



Grand Collège des Rites Ecossais
SUPRÊME CONSEIL DU 33° DEGRÉ EN FRANCE
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GODF

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Dearest Sisters and Brothers,

Our Great Spring Lodge has just come to its conclusion. Over 90% of our 244 Lodges of Perfection attended. Such magnificent Scottish Rite Springtime introduces our new Masonic year, Annus Lucis 6024, allowing our Jurisdiction to project itself with added strength into this 21st century which challenges us, even as we are, this year, celebrating our 220th anniversary. It is a beautiful symbol: that of a concurring respect of the tradition of the Scottish Rite and of the necessity of its evolution.

“A legacy, a Spirit, a Future” proclaimed the wrap-around band of the commemorative book published twenty years ago, for the bicentenary of our Jurisdiction.

A spirit which we still share. By our reflections, it uplifts us and gives us the strength to travel well with others, with proper respect for our Scottish Rite method. Those joined steps lead us towards the light, towards a discovery of what we are, while holding our passions in check, strengthening our resolutions, and overcoming obstacles before us.

“Live in such a way that you must desire to live again, this is your duty”¹.

This is, indeed, our duty. We ought to wish to live again, without forgetting that we also must ponder the “inevitability of death,” as Bergson put it. Does the AASR prepare us to a better death? To better “look death in the face?” within what fraternity?

Death, that taboo, concerns all of us. It has been a controversial subject for years, all the more so at the present moment, while everything in our initiatory progression rests on the myths of death and rebirth. And even though we are all

¹ Nietzsche - Posthumous Fragments.

aware of life's fatal end, such finiteness must be particularly challenging for us, Scottish Rite Masons.

“For truly, for a man to acquaint himself with death, I find no better way, than to approach unto it”², Montaigne wrote.

We are to make that approach next November, during a symposium which will allow us, by way of different philosophical, ethical, sociological angles of approach, to touch on this taboo subject with clarity, and to attempt to answer the questions of our world, those of our sisters, of our brothers, and our own.

Will it then be possible for our Scottish Rite Jurisdiction to corroborate this thought attributed to Epicurus?

“As far as death is concerned, we men all live in a city without walls.”³ .

That is our common hope.

Solitary in our initiatory progression and supportive of our sisters and brothers, such is our approach in which the human element always ought to remain at the heart of our reflections.

In behoves us to “look the sun and death in the face,” in an “ecstasy of lucidity” as Camus put it.

May lucidity be your guide, Beloved Sisters and brothers, in this new Year of Light 6024.

M.II.Br. Christian CONFORTINI, 33°
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² Montaigne -Essays – Book II – Chapter 6.

³ From a 14th century Vatican manuscript.