



# Grand Collège des Rites Ecossais

SUPRÊME CONSEIL DU 33<sup>DEGRÉ</sup> EN FRANCE  
1764-1804  
GODF

**Monthly letter n°192 - November 2023**

Paris Zenith, November 17<sup>th</sup> 2023 (C.E.)

Dearest Brothers and Sisters

The history of our nation, of our republic, of freemasonry as well as that of our mother obedience and of our Scottish Rite Jurisdiction, have always been marked by attacks against the freedom of conscience to which every one of our fellow citizens ought to hold on and to which every human being in the world is entitled.

The constitution of our Jurisdiction also forcefully reminds us of that principle of freedom of conscience. The path of our commitment as heirs of the Enlightenment and citizens of the world reminds us, in our ritual of Secret Master that *“we must not satisfy ourselves with vain words.”* Reason is our weapon and it must unify. All our words, all our voices must be charged with meaning and all our actions must be a reminder of this.

The degrees of the Scottish Rite scale, which we share, invite us to build bridges, to rebuild indefatigably our inner temples. All our titles, from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 33<sup>rd</sup> degree are laden with symbols and allegories which commit us, indeed, to shed our own enslavements, but also to tear down the walls which separate human beings. In our tireless action, we have to fight against every form of fanaticism, of barbarity by way of acts of bravery, without keeping silent.

How can we assemble that which is scattered when we see that Mare Nostrum, that sea which, in ancient times, was in Homer’s words *“Hygra Keleutha”*<sup>1</sup> opening the passage to peoples and cultures, has become again the grave of those who flee from misery and their valleys turned deserts, and where shipwrecks take place even in calm seas.

How could we fail to mention the massacres which are still being perpetrated, as at the time of the crusades, without thinking of our Brothers and Sisters of Israel, of Lebanon, who are suffering as their peoples suffer? Hannah

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<sup>1</sup> Erri De Luca - Europe, mes mises à feu. *Tracts Gallimard* March 2019 (page 8).

Arendt reminds us that “*Evil stems from the emptiness of thought.*”<sup>2</sup> It is our duty to fight every form of obscurantism and all the attending darkness.

By the same token, there can be no talk of universalism if the Liberal Scottish Rite Jurisdictions in the world do not unite to form a common front. A project of a new Universal Charter – approved by our Supreme Council – will be presented to them this very month.

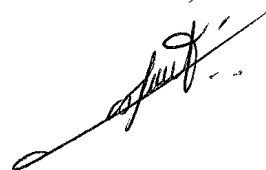
How can men and women around the Mediterranean be brought together while the forces of chaos seem to prevail over those of order, while the forces of dispersion prevail over those of cohesion? How can Ecossism still bring together the various Jurisdictions which surround our “middle sea”? Those are the subjects which we will be addressing next February 24<sup>th</sup> in Marseille at the inter-jurisdictional symposium the day after our meeting at the 25<sup>th</sup> degree of the Rite of Heredom (32<sup>nd</sup> degree of the AASR) which will also be held in Marseille. In the current context, the choice of this location is powerfully symbolic.

Our task is not complete, as we are permanently reminded by world events. Will the day come when our work is done? Nonetheless, our rituals prepare us to understand them better, and no dark force can ever dehumanise us.

Our duty as Freemasons of the GODF and of the Scottish Rite is to render ourselves able to control our emotions so as to express them with some restraint, and at the same time with a strong utterance, bearing light and hope in all our Lodges and in the cities of men. That is our responsibility.

We will maintain!

M. Ill. Br. Christian CONFORTINI, 33°  
Sovereign Grand Commander,



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<sup>2</sup> Hannah Arendt. *The Origins of Totalitarianism* Vol 3 The Totalitarian System – 1951.