



Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite

Taipei Bodies News

Orient of Taiwan, on which the sun never sets

Newsletter #30, February 2018

新年快樂

Happy Chinese New Year

A word from the Venerable Master



Dear Brethren,

The year 2018 just started. Taipei Bodies continue its education program at every stated meeting. January started with a brief introduction for the 6th degree Intimate Secretary...

A group of 8 candidates from Taiwan will join the Spring Reunion in Krabi. This is the first time we have so many Taiwanese candidates joining the Spring Reunion in Thailand, which proves the attraction of this Reunion which gathers so many brothers from everywhere.

The year of Rooster is near to the end and the Dog year is coming as Chinese Luna New year. The barking sound of dog is similar to a Chinese Character "WON" which means prosperity. I hope it will be a prosperous year for every brother for their family and business. Also a prosperous year for our Scottish Rite Taipei Body.

Fraternally yours,

Ill. Dupree Chia,
Venerable Master

The Year of the Dog

The eleventh animal who arrived was the lucky Dog



Ranking as the eleventh animal in Chinese zodiac, Dog is the symbol of loyalty and honesty. They will never abandon their friends, family or work. The Chinese regard it as an auspicious animal. If a dog happens to come to a house, it symbolizes the coming of fortune. The invincible God Erlang in Chinese legend used a loyal wolfhound to help him capture monsters.

Despite how they act, they are worried and anxious inside. However, they will not let this stop them. Once they decide on something, no one can persuade them against it.

The Strengths

People born in the Year of the Dog possess the best traits of human nature. They are honest, friendly, faithful, loyal, smart, straightforward, venerable and have a strong sense of responsibility. They are brave, forthright, friendly, loyal to his friends and like righting wrongs. Loyal and honest, they have the most profound sense of duty in career and don't play job-hopping easily. As a common employee, they can perform well thus are highly regarded by their superiors. They are also good working partners. In love, they are fiercely loyal to those they love.

The Weaknesses

On the negative side, people born in the Year of the Dog are likely to be self-righteous, cold, terribly stubborn, slippery, critical of others and not good at social activities. They usually pay much attention on the theory while lacking action and judgment. So, never act arbitrarily and dictatorially or they will suffer many disappointments.

Spring Reunion

The organization of the Spring Reunion in Krabi by our Malaysian Brothers, is progressing well.

We hope that you have made your registration and hotel reservation with the forms which were sent to you earlier. If not done yet, it is time now.

We will perform six degrees in long form: 4th degree, Secret Master, 14th degree, Perfect Elu, 18th degree, Knight of the Rose Croix, 21st degree, Prussian Knight, 30th degree Knight Kadosh and 32nd degree, Prince of the Royal Secret.



We have already received 16 applications for degrees and we hope to reach at least our past year record. If you introduce candidates, please send us copy of their application form, so we can start administrative work, and do not forget to ask them to register for Krabi and make their hotel reservation.

Twenty-first degree: Noachite or Prussian Knight

"A free and independent Judiciary is indispensable to Human Progress."



This degree was usually performed in long form in our Spring Reunion. It has been forgotten for few years, and it will be revived in Krabi.

The degree was initially based upon the descent of Noah, and in particular the construction of the Tower of Babel and Phaleg its architect.

Considering the ambiguity of the story departing from the legend of Solomon Temple and Hiram, Albert Pike transformed it in a swashbuckling story based upon the Vehmgerichte, a German organization of XIIth century (Phaleg was said to have retired in Germany).

In medieval Germany the Holy Roman emperors were unable to effectively control their lands and feudal warfare brought increasing disorder. To help control this lawlessness there emerged in Westphalia near the end of the 12th century an extra-legal but efficient criminal tribunal, called the Vehmgerichte, or "holy Vehm" [fame]. They presumably received their original jurisdiction from the royal courts. Combining old traditions with new legal forms, they filled an important gap in German medieval criminal law. Operating where ordinary territorial justice failed, they became increasingly secret after the 14th century. They operated in so-called "holy bands" which were sworn to secrecy on pain of death. They also employed their own secret language and had secret signs. Some of their surviving documents bear the mysterious letters S.S.G.G., which are thought to be the initials of words stock, stein, gras, and grein, meaning "stick, stone, grass and woe," alluding to the tortures and punishment one could obtain. Accusations were made mysteriously, often by nailing a notice to a tree, and failure to appear for trial was punished by death. The possible trial verdicts were hanging or acquittal. They were most powerful in the 15th century. Thereafter increasing corruption and abuse, and the consolidated power of the petty princes, brought a general move against them, and in the 16th century the Vehmgerichte largely disappeared; they were entirely eliminated only in the 19th century.

In this Degree you are to be devoted to the cause of everyone who has been wronged by the great or oppressed by the powerful, those unjustly accused, those who have suffered from bribery, or corrupt judges, the widow, the orphan, the distressed and the destitute.

You are instructed that you cannot have honor as a Knight unless you earn it. Learn that laziness is degrading, and inactivity shameful. Be ever vigilant, seeking opportunities to perform good deeds. Be loyal in both word and deed.

Be charitable with the goods that God gives you, keeping always in mind the poor and the needy. You shall, by generous giving, liberate yourself from the illusion that the accumulation of wealth is the purpose of life. It is certain that Truth, in the end, will always win, and the right prevail.

Your readings

The Gilgamesh epic is probably the oldest piece of literature. It comes from Mesopotamia, written in Akkadian language, around 2,000 BC. This epic is telling the story of Gilgamesh, king of Uruk is precursory of ancient mythologies and historical part of the Bible. We can find in it some sources of Masonic symbolism.

Don't forget that the double headed eagle comes from Lagash, which is not too far from Uruk.

Dues 2018

The year 2017 is over and 2018 dues should have been paid before December 31st. So maybe you are one of the 90 brothers late for 2018 only, or, worse, one of the 98 brothers who are more than one year late. We should however be happy as 49 % of brethren have paid in full, which should be a record for this period.

I guess that many are waiting for Krabi to settle, but the earlier the better.

Payment can be made

- Online in US\$ only, the best way (<http://scottishrite.org/> Pay your Dues)

the best way, or

- by bank transfer to the following account

Megabank International Commercial Bank

Account Holder: Claude Robert Soucaille

Account Number: 021-10-42184-9

Swift Code: ICBCTWTP021

- or in cash.

We have to discontinue payment by check from outside the USA as our bank refuses to handle small amounts, which cost more than the checks amount.

New arrivals, kiss and goodbye

A new baby boy just arrived in the family of our Brother Henry Fa-Han Lee, in Taipei. Congratulation to the parents, and all the best for the baby.

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