



Newsletter n°195 – April-May 2024

Paris Zenith, April 29th 2024 (C.E.)

Dearest Sisters and Brothers,

April and May are highly eventful months in the profane world. The same applies to our Jurisdiction.

Our Supreme Council has approved a treaty of friendship and recognition with the Suprême Conseil Féminin de France (*Supreme Female Council of France*). So much the better for that. Indeed, in accordance with our agreements, this treaty will make mutual visits possible, as soon as it is signed, which will be done at our Great Autumn Meetings in Nantes. This is therefore an important step finally made in the direction of a shared reciprocity.

On April 13th, the Commission on “Staged Ecossism” organised a symposium on the history of the 15th and 16th degrees with an attendance of more than 200. Beyond the beautiful scenographic reconstruction of the 15th degree of AASR – Knight of the East and of the Sword – or again of that of the 16th degree - Prince of Jerusalem – we were able to evoke their corresponding counterparts in our sister Jurisdictions of the GODF, who took part in those reconstructions with “different yet the same” interpretations thus helping to unite us even more in the same historical and obediencial melting pot.

The same melting pot indeed. As is well known, all the rituals in the Kloss collection of 1804, but also our Rite in its present form, were built up over myths, narratives, catechisms, legends, but also over graphic pictures corresponding to the fundamental tenets of the age of enlightenment.

In the wake of the Rite of Perfection, otherwise called HEREDOM, everything falls within that common history which is melted in the crucible, the athanor of that part of the world where the three religions of the Book were born.

In that respect, the map of the ancient Babylonian empire is illuminating, just as it still gives meaning to our present concerns and preoccupations.

Those are woefully revived by the fury of current events.

And yet, were not all monotheistic religions born there, around the Mediterranean Rim? Do not they all preach love between men? Should not therefore every “Temple” only shelter men and women of good will, in the same fraternal covenant: the ark of that covenant shared between all men which Albert Camus evoked in his 1957 Nobel speech in Stockholm?

Camus’ appeal is as relevant as ever.

“We have enough religion to hate and persecute, but not enough to love and support”, Voltaire reminded us in his 1769 *Treatise on Tolerance*. All his life, he battled against “l’infâme.” We still share his commitment.

This we know: the Temple is still to be rebuilt and, as we also know, that will not be achieved without facing adversity. We who experienced the necessity of Duty in the 4th degree, we who, in the following degrees went down under new vaults of introspection, we who made new journeys and continued, no less, to imagine new horizons, we are warned that it is time, high time, to play our part in the rebuilding of bridges.

*“May all men remember that they are brothers!”*¹.

I am convinced they can

This is illustrated by the example of “créolité” (“creoleness”) experienced by our overseas Sisters and Brothers in the Indian ocean, who assemble in their differences, beyond religions, beyond their histories and cultures.

They teach us a true lesson of universalism in a Europe and a world where, instead, borders are becoming high walls again.

Accordingly, our Sisters and Brothers of the Caribbean who are aware of the vulnerability of our future, will organise next May 24th, in the Martinique, a symposium on the subject: *“I pa bon kon sa, Fran mason, an nou chanjé sa !”*²

¹ Voltaire. *Treatise on Tolerance*. 1763.

² « C’est pas bon comme ça, Francs-Maçons il nous faut changer ça ! » “It’s no good like this. Freemasons, we must change it.”

out of the conviction that more than ever, we ought to remain together in our will to unite.

80 years ago, on April 21st 1944, French women acquired the right to vote. Let us never forget those necessary advances, including those within our jurisdiction. 80 years ago, the same Albert Camus wrote in one of his articles for “Combat”:

“Our world does not need tepid souls. It needs burning hearts”³.

That Scottish heart beats in your breasts, beloved Sisters and brothers. It spurs you on, it spurs us on.

I embrace you all with my most fraternal and friendly feelings.

M.II.Br. Christian CONFORTINI, 33°
M.P.S.G.C, GCDRE-GODF

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CONFORTINI', written diagonally across the page.

³ Albert CAMUS, excerpt from the newspaper *Combat*, editorial of December 26th 1944.