



Grand Collège des Rites Ecossais

SUPRÊME CONSEIL DU 33^{DEGRÉ} EN FRANCE
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GODF

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“Seewosagur Ramgoolam” was the name chosen by our Jurisdiction for the 2017 promotion of medals presented at the General Autumn Meeting of the Rose✠Croix Chapter on August 29th, in the presence of the Grand Master and of the Presidents of Jurisdictions of the Grand Orient of France, as well as of delegates of several Scottish Rite Jurisdictions from every continent, and several hundreds of Knights of the Rose✠Croix.

Sir Seewosagur Ramgoolam (1900-1985) was the son of an Indian emigrant who worked as Sirdar (overseer) for a sugar estate in Mauritius. A boy of outstanding intelligence, he received an English education; first at the Royal College close to Port Louis, then at medical school in England, where he became a member of the *Fabian Society*. On his return to Mauritius in 1935, he practised medicine and in 1939 he was made a freemason of the Grand Orient of France. He became a Knight of the Rose✠Croix in our Chapter “La Triple Espérance”, Valley of Port-Louis, whose existence since the 18th century is well documented. He later rose to the highest rank of our Jurisdiction, that of Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33rd degree.

As early as 1940, he joined the Legislative Council and remained in politics ever after. He became Prime Minister of Mauritius, a multi ethnic country which he led towards independence in a peaceful manner. Although he was a leader of the Indian community in Mauritius, he was able to see beyond differences and to fight communalism (the Mauritian version of communitarianism), in order to allow all ethnic communities, including the Chinese community, to take part in political life, and to make it possible for all religions, including the Muslim minority, to exist peacefully together. Because he came from the British Labour Party, he managed to avoid the pitfalls of a dictatorship inspired by Marxism-Leninism, family interests or imperialism, and enabled a remarkable economic development. It is also to be noted that Mauritius (180th) is ahead of France (250th) and of all African countries in the international corruption index.

In his last interview with a journalist, a few months before he died, Sir Seewosagur Ramgoolam said “*freedom of the individual is the most precious heritage I bequeath to my country*” and “*we must have a humanistic approach ... without excluding anyone*”. Those two sentences are perfectly attuned to the values of the Grand College of Scottish Rites - Grand Orient of France.

Historically and philosophically, he stands between Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela. Nurtured with humanistic masonic values, he was able to lead his country towards political, economic, moral and spiritual independence and to preserve it from the violence of all kinds which went along with decolonisation elsewhere.

It behoves our Jurisdiction to carry on his work of initiatory advancement, thus allowing members worthy of our Brother Seewosagur Ramgoolam to come forth.

Our Jurisdiction’s Chapter of Mission in the Indian Ocean will also bear his name.

Let us simply keep in mind that he became the man he was because for centuries, every Knight of the Rose✠Croix in the Chapter “La Triple Espérance”, and through them every Knight of the Rose✠Croix in our Jurisdiction could pass on their Faith in mankind, their Hope for a better world and their Charity towards all.