

Orators Report  
on the 20th degree  
Master of the  
Symbolic Lodge  
Dec 7, 2011



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In the center of the apron is a drawing of the jewel.

Bremerton Valley of the Scottish Rite

**The Legend:** The degrees of the Council of Kadosh are chivalric and philosophical, but also contain mystical material. The word "Kadosh" is a Hebrew word meaning "Holy". This Degree is considered classical drama for many reasons. The most significant are its simplicity in set and action, the ceremonial use of candles, and the use of squares, triangles and pillars, the classic symbols of Masonry in Morals and Dogma Pike notes that Masonry should be returned to its primitive purity. The ceremony is a dramatic statement of this "primitive purity".

**The Setting:** First Section is the Lodge Room of the Venerable Master with a triangle formed by the three columns in front of the altar denoting: Toleration, Justice, and Truth. The Lodge is lighted by nine lights, in three groups of three on the East, West and South of the Altar; representing: Veneration of God, Charity, Generosity, Heroism, Honor, Patriotism, Justice, Toleration, and Truth. On the tracing board are the five great squares and three great triangles of Masonry composed as follows:

- The first square represents Prudence, Temperance, Chastity, and Sobriety.
- The second square represents Heroism, Firmness, Equanimity, and Patience.
- The third square represents Purity, Honor, Fidelity, and Punctuality.
- The fourth square represents Charity, Kindness, Generosity, and Liberality.
- The fifth square represents Disinterestedness, Mercy, Forgiveness, and Forbearance.
- The first triangle represents Veneration, Devotedness, and Patriotism.
- The second triangle represents Gratitude to God, Love of Mankind, and Confidence in human nature.
- The third triangle represents Truth, Justice, and Toleration.

The Second Section takes place in the Hall of Equity. Its hangings are white and the canopies under which are the seats of the President and Councilors, are blue. In the hall

are eight Ionic columns, white, ornamented with gilding and on each, in letters of gold, is a name of a wise man or sage.

### **The Ritual:**

In the First Section, the Candidate wears the collar and jewel of a Pontiff, and the jewel of a Rose Croix. He is escorted to each of the three columns; Toleration, Justice, and Truth; and requested to assert his mastery of these virtues. The Venerable Master then invests the Candidate with the collar, apron and jewel of the Degree and says: "My Brother, as the presiding officer of a Lodge, it will be your particular duty to dispense light and knowledge to the Brethren. That you may ever remember that duty, you will now proceed symbolically to perform it, by restoring to us the splendor of our Nine Great Lights in Masonry". He is reminded that no one should accept the office of Master of the Symbolic Lodge until he is well qualified and acquainted with the history, morals, and philosophy of Masonry as symbolized by the nine lights, five squares, and three triangles.

In the Second Section, at each of the eight columns, the initiate is lectured on the philosophies of Zarathustra, Manu, Hermes, Confucius, Moses, Hammurabi, Numa, and King Alfred of Saxon England. The President then lectures the newly initiated brother on the responsibilities of the Master of the Symbolic Lodge, reminiscent of the Charge to the Master at Installation.

### **The Lecture:**

As Master of the Lodge, one must first learn to be able to teach. There is nothing more sublime than leading the initiate into the sublime truth of Masonry, but to do so properly requires study and thought. The legends and allegories recited by Masonry are of worth only when understood. The lessons of this degree must be applied to everyday life and not reserved for the lodge room only. The world will judge us by our acts and Masonry itself will be judged by the character of its members. Let the light shine always.

**THE MORAL TEACHING:** This degree teaches that a Mason who knows that he does not possess the qualities of leadership, and who has not duly prepared himself to be a leader, should not want to be one. Notwithstanding, every Mason should endeavor to educate himself, bearing in mind that one day he may be asked to lead. Because he is of his community, it expects him to dispense light and knowledge; to practice the virtues both in and out of lodge.

#### **DUTIES:**

- Dispense light and knowledge.
- Practice the Masonic virtues both in and out of the lodge.

#### **LESSONS:**

- Truth, justice and toleration are indispensable qualities for a Master of the Lodge.
- Example is the best teaching method known.

#### **FOR REFLECTION:**

Is your behavior the same both in and out of the lodge?

Blue and yellow (gold) are the colors of the regalia of the Twentieth Degree. They refer us back to the Blue or Symbolic Lodge. The apron is yellow, bordered and lined with sky blue. In the center of the apron is a drawing of the jewel. The jewel is composed of three concentric triangles. In the nine angles thus formed are the initials of the nine Great Lights or Great Virtues taught in the Degree—Charity, Generosity, Veneration, Heroism, Patriotism, Honor, Toleration, Truth, and Justice.