The Lost Word Comparison of Esoteric Masonry to SRF Dr. M.W. Lewis San Diego

"The Lost Word."

What is "The Word?" The Word is the first emanation of Spirit, the Great Cosmic Sound, the Holy Vibration. From that Holy Vibration all things have come, and into that vibration, all things must melt.

Let us turn for substantiation to the scriptures, to St. John, the 1st Chapter the 1st Verse. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." The Word is God in us – the Holy Vibration is God in us. That Holy Vibration is the Witness¹ in us of God's Presence.

And in the 10th Verse: "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.²" How few know the Word? Very few; and yet that Word has produced all things. The world knows Him not. The Word has been lost.

And, finally, in the 12th Verse: "But as many as received him, to them gave he the power to become the sons of God...³⁷ That's the key. Those who, somehow, by some method, contact that Word within them, and then merge in that Word, they have the power to become the sons of God, or to make God's Consciousness in them dynamic to their own consciousness. To make God's Presence within them, dynamic to their consciousness. So that's what the Word is. And, as I have said, the Word has been lost.

Now, what is lost? What is lost? That's the point. The conscious awareness of God's Presence is lost. That's all. God's Presence is still in us, but our awareness of it is lost. Therefore, "The Lost Word" means that we have lost the awareness of God's Presence within us in a conscious way. His Presence is there – the Word

¹ 1st John 5:7-8, "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." "And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, the water, and the blood, and these three agree in one."

 $^{^{2}}$ St. John 1:10, "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not."

³ St. John 1:12, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"

is in us; our digestion goes on; the various functions of the body go on; heart goes on; emotions go on. Why? Because God's Presence is there. So, the Word is not lost in one sense, but in the other sense – the awareness of the Word – is lost. That's "The Lost Word." Let us not forget that. God is just as much with us as He ever was. He's just as much in us as He is in the greatest saint. But the greatest saints, or the saint, is *aware* of His Presence. So remember, we have lost the *awareness* of the Word, therefore, it becomes known as "The Lost Word."

Now, I have said, we had that consciousness – we all have had that consciousness at some time – of God's Presence within us, but it has been lost. In Ezekiel we read that very thing. In the 28th Chapter – I've repeated this many times to you – but listen once more: "…thou wast upon the holy mountain of God…⁴" We had the consciousness, we were aware of God's Presence in us in the Holy Vibration. This is the holy mountain [Doctor indicates the top of the head]; the upper part of our spinal cord is known as the "great brain." We had the consciousness of the holy mountain. Then he goes on to say, "…and thou didst walk up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.⁵" Those "stones of fire" simply means the Centers of the spine; the six Centers of the spine and the seventh. Those constitute great places where God's Spiritual Energy is concentrated.

Now, we had that consciousness, that consciousness of the Holy Vibration in those places. We have lost it. Therefore, we have lost the Word, the Holy Vibration within us – the awareness of those places of concentration of God's Power in us as the Centers of the spine and the Thousand-rayed Lotus have been lost. No wonder it's called "The Lost Word."

Now going on just a little bit; "...thou wast perfect...⁶" Having that awareness of the Word within us, the Holy Vibration, the Presence of God, we were perfect. And we still are perfect, but we're attached to outward, imperfect things. So it says, "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day thou wast created, till..." till we lost the awareness of God's Presence – known as iniquity or delusion.

There is no sin except ignorance, which is the greatest sin – ignorance of God's Presence within us as the Word. That's iniquity, that's delusion. Everything was

⁴ Ezekiel 28:14, "Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire." ⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ezekiel 28:15, "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee."

all right until we lost that awareness. Then what has happened? "By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God...⁷" Because, having lost the awareness of God, then we became attached to outward consciousness, worldly things, and that multiplied, snowballed, until we completely, have completely forgotten our oneness with God, and then we have been cast out of the holy mountain and the stones of fire. We have lost that, we have lost the awareness of God's Presence within us as the Holy Vibration, we have lost the Word.

Now, this Word was known to the ancients many, many years ago. Ten thousand years ago, especially in India, it was known to the King-Sages and the great ones. They had the Word. They had the realization of their oneness with God. They had the awareness of God in them as the Holy Vibration. Ten thousand years ago the great Rishis, especially in India, had that. But it was reserved, especially through the Dark Ages, as we came down from that golden age, many years ago into the Dark Ages, it was lost to the multitude, because of the preponderance of evil.

Now, when evil is strong, as it is even today, although we've passed through the Dark Ages, it's impossible, almost, to lift your consciousness to perceive the higher subtle vibration of God's Presence within us. And so, that was lost to the multitude and reserved to the priests and a few. But now, now it is coming forth once more. We have passed through the Dark Ages in the cycle; we are turning up toward the Spiritual Center - the sun around which our universe revolves – and it is becoming easier to once more regain that lost Word.

We have a record of that in the, in the Bhagavad Gita,8 how this Word was handed down through the King-Sages and finally lost in the Dark Ages; revived by the great Babaji, as Lord Krishna; and given to Patanjali, Lord Shankara, Rama, Buddha – all those regained the lost Word. They were one with the Holy Vibration. And in the 4th Discourse we read: "This imperishable yoga..." by which we perceive the lost Word, "I declare it unto Vivasān; Vivasvān taught it

⁷ Ezekiel 28:16, "By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire."

⁸ The Bhagavad Gita or The Lord's Song, Translated by Dr. Annie Besant, 1939.

to Manu; Manu to Ikshvāku, and this handed on down the line, the King-Sages knew.⁹" (Sic) So that is what happened.

Lord Krishna, as Babaji, gave it to Arjuna, then to the other great saints, of which I have just mentioned – Patanjali, Lord Shankara, Buddha, Rama, Kabir in the Middle Ages, he had the Word – and it was lost in the Dark Ages. But now, the same, the same Krishna, as Babaji, gave it to Lahiri Mahasaya in 1861. Then it was handed down to his disciple, Sri Yukteswarji. He handed it on to our Master so that now, all who will, by giving a little effort, can perceive once more the Word within them, and the Word will not be lost. So it is a matter of following Self-Realization Yoga. That's the ideal of Self-Realization Yoga, is to enable you, and me, and all who will, to once more make dynamic to our consciousness that lost Word, the Holy Vibration, in which is God's Presence. It is God in us, but it has been lost.

Now, going just a little bit with some interesting facts; self-realization, as I have said, has been lost, and the ideal of Self-Realization is to regain that lost Word. So this is the same lost Word of Masonry. I want to bring in a few interesting facts. I imagine there are some Masons here. It is the same Lost Word. No one has a corner on it, although Masonry has capitalized on "The Lost Word," because Masonry, in the beginning, was built around Eternal Truths of God, as is clearly pointed out in the facts, which I shall present to you in a minute. So remember, it is the same Lost Word of Masonry.

Masonry was influenced by the ancient mysteries, the Essenes, the Chaldeans, and Hermeticism, and especially by Hindu yoga. Masonry is especially interested and influenced by that, and that is why Masonry flourished so well in India, because they accept all, irrespective of color, race, or creed, and there are many creeds in India. And even now, Masonry is built on that great principle, accepting all, irrespective of color, race, or creed, because it believes in the One Eternal God, the Supreme Architect of the Universe, just like Self-Realization believes in, and, of course, the Indians have had that for ages. Therefore, Masonry flourished in India.

Now, I want to give a few comparisons, if I will, about Masonry and Self-Realization Fellowship. These are of Spiritual values. Real Masonry is of a Spiritual nature. Exoteric Masonry is the outward form, the symbolism. Most

⁹ Ibid, 4th Discourse, 1st and 2nd Lines: "This imperishable yoga I declare to Vivasvān; Vivasvān taught it to Manu; Manu to Ikshvāku told it. This, handed down the line, the King-Sages knew. This yoga by great efflux of time decayed in the world, O Parantapa."

Masons are of that form. There were, back through the ages, Operative Masonry, Masons, who had the Word. So an Operative Mason is one who has the Word, the realization of the Word. A Speculative Mason is one who does not have it. He may belong to the Masonic Order, but he does not have the realization of the Word. Now you see the difference between a True Mason, a Real Mason, and a Speculative Mason. Now in Self-Realization we have the same thing. We have Self-Realizationists who know theory only. We have Self-Realizationists who know the Word. So they have regained the lost Word just like an Operative Mason has regained once more the realization of the Word.

Now, as I have said, a few interesting points, and I hope I do not divulge any of the ritual of Masonry. If I do, Masons here, just don't hear it, just forget it, because Eternal truth is the same whether you're a Mason or not.

Now, we have in Masonry the three Degrees: Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason. We have in Self-Realization the cultivation, development of body, mind, and soul. And the First Degree of Masonry has to do, as you can see by the name, a worker – a worker, where he uses the body, developing the body. The next, the Fellow Craft, has to do with the mind. In Self-Realization Fellowship we have development, all-round development of the body, mind, and soul. And the Third degree of Masonry, the Master Mason, has to do with the Soul within him. Just like in Self-Realization, the final state is to know the Soul within us as the Holy Vibration, as the Word, to regain the Lost Word.

And so, this Word is important to Self-Realization, because, on the realization of it depends the success of your Self-Realization. Just like in Masonry, back throughout the ages, that was the real part of Masonry – the realization of the Word – but it was lost. And now, the Masons, Masonry is built around the regaining of that Lost Word. Not just the word that they use, but the Holy Vibration within us as the real Word, the Presence of God within us.

Now, I have one or two other interesting things here, which I have found, and shows that the Word is the same – the Lost Word of Masonry, the Lost Word of any order – the Essenes, Hermeticism, any of the old scriptures – the lost Word is the same, it is the Holy Vibration which has been lost and forgotten.

Now, in all the old scrolls, the old scrolls of Masonry, I have noticed that the prayer, the prayer is the same as Self-Realization prayer, practically. Let me read it. "The might of the Father of heaven, the wisdom of the glorious sun, through grace and goodness of the Holy Ghost…" that's the first part, "Father, Son and

Holy Ghost." Father – Cosmic Consciousness; Son – His Presence in creation as the Christ Consciousness; and the Holy Ghost, the Holy Vibration. These three are one it says in the <u>Bible</u>, in 1st John.¹⁰ These three are one, the same. God is in us as the Holy Vibration, as the Word.

Now, the end of the prayer is this: "...it being three persons and one God." The unity of Masonry is astounding. It has been lost. The Unity in Self-Realization, if followed, will give one Eternal Life. And the prayer ends this way: "Be with us as Thou hast from the beginning..." From the beginning means, all things came from the Word, which is lost. All things will resolve in that Word. "Be with us as Thou hast been from the beginning that we may come to His bliss that never shall have ending."

Is that much different from Self-Realization? Haven't you heard the Master say, "What is God? Ever-conscious, Eternal, Blissful Existence." So the Masons had the same thing, way back. I cannot give you the date on that old scroll – centuries back – they had the same Eternal Truth inculcated in their teachings. Self-Realization has it now, but Self-Realization gives you the methods whereby you can once more regain the Lost Word.

Now, I have another, another important point I'd like to bring out here, about old Masonic records of 1638 referring to the Word; and you'll be surprised, as I read this. Old Masonic records, 1638, referring to the same Om vibration, which the Master teaches, the Word, which we are trying to regain; this is what we read: "We have the Mason word and second sight, things for to come can foretell aright." Don't you think that refers to the Holy Vibration, the Word? The Masons had it then, and with that, with that comes the Omniscience of God, whereby you can see in front, behind, above, beneath, and you can prophesy. You have second sight. So it's the same Word, the same Lost Word of Masonry as the Word of Self-Realization upon which Self-Realization depends. The realization of that Word depends upon your Self-Realization and is its goal.

I have one, another interesting point from the minutes of Kilwinning Lodge, 1707. There they speak of a Cowan, C-o-w-a-n. And those who are Masons will recognize that word. "A cowan is one without the Word. A cowan is one

¹⁰ See Footnote 1

without the Word. He is not a Freemason.¹¹" And in Self-Realization, in Self-Realization, a Self-Realizationist without the Word is not a free Soul. It is when you have oneness with the Word of God, the Lost Word, then you have oneness with His Omniscience, then you are a free Soul, just as free as God's Omniscience is. So, there in Masonry and Self-Realization, you see a parallel, comparison, of one who has the Word and one who has not the Word.

Now I have one or two other substantiations which I think perhaps you will be interested in, just take a moment or two about "Exoteric Masonry" and "Esoteric Masonry" compared to Self-Realization.

Now Masonry is built around the building of King Solomon's temple. But esoterically, the Masons built a temple to the Most High God. In other words, they build within them, by retaining the Lost Word, that Temple of Christ Consciousness which we can build. Not a "temple" – not made by hand – Eternal in the Heavens. So, Masonry is built around the building of King Solomon's Temple – self-realization. The truths of Self-Realization are built around the building of a Temple to the Most High God.

In Masonry you'll find the same words used in building of that temple within – not made with hands – unseen, Eternal in the Heavens, from Corinthians, 2nd Corinthians the 15th 5th Chapter.¹² So there you have the same Lost Word of Masonry, the same Lost Word of Self-Realization.

Now another interesting point is this, in Masonry you'll read in 1st Kings, the 7th Chapter, 21st Verse about King Solomon's temple, and that there are, there is a porch in that temple, and that there are two pillars guarding that porch.¹³ Those two pillars, if I remember the scripture right, are Boaz and Jachin.

Now, in Self-Realization, there is a porch corresponding to King Solomon's temple, but it is the porch into the entrance of that temple not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, the temple within. The temple we can build by regaining

¹¹ The Oxford Dictionary gives the following definition of the word "Cowan": Cowan - 1598 [?] 1. One who does the work of a Mason, but has not been apprenticed to the trade. 2. One uninitiated in the secrets of FreeMasonry 1707. 3. A sneak, eavesdropper. 4. One who builds dry stone walls (i.e.., without mortar); a dry-stone-diker; applied derogatorily to one who does the work of a Mason, but who has not been regularly apprenticed or bred to the trade.

¹² II Corinthians 5:1, "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

¹³ I King 7:21, "And he set up the pillars in the porch of the temple: and he set up the right pillar, and called the name thereof Jachin: and he set up the left pillar, and called the name thereof Boaz."

the Lost Word. Now, that temple has a door, a porch, at this point [at the Spiritual Eye], and there are two pillars there, guarding it. That is the dual term of the Spiritual Eye; the dual term of the Medulla Center – the outer ring of gold, "within, of nameless hue."

So there you have the similarity between Masonry and Self-Realization, showing that Operative Masonry is built on eternal truth, just as Self-Realization is built on the realization of Eternal Truth of God within us.

Another thing comes to my mind. In a Masonic Lodge, which is open to all, you can see in the East the seven steps of the Master's Carpet. And who sits on the top? The Master of the Lodge – the Master Mason, who has mastered all things. Now those seven steps lead to that exalted position which he has. Those seven steps correspond in Self-Realization to the seven Centers of the spine. And when you have known those seven Centers of the spine, you, too, will be a master of your body; a master of your consciousness and emotions; and you, too, will have the exalted position as the Master Mason has. Because you will have made dynamic to your consciousness, the stones of fire, and the Thousand-rayed Lotus, the seven Centers of the spine – corresponding in Masonry with the seven steps in the Master's Carpet.

Going on just a little bit; one other thing comes to my mind – and I will have to be careful now not to re, divulge anything about the Greater Lights in Masonry. I will not tell you what they are, but I will tell you that in Self-Realization, as we become one with that Great Lost Word, we utilize the current, the Astral Current, in the Sympathetic Nervous System, and, finally, in the deep spine, known as the Sun Current, corresponding to the Ida curr, Current of the Astral Nervous System; we have the Moon Current, corresponding to the Pingala Current of the Astral Nervous System. And, finally, we have the Sushumna in the deep spine where the Soul is found. And one who can attain that has mastered himself, and he really is a Master.

So there you have three other things similar to Masonry. Same eternal truth. Same eternal truth, the Lost Word of Masonry and the Lost Word, we might say, of Self-Realization Fellowship.

And finally, regaining the Lost Word gives what? Regaining the lost Word gives us the power to work and to travel in the Astral, in foreign countries, work and receive the pay of a son of God. Work and receive the pay of the Master Mason. So that's the reward of regaining once more that Lost Word – the Holy Ghost, the presence of God within us – the Eternal part of us.

And so, let us resolve, by following the channel God has sent, to regain that Lost Word which is the Holy Vibration, the Comforter of which Jesus spoke. Let us regain it. Having regained that, we will not be satisfied to build temples of an earthly nature, a worldly temple. No. We will be satisfied only when we built within us, as it says in 2nd Corinthians, the 5th Chapter. We'll be satisfied only when we build within us a temple to the Most High God, a temple of Christ Consciousness within. A temple not made with hands; a temple eternal in the heavens.

End of Service Meditation and Prayer

Let us meditate just a moment.

Infinite Father. Help us to build within us a temple of Christ Consciousness, a temple of Spiritual consciousness Eternal in the Heavens. Father, help us to build this by once more making dynamic to our consciousness, Thy Presence within us, the Holy Vibration, the Holy Ghost, the Great Amen, the Great Om. Om, Peace, Amen.

Now let us rise and sing our closing song. [On the .mp3 file Doctor and the audience sing, along with organ and violin accompanianment "Glory Hallelujah"]

Closing Prayer

Raise the hands. Infinite Father, in Thy Holy Presence within, in the Holy Vibration, in Thy Great Love, which gives to all of us the realization of our oneness with Thee, our common Father, that we are all brothers and sisters of Thy One Great Light and Love. And may Thy Love shine forever on the sanctuary of our devotion, and may we be able to awaken Thy Love in all hearts. Make our souls Thy temple, make our hearts Thy altar, make our love Thy home. Be Thou the only King reigning on the throne of all our desires. We bow to Thee, O Father. We bow to Jesus, we bow to the Great Masters, and with our love and devotion, we bow to our beloved Master. Om, Peace, Amen.