

The Museum Collection

No.12

The Royal Lights



An interesting look into the Symbolism
of the Royal Lights

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HALF HOUR STUDIES
IN BUFFALOISM

Explanation of the
R.A.O.B. Royal
Lights

by

Bro. Wm. W. EDMONDS, K.O.M.,
Past P.G.P., Past P.K.C.

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Introduction

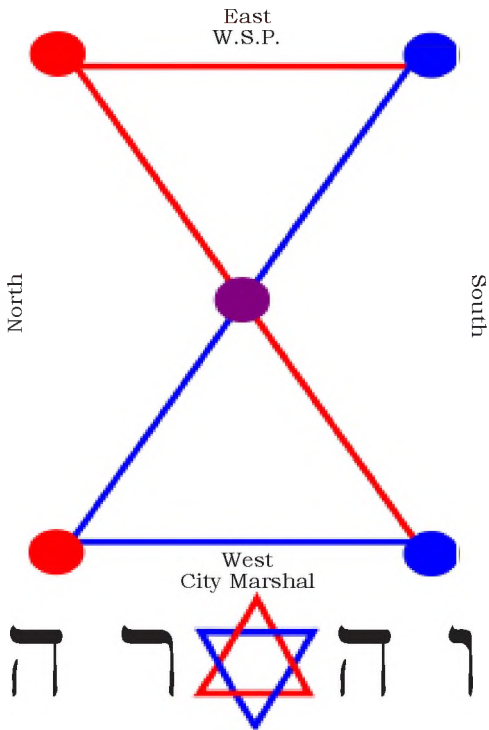
This book in the Museum Collection series needs very little introduction as it is published in answer to the many queries received from members regarding the Royal Lights and is reproduced almost exactly as the original booklet.

The only differences being the size has been enlarged to fit in with the other Museum Collections, the typeface has changed to Bookman Old Style set in 8 point, the graphics have been re-drawn by me and the typeface used in the Hebrew style is SPT Tiberian.

Read and enjoy.

Mick Walker ROH, Grand Primo 2006

September 2008



“The Royal Lights”

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By Bro. Wm. W. EDMONDS, K.O.M.

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The R.A.O.B. as the title denotes, is an Antediluvian Order; in other words, its principles were in existence before the Great Deluge, or Flood, of which Noah and the Ark has made History.

The principles of the R.A.O.B. are truly *time immemorial* and when we analyse the various Ancient Symbols and Rituals we find they were originally founded and used according to the Planetary System and bore reference to the movements of the various bodies.

Thus we have a definite fact of Symbolism bought into its Teachings, and it is upon this fact that our order should correspond accordingly.

There are quite a few Secrets of Symbols still preserved belonging to the R.A.O.B.

Everything we say or do in a Lodge, during the Ceremonies of the various Degrees and Ritual of Lodge Procedure, has a Symbolic Meaning. In many instances the various Rituals give a very mild form of explanation; but always

hint, *that more enlightenment will be imparted to the Candidate at some future date.* I have yet to discover that future date as promised.

A Symbol may be a physical gesture, or a Motion of the Body, or so many Raps or Knocks, or an Object Carved or Graven or yet again be just a certain Colour or combination of Colours, or even a given Number; therefore all Symbols must be classified under the heading of Number, Colour or Sound.

In order the more fully grasp the Outer and Inner or Exoteric and Esoteric meanings of a Symbol, we must first of all enquire *under what heading the particular Symbol belongs.*

In every instance a Symbol can be classified under one heading, or under two, or may be associated with the entire three.

As an example, take the Symbol with which we are all familiar, namely, *three knocks.* Now it is obvious that this Symbol comes under the heading of Sound and is directly associated with Number, no matter what the given number of Raps or Knocks may be.

In each instance our Symbols, be they Mystic, Ring, Star, Royal Lights, Knocks, Prefix, Regalia and its various colours, even to the Shape and Size of our Lodge Room and Certain Furniture; each Particular Sign and Symbol will bear

reference to one, or more, existing Symbol that is prevalent in the particular degree in operation.

Bearing this point in mind, to which your attention is earnestly directed, we now come to the subject of our discourse, namely, the Royal Lights.

In the first place we are agreed that our Royal Lights are a Symbol or Symbols, therefore we must apply the first question and ask *under what heading do we place them?*

There are four Royal Lights and their colours are Red and Blue, Two Red and Two Blue, so it is obvious that this Symbol takes unto itself Number and Colour.

Before proceeding further, it would be advisable to state, that to more fully understand and to better follow the line of reasoning, it is exceedingly important to possess a distinctive knowledge of the *Mystic Symbolic Meanings* of Number, Colour and Sound; because each subject is a separate Lecture and Study in itself.

The current titles are *Cabalistic Numerology*, *Occult Colour and Creative Sound* and each subject is again divided into *Parental Associations*. By this is meant, for instance, that the study of Cabalistic Numerology would lead to the Signs of the Zodiac and its multiple complications.

The Number 4.

Our Royal Lights are Four in Number, therefore our study commences with the Number 4. In the study of the meaning of numbers, we learn that from time immemorial the number 4 possesses remarkable powers and has somewhat sacred associations.

In an old 1st Degree Initiation Ceremony, this information is distinctly stated.

Following the line of Ancient Thought in their Symbolic Meanings, we must first of all have a Lodge Room that is square.

A square has Four points; in other words we have a Lodge Room that corresponds to the four chief Cardinal Points, namely N.S.E.W.

We now have a Lodge Room that has four sides and four corners, and in that square are the four Royal Lights. see chart.

Now it naturally follows, that if the Lodge Room is so placed to symbolise the Earth, or number 4, so must the Officers correspond with the Planets.

The Number 2 with Colour Symbolism

The Ancients symbolised their Officers by placing the Principal in the East, and he represented the Sun and the Second Principal

in the West to represent the Moon. The symbolic colour for the Sun is Red, and the Moon, Blue. They also represent the two great forces that regulate this Planet.

The Egyptians symbolised the Sun by the god Osiris, and the Moon by the goddess Isis; being the two main forces, Masculine and Feminine. Both these Egyptian Deities are prominently displayed upon all Council Stationery. Upon the Right Osiris, (Red) and upon the Left Isis. (Blue).

We will now try and discover the reason why the Royal Lights are Red and Blue, by analysing the last few statements in the following order:-

- 1- We know that Red and Blue are two Primary Colours.
- 2- Red and Blue are the Symbolic Colours of Osiris and Isis.
- 3- Osiris and Isis are the two Primary Deities of the Egyptians.
- 4- The two Primary Officers in a Lodge are the S.P. in the East, representing Osiris, and the C.M. in the West to represent Isis.
- 5- Red and Blue are the opposite Pair of Colours.
- 6- Osiris and Isis are the pair of Opposites, Masculine and Feminine.
- 7- Again they represent Light and Darkness, Day and Night etc.

Now here we must stop, for at this particular part we immediately connect up with another Symbol, namely the Star.

Let us analyse Table 1.

We are now becoming familiar with symbolic numbers, or the meaning of numbers, and it will be readily observed that the number 2 is the principle, or key number, of the seven points of Table 1.

By surveying the working in Ritual Ceremony and ordinary business of a Lodge, let us see how far the number 2 is applicable; here they are:-

A Lodge is placed in Liberty Hall or Strict Order.

Clay Pipes, two in number, are first crossed and secondly broken.

It takes two, the S.P. and Tyler, to admit, or retire into or from a Lodge.

The two Principals concerned in any degree, the Candidate and Officer in Command rendering the Ritual.

Then we have Two symbols, that are so important, that we sing about them, the Ring and Star.

The titles of all Officers are dual, C. Mar., C. Con., etc.

When a charge is heard, two are concerned, the Plaintiff and Defendant.

A Lodge must be placed in Liberty Hall, or Strict Order, (two words).

A Lodge cannot be opened or closed, save by two distinct form of Ritual, and in the process of opening and Closing; the *Link* is formed Twice.

It takes two Brothers situated in opposite positions to correctly perform the workings of a Lodge, and they are situated behind Two Pairs of Royal Lights possessing Two distinct colours.

The Mystic Star is composed of Two equilateral Triangles, one White and the other Black.

Finally the Ritual draws the attention of the Candidate to the Two Principles of our Order; namely, Philanthropy and Harmony, upon Two occasions, when passing from Darkness to Light.

Proceeding onwards, the next step will be

A Study of the Number 4 with Colour Symbolism.

In the Ceremony of the Ancient Egyptians will be found a certain form of Ritual, where the aspirant to Priesthood had to undergo the

ordeal of being Reborn. This took the place of being in a coffin like receptacle mounted upon Four Pedestals, around which Four burning Lights were placed situated due N.S.E.W.

In the Ritual of the present day, similarity of procedure is made wherein a Brother is conducted to the centre of the Lodge and in turn is surrounded by the Four Royal Lights, so placed to face due East (the S.P.) prepared to see the Light of Buffaloism.

Hence, it is important the Royal Lights be burning throughout the entire Ceremony of Initiation; because, the Candidate is asked "*what would you most like to see*"? and upon giving the correct answer the Candidate, not only sees *light in a Tangible form* but Light presented to him in a *Symbolic manner*.

Red is the symbolic colour for the Sun or Osiris; it is also the colour of the Planet Mars, representing Strength and Passion.

Blue is the symbolic colour for the Moon or Isis, and for the Planet Jupiter, the Higher Mind representing Feminine Docility and Nature, Cool and Dispassionate.

Both Red and Blue symbolise Light and Darkness, or the Pair of Opposites; one force endeavouring to overcome the other. Occasionally a refractory Brother, by the desire

of conquest, endeavours to overcome another; thus by blending the two forces, nature keeps an even balance and the harmony of the Lodge is restored.

By following this line of reasoning, the Four Royal Lights are placed in the form of a square; by associating the colour Red for the Masculine and Blue for the Feminine, it will be observed the Two opposite forces Polarise and each possessing its own peculiarities are attracted to each other; thereby creating a New Force or Character, by blending, thus forming an imaginary line from Red to Blue, and in turn, making the Symbol of Two Triangles as portrayed in our Mystic Star. *see chart*

So with the actual colours, by the correct blending of Red and Blue we create a New Colour known as Purple and Purple is the symbolic colour of the Fourth or Final Step in Buffaloism. *see chart*

Having passed from the Numbers *2 and 4 of the Royal Lights*, then on to their *Colour* then the *Sectional Study of Number 4 and Colour* we arrive at the final stage, namely:-

The 4 Royal Lights in Unionism.

In the Ceremony of Consecrating a New Lodge, Salt is used, so also in the Minor Lodge with Spirit Fire. Now salt when crystallised, forms into squares, and a square has 4 points, corresponding to our Lodge Room, the Royal Lights and 4 degrees of advancement in the Order.

Reference has already been made *that the number 4 is most profound* and the following bears out the importance of this Mystic Number, relative to the 4 Royal Lights in unionism and so we must begin at the commencement of *All Things*.

In the 1st Chapter of Genesis we read:-

And the Spirit of God (Fire)

Moved upon the face of the Waters (Water)

*And God said "Let there be a firmament
in the mid'st of the Waters (Air)*

Let the dry Land appear" (Earth)

Here then are the first Four Principles of Creation: Fire, Water, Air and Earth.

The ancient Hebrews designated them: Yod, Heh, Van and Heh and they symbolise them ך ך ך and ך

These in turn are representative of the *Four Worlds of the Hebrew Kabulah*, namely, Atziluth, Briah, Yetzirah, Assiah, being the abode of the Deity, Angelic World, Formative World and Material World.

It is not advisable to continue further a direct line of reasoning due to their religious significance, because the R.A.O.B. today forbids the discussion of religious subjects; *but the student of Symbolism will readily find ample material and food for thought in and from them.*

I therefore propose to set forth a graduated chart, showing the importance of number 4 associated with the Royal Lights, by what I call *The Four Essentials*.

The Four Essentials.

From Biblical Chronology we learn that the first man was named Adam.

There are 4 letters in the name Adam.

The first born male was Cain.

Cain has 4 letters.

Cain was born in the first year of the World.

Thus 1st born in the 1st year; twice 1 equals 2. The 2 colours of the Royal Lights.

The second born was Able.

Abel has 4 letters.

Abel was born in the Second year of the World.

Thus Second year, Second Son; twice two are 4. The 4 Royal Lights.

The third son of Adam and Eve was Seth.

Seth has 4 letters.

The first four males were named with four letters.

Observe the Pair of Opposites in Cain and Abel.

The 4 creations of Life:— Man, Animal, Plant and Fruit.

The 4 Cardinal points of the Compass:— N.S.E.W.

The 4 Star Constellations of Orion, Leo, Cassiopia and Ursa Major.

The 4 Seasons:— Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.

The 4 Moon Phases:— Quarter, Half, Three-quarters and Full.

The 4 Life Stages of Progression:— Child, Youth, Maturity and Old Age.

The 4 Forces of Thought, Action, Word and Deed, to which are allied; Inspiration, Anticipation, Realisation and Sensation.

The 4 Steps in Buffaloism 1st, 2nd, 3rd and R.O.H.

The 4 Principles of our Order:— Justice, Truth, Philanthropy and Harmony.

Finally the Initials of the Order:— R.A.O.B.

FINIS

Printed in England, May, 1930 by the
Lightning Press, Printers, 20 Prescott St., Liverpool.
for the Author
Wm. W. Edmonds, 85 Russell Road,
Sefton Park, Liverpool