

# WILLIAM O. WARE LODGE OF RESEARCH

## Book Review

### In Search of Light: A Course of Hieroglyphic and Moral Instruction for the Symbolic Lodge

By: Robert G Davis

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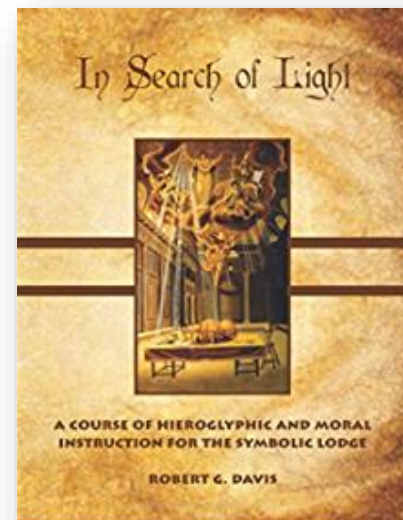
Reviewed by: Keith W. Gunkel, Past Master, Orion Lodge No. 222

The most recent book by M. W. Brother Robert W. Davis, Past Grand Master of Oklahoma, *In Search of Light: A Course of Hieroglyphic and Moral Instruction for the Symbolic Lodge*, is a must read for those brothers who are seeking the answers to the question of why we do what we do. In this excellent work, M. W. Brother Davis explains in detail the purpose and the meaning of each of the Degrees of the Symbolic Lodge.

Organized in separate sections for each of the three Degrees that we perform, *In Search of Light* illustrates the actions, working tools and symbols involved. M. W. Brother Davis shares the real purpose for a rite of initiation, which is to put closure on the process of becoming a man.

The journey from adulthood to maturity is one wherein we must convert the child within each of us into our broader and overall sense of self. The Entered Apprentice Degree is described completely in detail from the history of how this Degree originated, and who was involved and why. The rituals of opening and closing a Lodge, the qualifications needed for genuinely experiencing Freemasonry, preparation (in all senses), and why a Lodge is laid out the way it is are fully explained.

The Fellow Craft Degree is also described, and particularly how it differs from the first Degree, as it is particularly devoted to science, nature, and art. The different working tools are shown and explained as they are in the Entered Apprentice Degree, devoting great detail as to their use and meaning. Also described are the pillars representing Portals of Transformation, and the steps of the winding stairs, including what each step represents to a Mason. As a Fellow Craft, we receive Divine Truth, and as a Fellow Craft we represent the world of the soul.



As Master Mason, we have gained great progress in our search of oneness with our soul. M. W. Brother Davis makes clear how we discover ourselves and who we are, and what will be required of each Brother in his quest for self-affirmation as a man, role model, and an example to his peers.

As in the previous sections, he describes the working tools of the Degree, and how and why we use them. He explains the nature of the Third Degree of Freemasonry, and how it follows a different path than the earlier degrees. He explains in detail why, in large part, the Master's Degree (the "Legend of the Temple") is a mystery play.

*In Search of Light* is roughly 145 pages in length, and is well illustrated with photographs and symbols familiar to Freemasons. Despite its seeming brevity, it is exceptionally comprehensive in its treatment of the process of passing through the Degrees. Many Lodges have adopted *In Search of Light* as the basis for a structured education program, used to augment the existing proficiency examinations that are currently in place. *In Search of Light* goes far beyond mere rote learning of the proficiencies, however. It offers a path to understanding the meaning behind each one. Further, it leaves the reader with the clear realization that passing through the Degrees is only the beginning of one's Masonic journey. The Degrees equip men with the tools essential to lead fulfilling lives, but it is up to each Mason to fully engage in the practice of Freemasonry.

In ending this review, it is my finding that Lodges should indulge in the information presented so well within these pages. Use all of the contents as educational lessons to better the Craft and the Lodge. Freemasonry is concerned with the journey of a man's life, and this excellent work provides a clear roadmap for such journey.

*In Search of Light* is likely to become a work that will continue to be in use long after this present of generation of Freemasons has passed. Like Freemasonry itself, it has a certain timeless quality. It would not at all be surprising to learn that *In Search of Light* is eventually considered one of the most significant books about Freemasonry published in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

*In Search of Light: A Course of Hieroglyphic and Moral Instruction for the Symbolic Lodge*, published in 2021, is available from online booksellers, or may be purchased directly from the author at [www.robertgdavis.net](http://www.robertgdavis.net). Other works by M. W. Brother Davis are available at this site, as well.