

I have always believed that the majority of my masonic education would not come from my time spent in lodge but from readings and lectures such as this book which so eloquently expound upon the seemingly menial tasks performed in lodge. As the sitting Junior Warden in Federal Lodge #1 under the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia FAAM I would recommend this book as reading for every lodge officer and every brother aspiring to become one. This book gives much context to your esoteric role in the function of the lodge which only serves to illuminate the importance of your office exoterically. The book went on to highlight the ceremonies of the Royal Arch and having just witnessed a Mark Master degree on Monday Night at Mt Vernon William R Singleton Chapter I further understand even more the significance of the veils. There are some references to the symbolism and regalia of English Masonry not present in American Masonry that does prompt me to do additional research on the differences between the two.

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### **Matthew John says**

I have been a mason for a little over a year. This book was suggested to me even before I became a MM.

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It is a difficult read at times but I believe every mason interested in the esoteric interpretation of the craft should read this book, multiple times!

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### **Chuck Springer says**

This book was recommended to me to get a better understanding of freemasonry. I really enjoyed this book, the history, the symbolism and description of the allegories. The book also helps one to realize that the Craft is to mean more than ancient rituals, it is a true spiritual journey and rebuilding of man within himself...in which good men are made better!

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### **Mike Day says**

I really liked this book! I will write a more detailed review later, but wow!

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### **Avery says**

This is a clear and considered exposition of the meaning underlying the symbolism and ritual of Freemasonry. I found that reading it helped me considerably in understanding much of what occurs in the Lodge. Wilmshurst's discussion of Masonry's relationship to the ancient Mystery schools was very thought-provoking.

I highly recommend this book for any new brother, and I wish I had read it earlier in my Masonic career.

If I have one criticism, it is that Bro. Wilmshurst tends to over-emphasize Christianity at the expense of other religions; however, if he is somewhat less ecumenical than I would like, I can forgive him that slight excess in an otherwise exemplary treatise.

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### **Rob says**

Like many classic works of Masonic literature, this book can take a while to wade through. Lack of paragraphs, arcane language, and run-on sentences pose quite the challenge to the reader.

If you stick with it and plow through, this is a very interesting explanation of the whys and hows of Masonry.

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### **ray calhoun says**

#### **Thoughts**

Some can be very thought provoking.....some do not agree.but willing to listen and contemplate other ideas.....religious., masonic., thought provoking historic philosophy

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### **Karlo says**

Still one of the best books on Freemasonry I've ever read; both from an Esoteric and Exoteric perspective. Highly recommended and because it's out of copyright, available online for free from multiple sources.

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### **Sherrill Watson says**

The edition of this book that I got from the Sun City library had a different cover, with different symbols of Masonry. ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN 1922!! Mr. W.L. Wilmshurst is a dyed-in-the-wool (pun intended) Englishman who writes from his unshaken belief in Masonry. Taking that into consideration (what about Islam? Confucianism? Buddhism?) he argues and puts forth convincing arguments for the study of Masonry as THE method of attaining Enlightenment.

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### **Jesse Slater says**

I've often heard this book recommended for those looking for a deeper meaning to the symbols and allegories of the degrees. Regrettably, I'm leaving it feeling disappointed.

Much like another recent read, MacNulty's The Way of the Craftsman, how much one enjoys this book will depend heavily on whether the author's personal interpretation jives with the reader. The interpretation given is extensive, but citations are almost nonexistent. When Wilmshurst cites ancient practices, it's frequently in a vague sense, if he cites any origin for a claim at all. In reviewing my notes, I found almost all of them to be regarding claims he made that made me audibly say "What? Really? I need to find where you got THAT from." He often plays the "this isn't the place to go too far into that" card, which is sometimes fair, particularly for a lecture format, but he opens by saying that these lectures have been reworked for print. It all just happens too often, and it honestly feels like a cop-out.

Fresh in my mind is an example in the last chapter, where he goes on about parallels between "early Christian practice" and masonry's three degree structure, citing "Dionysius' Ecclesiastical Hierarchy". He specifically recommends the work as worth reading, and it is a rare instance of specific source citation. However, the works of \*Pseudo-\*Dionysius are pseudepigrapha written likely in the 5th or 6th centuries (known to be so since at least the 1500s). Representing them as a reliable source on early church practices is, at best, a sign of lax research, and, at worst, dishonest.

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### **Victor Rodriguez says**

I haven't finish reading it yet but, I'm already bedazzled by the glamorous prose of it's time.

OK. I just finished reading this book and all I can say is that it's of an invaluable measure the "Gift" within its content. I'm incredibly surprised by how this book came to my possession as a vulgar cheap prize discounted offer on Barnes & Nobles for less than 10.00 dollars. This is not a book, it's an ARCANE.

But them again, it shouldn't surprise me that all good things are never appreciated by the masses or those with eyes but blinds at births for all their life.

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### **Rachelle says**

I thought this book was very interesting. I love seeing the comparisons to Masonry in my own faith. I don't know the right word to use... but the author uses way to many words to put forth a simple idea. It was hard to stay focused. Partly it was just really intense and deep and I wasn't able to get into it. Maybe I will look for another book about Masonry.

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