

## **The Scottish Rite Eagle**

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I bring you the cordial and fraternal greetings from the Supreme Council for Germany and thank you very much for the kind welcome and the generous hospitality.

May I say some words about our Scottish Rite Eagle. It has four main parts. We may find correspondences to the four letters of the Ineffable Name or the Lost Word and the four Qabalistic Worlds. The Scottish Rite reveals, beyond the explanations given by the Craft, that the Lost word is not a password, but a symbol on its own which merits deep reflection. It is shown in the Royal Arch Degree (13<sup>th</sup>). It is said that the High Priest of the Temple in Jerusalem said this word once a year on Yom Kippur to keep open the channels of light between Heaven and Earth. The right pronunciation was only given from mouth to ear from High Priest to High Priest and was lost. Since the vowels of the Divine word Adonai was given to the four letters of the Ineffable Word IHVH, the pronunciation of Jehovah was later on often used.

The four letters of the Ineffable Word had their correspondences to the four elements, Fire, Water, Air and Earth. In Qabalah, the highest world is called Atziluth, under the wings of the Most High, and is seen as the world of Divine will. The first whirlings of the Divine energy are seen as an expression of the Divine will. We may attribute it to the Crown which is placed above the eagle. It shows that the eventual manifestation of the Divine will leads to the establishment of the Holy Empire, a realm of peace and harmony which has to be made by the way of perfection of mankind.

The second world, Beriah, the World of Creation, is said to be a world of archetypal forms of which the Divine takes shape. It is the womb of creation, from where all things emanate and to which all things will return. Through our life and the experiences made therein we give life and form to this, originally only potential eagle and brighten it. Our perfection results in a perfected eagle.

The third world is called Yetzirah, the World of Formation. The sword represents it. It hints at our fight as Knights for the Good, for Truth, to protect the weak, the restoration of justice and equity, and against evil and darkness. It needs discrimination and balance to restore the lost equilibrium.

The fourth and last world is called Assiah, the World of Making, which is the world of manifestation of the will. This world is represented by the two mottos of the Scottish Rite: *Ordo ab chao* and *Deus meumque ius*. Where we are placed in our life, it is our task to restore order and equilibrium. It is believed that Richard Lionhaert used in French *Dieu et mon droit* as battle cry at the Battle of Gisors in 1198. It became later the Royal motto of England and refers to the principle of sovereignty and the divine right of rulership deriving the right to rule from God. As motto of the Supreme Council it is a symbol of its sovereignty. As a symbol it applies also to all of us encouraging us to obtain the status of sovereignty in our life. The Scottish Rite wants to lead us into Freedom and Sovereignty.