The Structure of Freemasonry

American Freemasonry resembles two sets of stairs that begin and end together, as this chart of Masonic structure shows. A Mason's first step is to become an Entered Apprentice. He climbs to the third step where most Masons stay. If he wants to go on in Masonic hierarchy, he enters either the Scottish or York rites. Many authorities say the Scottish Rite was begun by Scots emigrés in France; the York Rite is named after York, England where, by legend, the first Masonic body was organized.

In the Scottish Rite a Mason climbs 30 steps, or degrees. The name he takes on at each degree is written on each step in chart. Where there are two names the top is used by northern Masons, the italicized one by southern Masons. Some figures a Mason meets in Rite ceremonies stand on the steps (*from bottom*): King Solomon, King Cyrus, acolyte, George Washington, Sultan. Each degree teaches a moral. To earn degree candidate learns the moral and participates in ceremony dramatizing it. A 32° is the highest degree a Mason can earn. The 33° is awarded by the Supreme Council, ruling body of the Rite.

A Mason in York Rite advances 10 degrees, known by name and not by degree number. On chart are figures he meets at each degree or the degree symbol. Figures are: temple workman, Past Master (Virtual), Israel tribesman, High Priest of Jews, King Hiram of Tyre, Knight of Malta, Knight Templar, equal in prestige to 33° in Scottish Rite.

Under the arch are organizations allied to Freemasonry. Master Masons are eligible for Grotto and Tall Cedars of Lebanon. Girls with a Mason in the family can join Job's Daughters or Rainbow Girls; women, the Eastern Star; boys, DeMolay. Only 32° Masons or Knights Templar can join the Shrine. Shriner's wife can be a Daughter of the Nile.

Most important of many Masonic symbols are the open Bible with square and compass on it (*left*); Solomon's temple (*below Bible*); and the *G* with the all-seeing eye inside (*upper right*). In the U.S. the *G* stands for God.

SCOTTISH RITE

33° Sovereign Grand Inspector General

Order of Knights Templar

32° Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret *Master of the Royal Secret*

31° Grand Inspector Inquisitor Commander *Inspector Inquisitor*

30° Grand Elect Knight K-H *Knight Kadosh*

29° Knight of St. Andrew *Scottish Knight of St. Andrew*

28° Knight of the Sun *Knight of the Sun or Prince Adept*

27° Commander of the Temple *Knight Commander of the Temple*

26° Prince of Mercy

25° Knight of the Brazen Serpent

24° Prince of the Tabernacle

23° Chief of the Tabernacle

22° Prince of Libanus *Knight of the Royal Axe*

21° Patriarch Noachite *Noachite or Prussian Knight*

20° Master Ad Vitam *Master of the Symbolic Lodge*

19° Grand Pontiff *Pontiff*

18° Knight of the Rose Croix of H.R.D.M. *Knight Rose Croix*

17° Knight of the East and West

16° Prince of Jerusalem

15° Knight of the East or Sword *Knight of the East*

14° Grand Elect Mason *Perfect Elu*

13° Master of the Ninth Arch *Royal Arch of Solomon*

12° Grand Master Architect *Master Architect*

11° Sublime Master Elected *Elu of the Twelve*

10° Elect of Fifteen *Elu of the Fifteen*

9° Master Elect of Nine *Elu of the Nine*

8° Intendant of the Building

7° Provost and Judge

6° Intimate Secretary

5° Perfect Master

4° Secret Master

Order of Knights of Malta

Order of the Red Cross

YORK RITE

Super Excellent Master

Select Master

Royal Master

Royal Arch Mason

Most Excellent Master

Past Master (Virtual)

Mark Master

AAONMS

Shrine

Daughters of the Nile

Tall Cedars of Lebanon

Order of the Eastern Star

Grotto

Job's Daughters

Rainbow Girls

Order of DeMolay

ALLIED ORGANIZATIONS

3° Master Mason

2° Fellowcraft

1° Entered Apprentice

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