An aerial photograph of a winding river at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, golden glow that reflects off the water's surface. The river meanders through a landscape, with its path highlighted by the warm light. The sky is filled with soft, golden clouds, and the overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

# The Board Trestle

Newsletter Issue No. 02 February, 2022

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# MASTER'S CORNER

**All that is essential for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.”**

**“Live neither in the past nor the future, but let each day’s work absorb your entire energies, and satisfy your widest ambition.”**

**“Shoes divide men into three classes. Some men wear their father’s shoes. They make no decisions of their own. Some are unthinkingly shod by the crowd. The strong man is his own cobbler. He insists on making his own choices. He walks in his own shoes.”**

**“There are parts of a ship which taken by themselves would sink. The engine would sink. The propeller would sink. But when the parts of a ship are built together, they float.”**

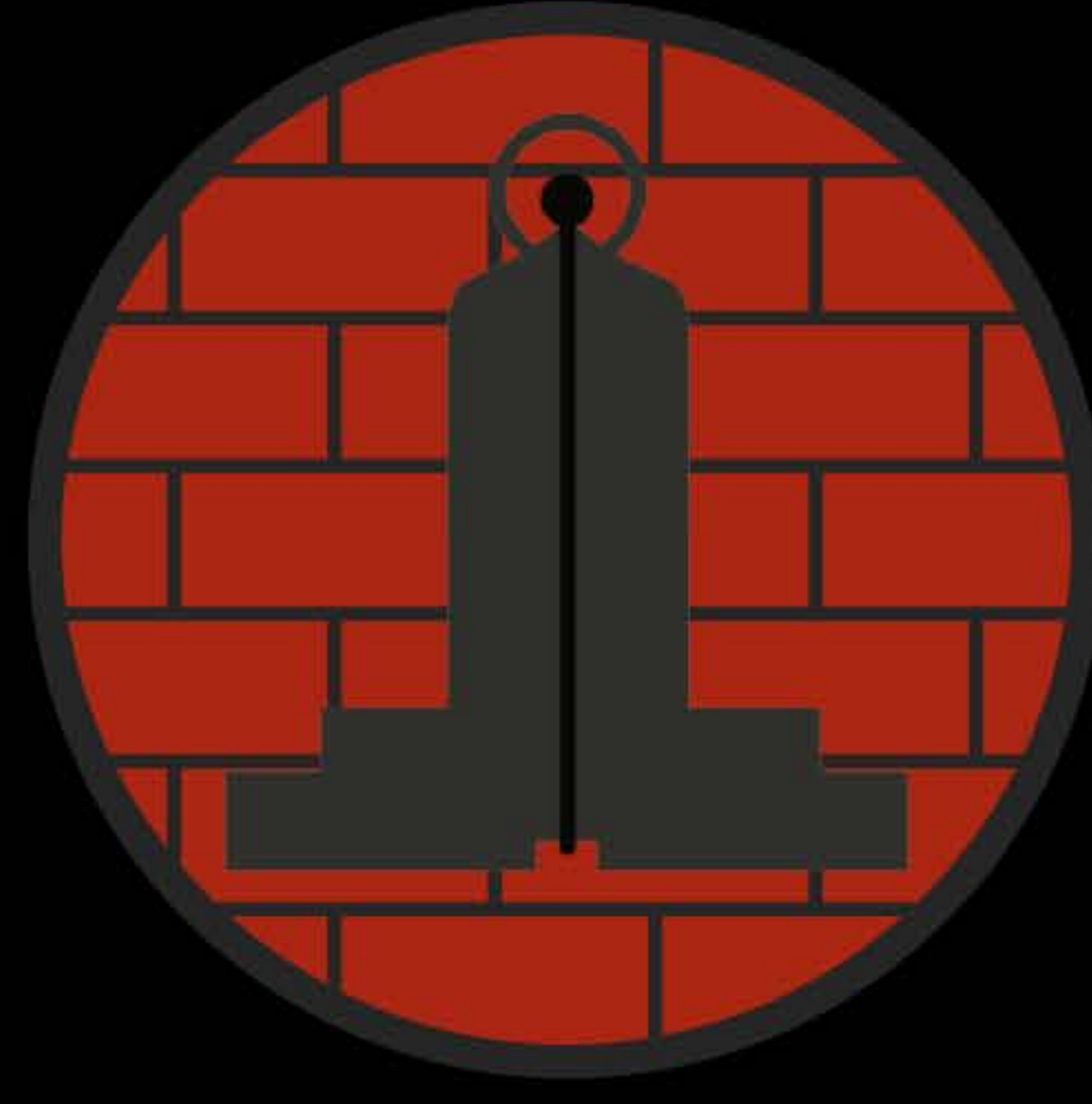
**“God hides some ideal in every human soul. At some time in our life we feel a trembling, fearful longing to do some good thing. Life finds its noblest spring of excellence in this hidden impulse to do our best.”**

**“Ideals are like stars. You will not succeed in touching them with your hands, but, like the seafaring man, you choose them as your guides, and, following them, you will reach your destiny.”**

**I hope every Brother can put their ideals and energies in life to work and be the change we want to see in our society.**

**Thank you,  
WM Larry Mikkelsen**





# Senior Warden

*The Senior Warden sits in the west, symbolic of the setting sun, and assists the Worshipful Master in opening and closing the lodge. He is the second in command, like the vice president, and if the Master is unable to attend the meeting, he may open and conduct business. His ancient duties were to pay the Craft their wages and to handle disputes among the workers. These days, he's just a heartbeat away from the east, so his task is to support the Master and to prepare himself for that office for the following year.*

*The Senior Warden and the Junior Warden often have small wooden columns on the pedestals in front of their positions. When the lodge is at work (during a meeting), the Senior Warden's column stands upright, and the Junior Warden's column is laid on its side, showing that the Senior Warden is now in charge of the Craftsmen. When the work is concluded and the lodge retires to refreshment, the Junior Warden's column is raised, and the Senior Warden's is laid down, showing that the Craftsmen are now under the supervision of the Junior Warden.*

*The Senior Warden's jewel of office is the level, a stonemason's instrument used to check the level of horizontal surfaces. It symbolizes that all Masons meet on the level, without regard to social, political, or religious status.*



# THE GRAND LODGE BBQ COOKOFF!!!



## PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONTEST



## WM LARRY MIKKELSEN WITH HIS PRIZE



With everyone working their way back into gathering again, Most Worshipful Grand Master Johnathan Andrews brilliantly hosted a barbecue cook off at Temple Lodge No.06 this past month. Many freemasons, appendant bodies and family attended the barbecue eager to try the many recipes the chefs worked hard to prepare.

There were 5 participants in the contest all competing for a beautiful 1st trophy and bragging rights for the rest of the year. There was also a secondary prize that what funded by the Grand Master, \$100. Worshipful Master Larry Mikkelsen was one of the participants with his dish being named, “ road kill.” Chef Sean PM was the first place winner, however was not available for a photo op after the winners were announced. Congratulations Chef Sean! The winner of the \$100 was no other the Sandoval Lodge No.76 Worshipful Master, Larry Mikkelsen.

All proceeds from the barbecue went to helping the proceeds of the Grand Lodge of Masons in New Mexico. Thank you everyone for attending and supporting the Rand Lodge here in New Mexico, and for coming together as brethren and family for a wonderful event.

# Grandpa's Wooden Chest

By Jack Sutton

Presented by: Bro. Charles Brooks JS

I hated to hear the lawyer say  
The things my grandpa gave away.  
Like his old truck to Dad and Mom  
And world war medals to Uncle John

My name was called  
And something was said  
About an old wooden box  
Underneath his bed.

Just a worn out chest  
With a rusty hinge  
But I knew Grandpa kept  
Something special within.

When I opened the lid  
All I could see  
Were some unused tools  
And a letter to me.

A large fancy cloth  
With two long strings  
A small wooden hammer  
Among other things  
He wrote a man's job

Is to be a good husband father and a friend.

I built my life as best I could  
By the tools laid here within.

He said the compasses remind me that life has boundaries

So live your life within

The square proves true and so should you  
When dealing with all your friends.

Be an honorable man and walk uprightly  
According to the plumb.

The level teaches us treat all men equal  
Instead of only some.

And now it's your turn

To start your journey for knowledge, love and faith

So live your life by the Square and Compasses

And tools of your trade

Many years have passed by since I first opened

Grandpa's wooden chest

The tools he gave me, the words he wrote

The challenge to be my best.

Today I'll visit Grandpa

At the place where he was laid

To let him know he can be proud

I'm a Master of my trade.



Awhile ago I was involved in a discussion regarding the Bible verse for the the Fellowcraft Degree. The main point was the only reason it was chosen was due to the fact that it mentions a Working Tool as part of its verse. "I will set a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel, I will not again pass by them anymore."

I have come to realize that like most of Masonry, there are other layers in the verse that have a part to play not only in the Degree but in our continuing journey in Freemasonry. We are taught that the Plumb is an instrument made use for raising perpendiculars. In the material world that means creating a vertical line to the ground so a wall will rise evenly without leaning. The plumb bob will always point to the ground thanks to gravity so you can easily find the vertical line with just a string and weight.

In the verse Amos is in the midst of a discussion with God about the lack of moral compass and apathy amongst the people of Israel. God is not pleased with the lack of interest and even blasphemy in a populous He helped bring to

safety. He is planning to let the peoples around Israel take back the lands and move the Jews into captivity because of their lack of commitment to the Laws laid out by God during their time in the Wilderness. Amos appeals to God to spare the Israelites and eventually God relents. It is in this moment that God speaks to Amos about the Plumb and a commitment to not pass by them anymore.

As Freemasons and more specifically Fellowcrafts we are taught that the Plumb admonishes us to walk uprightly in our several stations in life. We are obligated to act and work as beacons in our community. We may not all be active in our national leadership but we are leaders in our community by our adherence to the teachings of the Degree. If we apply the idea of the Plumb to our lives we can work to change our mindset in any situation to look for the upright or moral solution and work to preserve peace and harmony thereof.

Therefore just because the Working Tool is mentioned in the Bible verse the deeper meaning can be extracted and applied to our current lives for the betterment of all.

## Vision of the Plumb Line & THE 2ND DEGREE

**BRO. JAMES IRICK RWM**



# Masonic Book Recommendation of the Month:

## The Mason's Words

By Brother Robert Davis, 33° G.C.

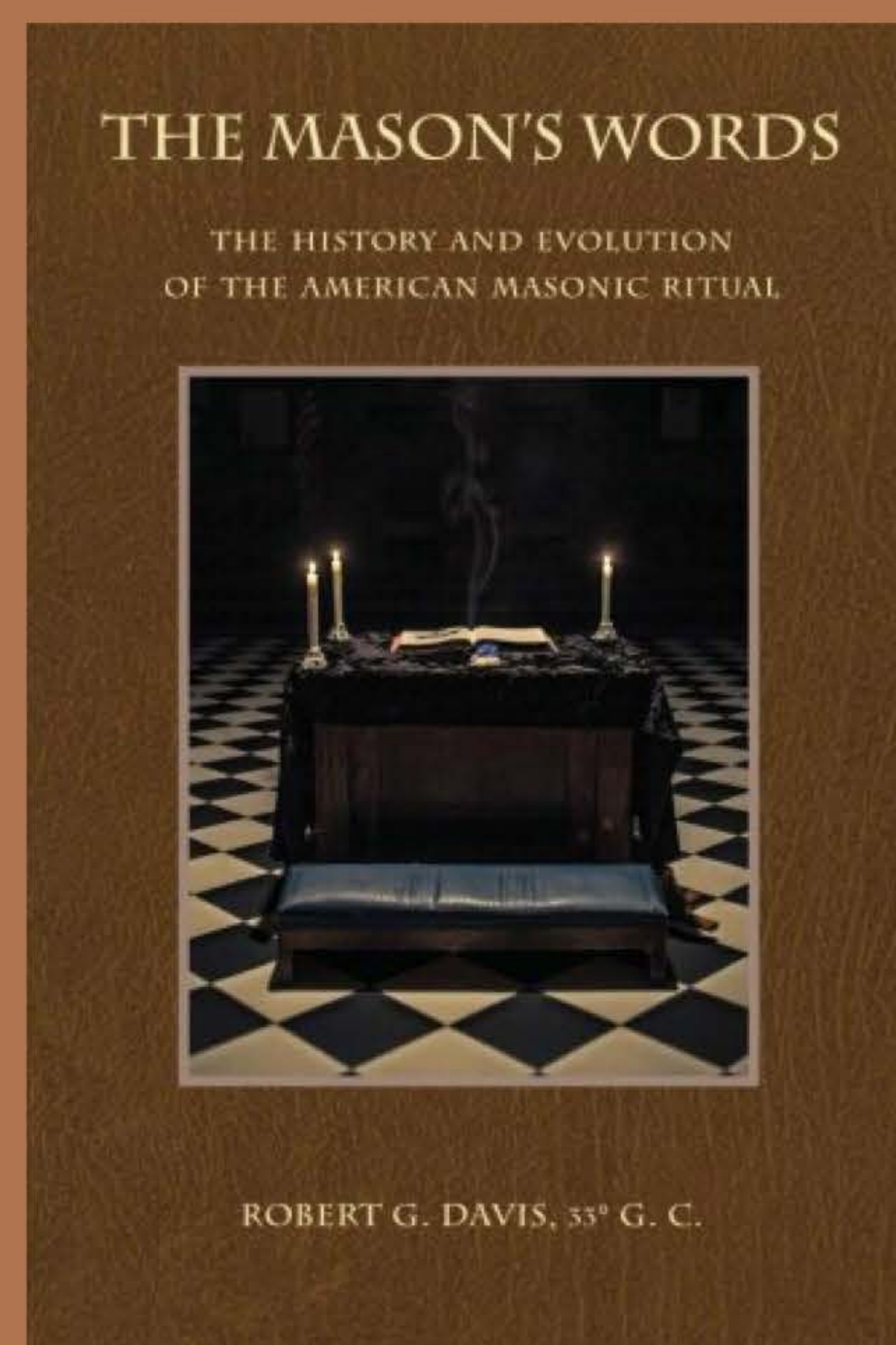
All too often, Masonic lessons get lost in translation due to the numerous allegories that can derive out of any part of our rituals. Take the Masonic Apron for example - a TON of 'esoteric' discussions can be had about why the bottom is a Square with the FOUR sides, representing the physical part of man ... with the flap being a Triangle with THREE sides, alluding to divinity ... and the sum of these, SEVEN, alluding to yet another 'Masonic' reality. When the truth is - the Apron got designed this way out of necessity after the American Civil War, when there were many fraternal organizations being created or expanded upon that required these aprons - and the industrialists came up with a cookie cutter version of the previous aprons that had rounded edges. It was just more efficient to get them out this way to meet demand.

In one paragraph - both the Historical/Authentic as well as the 'Romantic' versions of a Masonic topic is discussed. What the book *The Mason's Words* teaches - is the Who, What, When, Where, and Why our Masonic Rituals came into existence. It references several Masons, most notably William Preston - a Scottish Mason, as well as Thomas Webb, an American born in Boston - who are in large part responsible for writing, modifying, and organizing the rituals as we mostly have them today.

This book becomes an invaluable resource to any Mason who'd like to understand the background behind our rituals from an Historical point of view, not one that delves deep into the abyss of the rabbit hole of the 'esoteric mysteries', which to some, may be a tough bit to swallow, more especially if there's not an understanding of the more authentic, historical element of where the subject was born from.

An excellent book written by noted 33° Grand Cross Mason, WB Robert G. Davis, he's a fellow of the Scottish Rite Research Society and is well known in areas of Masonic research and renewal. He is a Past Master of three Oklahoma Lodges and serves on the steering committee of the Masonic Information Center of the United States.

'The Mason's Words' can be found on Amazon, or very possibly in your favorite book store. WB Robert Davis is also available on Facebook - and would be more than happy to autograph your copy if you order it directly from him (when available).



Submitted by:

Bro. Burx Norrod

32°, Santa Fe Scottish Rite Valley Senior Steward,  
Sandoval Lodge No. 76