

## Postion: There are no secrets in Masonry

Secret as defined in the dictionary:

secret | 'sɛkrɪt | |,sɪkrɪt | |,sɪkrɪt |

adjective

not known or seen or not meant to be known or seen by others : *how did you guess I had a secret plan?*

| *the resupply effort was probably **kept secret from** Congress.*

- [ attrib. ] not meant to be known as such by others : *a secret drinker.*
- fond of or good at keeping things about oneself unknown : *he can be the most secret man.*

noun

something that is kept or meant to be kept unknown or unseen by others

A great many Masons and profane believe that Masonry and the material we use for our work, contains some sort of “secret” material i.e. Knowledge that is not known by others. For some this idea gives them comfort as make them feel special and for the profane it gives them an excuse for fear and ignorance. But in reality, there is nothing secret in or about Masonry.

This is true for a variety of reasons but two stand out as most obvious:

1. Since going “public” in 1717, there have been countless “exposes” of Masonic work including all the degree work and the modes of recognition, Master's word, etc. A few minutes of research on the Internet or your public library and all can be known.
2. A close examination of the concepts and form of Masonry quickly reveals that it is nothing more than a hodge podge of material borrowed from other sources.
  1. Examples
    1. Nearly every major school of philosophy is found in our work
    2. Borrowings from Shakespeare
    3. Borrowings from other older initiatic cults such as the cult of Mithras and cult of Pythagoras
    4. Confused and incorrect history and science
  3. There is no use of these concepts in any manner that hasn't already been in existence
  4. We actively seek to share the information we possess with as many people as possible. Not a good way to keep anything secret.
  5. Masonry is often guilty of post hoc, ergo propter hoc

So in the end, the teachings of Masonry are not special, unique or secret as the concepts offered are available from any number sources. The true secret of Masonry is developing what lies within the Mason. This understanding of life is different for each person and could be “brought out” of each person by a variety of methods. We choose Masonry because it works for us.

I cannot tell you what the secret of life or Masonry is because I believe it is different for every person. Just as you are all experiencing this meeting differently even though we all speak the same language and sit in the same room.