Lecture Proposal

Title: THE SPLENDID FEASTS OF SCOTTISH RITE GRADES (AASR)

Summary:

The lecturer\(^1\) is a member of the Research ‘Kadosh Council’ “SOURCES” of the Scottish Rites Jurisdiction of the Grand Orient de France.

In this capacity, over the last twelve years or so, with a small group of Brethren dedicated to this purpose, around thousand of old French handwritten (mainly Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rituals or predecessors) of all degrees have been digitized. They form by now a huge thesaurus available for research (a “Sources” data bank). [visuals]

Against this backcloth, the lecturer intends to focus on several common traits characterizing masonic ceremonies which -- when combined -- make up the ethos enabling so called ‘Initiation’ (French quote), i.e. increasing wages (aka. passing), exaltation (aka. raising) representing the maturation of the qualities of a candidate reaching a specific grade for himself and his brethren’s satisfaction. Besides, for the candidate, this ‘feast’ is supposed to perform an individual mind extension process and, presumably, a gratifying liking.

Masonic rituals refer to scripted words and actions that are spoken and performed during the degree work in a Masonic ceremony which, we, in France, call sometimes “Ateliers” i.e. ‘workshop’ – just to insist on the fact that work is carried out by the attendants -- , whether Lodge, Lodge of Perfection, Chapter Rose-Croix, Kadosh Council, or Consistory,...).

Masonic symbolism [visuals] at each grade is used to illustrate the display of Scottish grades layers. But not only... The focus will address specific insights such as Staging, Gestures, Specific vocabulary, Language, Colors, Jewels, Titles, Steps,... [visuals] which converges to create theatrical effects impacting on feelings and commanding thereafter understanding and behavior guiding each candidate.

‘Behavior’ in this context -- as a general term -- refers to the sum total of masonic features at each grade which, little by little, build up deep-seated characteristics

\(^1\) Henri LOMBARD, AASR 33\(^\circ\), became a mason in 1963 in Belgium (“Grand Orient de Belgique”) and joined the “Grand Orient de France” the following year where he is still active. Besides an international professional career as an engineer operating worldwide and as such enabling a large array of human perspectives. He has dedicated a great deal of his personal time to masonic activities and research.
embodied as specific intelligence, spirituality, sensitivity, etc. for the benefit of each active mason. [visual on Mirror Neurons]

As each grade opens up a new enlarged mind-set cumulating previous acquisitions, one may argue with Lévi-Strauss that "la pensée sauvage" (i.e. savage thought) in the masonic AASR world refers not to the discrete mind of any particular type of grades, but rather to an untamed human thought as distinct from mind cultivated or domesticated for the purpose of yielding a return."

Savage thought, continually gathers and applies structures wherever they can be used. The AASR grades espouse values and steady attitudes while practicing masonry over years.

The lecture will endeavor to present the method by grades offered by the AASR multi-layer framework as an immemorial tool whose modernity represents a singular and individual answer to each mason regarding today’s world complexity facing humankind.

To be entitled as a mason to practice the AASR grades results in sharing through one’s behavior the joy and splendor of the treasures delivered by our rituals.

_The should last 30 minutes max._

_Visual aids are foreseen._

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