



Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite

Taipei Bodies News

Orient of Taiwan, on which the sun never sets

Newsletter #14, February 2015

A word from the Venerable Master



Dear brethren,

I extend my best wishes to you and your families for a healthy and wealthy 2015 Year of the Goat!

The white lambskin apron is a badge of Mason. The characters of the goat fits perfectly with qualities we seek in Masonry: kind-hearted, filial, polite and innocent. While the world seems to be in turmoil, let us keep our faith and maintain peace and harmony in our society. May the precepts we learned from Scottish Rite be our guide to overcoming all confusions and difficulties in life.

Year 2014 marked another harvest for our Craft. The Spring and Fall reunions were not only successful but also expanded in scale. We are so glad to see active participation of brethren from various regions, in particular the big group of brethren from Sabah who came to Taipei to perform the beautiful rituals in the Fall reunion.

We continued the education of degrees in our stated meetings and are about to finish all degrees. Masonry is a progressive science, taught by degrees only, and we only get as much as we put it. If you ever doubt why you joined Scottish Rite, read the degree briefings in the newsletter and start your own quest to knowledge.

The Spring Reunion in Chiangmai is only a few months away. Please make your best effort to attend. I look forward to seeing many of you there again!

Have a prosperous Year 2015!

Fraternally yours,
Dennis Liao, 32° KCCH
Venerable Master

The Year of the Sheep / Goat

The eighth animal who arrived was the amiable Goat



The sheep (goat, or ram) is among the animals that people like most. It is gentle and calm. Since ancient times, people have learned to use its fleece to make writing brushes and skin to keep warm. As it is white, people describe delicate and precious white jade to be 'suet jade'. Thus it is close to the meaning of good things.

The Strengths

People born in the year of Sheep are tender, polite, filial, clever, and kind-hearted. They have special sensitivity to art and beauty, faith in a certain religion and a special fondness for quiet living. They are wise, gentle and compassionate and can cope with business cautiously and circumspectly. In their daily life, they try to be economical. Women born in this year are willing to take good care of others, but they should avoid pessimism and hesitation. They are kind in heart and commonly have symmetrical figures and features.

The Weaknesses

Sheep year people are often worriers who are shy, pessimistic, moody, indecisive, over-sensitive, weak-willed and puzzled about life. They are easily inclined to be deeply religious. They are timid in nature and like to be looked after by others. They like flattery, compliment and suggestions from friends. They do not dare to express their love openly and usually have interests in strange theories. (www.travelchinaguide.com)

OVERALL: Goat people are expected to have an excellent 2015, as it should be because it is their year! There will be helpful energy in your career/professional life, as well as tons of luck in love, both for single as well as married people. Taking things at a slower pace will bring you more luck this year, so do develop patience. (www.About.com By Rodika Tchi)

Spring Reunion

As our Thailand Brethren are still working on the practical details, there is not so much more to say, besides confirming the dates: Friday May 1st and Saturday May 2nd, the venue: Hotel Duangtawan in Chiangmai, 132 Loi Kroh Road, Chang Khlan.

Should you wish to introduce a candidate, an Application Form is attached to this letter.

The Apple



The Apple appears in the 27th degree, Knight of the Sun or Prince Adept. This degree which will be performed in long form at the coming Spring Reunion, was initially numbered the 28th, but was renumbered in the Albert Pike revised Ritual.

Besides introduction of the apple in the casting, it is rather unusual. There is no exemplar candidate as

the education is made for the benefit of the whole class. It features the seven archangels revealed in the Book of Enoch, and the associated "planets" of the ancient cosmology, although names are not identical to those of the book of Enoch. These archangels are messengers of God (*malakoth* in Hebrew) and are introducing the nature of symbols, what they are and how to read them. The presiding officer of the degree is named "Father Adam", symbol of the manhood, and he is assisted by one Warden named "Father Truth".

We find Cassiel associated with Saturn, Sachiel with Jupiter, Zamael with Mars, Michael with the Sun, Hanael with Venus, Raphael with Mercury and Gabriel with Moon. Each of them is in charge of a specific area and, in turn, presents its symbolism: geometry, numbers, religions, Hermetic philosophy and alchemy.

There is a lot to say about these symbols but let's focus on the first symbol appearing in the degree, the Apple, introduced by Father Adam. Although apple did not exist in the Middle East at biblical times, apple was selected to represent the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of the Good and the Evil, which Eve used to tempt Adam, so causing all the hardship of the human race. This comes from Latin words association, the word "*malum*" meaning both apple and evil. By eating this fruit, man reached the knowledge, in particular of evil, and became mortal. Besides the word association, we may consider that apple by its shape evokes the woman, cause of all the trouble.

However, the symbolism of the Apple is rather complex.

In the same line as the one of the Garden of Eden, it is the Golden Apple of Discord which triggered the Trojan War. We can note also that the children of Eris (who threw this apple of discord in the Gods assembly) are all representing some evils.

A Golden Apple is a gift made by Gaia (the Mother Earth) to Hera the wife of Zeus, as a symbol of fecundity. This apple comes from the tree which was kept by the Hesperidia nymphs, recovered by Hercules, which causes Atlas to bear the celestial sphere (a link between Earth and Heaven?).

Note that these "golden apples" might have been oranges or ... pomegranates.

For Celtic and Nordic civilizations, apple is a symbol of eternal youth or immortality.



Apple is said to have been created by Dionysus (a Mason ancestor) to seduce Venus, and became accordingly a symbol of love.

Venus as the planet (the Morning Star), represented by Hanael, brings us to the cosmic symbolism of the apple.



Emperors are often represented holding an apple shaped globe representing their power over the world (Justinian emperor). This orb had been surmounted by a cross with the Christianize and this shape in astronomy is the symbol of earth, inverted symbol of Venus.

Finally, we cannot leave the apple without a reference to Newton, another Mason ancestor. What about Bill Gate?



Administration

The dead line for 2015 Dues payment is far behind with a collection below 50%. If you did not pay yet, note that your 2015 dues will be registered as unpaid and we remind you that 2 years unpaid Dues may involve Suspension. We hope that Spring Reunion will allow the brothers who are late to reach their good standing.

Payment can be made

- in cash
- online in US\$ on <http://scottishrite.org/> (the best way),
- by check in US\$ worded to Taipei Bodies A&ASRSJ,
- by TT in convertible currency to the Secretary account (the most expensive for every party):

Mega International Commercial Bank
Account holder: Claude Robert Soucaille
Account number: 021-10-42184-9
Swift code: ICBCTWTP0201

As several Dues Cards have been lost, please don't forget to mention when you move your new address. You can also modify directly your data on the website of the Supreme Council.

Plastic card replacement costs 5 US\$.

Contribute to our letter

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

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