

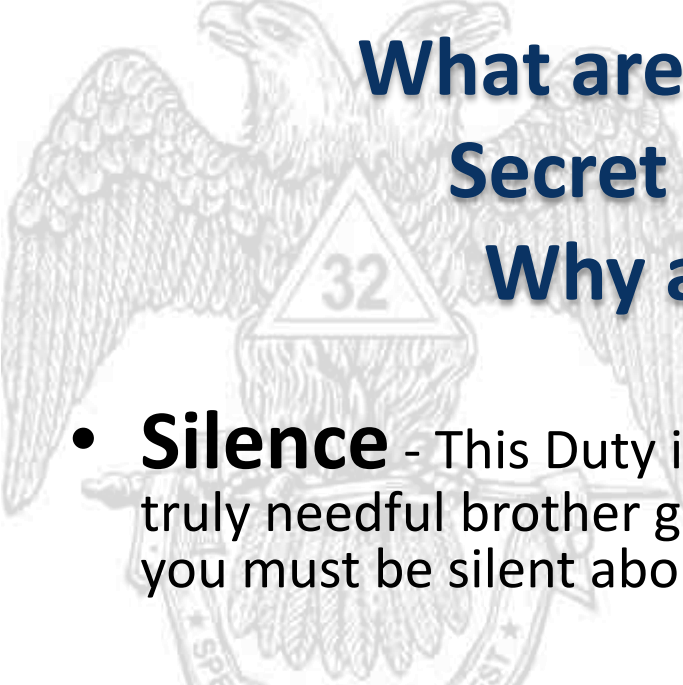


4°, Secret
Master



What is the principal teaching of this degree?

- The principal teaching of this degree is that of duty. The duty to our mission in life which is:
 - To serve our fellows
 - Your country
 - Your faith
 - And the nine Masonic virtues
- This duty teaches us to work for the work's sake, without desire for praise or reward.

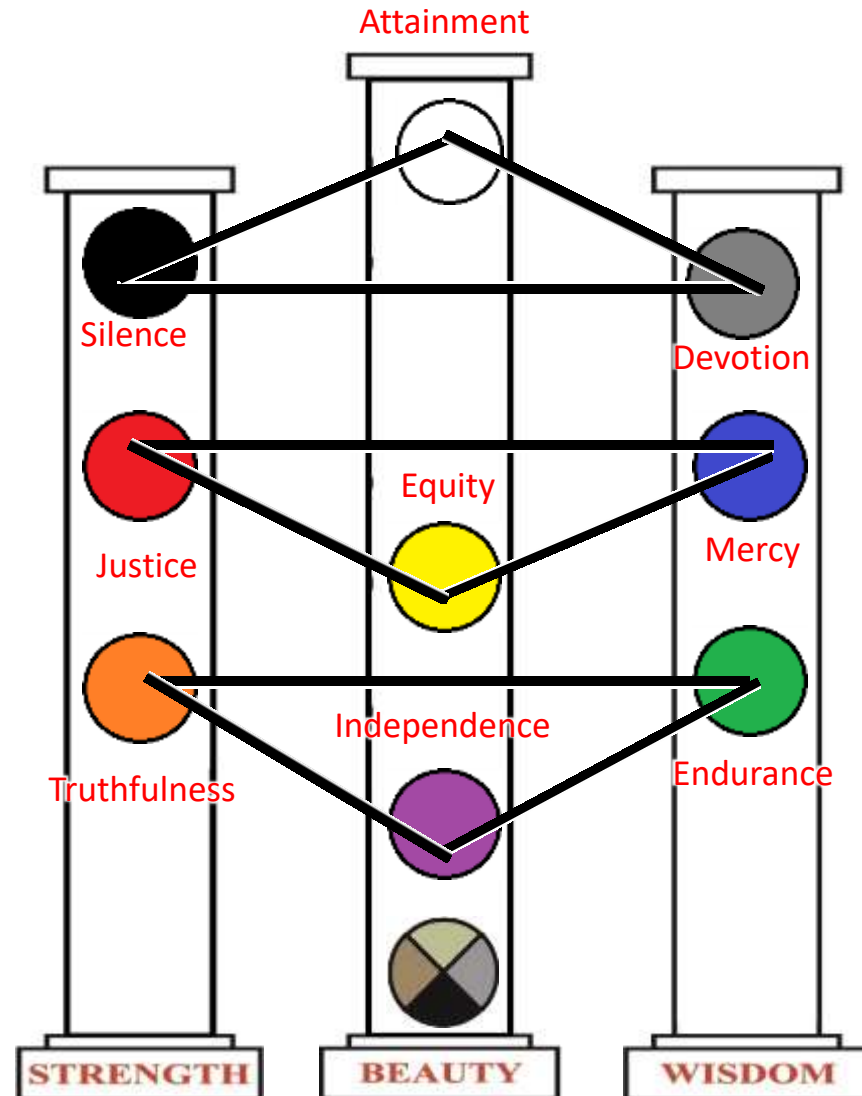


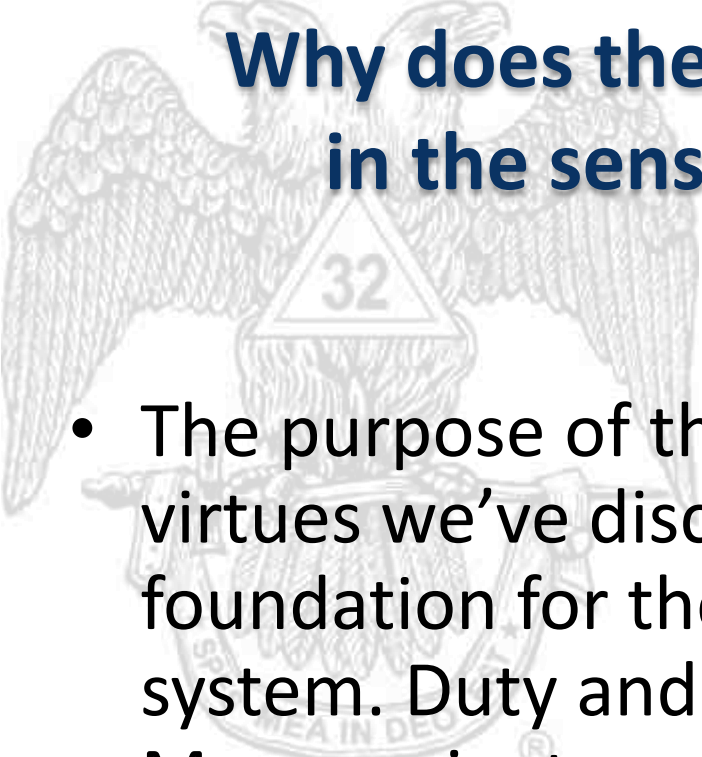
What are the three duties of the Secret Master's obligation? Why are they important?

- **Silence** - This Duty is important because sometimes helping a truly needful brother goes far beyond simple human charity and you must be silent about the help you provide.
- **Obedience** - This is not a blindness to tyranny, rather it is the proper submission of the individual will to the necessary demands of living in a society.
- **Fidelity** - This is one of the highest virtues. We must always strive to keep faith with God and our fellows otherwise our obligations are meaningless and our words snares for the simple.

What is the Kabbalah and what is its importance to the degree?

- The Kabbalah is an ancient Hebrew system of mystical thought, and like many other systems of philosophy, it explores with vivid detail the great questions of the nature of God, the origin of the material world, and the relationship of God to man.
 - This is not given to the candidate as a religious creed or doctrine of Freemasonry, but rather as a teaching aid for him to use to bring himself closer to his Creator.





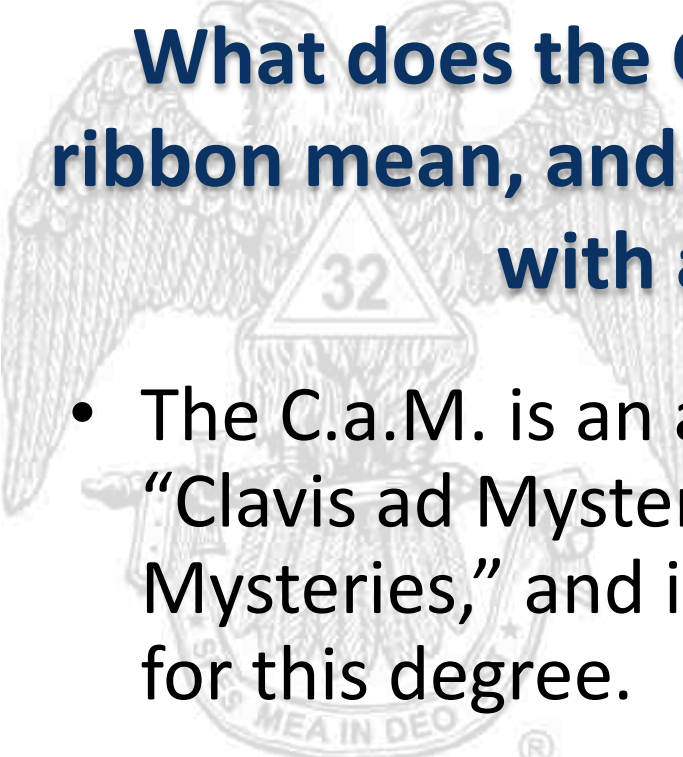
Why does the 4° not have a plot or story in the sense the other degrees do?

- The purpose of this degree is not to illustrate the virtues we've discussed, rather to lay the foundation for the entire Scottish Rite degree system. Duty and its importance in Scottish Rite Masonry is stressed in the ceremony.
 - The duties of a Scottish Rite Mason are not to be performed in the hope or expectation of earthly rewards or honors but in the simple expectation of personal satisfaction.

How does Proverbs 25:2 relate to this degree?

- *“It is the glory of God to conceal a thing; but the honor of kings is to search out a matter.”*
 - With the lodge of Secret Masters representing the gathering of the Princes of Israel after Hiram's death, the verse is quite literal. God has concealed the lost word with Hiram's death, and this degree symbolizes us taking the first steps in our duty to search out the lost word.





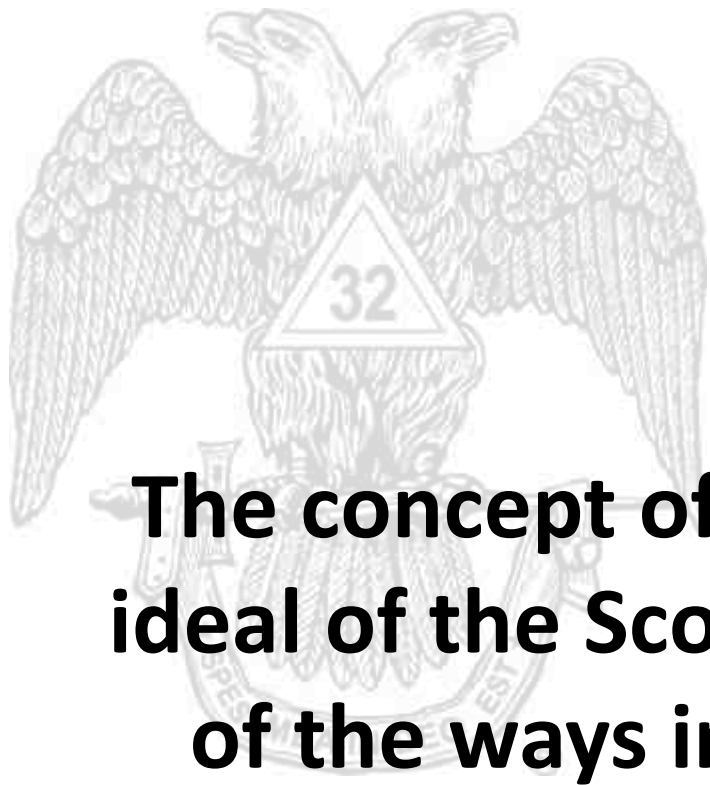
What does the C.a.M. embroidered on the ribbon mean, and why is the jewel an ivory key with a Z on its wards?

- The C.a.M. is an abbreviation of the Latin words “Clavis ad Mysterium” or “The Key to the Mysteries,” and is the proper name of the jewel for this degree.
- The ivory key as the jewel of this degree symbolizes secrecy and serves as a reminder that we are the custodians of the True Word; it should be locked up in our hearts.



What is the symbolism of the Holy of Holies behind the rail with the gate?

- This was where Master Hiram was accustomed to offer up his devotions and pray for wisdom.
 - This symbolizes the most secret mysteries of Freemasonry, which are being sought by the candidate so that he may use the “Key to the Mysteries” to unlock them.



The concept of progress is an important ideal of the Scottish Rite. What are some of the ways in which the themes and lessons of this degree reflect and expand upon the notion of progress?