



Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite

Taipei Bodies News

Orient of Taiwan, on which the sun never sets

Newsletter #19 March 2016

A word from the Venerable Master



Dear Brethren,
Fraternal greetings to all!

I had the pleasure to attend the Centenary Celebration of the District Grand Lodge of the Middle East (DGLME) following the International Scottish Masonic Conference in Penang in February. It was stunning to be part of the rededication ceremony of DGLME led by the MW Grand Master Mason and Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. It was equally marvelous to have so many Scottish Masons packed the hall.

As I happily bumped into many brethren who are members of Taipei Bodies, I wonder why many Scottish Masons have not yet joined us. We all know that the High Degrees of Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite is a perfect continuation of Scottish Masonry. It goes deeper and wider to the ancient Masonic mysteries yet gives worthy reflection to our modern daily life. Therefore, I encourage all of you to share this treasure with other brethren. Invite your blue lodge brethren to join Taipei Bodies – by attending our Spring Reunion and Conferral in Bangkok!

It was always fun to catch up with old acquaintances and greet new friends. Hope to see many old faces as well as new ones at the Bangkok reunion!

Fraternally yours,
Dennis Liao, 33°
Venerable Master

2016 Spring Reunion

The 2016 Spring Reunion will take place in Bangkok on from April 29th to May 1st.

A ceremony for the investiture of new KCCH and coronation of new IGH will take place on the 29th afternoon, and degrees conferral will be on April 30th and May 1st.

Same as in previous years, the ceremonies will take place in the British Club, and reservation has been made by our Thailand brothers in Narai Hotel just next door.

The Registration Form has been sent, please answer as soon as possible. Should you have in mind future candidates, ask us the Application form. We remind you that the degree fee is 500 US\$, including regalia, documents, banquet and the 2016 dues.

Scottish Rite Education

At its monthly Stated Meeting, Taipei Bodies has undertaken the implementation of all the degrees in long form. So far, we have performed, for the Lodge of Perfection, degrees 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, for Chapter Rose Croix, degrees 15, 16, and 17, for Council of Kadosh, degrees 19, 20, 21, 22.



Although we cannot perform with all regalia and decorations, such performance are enlightening, going deeper in the understanding of the degrees.

Here, this month, the performance of the 9th and 10th degrees, Elus of the Ten and the Fifteen, about to kill Jubellum.

Thirteenth Degree, Royal Arch of Solomon

Whatsoever a man soweth, that also he shall reap



This degree brings closer to the end of our search of the lost word. Three fellowcrafts have been assigned to explore the ruins of a small temple on the construction site of the King Solomon Temple. They discover a hatch, opening on subterranean vaults in which they descent and found in the ninth vault

an inscription on a cubical stone of agate, resting on a luminous pedestal. They bring this stone to King Solomon who recognizes the Lost Word, the Great Symbol of Freemasonry.

It is revealed to be the Tetragrammaton of the Hebrews – the letters Yud He Vau He – rendered as "Jehovah" in the King James Bible.

This degree introduces Enoch. Enoch is a biblical patriarch, father of Mathusalem, great-grand father of Noah. He is said not to have died, God just having taken him next to Him. There is an apocryphal gospel, named the Book of Enoch in the Ethiopian Bible. In his dreams he saw the excavation of these nine vaults, 9 representing the number of God's names before the Great Flood.

One of the main symbol of this degree is the cubical stone of agate.

The cubical stone is one of the old symbols of Freemasonry. It is in particular represented in the perfect cubic ashlar, the stage of perfection which Masons shall reach. The cube is one of the perfect Platonician solid, also symbol of stability. Note also that the Kaaba in Mecca, is a sacred stone for Islam.

Agate is linked to the Moon and to Hermes, which are both important in the Freemasonry symbolism. It is also linked to St John.

The cube leads us also to the number 9, as it is number of lines we can see when looking at the cube. Nine is a number containing high symbolism.

The appearances of the number nine are numerous. It was the number of names of God before the Great Flood.

In China, the Li Zhi enumerates 9 rites.

"Enneads" (Greek word meaning a collection of nine things) refers to groups of nine deities in Egyptian mythology.

Albert Pike in *Morals and Dogma* says:

The Holy of Holies of the Temple formed a cube; in which, drawn on a plane surface, there are $4+3+2=9$ lines visible, and three sides or faces. It corresponded with the number four, by which the ancients presented Nature, it being the number of substances or corporeal forms, and of the elements, the cardinal points and seasons, and the secondary colors. The number three everywhere represented the Supreme Being. Hence the name of the Deity, engraved upon the triangular plate, and that sunken into the cube of agate, taught the ancient Mason, and teaches us, that the true knowledge of God, of His nature and His attributes, is written by Him upon the leaves of the great Book of Universal Nature, and may be read there by all who are endowed with the requisite amount of intellect and

*intelligence. This knowledge of God, so written there, and of which
Masonry has in all ages been the interpreter, is the Master Mason's Word.*

The degree represents a symbolic descent into the earth, which in fact represent a progression towards the light. The same idea of progression also appears in the number of spheres surrounding the Earth in the Ptolemaic and Nordic cosmologies, and we find it again in the Dante's *Divine Comedy*.

May be it is the same idea when of Lü Bu-Wei says in "Spring and Autumn" "*Heaven has 9 fields, Earth has 9 regions, the country has 9 mountains,...*"

Important is also the symbolism of the hatch, which marks the difference between the material world and the subterranean way to light.

This descent may be also emblematic of the difficulties encountered by those who endeavor to discover the truth about God and the world around us. Or, it may represent the self-exploration each of us must make in our quest for Truth. Self-discovery was the purpose of all true ancient initiations; hence the Greeks adorned their temples with the words "Know Thyself."

There are 2 other noticeable symbols in this degree.

The luminous pedestal, lighted by the perpetual flame within, is a symbol of that light of *Reason*, given by God to man, by which he is enabled to read in the Book of Nature the record of the thought, the revelation of the attributes of the Deity.

The three Masters, Adoniram, Joabert, and Stolkin, are types of the True Mason, who seeks for knowledge from pure motives, and that he may be the better enabled to serve and benefit his fellow-men.

According to Albert Pike, the political lesson of this degree is the constitution or a fundamental law.

It is not enough for a people to gain its liberty. It must secure it. It must not entrust it to the keeping, or hold it at the pleasure, of any one man. The keystone of the Royal Arch of the great Temple of Liberty is a fundamental law, charter, or constitution; the expression of the fixed habits of thought of the people, embodied in a written instrument, or the result of the slow accretions and the consolidation of centuries; the same in war as in peace; that cannot be hastily changed, nor be violated with impunity, but is sacred, like the Ark of the Covenant of God, which none could touch and live.

The moral lesson is that the practice of honor and duty is a religion of life and of society, and that all our actions will receive a just retribution.

The Scottish Rite Journal

Be in your time, get the Scottish Rite Journal on your tablet!

Go to App Store, search for "Scottish Rite", download and follow your guide.

Administration

1. All the Dues for the year 2016 have not been collected yet (50 US\$ per year for Overseas Brothers). We hope that the Spring Reunion in Bangkok will be a good opportunity to complete this collection.

Payment can be made

- in cash, US\$ or NT\$ (ask a Brother if you cannot come),
- online in US\$ on <http://scottishrite.org/> (**the best way**),
- by check in US\$ worded to Taipei Bodies A&ASRSJ.

It can be also made by TT in convertible currency to the Secretary account but this is the most expensive way for both parties:

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

We remind you that according to the Supreme Council rules, 2 years unpaid dues may involve suspension.

2. Do not forget to inform us of any change in your address, home or email.

New arrival, kiss, and good bye



Our deepest condolences to the families of Bro. Wing Tat Sze (Bryan) who has joined the celestial lodge on February 28th, 2016. Bro. Wing Tat Sze was also a dedicated member of Han Lodge No. 8 and Pearl River No. 3 of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of China. May he rest in peace!

We mourn for the death of former Bro. Senjon Wu who passed away on March 28th, 2016. Senjon Wu was also a dedicated member of Amity Lodge No. 1 and was Grand Secretary of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of China during 2012-2013. May he rest in peace!

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