

## Mentalism, Symbolism, Riddles, and Paradoxes – How they Relate to Freemasonry and Our Lodge

The All is mind; the universe is mental.” - The Kybalion

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. John 1:1-5

The principle of mentalism is the first building block of the process of manifestation and meaning. Transforming ideas, desires, or spiritual concepts into tangible reality.

The principle of mentalism is the most important foundation of transforming spiritual concepts into reality. The principle of mentalism explains all phenomena of life, matter, and energy. Through mentalism, we are able to understand the power of the mind. We are to bring balance and stability into our lives. Thus, we become fully capable of manifesting anything within the will of the divine. To understand the principle of mentalism is to come closer to the mind of the divine: becoming one with the universe and discovering our purpose for existence in the mind of God. The principle of mentalism shows one of the effects the mind has on all planes of existence, which includes the mental, the spiritual, and the physical.



For anything to be, a thought must precede it. Through this principle, it's believed that God is consciousness, or thought, and the universe is a manifestation of the mind of God. Using this law, we, too, can harness the power of our minds to create the life we want and set our minds on things above, not on earthly things.” - Colossians 3:1

Many times, our ritual does not communicate truths directly but uses symbols and allegories that create riddles for ritualists to explore. In ancient mystery schools, masters rarely spoke directly about truths. Truth cannot be treated as information. A straight answer feeds the memory; a riddle ignites the soul. Riddles disrupt comfortable logic and demand the union of reason and intuition. By understanding riddles, a student/ritualist is transformed not by the answer, but by seeking.

Truth delivered directly can be misconstrued or misused. Symbols and paradoxes slip past the defenses of ordinary interpretations to awaken higher perceptions. The riddles enter

quietly waiting for the moment when understanding ripens. Riddles reveal nothing to the impatient, but everything to the prepared.

Thus, symbolism in lectures must be implanted into those willing to learn them. The symbolism implanted into ritualist's minds is living seeds to bloom when consciousness matures, and the ritualist can understand the truths.

Masons giving lectures and ritual in general symbolize the principle of mentalism or the Word of God that created the universe. As a whole unit, lodges should know the entire ritual. We cannot continue to recycle the same officers in the lodge, just because they are the only ones who work on learning the ritual. Working with candidates through their proficiencies is the first step in this mental process. Brothers who do not know lectures and charges do not understand how our ritual relates to the mind of God.

In our lodge, we have a paradox, we need new members, but we have a shortage of members who can coach candidates. If we start getting new candidates through our Open House, every active member must select candidates to coach. We need enough brothers who know the lectures so that we are not dependent on just one brother to do each lecture. A lodge without candidates is a dead lodge. We have too many candidates who take their First Degree and drop out.

Masons must prove themselves by first passing proficiencies as a candidate, then learning lectures, charges, and ritual in general; this gives Masons a foundation upon which to do further research. Over the centuries, freemasonry has used many stories that masons can relate to. Our current ritual uses stories from the Bible to blend them into the ancient Masonic Legends and beliefs. Some of the legends are based on writings attributed to the ancient god named Hermes, whom many of the creators of the Third Degree had a great fascination with. This I discussed in a previous article. Brotherhood ensures that lodges know the ritual and that they bring candidates through their proficiencies and the three degrees in a reasonable amount of time. Brotherhood only exists through the lodge through the ritual. Learning should be a lifelong endeavor for Masons; this includes not only ritual, the Bible, your profession, etc.

If a lodge does not know the entire ritual, there is a significant lack of brotherhood. We need to turn our lodge around. The only way to learn the ritual, including lectures, is through brotherhood. Learning lectures and charges takes patience, perseverance, and dedication – three important qualities masons must have to prove themselves. All brothers should know significant parts of the ritual within the length of their abilities and their cable tow so that they may feel the mind of God.

The lips of Wisdom are closed, except to the ears of Understanding. He who realizes that the Universe is Mental knows well that the Universe can be ruled by the mind. —The Kybalion by the Three Initiates

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