

PRESENTATION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF TURKEY

SPIRITUAL OPENNESS IN THE MODERN WORLD

A. Regular Grand Lodges of the World: Problems faced:

- 1 **The Swedish Rite.** Grand lodges working with the Swedish Rite, accept only Christian members. Non Christian regular Brothers can only be accepted as guests in these Grand Lodges. We believe that this archaic procedure, which is in contradiction with the Masonic ideal of "**liberté - égalité - fraternité**" should be adapted to our modern world..
 - a. Among the European Grand Lodges, only the Grand Lodges of Turkey and Israel have the three Books of the Sacred Law on their altar.
 - b. Some lodges, when they initiate a Moslem candidate, add the Koran to the Bible on the Altar.
 - c. In the Far East, lodges have up to 9 sacred books on the altar. Thus, all the beliefs of brethren are respected equally.

2. The activity of the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite In the USA: This Masonic organisation, in order to spread

its influence, is trying to create grand Lodges before the consecration of craft lodges in Eastern Europe and the Balkans, thus causing grave problems in these countries. **B.**

Recognition and regularity:

1. **Italy:** Some of the regular grand lodges recognise the Grand Orient of Italy and some, like the Grand Lodge of Turkey, The Regular Grand Lodge of Italy. As the Grand Orient of Italy, is

back into regularity, a solution should be found to alleviate this problem.

- 2, Greece: The same problem as above, exists also in Greece.

3. Too fast recognition of new founded grand lodges:

Some grand lodges tend to recognise immediately newly found and regularly consecrated grand lodges in countries where Masonic tradition is also new. We feel that this is not a healthy approach.

C. Masonic Tradition In Today's World: The fundamentals In contemporary society, how to adopt and promote them:

Regular Freemasonry does not participate in political and religious discussions. But there are grey regions when antidemocratic laws are promulgated or racism and fundamentalism are rampant. We always say that *"Freemasonry does not mix in politics, but individual freemasons do"*. What happens when the Grand Master is asked for his opinion? How could Freemasonry promote democracy without infringing on our regulations?

D. The Freemason's duties in his country and to the world

Apart from the research of democracy, Freemasonry could and should promote programs for the relief of masses. Every grand lodge has relief programs for national or international disasters, for giving to the needy, helping students and funding medical research. But these programs are not coordinated, they are not advertised and do not help much in building our image internationally. The Rotary has helped to eradicate polio for the benefit of the children of the world. Individual artists (like Bono) are promoting programs against famine in Africa. It would be an interesting discussion if an organized and well-advertised effort - by grand lodges could be possible.

SPIRITUAL OPENNESS IN THE MODERN WORLD

A, Regular Grand Lodges of the World: Problems faced :

1. The fact that non Christians are not accepted (except as guests) in Swedish Rite lodges and the number of books of the Sacred Law on the altar.
2. The activity of the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite in Eastern Europe and the Balkans.

B, Regularity and recognition:

- 1 Two regular grand lodges in both Italy and Greece.
2. Too fast recognition of new regularly consecrated grand lodges in countries without a prior Masonic tradition:

C. Masonic Tradition in Today's World: Our fundamentals In contemporary society, how to adopt and promote them:

1. **Politics and freemasonry: What** should be the reaction of Freemasonry when democracy is threatened?

D. The Freemason's duties In his country and to #hÊ inrorld:

Is any concerted and well advertised international relief effort by grand lodges possible?