



Grand Collège des Rites Écossais

SUPRÊME CONSEIL DU 33<sup>È</sup> DEGRÉ

EN FRANCE  
1764 - 1804  
GODF

## Monthly letter 175 - February 2021

With the help of the media, current events in the profane world sometimes give a new life to words which are little or less used in ordinary times.

This is the case for “separatism” which, if we are to believe textual databases seems to have received a renewed interest for some years in a great many comments, and that not only in those which very recently were about religious norms prevailing over the law. Separatism concerns a great many fields: political, social, religious, racial, educational...

Those fields, of course, are of interest in the world of non-masons. However, the word “separatism”, whether or not it moves into the foreground, cannot leave Masons indifferent. Masons must work tirelessly at “assembling that which is scattered” and therefore at uniting as opposed to separating.

However, it should be noted that separation is not a foreign notion for them. On the one hand it is a principle to which they frequently refer, for example in terms of the separation of the worldly from the spiritual, the separation between public and private spheres, between profane and sacred etc. On the other hand, from a symbolic point of view, separation is an essential element in several of our rituals of reference (4°, 14°, 30°, 31°, 32°).

Must we consider this as a paradox, a contradiction? Perhaps! Let us hope that it ought primarily to be seen as a manifestation of the complexity of things, of human beings and of the world, a complexity which invites us to show humility and never to underestimate the following advice (injunction?) in the ritual of Secret Master:

**“You will not confuse words with ideas.”**

**III.: Bro.: Georges LASSOUS, 33°**  
Sovereign Grand Commander