

23 before existed with ancient Kabalistic, Hedonic, and several other
24 orders of mysticism where numbers are considered — let not *facts*
25 stand in the way of a good conspiracy theory! Since it is a known
26 that Anton LeVey, the founder of the Church of Satan in 1969,
27 chose the number 11 to represent his *Eleven Satanic Rules of the*
28 *Earth*, ipso facto, all associations with the number 11 therefore
29 must be also Satanic. Since the author *says* the number 11 is
30 Masonically significant, therefore *it is*, and the reader should then
31 freely associate the two as though they were synonymous and
32 completely interchangeable, because the author does.

33 Another Fun with Numbers Exercise that almost adds up
34 correctly is a website devoted to the space shuttle flight of John
35 Glenn. Here, a future Mensa member asserts that John Glen was
36 forced by the higher Masonic powers to return to space in order to
37 sacrifice himself to the comet Tuttle — or perhaps it was the comet
38 Temple —the author never seems to be quite sure which. No
39 matter; shuttle... Tuttle... temple... Templar... we all grasp that
40 obvious connection! Also, the comet Temple-Tuttle has as a
41 revolution period of *33 years*. Well, that could never be a
42 coincidence! The author further alludes to Glenn and 6 other crew
43 members (so the numbers 6 and 7); spent 9 days aloft ($3 \times 3 = 9$);
44 made 144 orbits ($12 \times 12 = 144$); at 77 years of age Glenn was the
45 oldest man to orbit the Earth ($7 \times 11 = 77$); and finally that
46 Glenn's first space mission occurred 36 year prior ($3 \times 12 = 36$). I

47 have no idea of what numerismic and/or Masonic relevance any of
48 that has to the point the author is attempting to make, but I am
49 pretty amazed that he was able to set the crack pipe aside long
50 enough to get it all down on paper.

51 YouTube abounds with accusations that Masons placed the
52 number 13 in the dollar bill as some sort of subliminal satanic
53 advertisement. This makes one reason that since a dollar isn't
54 worth much these days, Masons might want to try and get their
55 secret messages some better exposure by putting them on the
56 larger denominations or perhaps work them onto the Chinese
57 Yuan or something that is actually valuable. Yet, there only seems
58 to be a fracas over the US \$1 note. Accordingly, there are 13 leaves
59 in the olive branch, 13 bars and stripes in the shield, 13 feathers
60 in the eagle tail, 13 arrows in his talons, 13 letters in *E Pluribus*
61 *Unum*, 13 stars in the crest, 13 stones in the pyramid, 13 letters in
62 *Annuit Coeptis*, and as final proof — 32 feathers in one of the
63 eagle's wings and 33 in the other. While I will admit some
64 connection between the numbers 32 and 33 to Scottish Rite
65 Masonry, I also seem to recall that Scottish Rite Freemasonry did
66 not exist in the US until its founding in 1801. Even then, while the
67 order technically existed, but there weren't actually a 32 or 33
68 degrees of Scottish Rite Freemasonry until Albert Pike introduced
69 them in 1859. Since the Great Seal was adopted in 1782, I
70 suppose that early Masons must have possessed refined psychic

71 powers in those days so they were attune to details that would not
72 occur for another 77 years. (Perhaps the number 77 is, in itself,
73 also significant?) I am also a bit baffled by the significance of the
74 number 13. Other than the connection to the Knights Templar
75 being arrested on Friday the 13th, 1307, I am pretty hard pressed
76 to come up with any other connection, other than the obvious —
77 that there were 13 original colonies that formed the United States
78 and that the number 13 actually alludes to them. What fun would
79 that be?

80 Bro. Brent Morris may have said it best when he was asked in an
81 interview if Masons were secretly plotting to take over the world, he
82 replied that it was doubtful that Freemasons could ever find a way to
83 pull it off, since 8 of them cannot agree on what we are going to serve
84 for dinner at the next meeting. Sadly, that pretty much sums up the
85 level of organization at most Masonic functions, despite their best, or
86 most sinister of intentions.

87 This all being said, and I being someone who loves a good
88 conspiracy theory as much as the next guy, I present the following
89 thesis of a Masonic Conspiracy Theory for your consideration:

90 **An Exposé on the Esoteric Mysteries, Secrets and**
91 **Symbolism Hidden in the Wizard of Oz**

92 First, note that Dorothy begins with the letter D, the fourth letter
93 of the alphabet, and 4 being a very mystical number to Freemasons

94 because I say it is, this is my paper and you don't get a vote. If you
95 subtract that number 4 from 7, the number of the letter G, you get 3,
96 the central mystical number of all esoterica. The number 7 itself is a
97 number with magical properties. Dorothy then meets 3 others on the
98 yellow brick road, making again the number 4, and one can easily see
99 the symbolism between the stone bricks and ancient craft Masonry
100 stonecutters. The movie contains 2 wicked witches, 2 being a prime
101 number and 1 good witch, making 3 again, and when added to the 4
102 travelers on the bricks and becomes 7, proving the importance of that
103 number to Masons.

104 They travel on a road heading East, a direction with mystical
105 connections, to the Emerald City, with green being an important
106 symbolic color to Masons, it being the yellow from the bricks merged
107 with the blue of the so-called *Blue Lodges* making green. The castle of
108 the Wizard, representing the Grand Master, is built of stone and
109 resembles the medieval cathedrals of Europe. This opens the door to
110 both the Knights Templar and the pagan religions that the Templars
111 studied, which we now know made them heretics. The travelers meet
112 up with the Wizard, now making 5, another important number in
113 Masonic symbolism, who asks them to perform a service before he will
114 help them. This is actually a hidden reference to the Hiram Abiff
115 legend in which the workers on the Temple of Solomon must complete
116 the Temple before receiving the secrets of a Master Mason.
117 The travelers — and let us note that Masons refer to themselves as

118 "traveling men" — meet up with the Wicked Witch of the West, the
119 one from the East having been landed upon and summarily squished
120 by Dorothy's house and a *twister*, which is defined as a violently
121 rotating column of air; 'columns' being sacred to architecture and
122 thus to Masonry. Note that word "house" is synonymous with another
123 form of common usage: "temple." The Wicked Witch of the East was
124 interred under the "Temple from the Heavens" — yet another
125 reference to several items central to Masonic lore. The Wicked Witch
126 of the West appears to take the shoes that Dorothy acquired from the
127 Good Witch of the East, which resonates with the ancient Masonic
128 initiation ritual where the candidates are deprived of their own shoes.
129 Dorothy is eventually captured by the Wicked Witch of the West, who
130 flies on a broom, symbolizing "air," one of the four classical elements
131 of ancient alchemists. Dorothy is then kept in the stone castle,
132 symbolizing "earth," but during an ill-fated rescue attempt, sets "fire"
133 to a companion, which is then set to right by the application of
134 "water." All this, of course, is an acknowledgment that the
135 Freemasons have subverted the religion of their fathers in order to
136 study the ancient pagan ways.

137 The Wizard, played by a man named Frank Morgan, a descendant
138 of Capt. William Morgan of anti-Masonic fame, showing further
139 attempts to defame the early Morgan and his claims against Masonry.
140 The name "Frank Morgan," also having 11 characters, is a further
141 attempt to vilify the Morgan name. The actor plays 5 parts in the

142 movie: Professor Marvel, The Guardian at the Gates, The Carriage
143 Driver, The Wizard's Guard and the Wizard of Oz — 5 again being a
144 number of significant importance to Masons, and in no way indicative
145 of the fact that the Screen Actor's Guild was very poorly organized in
146 those days, and that starring actors were often used to fill in on
147 various other minor and non-speaking parts.

148 Service to the Wizard now being completed, the travelers make
149 their way back to the Emerald City. Eventually, the Wizard is exposed
150 to be simply a man, which resonates with the Masonic idea that only
151 the Grand Architect of the Universe can be perfect and all knowing.
152 The Wizard, however, is an enlightened man who manages to help the
153 Lion, the Tin Man, and the Scarecrow develop traits which are secret
154 Masonic virtues: courage (strength), heart (beauty), and brains
155 (wisdom or enlightenment). Of special note is that the Scarecrow,
156 upon receiving brains, symbolic of receiving Masonic "light" recites the
157 Pythagorean Theorem! This is the most important theorem in
158 geometry, which begins with the letter "G," and is the essence of the
159 esoteric Masonic mystical teachings.

160 Now, for the really scary part: Judy Garland (Dorothy), Frank
161 Morgan (The Wizard), Ray Bolger (Scarecrow), Bert Lahr (Lion),
162 Margaret Hamilton (Wicked Witch(s)) and Toto, when expressed
163 numerically, total 666! Talk about throwing it all right in your face;
164 come on! Wake up and smell the coffee!

165 Did you get all of that?

166 By now, many non-Masons might be nodding their heads up and
167 down, with the perception of understanding slowly growing, like the
168 dawn creeping over the horizon. It all makes sense when it's pointed
169 out to you, doesn't it? If a total fabrication contains parts that are a
170 known truth, it provides the rest of the story the *possibility* of
171 credibility. That is all the weak-minded need in order for them to latch
172 on and to perpetuate a conspiracy theory. Never mind the fact that
173 the numerismic sum of the names in the Wizard of Oz example
174 actually totals 667 and not 666. I got their names correct, and that is
175 usually enough to hook the casual reader and get him to repeat this
176 fabrication and to convey it as a fact.

177 In the past 7 years (7 being an important Masonic number) I have
178 been paying particular attention to such things. I am constantly
179 amazed at the number of non-Masons who believe they have found
180 some hidden knowledge that they believe qualifies them to write about
181 what Masons are and what we do. Many of these folks are relatively
182 benign, and they often draw upon a source without really
183 understanding what it is that they have quoted. All too many
184 conspiracy theorists claim that Masons are the keepers of some kind
185 of mystic or esoteric knowledge, and that they secretly and
186 surreptitiously interject this knowledge and communicate with other
187 Masons through the use of secret symbols. You would think that in
188 the modern computer age, we would just use email. You know the
189 type; they are the ones who insist on making an expose of the secrets

190 behind the measurements and other numbers related to the
191 Washington Monument, or the Great Pyramid in Giza, or the layout of
192 the streets in Washington DC. If you listen to them long enough, you
193 will see that virtually *every* number, color, and shape is somehow
194 explained as being a secret marker of Masonic mysticism. You can
195 easily spot this type of conspiracy theorists by the *Kaballah for*
196 *Dummies* book under their arm.

197 Unfortunately, some of these guys are not quite so harmless. Like
198 the benign group, they jump to the same conclusions drawn from
199 irrational leaps of logic but from there they build an interrogate
200 conspiracy theory worthy of the X-Files. These are the people who
201 create pages and pages of web sites and blogs about how Freemasons
202 are secretly in control of the black helicopters, the Illuminati, the New
203 World Order, the flow of money in the World Bank, and the infiltration
204 of government at all levels from the local zoning commission to the
205 highest offices. When a conspiracy theorist gets a parking ticket, it's
206 never because he allowed his car run 20 minutes over on the meter.
207 No, was because the Masons in the local town council have it in for
208 him personally, and they are using their power to oppress the little
209 people. When you try to explain to him that the Masons in your Lodge
210 are just shop owners and engineers and utility workers, they accuse
211 you of lying and accuse you of covering up the “real truth.” You can
212 expect to receive a 7-page letter (7 being an important Masonic

213 number), threatening to sue you in court, if he could only believe that
214 the Masonic judges and police weren't already spying on him.

215 Then there are those, who for reasons I still can't quite fathom,
216 would seek to undermine the Craft because they believe we are a
217 religion unto ourselves. This belief somehow threatens their own faith
218 and is somehow fostered in the notion that Masons have long since
219 strayed from the True Path. They claim we secretly worship the
220 demon Baphomet, and seek to capture and convert other unknowing
221 souls into our pagan ways. And that's not even the strange part! The
222 really strange part is that we somehow seek to convert others to our
223 soul-stealing, hell-bound perversions by performing such despicable
224 acts as raising money for children's organizations, or by donating
225 money to the poor, or by working in soup kitchens, or by donating
226 time and energy into various community activities, or — and this is
227 apparently the absolute worst thing — by actually sitting in the same
228 room with men of other religions, accepting them as Brothers, and not
229 trying to convert them to something else! They call us a 'cult,' which,
230 by most definitions is what any big church calls a little church.

231 I am trying to imagine a culture in which tolerance for the beliefs of
232 others is a bad thing. Nope, I still can't fathom that one.

233 Those with religious objections to Freemasonry are insidious. I
234 have tried to explain that Freemasonry is not a religion at all, and that
235 we certainly don't worship Baphomet. I also point out that most of the
236 Masons I know are conservative men with a religious or certainly a

237 very strong spiritual bend. I used to be surprised by the rejoinder:
238 “Those Masons don't know that they are worshipping a false deity.” The
239 “true” secrets (they claim), are only known to a very select few of the
240 highest degrees. If you are a 32° Scottish Rite Mason, then these
241 secrets are known only to the 33°. If you are a 33°, then the secrets
242 are known only to some smaller and more select sub-group.
243 Apparently, there are about 6 guys in the inner circle who actually
244 know that when Freemasons are offering up a prayer to some deity
245 that nobody else knows about. The number 6 is a very special super-
246 secret Masonic symbol, you know? The Grand Order of the Majestic
247 Six has a nice ring to it. I’m just saying...

248 So, Masons don't really know *who* receives the prayer when we
249 bow our heads. Does this mean that there is some other deity who is
250 secretly stealing our prayers? Apparently, we are unknowingly double-
251 parked in the secret spiritual realm. Is there no firewall on our holy
252 Wi-Fi? Is prayer-theft even possible? If it is, how does a typical
253 conspiracy theorist prevent **his** prayers from being hijacked? Perhaps
254 they sell some sort of insurance policy for that along with all those
255 conspiracy DVD’s.

256 In order to keep myself from feeling bored and to amuse myself as
257 much as possible I have decided that I'm going to go to the other
258 extreme and start pointing out some of these secret Masonic
259 connections where you would least expect them to be found.

260 By the way, there were 47 words in that last paragraph, which is
261 the most important Masonic number of all, and the key to life, the
262 universe, and everything! Really.