



## FEAST OF TISHRI

Oration Given by Dr. Bing Johnson, 32° KCCH  
To the Grand Junction Scottish Bodies  
On November 15,2004

The origin of the Feast is described in the Book of Leviticus where it is said that the Lord spoke unto Moses saying that on the fifteenth day of the month of Tishri of the Hebrew civil calendar ye shall have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD.....“ The Feast of Tishi is the Hebrew equivalent of Thanksgiving or Harvest festival.

All of us have much to be thankful for. One of the things that I am especially thankful for is the SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY. Let me now tell you about the Scottish Rite using the late Grand Commander Henry C. Clausen’s very own eloquent words

“The ultimate goal is mankind’s moral, spiritual and intellectual development.”

Our teachings and symbols preceded our formal organization by thousands of years. They go deep into ancient ages The signs, symbols and inscriptions come to us across the centuries and will be found in the tombs and temples of India to those of Nubia, through the Valley of the Nile down to its delta in Egypt, as well as in what was then known as Chaldea, Assyria, Persia, Greece, Rome and even in Mexico and Yucatan. The Scottish Rite is a treasure house in which is stored the ageless essence of immutable laws, the accumulation of thousands of years of Masonic experience.

We learn our mission in a system of progressive degrees of

instruction. We teach our members the highest ethics, the wise expositions of philosophy and religion, and the blessings of charity. Our code of conduct stems from the precepts of chivalry, the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule. We reveal the wisdom of the Lesser and Greater Mysteries and their symbols of words and phrases long considered lost. These were the truths that Plato, Pythagoras, Socrates, Homer and other intellectuals of the ages held in high esteem, that have reappeared in later religions.

Our degrees represent the study and reflections of many men during many years and at heavy cost, the culling of hundreds of volumes for effective portrayals and illustrations, and more labor than the accumulated endeavors of a lifetime engaged in efforts to attain eminence of riches. Our members receive a gift of the greatest value. They gain a comprehensive knowledge of our heritage of history, philosophy, religion, morality, freedom and toleration, and of the their relationship to their Creator, their country and their family and themselves. These well may lead also to that understanding of identity, clarity of mind and energy of will that propel toward personal success in life.

We carry out our mission in a series of spiritual, charitable and moral programs. We make living, breathing, vital parts of our activities the recovery and maintenance of moral standards and spiritual values, the pride of patriotism and love of flag and country, the dispensing of charity without regard to race, color or creed.

We stand for positive programs but fight with moral courage and enthusiasm every force or power that would seek to destroy freedom, including spiritual despotism and political tyranny. We teach that

sovereignty of state resides in control by the people themselves and not in some self-appointed dictator or despotic totalitarian. We therefore advocate complete separation of church and state, absolute freedom of religion, press and assembly, and the dignity of every individual. Those we consider vital for the ultimate liberties and independence of our people.

Ours, therefore, has been a strong voice for human dignity, political justice, moral values and civic responsibility. Through our teachings millions of men and women have discovered an opportunity to lead more rewarding lives. The example of our actions has been as stirring and inspiring as that of our collective commitment to true human progress.”

Bro. Clausen likened the Scottish Rite to “a tree of sparkling symbolic jewels, surmounted with the Blazing Star of Truth that displays the dazzling splendor of the Mystic Doctrine of the Universe, and the reflected glory of the Deity.”

All of this has been crystallized and summarized by Bro. Clausen by his asking the question IF BY SOME MAGIC YOUR SCOTTISH RITE RING COULD SPEAK WHAT WOULD IT NOT SAY TO YOU.

“I SYMBOLIZE the Scottish Rite and, as such, like Aladdin’s lamp I am possessed of miraculous powers, for...

“I BRING YOU riches far greater than all the wealth of fabled El Dorado: I can summon to you the help and other strengths of your Scottish Rite Brethren through the nations of our world wide Masonry

“I BRING YOU the grandeur and the splendor of a Scottish Rite ritual: That portrayal from antiquity through the golden pen in poetry and the sacred fire in drama that inculcates lofty patriotic sentiments,

clean moral values, and noble spiritual aspirations...

“I BRING YOU the magnetism of a Scottish Rite mission: That never ending fight for human rights and resources--freedom of the body, freedom of the mind, freedom of the Soul...

“I BRING YOU the beauty of a Scottish Rite Vision: that revelation of truth and greatness dimly seen in the mystic light that follows purification, inspiration, initiation and perfection...

“I BRING YOU the insight of a Scottish Rite Philosophy: that progress in human development which transforms natural ignorance into divine wisdom, self discovery, self awareness and self enrichment...

“I BRING YOU the confidence of Scottish Rite Courage: that self reliance in daily living born of an abiding faith in the guidance of Him who holds the whole world in His hands...

“THESE ARE some of the things I bring to you, a true Freemason of the Scottish Rite.”

Sources:

1. Clausen, H. C., *CLAUSEN'S COMMENTARIES ON MORALS AND DOGMA*, The Supreme Council, 33° Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, 1985

2. Coil, H. W., *COIL'S MASONIC ENCYCLOPEDIA*, Macoy Publishing and Masonic Supply Co, Inc. 1996

3. Clausen, H. C., *PRACTICE AND PROCEDURES FOR THE SCOTTISH RITE*, The Supreme Council, 33° Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, 1981