

The Scottish Rite: Is it Calling You?



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Often we are led to believe that once you obtain the Master Mason's Degree, you are on a par with any Brother Mason, anywhere across the globe. And while that may be entirely correct, for those who do not take the advantage to seek more light in Masonry, you might just be denying yourself the opportunity to open up a whole new world of information.

The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry is often referred to as the University of Freemasonry. The degrees associated with this branch of Masonic education delve into the ethical and philosophical tenets of the Rite and are illustrated in the presentation of the several degrees, each having its own meaning and understanding.

The Scottish Rite is divided into three "houses", with each house exploring particular points of philosophy, history, ethics, and fundamental truths that freemasons strive to pattern their lives. The first house, known as the Lodge of Perfection, covers the 4th to 14th degrees. These are known as the Ineffable Degrees and assist brethren to investigate and contemplate the Ineffable name of deity. Upon completion of the lessons of the fourteenth degree, one is in possession of the title Grand Elect, Perfect and Sublime Mason. This is an important step in the journey, as you are now prepared to further expound upon your spiritual travels. The house is governed by the Thrice Potent Master.

The 15th thru 18th Degrees constitute the Chapter of Rose Croix. These degrees expound upon the philosophical and religious aspects of an intellectual nature. Upon completion of the eighteenth degree, a Brother is known as a Knight Rose Croix. The Chapter of Rose Croix is undoubtedly the most public house of Scottish Rite Masonry, as it is charged with performing funeral services for the deceased

membership. The head of this house, known as the Most Wise and Perfect Master, is responsible for ensuring that a fallen member is afforded the final rights and benefits due a Scottish Rite Mason.

Finally, the Degrees from nineteen thru thirty-two are grouped into the Consistory. These degrees constitute the traditional and chivalric degrees of Freemasonry, the traditional degrees being from the 19th thru the 29th and the chivalric degrees from the 30th to the 32nd. A brother receiving this degree becomes a Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret and is invested with an understanding that, if one truly embraces the teachings, will govern his life for all the days to come. The head of this house is known as the Commander-in-Chief and although each house is sovereign unto itself, the three houses operate under the leadership of the Consistory as a “Valley” in the Orient or geographical state of his existence. The various orients are grouped together as a Supreme Council and are presided over by a Sovereign Grand Commander.

After obtaining the 32nd Degree, a worthy Sublime Prince, upon recommendation, may be elevated to the 33rd and last Degree of freemasonry, or Grand Inspector General. This honor is provided to those who show a prolific desire to embody the tenets of the preceding degrees and cannot be requested or applied for. One must work hard and be selected by virtue of the example that he sets in both his everyday life and his Masonic career.

If you really want to immerse yourself in their inner workings of Masonry and gain a deeper understanding of what it means to belong to this Order, answer that call and seek out a Scottish Rite Mason to request a petition to become a member. You’ll be glad you did, for it will truly change your life. And if you are a Scottish Rite Mason and you know of a Worthy Master Mason who can benefit from the education that this “University” can provide, by all means, invite him to become a member and expand his horizons.