



**21°,  
Noachite or  
Prussian  
Knight**

# What does this degree teach us?

- This degree teaches us to be devoted to the cause of everyone who has been wronged by the great or oppressed by the powerful, those unjustly accused, those who have suffered from bribery, or corrupt judges, the widows, orphans, distressed and destitute.
- We are instructed that laziness is degrading and inactivity is shameful... we must seek opportunities to perform good deeds; be loyal in both word and deed.

# Where do the two stylings of this degree come from?

## Noachite

- This styling comes from the original degree prior to Pike's re-working.
- Before the re-working, this degree was controversial because it split from the Hiramic legend and followed the Noachites and the building of the Tower of Babel rather than the temple.

## Prussian Knight

- To fit it in with the Council Degrees, Pike based his ritual on a Germanic judicial institution from the middle ages called the *Vehmgericht*, or secret, tribunal.
- They operated in areas where normal territorial justice failed.
- They were a secret court that met at night, and their verdict was either death by hanging or acquittal.

# What are we to be reminded of by the trial of Adolph and the Count?

- In this trial Adolph, a lower class soldier returning from Palestine, accuses a Count, who happens to sit on the tribunal, of forging a deed and stealing his land.
- A verdict cannot be decided, however, because it is simply a word vs. word scenario.
- This alludes back to the earlier degrees in which we are taught to listen to all sides with disinterestedness.



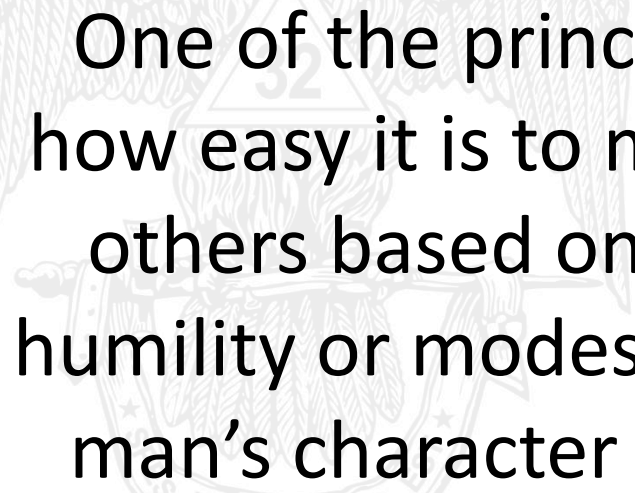
# What of the Noachite ritual still exists?

- Only two instances in the ritual really hit on the Noachite legend.
- The first is where we are reminded to be like Noah who, along with his family, was the only one chosen by God worthy to survive the flood.
- The second is where we are warned against following in the footsteps of Phaleg, who endeavored to build a tower out of the reach of another flood, thus going against God's omnipotence.

# What does the regalia of this degree symbolize?



- The clothing of this degree was all black with the exception of the gloves and apron.
- The apron features a figure with is fingers over his mouth and, on the flap, an upraised arm holding a sword.
  - This likely denotes the secrecy and violence used by this order to dispense justice.
- The motto of this degree, as seen around the jewel, is *Fiat Justitia, Ruat Coelum*, meaning “Let there be Justice, though the Heavens Fall.”



One of the principal lessons of this degree is how easy it is to make unfair judgements about others based on our own arrogance, lack of humility or modesty, and how zealously we try a man's character on the basis of a single fault.

What are examples of unfair judgements we encounter every day, and how do those examples affect our lives?