



Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite Taipei Bodies News

Orient of Taiwan, on which the sun never sets

Newsletter #23, April 2017

A word from the Venerable Master

Dear Brethren,



Lunar New Year had been gone from us. More works lay ahead of us, no matter your career or masonic issues. Wish everyone has smooth step and successful goal.

Very soon, the Spring Conferral is coming. Again we will have our reunion at Bangkok Thailand. I would very much appreciate your attendance. You will meet some new brothers there. The welcome party will be started at 4/28 evening and lodge open from 4/29 morning with very international ritual teams.

Also, I have been very glad to learn that several brethren joined their efforts to work on the Master Craftsman Program. The Reunion offers a good opportunity to exchange experience and develop others Study Groups. The Scottish Rite is very rich in its teachings, and I hope that we can have a chance to discuss these educational matters during the Reunion.

And then after good work I hope we shall enjoy delicious food and warm brotherly atmosphere to conclude the event on Sunday night.

See you soon,

Fraternally yours,

Dupree Chia, 32° KCCH
Venerable Master

Spring Reunion

The Spring Reunion is confirmed on April Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th at the British Club in Bangkok.

A Welcome Party will take place on the Friday 28, also at the British Club from 18:30 h. The Closing Banquet will be held on Sunday 30th from 18:00 h

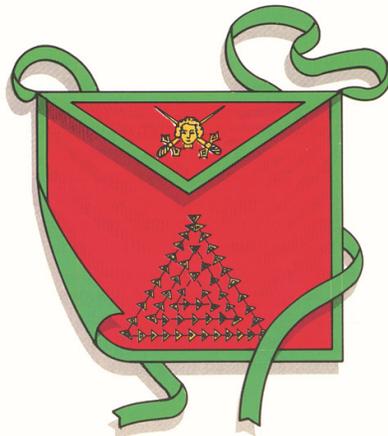
The hotel suggested for visitors is the Narai Hotel, just next door, where rooms have been blocked for our party. Do not forget to send your reservation form to Sir Knight Chris Moore lasanne.chris@gmail.com.

The detailed Program of the Reunion, hotel registration form, Application form for new candidates, General information for the candidates have been already sent to all brethren. If you did not receive them, ask us, taipei.bodies@gmail.com.

A brief Introduction to the Chapter Rose Croix

We first have to mention that the Chapter Rose Croix shall not be confused with the Rosicrucianism (in French Rose-Croix). Rosicrucianism was born like Freemasonry in the 17th century in Europe, and both are esoteric and philosophical movement. Some connections appears to exist between the two movements, in terms of philosophy and members. The title of our Chapter may be inspired by Rosicrucianism, (remember that the Scottish Rite has French origin) but our rituals live on their own.

The Chapter of Rose Croix is the 15th through 18th Degrees and presents Faith, Hope and Charity as guides to our actions. Although only four, the degrees are considered to be fairly complex as they are religious, historical, moral and philosophical containing a plethora of allegories and symbols. After the Perfection reached in the 14th, they begin the cycle of



Chivalric degrees and enlighten the chivalric virtues:

- the 15th Knight of the East, fidelity to obligations and Constance under difficulty,
- the 16th Prince of Jerusalem, build the Temple of Living God in your heart
- the 17th Knight of the East and West, martyrdom to prove faith and benefit mankind
- the 18th Knight of the Rose Croix, faith in God, mankind and yourselves

In a historical context, these degrees cover the period from the destruction of King Solomon's

Temple in 588 B.C. to approximately 100 A.D. around the time the Book of Revelation is written.

The first of these degrees the 15th is known under 2 names, Knight of the East, of the Sword or of the Eagle.

Knight of the Sword alludes to the legend that the Freemasons, in building the Second Temple, worked with the trowel in one hand and the sword in the other, and Knight of the Eagle alludes to the symbolic meaning of the eagle in this degree, liberty.

The 15th degree marks the start of the construction of the second Temple. The main role is Zerubbabel a Prince of David lineage, who led the first group of Jews returning from the Babylonian captivity in the first year of Cyrus, King of Persia (book of Ezra).

Zerubbabel makes a visit to the ruined Temple in Jerusalem. The Hebrews, still held in captivity in Babylon for 70 years, are distressed, poor, and discouraged. Zerubbabel explains that he will go back to Babylon and ask King Cyrus to follow through on his promise to help rebuild the Temple.

King Cyrus receives Zerubbabel and agrees to grant his request provided that he share the secrets of the Order of Architects instituted by Solomon. Zerubbabel tells the King that he will not forsake his honor and integrity and that he would rather the Temple remain in ruins and he were killed than betray the secrets. Zerubbabel is taken to the Treasure Chamber and shown the lost treasures of the Temple, including the Ark of the Covenant, (which reappears after the 4th degree). Again, Zerubbabel holds steadfast, and even reminds the King of his own oath to Mithra. Thus, Cyrus yields and grants Zerubbabel his liberty.

Zerubbabel again presses his request that the Hebrews be allowed to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple. Cyrus then shares about a dream in which appeared an angry lion ready to devour him, and above, an eagle saying that he should restore liberty to the captives. All this is interpreted as the fate that awaits Cyrus if he does not keep his promise. Thus, Cyrus rewards Zerubbabel's fidelity to honor by investing him a collar of a Noble and allowing him to accomplish his mission.

As Zerubbabel and his men return to Jerusalem, they encounter robbers (most probably Samaritans who opposed the Hebrews to return home) at the bridge of Gandara over the river Starbuzani. During the melee, Zerubbabel loses his collar given by Cyrus. The passage over the bridge reminds us of the long and arduous, but necessary struggle to pass from slavery to freedom, from ignorance to enlightenment, from spiritual bondage to spiritual liberty.

Upon Zerubbabel's return to Jerusalem, he is saluted and honored by his brethren. Since the collar of Cyrus was lost, Zerubbabel creates this degree and instructs all that there are dignities in life to be valued much more than gifts from kings. Seventy candles are lit (70 years of captivity), the altar revealed and the candidates invested with the title Knight of the East, to emulate the character of Zerubbabel.



The degree shows several important symbols, rather linked to the struggle against tyranny.

- A Bridge between the first and second apartments in the ceremony. A bridge itself represents the passage from one condition to another of an individual or people from slavery to freedom, from servitude and subjugation to independence and nationality, from spiritual bondage to spiritual liberty.

On the bridge are engraved the three letters L.D.P. which stands for "Liberty of Passage", or "Liberty of

Thought", as interpreted by Albert Pike. Others preferred the Latin words *Lilia Destrue Pedibus*, which can be translated by "Trample the lily flower", the symbol of French royalty. Thus the Knights of the East are devoted to the freedom of thought or freedom of conscience, political and religious liberty, which can be attained in steps or degrees.

- The Jewel, constituted of three nested triangles of gold representing liberty, equality and fraternity (again French Revolution, with the bleeding head on the apron flap). The crossed swords represent truth and justice.

The colors of the Degree refers to the 3 fundamental colors, yellow, blue and red. The main color is Green as a combination of Blue, the color of God and yellow the color of Christ. It is the main color of the world surrounding us. It also represents immortality of freemasonry, and that one day the Masonic truth will be universal.

The red of the Apron is the color of the Holy Spirit. This reminds us that the honors of Masonry are more precious than the gifts of kings, and like the crimson of the morning, heralds a new day of hope.

Administration

For those who have not paid their 2016 and 2017 dues yet, please make your payment at Bangkok, or, if unfortunately you cannot come, ask a brother to do it for you. Otherwise, pay Online.

For your information, the collection rate at this date is only 44.51 % of the Regular members.

New arrivals kiss and goodbye

Our Brother Douglas Foster from New Zealand has been called to the Grand Lodge above last December. May the Grand Architect of the Universe take good care of him. We present our sincere condolences to his family and relatives.

Contribute to our letter

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

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