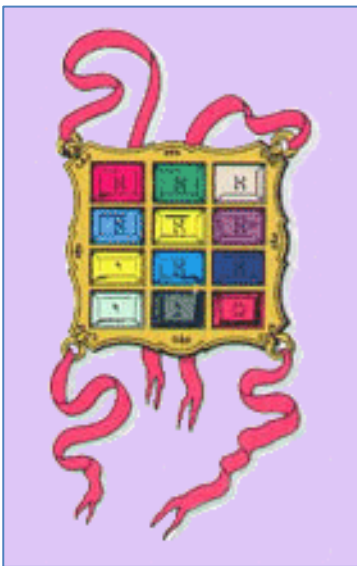


Orators Report  
on the 19<sup>th</sup> Degree  
Grand Pontiff  
Oct 5, 2011



There is no 19<sup>th</sup> degree apron. The vestments consist of the cordon, headband, jewel and breastplate of the Grand Pontiff; having twelve gems each with one of the initials of the twelve names of Deity mentioned in the ritual.

Bremerton Valley of the Scottish Rite

**The Legend:** The degree is founded on the mysteries of the Apocalypse, relating to the New Jerusalem, as set forth in the Revelation of St. John, the Evangelist, which it illustrates and endeavors to explain.

**The Setting:** The Chapter Hall of the Grand Pontiffs in New Jerusalem. Twelve columns are positioned throughout the room. Each of which has one of the 12 signs of the Zodiac and 12 names of Deity.

**The Ritual:** The Council of Kadosh comprises the Nineteenth through the Thirtieth Degrees. The word Kadosh is Hebrew, and means "consecrated or dedicated." Its members are dedicated to the discovery of philosophic truths and the chivalric virtues. This is the first Degree of the Council of Kadosh. The candidate is received as a Knight Rose Croix who has served in the ranks of truth armed with faith, hope and charity; his special duties were to fight intolerance and oppression. He comes now to learn so that he may be prepared to serve the cause of truth and light. To be so, he must learn patience. He is made to wait for approval to continue, a reference to the wait until the New Jerusalem appears upon the earth:

When sin no more the world shall blight  
But endless day dethrone the night.

A Brother then leads the candidate twelve times around the room, stopping at the columns which contain the initials of the twelve Tribes of Israel, the signs of the zodiac and names of God. In the Book to Revelation only 12,000 of each of the tribes of Israel are saved from destruction. The chosen of the tribes of Israel represent the most righteous of the human race. At each column the meaning of the concept of the New Jerusalem is explained. Each is a special instruction on attributes of Deity and the goal, virtues and truths taught by Masonry.

The Venerable Pontiff then invests the candidate with the robe, cordon, and jewel of the degree.

The title of this Degree sometimes causes confusion, for the term "pontiff" is sometimes applied to the Pope. But the word is used here in its original sense of "bridge builder." A Mason is to build bridges to the future, both his own future and the future of his society and culture. Remember that these lessons are provided for instruction, not as doctrine. The manner in which you worship the Creator is a private concern, and Freemasonry will not interfere with it.

### **The Lecture:**

**"Peace shall be the universal law for all children of a common father."**

In this Degree we explore the effect and influence of the deeds of heroism done in the past. Our thinking is formed and influenced by the great art, literature, and music of past ages. As Americans, every act we perform is profoundly influenced by those men and women who, 200 years ago, dared to create this nation. Many of our laws are the direct result of senators and judges of ancient Rome. It is the dead who govern the living only obey. The true Mason labors for the enlightenment of future ages, plants the tree whose shade the grandchildren of others will enjoy. All good men hope to live on in their influence after death, by the good they have done during their lives. That which shall live on after us is the act worth doing, the only thought worth speaking. Then let us so live that our acts may endure to uplift a brother as yet unborn.

Our nation is great, not by accident, but because of the sacrifices and efforts of our parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and all those who have gone before us. One of the key lessons of this Degree is the importance of building for the future. Another is the certainty that good will triumph over evil. Those lessons are reflected in the regalia of the Degree.

**THE MORAL TEACHING:** Is that life, when properly lived, is but a bridge to eternal life. Once the secret of life after death is known, a man understands that there is no time but eternity. Therefore, calamities which happen are temporary and will not continue. We are not taken down by calamities, but remain strong to fight against oppression and ignorance; we have passed from the Alpha to the Omega, have learned all the letters of the alphabet and understand that Alpha comes after Omega, that life is renewed. There is no end to learning and science.

**DUTIES:**

- Be content to labor for the future.
- Serve the cause of truth with patience and industry.
- Destroy error, falsehood and intolerance with truth, honesty, honor and charity.

**FOR REFLECTION:** Do you live your life so that it is a bridge to immortality? What can you do to improve the lives of those yet to come?

**IMPORTANT SYMBOLS:**

The jewel is an oblong square of solid gold, with the letter Aleph engraved on one side and Tau on the other, the first and last of the Hebrew. They should remind us of the love and veneration we owe to that Great Being, the source of all existence, the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last. On His promises we rely with perfect confidence, in whose mercy and goodness we implicitly trust, and for the fulfillment of whose wise purposes we are content to wait.

The cordon is crimson, bordered with white, and worn from left to right. It teaches us that the zeal and ardor of a Grand Pontiff ought to be set off by the greatest purity of morals, perfect charity and beneficence.