

28th Degree – Knight of the Sun

Monday April 7 – Stratford CT

Some good Brothers are always on the lookout for more Light in Masonry.

After studying the arcane symbolism and uncovering the everlasting truths *and* extracting the pearls of wisdom concealed within the rituals of the Blue Lodge, their unquenchable thirst for further Light will in time transport them to the Portal of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite.

The Scottish Rite presents 29 supplementary degrees of Masonry whose ancient symbolism and lessons of morality offer worthy Brothers an opportunity to advance rapidly on a course of materialistic, personal and spiritual success. The upcoming 28th Degree “Knight of the Sun”, is but one of these profound and revealing sources of illumination.

Our Sun is the luminary that circumscribes our every moment. It energizes every living thing on our planet. It is the central axis of our Solar system and, for all we know, it may exert influence far beyond our limited perceptions. It alone provides the energy that enables Mankind to live and develop materially and by sustaining our life in the material plane, it *intrinsically* allows us to grow in the spiritual plane.

It is *the* life giver – the nexus of becomming. And that is why it figures prominently in our opening rituals –“ As the Sun Opens and Governs the Day...”. All that happens mundanely is attributable to the Life Giving Light and Energy of our brightly shining Sun. It thus totally embodies the concept of.....“
Enlightenment ”.

The 28th Degree, under the title “Knight of the Sun”, offers a profound and revealing experience of how the Sun informs and enlightens our fundamental understanding of life. It tells a deeply significant story that does not appear anywhere in modern history books. It concerns the *undercover* activities of a number of otherwise historically significant characters and explains their seminal role in converting Freemasonry from a Guild of Operative Stone Masons into a Society of Speculative *FREEMasons*.

These characters sought a way to enlighten and improve their fellow man. Their goal was to free Western Society from the oppressive tyrannies of despotic rulers and the mortal threat of religious superstition that prevailed in the 1600’s.

Although the degree does not pretend to historical accuracy, the characters portrayed are significant historical persons who, through their personal efforts and selfless sacrifice, initiated the long and arduous process of liberating the common people of Western Society from the desperate joyless conditions in which they existed at the time.

By the early 1700’s the process of disestablishment was well on its way to becoming a major force for world change. Inspired by the progressive ideologies of Francis Bacon and John Locke and aided by such organizations as Britain’s Royal Society and the “Levelers”, Western Society began to evolve into a progressive society of scientific advancement and Free Thought. As a direct result of these movements, millions of ordinary people have been liberated from the cruel yoke of ignorance and the crippling shackles of institutionalized oppression.

**And Freemasons made this happen. Freemasons are still making this happen.
For Spiritual Freedom is like a plant – it wants constant nurture if it is to survive.**

The 28th degree introduces the candidate to such luminary personalities such as Thomas Vaughan (aka Philalethes), Johann Valentin Andrea , Manasseh Ben Israel, Elias Ashmole, and other characters whose identities may come as a surprise. These were the men, the *leaders*, who piloted the modern transformation of Western Society.

These men boldly exposed and courageously transmitted the ancient esoteric verities of man's true nature to a wider and more diversified demographic than had ever received them before. Vaughan and Andrea were the men who exposed the alternative paths of liberation proffered by Alchemy and Rosicrucianism. Ben Israel developed the printing press into an effective working tool for the dissemination of scientific and humanistic truth to the masses. And Elias Ashmole, by becoming the first Speculative Freemason in history to be initiated into a Masonic Lodge, established the philosophical link between nature, man and spirit that formed the sole basis for the formal acceptance of Speculative Freemasons into the Craft by the Operative Masons of 17th Century Britain.

This degree is an exposition of the men who brought Light and Societal Liberation to Western Society. These men exemplify the moral principles and intellectual qualities required of any brother who aspires to be a “ Knight of the Sun”.

So join us on Monday April 7 at 7:30 PM at the Scottish Rite Theater in Stratford, as the Lafayette Consistory presents the 28th Degree - “Knight of the Sun” – a celebration of those Men who enabled the liberation of Western Society.

If you are coming home after the Grand Lodge Session, join us for dinner at the Pyramid Shrine right next door to the Theater prior to the degree at 6:30.

Reservations are required – please call the Consistory Office at 203. 375.0064 by Noon on Monday April 7th to guarantee your place at the table.

Start your journey in the Scottish Rite. To become a 32nd degree Mason on May 5th, contact any Valley in the State *before* the 28th degree and we can start you on your travels. (Or call 1 203 375 0064.)

If you are already a member of the Scottish Rite, please be informed that this is the time to take advantage of one of your Scottish Rite Membership Benefits.

This is the time to have your children apply for an Abbot Scholarship. Read more about this opportunity on the AASR Web Site.

See You There!

John A. Amarillos 32°

(Erik P. Meyer edit.)