

Master Craftsman II 32nd Degree Essay Master of the Royal Secret

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Essay #1 Maintaining Equilibrium

“and finally of that Equilibrium, possible in ourselves, and which Masonry incessantly labors to accomplish in its Initiates, and demands of its Adepts and Princes (else unworthy of their titles), between the Spiritual and Divine and the Material and Human in man; between the Intellect, Reason, and Moral Sense on one side, and the Appetites and Passions on the other, from which result the Harmony and Beauty of a well-regulated life”¹

The Order

As discussed in the 31st degree essay, there are attributes that would define this concept of Equilibrium or the balanced life of enlightened humanity. Among those attributes we discussed humility, charity, passion and work. In this the final degree of the Rite we are “pulling it all together” and painting the picture of what the life of a true Scottish Rite Mason should look like. Within this degree we discussed the Sem Hamphoresh or the Great Name of God in 72 words. It leads us to contemplate the attributes of the Divine in the hopes that we will use this as a tool to begin to measure our own lives and see how we “measure up” to perfection.

This study of Deity and humanity that we call our Scottish Rite Degree's, also contains within it the true key to life. That, as we have learned, is that God and man are one and forever joined together. We are not a complex accident of nature left to our own devices. We are taught in the degree's that we are part of a bigger story and part of a Higher Intelligence that we call God. And while this life may seem complex and disorderly, in fact we find that the closer that we draw to the Divine through, in our case, the Degree work of the Scottish Rite, We find that we are in fact part of an orderly, discernible and understandable system.

As we begin to understand and recognize the order of the system, we should be led to the realization that there is a single Divine power behind all that we are coming to understand. As we begin to recognize this Divine Presence both in our consciousness, and in our physical lives, we also begin to understand that our goal of Equilibrium, the Royal Secret, will in fact come from becoming the reflection of this Divine Being. So we are led from the detail of our understanding to the particular of the Divine. We come understand that the change that we seek comes not from the attainment of certain skills or qualities, but that those skills and qualities become part of our personality as we draw closer to the living reality of our Divine Creator. We see equilibrium in our lives as we become the Sons of God.

True Progressivism

As the Scottish Rite Mason begins to reflect this reality of equilibrium in his life, he comes to find that the various aspects of his personal, family, social and Masonic life are all coming from the same center.

1 Bridge to Light Rex Hutchens pg 319

He is not putting on different “hats” as he moves through his day and his responsibilities. His goals at work are for instance, the same as his goals with his family. He finds that his goals in his social life are congruent with his goals in Masonry. He becomes a builder. He is building his inner character, he is building relationships and he is building society. He is building his organization and he is helping to build the lives of his children, spouse and family members. He finds that his primary role in this life is to reflect the productive and creative nature of his Divine Creator, Who, he now understands, dwells within his own spiritual nature. But as he becomes the builder, he understands that the building of the temple is meant to be the building of the inner life of the individual.

This is true Progressivism. The progressivism of individual enlightenment. This is the task and the work of the Scottish Rite and its degree system. This is what we are taught in our degree's, that we simply stand for and teach this process of enlightenment that happens within the individual. We stand in direct opposition to the other progressivism that has been thrust upon us as a society. The progressivism of big government and the thought that if you build the outer, external structure then the individual will change. This, my friends, is not the message of the Scottish Rite. Our degree's and teaching informs us that society will change in direct proportion to aggregate change of the individuals within society. Our order is the order of individual enlightenment.

If our goal is peace and prosperity for mankind, the Scottish Rite tells us to look inward and to embrace the knowledge and understanding that we teach in our degrees. As we begin to see the structure of our teaching we begin to see that there is an order and a Divine Creator behind the teaching of our degrees. As we begin to reflect the character of the Divine Being we begin to witness the changing of our lives and character. The result of that transformation is the Royal Secret, what we as Scottish Rite Masons call Equilibrium.