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Light: Science of Art

I know you have heard that expression: "... and then it dawned on him!" What does that mean, anyway???. One meaning might be 'Oh... I know you understand the thought being conveyed'... or maybe just a less than sudden or gradual understanding.... With that said, have you actually stopped to think about it though... what exactly DOES it mean?

If you say the word "**light**" to a Mason, he will almost automatically assign the Masonic reference in his mind. We cannot help it. For a Mason, it means enlightenment, understanding, knowledge. It is an apt analogy as well as a metaphor, both. But going back to my first question.... 'What does that phrase mean?' If you think about it, dawn is that time at the end of the darkness of night, as the sun approaches the day. First, there is that crescent of grey, opening to a halo of color as the darkness recedes. Then, as the sun comes up, the darkness dissipates and things are bright and clear, and you can more easily discern things around you that were not easily discernible, before. Therefore, light can be said to be **CLARITY** leading to understanding and confirming KNOWLEDGE.

Therefore, light is an apt metaphor and analogy for clarity of vision as well as for knowledge. They are related. If Light refers to knowledge, what we're really talking about is information. With information, the more information one has, the better informed we become and that translates into knowledge. So light then becomes the ideal medium for transmitting information. One only need look to fiber optics to understand the full ability of light to transmit information... or knowledge.

But what IS light? I mean the actual thing, itself. Besides being the absence of darkness, if we look up a definition, it is defined as follows: noun: light; plural noun: lights > the natural agent that stimulates sight and makes things visible. "The light of the sun" synonyms: illumination, brightness, luminescence, luminosity, shining, gleaming, gleam, brilliance, radiance, luster, glowing, glow, blaze, glare, dazzle; sunlight, moonlight, starlight, lamplight, firelight; ray of light, beam of light. literary effulgence, refulgence, lambency "The light of candles" daylight, daylight hours, daytime, day; dawn, morning, daybreak, sunrise. natural light, sunlight "we'll wait for the light" a source of illumination...

WOW.... interesting! But why does light convey an almost universal meaning of understanding, enlightenment, knowledge, or information. What is its nature? Scientifically, light is defined as having wavelengths across the electromagnetic spectrum, e.g., visible light contained in that part of the spectrum with longer wavelengths while shorter wavelengths include infrared light. Wavelength merely refers to the frequency of each wavelength. The higher the frequency, the shorter the wavelength, and the more intense the light. The science of physics is the language in which light is studied. Such things as refraction, reflection, pulse, and continuous wave (cw) are various descriptions of how light is manipulated. Because of its nature, light can be bent, reflected, pulsed, focused and unfocused by things such as gravity fields, magnetic fields, mirrors, chemicals, minerals, and transitions through various medium. Because of these properties, it can be made to do a variety of things, but for our purposes, 'light' carries information.... and the "light" in Masonry is what brings us the information that is then transformed into knowledge.