



Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite

Taipei Bodies News

Orient of Taiwan, on which the sun never sets

Newsletter #9, March 2014

A word from the Venerable Master



Dear brethren,
Fraternal greetings to all!

After the festive Chinese New Year, we are again geared up for the spring conferral and annual reunion in April. Although what happened recently in Bangkok has raised some concerns, the situation seems to be easing up and confined to selective area. In my personal opinion, our Conferral should not be affected, and, in any event the hotel is adjacent to the British Club so we will be very self-contained. For those who have not booked your trip, you may take advantage of the current low airfare and join this great event. Hope to see many of you in Bangkok 30 April - 2 May!

Besides the annual conferral, we are also putting efforts on education. In recent stated meetings, we have elaborated the synopsis and precepts of the 4th, 5th, 6th and 19th degrees, including a performance of the 6th degree ritual. The brethren have responded very positively. If any of you are in Taipei on the fourth Tuesdays, do visit our renovated office for coffee and join us for the enlightening education.

See you soon again and God blessed!.

Fraternally yours,
Dennis Liao, 32° KCCH
Venerable Master

A new Wise Master

Our elected Wise Master, Sir Knight Fu-Lin Cheng, is moving abroad and has to resign from his position. He will be succeeded by Sir Knight Zeus Chen.

The 6th degree Intimate Secretary

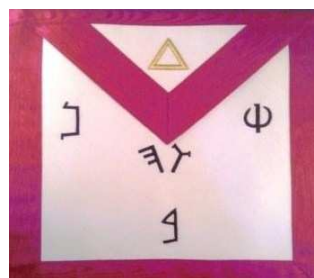
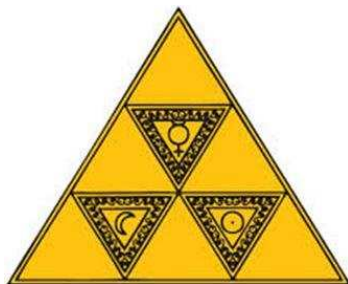
We have undertaken an education program to familiarize the brethren with the degrees of the Scottish Rite. Here after a lecture on the 6th degree, delivered during the Lodge of Perfection, on February 25.

The Sixth degree teaches the important virtues of zeal, fidelity, and discretion.

The plot is coming from the Bible, 1 King 9:11~12.

Hiram, King of Tyre comes in anger to King Solomon to complain about the ruined condition of the 20 cities he received as rewards for assisting the building of the Temple. Zabud overhears the argument. Not knowing Hiram of Tyre, and being faithful to King Solomon and worried about the safety of Solomon, Zabud remains to listen behind the door and is ready to break in should the situation require. When Hiram of Tyre finds Zabud, he thinks Zabud is an eavesdropper and should be punished to death. King Solomon thinks Zabud should be tried and heard in his defense before receiving the sentence. When Hiram of Tyre realizes Zabud's pure motive of loyalty, he praises him instead. Zabud is then appointed the Intimate Secretary of both Kings Solomon and Hiram, a position previously held by Grand Master Hiram Abiff.

King Solomon also told Hiram of Tyre that it was his intention to rebuild those 20 ruined cities for Hiram of Tyre, yet the death of Hiram Abiff has caused them to meet before the plan is realized. Hiram of Tyre asks forgiveness for his rudeness, while King Solomon generously offers him to choose other cities he likes. Hiram of Tyre gratefully turns down the offer, returns the 20 cities, and gives substantial contribution of gold to King Solomon as a token of their fraternal bond. The entire incident closes in peace and harmony.



The sixth degree jewel is a triangular plate of gold enclosing a triple delta, within which are the symbols of the sun, the moon and mercury. The Roman Mercury was the same as the Greek Hermes, whom Albert Pike equates with the Master of the Lodge, as he is the vehicle of instruction. The alchemical placement of Mercury equilibrating between the solar and lunar forces hints at the Royal Secret.

In Dalcho's ritual, the triangular shape of the jewel represented the three theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity. It may also be interpreted as Solomon, Hiram of Tyre, and Hiram Abiff.

The Council of Kadosh, 19th Degree, Grand Pontiff

As we opened a Council of Kadosh, here after a lecture delivered during that meeting.

The degrees encompassed by the Council of Kadosh are the 19th to the 30th. These degrees, sometimes named "chivalric degrees" are the most philosophical and mystical degrees of the Scottish Rite, designed to explore further the moral, political and religious lessons.



There are in particular some purely religious degrees, the 24th, Prince of the Tabernacle, addressing the Hebraic faith, the 25th, Knight of the Brazen Serpent, the Islamic, and the 26th, Prince of Mercy, the Christian.

The 27th, Knight of the Sun, is the most philosophical and mystical, addressing numerology, astrology and alchemy.

The first degree of this Body is the 19th, Grand Pontiff.

The regalia are rather complex, with an head band, and an oblong golden jewel engraved with Aleph on one side and Tau on the other, first and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet, equivalent to the Alpha and Omega of the Greeks.

Another distinctive ornament is the breast plate, with 12 jewels representing the 12 tribes of Israel.

It must be noted the recurrence of the number twelve, 12 stars on the head band and the codon, 12 jewels on the breast plate.

The motto of this degree is "The true Mason labors for the benefit of those who are to come after him" and, according to the Scottish Rite rituals, the main symbols are Babylon, and the twelve pillars.



In the 19th degree, Babylon is a symbol of evil, also named the Whore of Babylon or "*Babylon The Great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the Earth*" (Book of revelation 17.5). This Babylon is represented by a hydra, a monster with 7 heads. Why 7? This number may allude to the 7 hills of Babylon "*The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sat* (Book of

Revelation 17.9)". It could also allude to the 7 cardinal sins: wrath, greed, sloth, pride, lust, envy, and gluttony.

Note also that Babylon, where the Hebrews were taken in exile, is also the place where the Hebrew prophets prepare their return to Israel and the rebuilding of the Temple.



The column is a symbol which appears regularly in Freemasonry, starting with Jachin and Boaz. The column here is associated to 12 pillars named by the 12 tribes of Israel, and in fact to the 12 gates of the Celestial Jerusalem.

The association of these 2 symbols results in a dual opposition between good and evil.

The main theme of this degree is the Celestial Jerusalem, announced by the prophet Ezekiel (from Babylon), and described in the Saint John Gospel, and Book of Revelation.

This description is represented on the tracing board of the degree. This tracing board has a mountain in the foreground. A city appears descending from the sky. Below is a representation of the old Jerusalem, overturned and in ruins. Around the descending city is a wall of jasper, the foundation of which is laid with the precious stones of twelve different kinds and colors (appearing on the Pontiff's breastplate). All the buildings are of gold. There are twelve gates of pearl, three on each side. A great glory in the center gives it light, and for this reason, there is no sun in the sky.

On the six are the first three and the last three initials of the names of the Tribes, and the first and last three names of Deity given above.

A sparkling river runs through the city (the Water of Life of the book of Revelation); and upon it, in the center of the city, stands a tree, laden with fruits, leaves, and blossoms. Its roots are on each side of the stream. It represents the Tree of Life. These features are a remembrance of the Garden of Eden.

Beneath the ruins of the overturned city lies a writhing serpent (still reference to the Garden of Eden) with three heads (the hydra), bound with brazen chains, as there are no more sins in the Celestial Jerusalem .

Spring Conferral

The Spring Conferral will take place in Bangkok on May 1st and 2nd.

Block reservation has been made in Hotel Naraï, close to British Club, at a rate of 2,000 to 2,200 Bath, same as last year.

Registration form will be available soon.

Should you wish to introduce some candidates, let us know, we shall send application form.

The list of Candidates has to be finalized before April 22.

Dues

We remind those who did not pay their 2014 (and earlier) dues that it is still time to do it, in particular if you do not join the Conferral.

The yearly dues are 2,000 NT\$ for local brothers, and 50 US\$ for overseas brothers. Life membership is 10 times the yearly membership.

The online payment remains a very convenient way to settle your dues (in US\$), so less excuse to be late.

(<https://secure.scottishrite.org/OnlineDuesPayment/DuesPayment1.asp>)

Payment can also be made by TT to the Secretary account:

Mega International Commercial Bank

Account holder: Claude Robert Soucaille

Account number: 021-10-42184-9

Swift code: ICBCTWTP021

You can also use checks in US\$, worded to Taipei Bodies AA Scottish Rite.

The Life Membership can be also paid online. Those who are interested in doing so shall first contact us in order we modify the procedure accordingly.

Contribute to our letter

Contribute to the life of our Valley, send your contribution to taipei.bodies@gmail.com

Taipei Bodies, China Masonic Temple
#10 Lane 201, Chang An East Rd Sec. 2, Taipei
or
PO Box 34-154, Taipei 10499
Phone +886227713310, taipei.bodies@gmail.com