

## The York Rite and Christianity: It's Hidden Meaning

While the Scottish Rite likes to call itself the college of Freemasonry and can be an amazing and helpful resource for a Mason (I am a member), it does not have the full story. The York Rite of Freemasonry has the full story veiled in allegory. Unlike the Scottish Rite, its degrees have remained relatively unchanged since they were written. As you will learn, there is a powerful reason for why the York Rite must never change.

Some Masons avoid the York Rite because they believe they must be a Christian to become a Knight Templar. While this is true, there is much more to it than one might realize. I will tell you the truth as briefly as possible regarding the hidden meaning of the York Rite and Christianity. It is my hope that this article will renew your faith in both. Read this through to the end before making a final judgment on what I have to say.

The York Rite consists of the three degrees of Freemasonry plus ten more ending with the Knights Templar. Allegorically, it tells the story of the Knights Templar. What is that story?

The Knights Templar found out about the true origin of Christianity when they were stationed at the original location of King Solomon's temple. They discovered that Christianity was really Egyptian in origin and was based on sun worship, the sun being a representation of the All Seeing Eye of God or God. They also found out the same to be true about Judaism, which borrowed much from Egyptian religion (arks, Hermetic Kabbalah, etc). They discovered the teachings of Kabbalah and Gnosticism, the esoteric forms of Judaism and Christianity, which were much more in line with Eastern religions like Hinduism and Buddhism than what had been created by Constantine and used to control the people. They also reflected more closely the original teachings of Jesus. Christ came so that we might be like him and become sons of God, enlightened like Buddha and open our third eye (All Seeing Eye) through meditation upon the name of God...the Amen (another name for Jesus...Revelation 3:14)...the Aum (another name for Krishna who is the manifestation of Vishnu, the second person of the Hindu Trinity) or Amun of ancient Egypt.

God is before all things, is all things and is one and yet in order to create, became a Trinity. This truth can be found in Hinduism, Christianity, Jewish Kabbalah, Taoism, Sufism, Druidism, Mithraism, ancient Egypt and many other religions. The second person of this Trinity comes to Earth from time to time to teach humans the right way of life in a way they can understand. You see Vishnu incarnate as Krishna in very much the same way the Second Person of the Trinity incarnates as Jesus Christ. Father, mother, child...the trinity is an ancient belief that is true and is far older than Christianity as is the symbol of the cross. If God were to appear to humans just as he is, his glory would kill us in our human form. We can be with God in spirit, either through meditation or when our bodies die, but in the body, his glory is too much for us. In order to teach us in person in this material realm, he must incarnate into a body. He does this from time to time all over the world so as to help us along as needed. The character of Aslan in the "Chronicles of Narnia" is a beautiful example of this. Jesus/Horus/Krishna, etc is God and therefore is

conceived of by Holy Spirit every time he incarnates and any woman who gives birth to such a being is technically having a “virgin birth” since he is not of this world (as is taught in the Apostles’ Creed) and his arrival is not the typical result of human conception, but the work of God.

Some believe this is the same person reappearing and reincarnating throughout history. They all have the same story (Horus, Krishna, Buddha, Mithra, Jesus, etc). The Magi, being very familiar with all of this, used astrology and various means to find the Christ in his latest and what has become his most important incarnation so they could protect him and his family until he was ready to begin his work. This story is very familiar to anyone who celebrates Christmas.

He comes to teach us self-realization, Christ Consciousness, yoga or whatever you want to call it. By meditating the AUM, we enter into the “Kingdom of Heaven”. The message of Christ was to become like Him, not for Him to be the only one of his kind. We do so by opening our Third Eye. According to Richard Cassaro (Written in Stone) and many others, this is the lost secret of Freemasonry. This is achieved by meditating the Aum which balances out our Yin and Yang, our male and female, darkness and light, heaven and earth and is the meaning behind the Seal of Solomon (or Star of David), the Christian cross, the Hermetic caduceus, the seven chakras, the Kabbalistic Tree of Life, the three pillars of Freemasonry, the Hermetic axiom “as above, so below” and the Square and Compass. It is the true meaning of the Philosopher’s Stone and the Elixir of Life in alchemy. You achieve immortality the minute you realize you already have it. (The word “alchemy” comes from the root word Kemet which is an ancient name for Egypt. Alchemy (which is mental science) is the science of ancient Egypt.) Jesus is God as the Second Person of the Trinity and teaches us that we are also trinities (body, soul, spirit) made in the image of the Triune God (as are all things). When we meditate the Aum, we balance all parts of who we are and achieve gnosis, henosis and apotheosis. As above, so below.

It is interesting to note that this word (Aum) is found as a homonym all over the three degrees of Freemasonry in various languages (orim, aurum, I Am, Amen, Aoum...meaning gold, light, God, etc) and also in the names of various characters in the three degrees. The three masters have it in full in their names and the ruffians have it in part. This is to signify that they are not masters yet, but still fellowcrafts. SolOMon and the two HirAMs have it “within” them. The ruffians have it in part within them (Written in Stone), but they have not awakened it yet. There is also the symbolism that to be complete and give the one true name, there must be three personalities (Trinity, Aum). The three suffixes of the names of the ruffians spell out Aoum, which when pronounced is the same as Aum which is the name of God to millions of people (the Upanishads) and is considered the base sound of the Universe. Many believe this is the word said at the Big Bang aka “let there be light” (Genesis 1:1-3, John 1:1-4, Revelation 3:14). Aum, Amen and Amun are one and the same and represent the same person (Krishna, Christ, Horus). Aum/Amen/Amun is the name of God.

It is interesting to note that the occupation of Jesus was that of a “tekton” in the original Greek. The English translation of “carpenter” is incorrect. It should be “Mason”. Jesus never alludes to wood working, but does to stone working or temple building and he is called the “stone the builders rejected”. To this day, Greek Freemasons call themselves “tektons”. We are to become

like Jesus by achieving balance through awakening the god within. This gives us power in this world (law of attraction, psychic abilities) and gnosis which we can use for good to help others and build a better world as co-creators with God. This was the faith of the Gnostic Christians who were crushed by the Catholic Church. This wisdom was found by the Knights Templar along with the Gnostic gospels and the Shroud of Turin. They found a Christianity that had three paths that did not require the hierarchy of the church. The first path was simple and is called salvation. One must simply love God and love his neighbor. That is it. This is all that is required for a good life and a good afterlife. This is taught by Jesus in Luke 10:25-37 and is the testimony of many near death experience survivors. One does not even have to be a Christian to have this type of salvation (like the Good Samaritan), just simply be a good and loving person. A person of any religion or no religion can do this. This has been reported in many near death experiences.

The second and third path is gnosis. This is harder. Through meditation, one can achieve oneness with God and experience amazing things. Through meditation, the Third Eye is opened and one can travel astrally, develop psychic abilities, talk to saints/avatars/guides, talk to the dead, etc. This sort of thing is familiar to anyone who has studied kundalini yoga or visited a New Age bookstore. It is the path of the Magi. One can become a saint/avatar who returns as needed to help humankind (second path) or merge with God (third path). Those who follow this path can know they are “Masters” when they not only attain these powers, but also do not see the rest of humanity as inferior or stupid for not having done so. They are happy and joyful. They are loving and kind like Jesus Christ. They do not see themselves as lonely adepts who suffer among the foolish masses. They love life and love people. They see humanity and life as basically good. The darkness is necessary for there to be light, but they work on the side of light to bring order out of chaos. They are builders (Masons) who work for the Master Builder in the never ending project of making this Universe a better and more wonderful place. They see this life as a school with lessons that are sometimes hard. They also see the beauty and love that is possible. The church hated these three paths because it took away their control. Reincarnation (the real meaning behind “resurrection of the body” or “he ascended into heaven” as in the Apostles’ Creed) took away the fear of a permanent hell which they needed as a way to control the people. There is a type of hell that exists, according the near death experiences, but it is temporary. Whoever is there that turns from their evil ways, says they are sorry (the real meaning behind “the forgiveness of sins” as in the Apostles’ Creed) and/or calls out to Jesus (the real meaning behind “he descended into hell” as in the Apostles’ Creed...to help us) is always delivered and given another chance to reincarnate again. This is the way of a loving Father which is discipline, not eternal punishment.

A deal was struck with the Catholic authorities who were already aware of this to keep silent. This worked quite well for a long time until all parties got greedy. The Knights Templar planned at some point to teach this true teaching of Christ...of how to achieve self-realization as is taught in yoga... to the masses. Before they could do so, the powers that be betrayed them as is well known in history. The well-known tale of the Knights Templar hiding in Scotland is a fact of history that has been written about by many researchers. The fact that Christianity, Judaism and other religions all stem from sun worship is also well known. However, it has never been well-known to the masses until recent times. This Egyptian religion is sometimes called Hermeticism.

The priests of ancient Egypt were called Djedi which is where the term "Jedi" came from in the Star Wars movies. So, in a real sense, all Knights Templar who practice what is taught here are the real Jedi. The rise and fall of the Templars in real life was certainly used as an inspiration for the Star Wars movies.

"Every legitimate symbol of the Blue Lodge, everyone that really belongs to it, is a religious symbol, of great antiquity, which came to Free-Masonry from the Hermetic Philosophy by inheritance"-- from Esoterika by Albert Pike

The Knights Templar hid among the Masons for centuries until the 1700s. They then went public and taught their ways and history through a series of degrees. The York Rite teaches in the first three degrees the way of the Masons which is very ancient and reflects a once world-wide Universal religion and a pyramid building culture, whom the Templars hid among, and many allusions to sun worship, alchemy, Hermeticism, Kabbalah and astrology are there for the observant. The Holy Bible is revered because it is the sun worship of the Egyptians veiled in allegory both for Jews and Christians. It truly is a holy and useful book containing the wisdom of the ages if read allegorically and spiritually (near-death.com).

The Royal Arch degree teaches the tale (veiled in allegory) of the Knights Templar going to Jerusalem and finding lost artifacts which teach them the name of God, which is really three different names of God in three different languages from three different religions. The lesson is that all gods are the same God and reflect a once worldwide Universal Religion (as taught by Richard Cassaro in "Written in Stone") that used sun symbolism. The sun represented the All-Seeing Eye of God and vice versa. Initiates into ancient religions circumambulated around an altar representing the sun going through the heavens which taught them that man is one with God, the same teaching as yoga. Then, later, in the Knights Templar degree it would seem this is all up-ended in favor of calling Jesus the "Word". The lesson is that the Royal Arch word is the Word and Jesus is the Word. They are all different names for the same God and it is all sun worship. The Word is God (John Chapter 1). Those who know how to use it become one with God. To raise your sword in defense of the Christian religion above all others...is to defend the one true Universal Religion of ancient times...a type of sun worship which leads to self-realization or "Christ Consciousness" (as described in the Upanishads). Yes, as a Knight Templar, you must confess to be a Christian and a follower of the Christian religion. One must realize that Christianity is much larger and more amazing than how it has been taught to us in its mainstream versions. It is also means to be a Universalist, a follower of the one true ancient religion that is behind all religions (the real meaning behind "one holy catholic (catholic means "universal") church as in the Apostles' Creed). It is the faith of the Gnostic Christians who represent the true teachings of Christ far more than the mainstream church. If you follow this, you are no less a Christian than any Baptist or Catholic and maybe more so in many ways.

When a Mason takes part in the Templar degrees, he is required to recite the Apostles' Creed and profess a belief in the Christian religion and the Trinity. Masons who are Christians (Baptist, Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Orthodox, Mormon, Gnostic, Rosicrucian, etc) have no problem with this and enjoy it because they mean it.

Some Masons avoid the York Rite because they do not consider themselves Christian and feel it is violating their conscience. They either have another religion or they are ex-Christians who gave up on Christianity because of all the errors and contradictions they found in the Bible (“Age of Reason” by Thomas Paine). They should not join. However, I contend that these Masons, if they are “esoteric”, should definitely join if they understand Christianity in the way it is described in this article. Their complaints are valid, but once one understands the Bible was never meant to be read literally, but as an allegory, it begins to make more sense. It is a man-made book and some of it is clearly forced together. However, it is also divine and contains hidden truths. The York Rite tells the true story of the Masons, the Knights Templar and ancient history veiled in allegory. It is Rosicrucian and Gnostic. It is Universalist. That belief system is what is really being taught and should be defended above all others. It is why the Templars were killed. Christianity is the largest, most successful and most recent incarnation of this ancient religion and contains all truth veiled in allegory as does the Bible. The symbol of the cross is also ancient in the same way and pre-dates Christianity (the ankh, etc). All of this should be embraced by the true esoteric Mason. Hopefully, Christianity will evolve into a more enlightened form as is taught at near-death.com. This is why many Knights Templar are Episcopalians as it is a very beautiful form of Christianity without being overly dogmatic. I cannot recommend the website near-death.com enough. Kevin Williams has done amazing research and work there. I would love to see the Roman Catholic Church adopt what is taught in this article. I believe it could revive it for hundreds of years to come and make it a tremendous force for good.

This interpretation of the York Rite, Freemasonry and Christianity will utterly horrify most Masons and Christians. It will also be ridiculed by so-called academics and the “authentic school” of Masonic scholarship. They forget that the men who created all of our degrees, from the blue lodge to the York Rite and Scottish Rite, were very much esoteric and knew many things they still do not know. They forget that a dry, non-mystical approach was not what inspired Masons of the past to build huge buildings and to attract millions of members. Freemasonry was inspiring and unique. It was strange and fascinating, not just another club for men to join. The Masons that are joining today and writing about it like myself still see the power of what Freemasonry was and what it could be again. It is a mighty force for the advancement of civilization. It is a mystical knighthood that helps men to conquer their animal natures and do good for all humankind and no less.

They will reject all of what I am teaching you. That is fine. As is taught in the 30<sup>th</sup> degree of Scottish Rite Freemasonry in “Morals and Dogma” or “Rosicrucian and Masonic Origins” by Manly P. Hall, it has always been this way. The bulk of Masons and Christians simply can’t handle this sort of thing. I would encourage them, before rejecting all of this, to study near-death.com and the writings of Richard Cassaro. Masons trace back to very ancient times all over the world (Pompeii, the writings of Mencius, etc). They and the Sufis (whose Arabic word of welcome is found as a homonym in the third degree, which is another clue to the Templars hiding among the Freemasons) were the inheritors of ancient knowledge which found its way into the Knights Templar organization. You can see a deep knowledge of the Kabbalah in the artwork of places like Montsaunes Chapel in France, a Templar church. Some of these Knights Templar hid among their Masons in Scotland and slowly began to resurface as Rosicrucians.

This name was a subtle hint to their origin as the Knights Templar who wore a red cross or rose cross as a part of their uniform. The Masons and the Rosicrucians were/are one and the same. From the very beginning, they were known to possess amazing Third Eye abilities, as is evidenced in the following poem:

“For what we do presage is not in grosse,  
We are brethren of the Rosie Crosse;  
We have the Mason Word and second sight,  
Things for to come we can foretell aright.”

-- Henry Adamson, from "The Muses' Threnodie" (1638)

In “The New Atlantis”, Sir Francis Bacon lays out the plan for a perfect Rosicrucian society. Many of the Founding Fathers of America were inspired by this. Many of the revolutionaries were what we would call York Rite Masons. Freemasons, the York Rite Knights Templar in particular, are the true Rosicrucians who promised to make a better world and a better form of Christianity in their manifestos.

This is why the York Rite never changes and never should. Again, most York Rite Masons never clue into this or refuse to believe it, but the true origin of Freemasonry, Judaism and Christianity is Egyptian sun worship as discovered by Thomas Paine and others. The Knights Templar discovered this and ultimately suffered for it. This is the story the York Rite is telling veiled in allegory. The power is in the Aum which is hidden all over the degrees in many different ways. All who meditate it with dedication over time open their Third Eye and develop psychic ability. It is the lost Name of God and the key to all mysteries, power and wisdom. One can learn to “travel in foreign countries” by astrally travelling. This is done by meditating the AUM for a while and then imagining leaving the body, flying to the roof of the Universe and then passing through it like a membrane. There one can see a green field that ends at a beautiful beach. At the edge of this beach is a temple like King Solomon’s temple. The traveler can walk up to the doors and shut them behind him. Inside, he will find many rooms like libraries. Everyone who ever lived is there...loved ones, guardian angels, saints, ascended masters, etc. You can talk to them, ask them questions and learn all that can be known. You are safe there. When you are ready to return, just imagine returning and you will be back.

As you go through your day, imagine you are in a safe bubble of light. Imagine anyone you care about protected in the same way. If someone is causing you trouble, you can imagine them in a bubble with no light. This will make their ill intentions come back on them until they learn the error of their ways.

To do magic, simply learn the law of attraction and work hard. This is how things are made to happen. This is magic. The best method I have learned is “The Strangest Secret” by Earl Nightingale. The best practical book I have read on astrology, if one is interested, is “A Book About You” by Charles Haanel. Both are free online. Meditating the AUM is a form of alchemy, the law of attraction is magic and astrology is understanding vibration and how it affects

personality. These are the “three parts of wisdom” mentioned in the Emerald Tablet. They are just that simple and just that hard. There are also books on how to use The Lord’s Prayer for similar purposes and how to pray purposefully. The best book on how to do this is the New Testament when Jesus teaches us to ask, seek and knock. The reason I teach all these things to you here is to save you time and because Hermeticism is the source of Freemasonry. A Knight Templar should know and practice such things. You do not need to over complicate it either. Use the tips in this article and you will have all you need. Meditating the Aum is the key. It balances all chakras and opens all doors. Nothing else is needed for wisdom and growth. You can meditate the Aum simply by sitting up comfortably in a chair, closing your eyes, looking up at the space between your eyes (with eyes still closed) just above your eyebrows, inhaling through your nose and exhaling while saying Ahhhhh...Oooooo...Mmmmm over and over for 20 minutes or more a day every day. The best video on how to do it is online by Anmol Mehta.

Some may see this as evil. Others may see it as amazing and liberating. I think the Knights Templar are the guardians of all that is good and the York Rite is the true Knights Templar. It is a form of yoga for men who are usually the troublemakers in this world, not women. Men will always need this. It teaches them to be wise, peaceful and to do good works. We could certainly use more men like that in this troubled world. Freemasonry also offers an equally wonderful path for women as well which is called the Eastern Star (as in the star the Magi followed to find Jesus). Fraternity and sorority can greatly help men and women and should be supported. I would hope that as many men as possible become Knights Templar and as many women as possible become Eastern Stars. The world would certainly be a better place for it.

Some have not only lost faith in Christianity because of its literalist, homophobic, anti-scientific and fundamentalist version, they have also lost faith in God altogether. This is an understandable mistake. However, the proof of God is everywhere. We see ants create ant hills, bees building bee hives, beavers creating dams and humans creating entire civilizations, stories, religions, works of art, spaceships and music. Humans have pondered the deepest and most profound concepts imaginable. Humans have learned to tinker with DNA and have found everything to have a “code” to it. The Universe is a work of geometry. One can use logic and reason to deduce that there is a Creator who uses geometry to order and create the Universe (who also is the Universe). Everything has a code to it so that must mean there is a coder: God.

We know there is a vast difference between the creative imagination of an ant as compared to a human. It is only logical to assume there is an intelligence as far beyond that of humans as humans are from ants (or farther) in the Universe. God is in everything...me, you, your cat, the chair you are sitting in. It doesn't care about your opinion, tastes or preferences. It just is...like gravity, evolution, physics, sunshine, water, earthquakes and the flu. Stop asking why bad things happen and why God has not done anything about it. There is nothing wrong with the Universe/God. It functions as it is supposed to and sometimes that can seem cruel and impersonal...because it is. It can also be wonderful. God does things when you do things. You are the love of God reaching out to save people in need. If you want God to do something...the only way it will happen...is if you do it. This world is a glorious and beautiful place, but it is also

a school and a test that is sometimes very difficult. God is not Santa Claus nor is God a cosmic dictator. God is like "The Force" in Star Wars of which we are a part.

The Universe is ever seeking equilibrium between light and dark. Our job is to create and bring order out of the chaos of darkness through our good actions. Your purpose in life is to create and do whatever it is you want to do in harmony with the Universe. Life seems to work better when you are constructive instead of destructive. There is no need to fear death because if all is one...then all consciousness is one. All life is one. Which means you are God or a thought in the mind of God...and you will never forget you. You will go on and on forever and have the power to do anything you can imagine within the laws of nature. Realizing this gives you the "power of positive thinking". The most successful people in the world realize this truth and use it to do amazing things. Tesla and Einstein are examples.

Where did God/the Universe come from? What came before it? I don't think it knows any more than we do. We are part of it and its attempt to find the answer to this riddle. Part of the reason for our existence is to experience things and discover things.

Some accuse Freemasonry as being devil worship, but this is nonsense created by a conspiracy theorist in the 19<sup>th</sup> century named Leo Taxil. The Devil or Lucifer plays no part in the teachings of Freemasonry. Indeed, the only real "devil" is the dark side of man's soul that has committed horrible deeds and still does. Hitler killed 200, 000 Masons. That is devilish. There are demonic beings encountered in near death experiences, but these are human souls who have done horrible things in life and die without repenting or in fear. If we invoke the name of Christ to protect us, if we remember our identity with the God of the Universe, there is nothing to fear.

If you are a Mason or a Knight Templar (or an Eastern Star), hang onto this and teach it to others. Sometimes Freemasonry can seem dull and the meetings can be tedious. Once you realize the truth of what I have taught you here, this will no longer be the case. Every meeting will be interesting and a labor of love as you keep alive this ancient and important tradition. It still matters. Every time a lodge, chapter, council or commandery is opened and closed, pay attention. Even if no education is being taught in the meeting and all you do is discuss bills, the opening and closing is education enough and contains hidden wisdom. The opening and closing just by itself makes every meeting interesting and worth attending. I have not gone into detail on the other degrees of the York Rite in this article. I have only touched on the Royal Arch degree and the Order of the Temple. The other degrees are very important and all teach lessons veiled in allegory. There are many books online one can study regarding those degrees. The Cryptic degrees, for example, are very interesting and Kabbalistic.

At one time, all of this information was secret. However, this is no longer the case thanks to the Internet and the Scottish Rite. The Scottish Rite sells books to the general public which describe all of our rituals, passwords and modes of recognition (Light on Masonry, The Book of Words, etc) in violation of the oaths many rank and file Masons have taken for generations. I can only assume that someone, somewhere high up in the Scottish Rite (and perhaps the York Rite) has declassified this information. What I have shared here is technically not a violation of any oath I have taken and I hope it helps you as a York Rite Mason and/or as a Christian.



Be patient, loving and kind to all your brothers and Sir Knights in Freemasonry, whether they agree with you or not. Keep it alive for future generations. Do not force what is taught here on brothers who are not ready for it. Keep it to yourself and only share it with other Knights who are ready for it. Quietly and patiently serve in the York Rite. Pass on what you have learned as others have done before you. Long live Freemasonry! Long live the Knights Templar!

Sir Knight Levi Sinclair

Detroit, Michigan

### **Recommended Reading**

Written in Stone by Richard Cassaro

Freemasonry: It's Hidden Meaning by George H. Steinmetz

The Lost Word: It's Hidden Meaning by George H. Steinmetz

The Royal Arch: It's Hidden Meaning by George H. Steinmetz

The Secret Teachings of All Ages by Manly P. Hall

Rosicrucian and Masonic Origins by Manly P. Hall

The Rosicrucian Manifestos

The New Atlantis by Sir Francis Bacon

Inner Christianity by Richard Smoley

Esoteric Christianity by Annie Besant

Morals and Dogma by Albert Pike

Esoterika by Albert Pike

The Holy Bible

The Bhagavad Gita

The Upanishads

The Timaeus by Plato

The Republic by Plato

The Kybalion

The Nag Hammadi Library

The Corpus Hermeticum

Kabbalah Unveiled by S.L. MacGregor Mathers

A Book About You by Charles Haanel

The Power of I Am by David Allen

Everything on near-death.com

Born in Blood by John J. Robinson

The York Rite Companion Adept of the Temple Program

The Star Wars movies and books

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien (book and movie)

The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien (books and movie)

The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis (books and movies)

(The title of this article is a homage to the amazing work of George H. Steinmetz and it is to him this is dedicated. This work is in the public domain and may be shared in all forms so long as it is not changed or used for profit. Freely you have received, freely give. No obligations were violated in the production of this work.)

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