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The sequence of initiation: Entered Apprentice – Fellowcraft – Master Mason “A-F-M” is typical of craft initiations from which the speculative masonry which we practise originated.

The structure of a jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite has the unique particularity of presenting an “A-F-M” holistic sequence encompassing all others, i.e. Apprentice from the 4th to the 30th degree, Fellowcraft from the 31st to the 32nd, Master Mason at co-optation by the S.:C.:

The three sequences of the “A-F-M” type encompassed by the holistic sequence are as follows:

- From the 4th to the 30th degree, the entered apprentice’s degree is conferred in the Lodge of perfection, that of fellowcraft in the Chapter of Rose-Croix, and that of Master Mason in the Council of Kadosh.
- Within that same sequence, the intermediary degrees are so many repetitions of the “A-F-M” sequence.
- In the so-called “white degrees” one is an apprentice in the 31st, a fellowcraft in the 32nd, and a Master Mason in the 33rd.
- In the highest lodge of the Rite, the Supreme Council, the S.:G.:I.:G.: go through the same process although there is no need to discuss it here.

Thus, the jurisdiction presents a fractal structure. The continuous functionality of the initiation process which it proposes derives from such fractality.

All those who take part in the labours of the Lodge do so at the same level of initiation, they share the same identity, the same age within the same functional space-time unit, from opening to closing of the Lodge.

The Freemasonry of Scottish Higher Degrees uses centuries old rituals which, intrinsically, are no more than a *techné* for implementing an *ethos*, in other words a means of being in the world.

The rituals work in the same way as the Socratic philosophy master who keeps up a permanent dialogue with his observer, in every sense of the verb “to observe”.

Our Freemasonry is essentially an *ethos* in keeping with constant anthropological elements:

“Knowing how to give – Knowing how to receive – Knowing how to transmit”

The ethic proposed by first sequence of initiation of our Jurisdiction to all who lift the veil of the Secret Master presents itself in ternary form:

Alliance - Love – Alertness

Those terms are the pillars of Scottish Rite Tradition.

In the Lodge of Perfection, the Secret Master enters into an alliance with the Secret Masters of his Lodge of Perfection, with all Secret Masters who practise the Ancient Accepted Scottish of Higher Degrees, with the Supreme Council.

In the Chapter of Rose-Croix, the Knight of the Rose Croix experiences the love expressed with such magnificence by the Rose on the Cross. The 18th degree resolves itself into a spiritual sublimation of fellowship of the Craft.

In the Council of Kadosh, the knight Kadosh promises to immerse himself in a state of alertness, at the cost of an accepted *parrêsia*.

Let each of you meditate on all that is implied by this ternary so that, together, in the alliance you entered, you may have the courage of your hope.

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Translated by JPGNT