

+ INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF KHEMETIC GNOSIS AND ILLUMINISM +



+ ANCIENT AND PRIMITIVE RITE OF MEMPHIS - MISRAÏM +

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT AND PRIMITIVE RITE OF MEMPHIS & MISRAÏM

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The Ancient and Primitive Rite of Memphis & Misraïm (also known as the Ancient and Primitive Rite of Misraïm and Memphis, Ancient and Primitive Rite of Memphis-Misraïm, etc. depending on the lineage) is the most esoteric and comprehensive rite of Freemasonry. Its legendary roots, as its name suggests, go back into the antiquity of Egypt and its Ancient Mystery Tradition.

For now, it is best to simply speak of the strictly historical foundations of the rite. All of the esoteric forms of “Egyptian” Freemasonry – whether we are speaking of the Ancient and Primitive Rite of Egyptian Operation; the Ancient and Primitive Rite of Memphis; the Ancient and Primitive Rite of Misraïm; the Antient and Primitive (i.e. with the inner “t” referring to the reduced version — see below) Rite of Memphis, the Ancient and Primitive Rite of Memphis – Misraïm, etc. – all of these descend from the teachings of the great Count Cagliostro and his original Egyptian Freemasonry. Often confused with Giuseppe Balsamo, Count Cagliostro was an enigmatic figure who seemed to suddenly appear in European society. He was an initiate of various streams of both magick and mysticism. It is said, traditionally, that the Master Altothas initiated him into the Mysteries in 1776 E. V. On Christmas Eve of 1784 E. V., Count Cagliostro and his wife, Countess Serafina, founded the first mixed lodge (open to both men and women) of his Egyptian Freemasonry, “La Sagesse Triomphante,” at Lyon. Other lodges were soon to be established and it was the rituals of this rite that inspired the later developments of the Ancient and Primitive Rite.

Running more or less concurrently was the foundation of the Order of the Philalethes. They were also known as “The Friends of Truth” and “The Unknown Philosophers.” This esoteric Masonic Order began by founding a very famous lodge known as “Les Amis Reunis” in Paris in 1773 E. V. Their numbers came from influential members who had been a part of many other esoteric orders, most of them tied – in some way – to Freemasonry. Many of the members of this order went on to establish various rites in Freemasonry and other esoteric orders as well.

History, unfortunately, is not too clear at this point; with a few possible versions. Some say that the Rite of Misraïm was brought from Venice by one of the Philalethes known simply as “Abraham” in 1801 E. V.

Others say that it was the revolutionary Masonic Order of the Philadelphes which began the Rite of Misraïm in Egypt under Napoleon’s command in 1805 E. V.

However, others claim that it was long before this; in 1782 E.V., that Gad Bédarride had a vision of an “Egyptian” sage known as “Ananiah” (“The Cloud of the Lord” in Hebrew) and this sage initiated him into the Mysteries of Egyptian Esoteric Freemasonry. Whatever the case may be, the Rite of Misraïm was first chartered in Venice in 1788 E. V. A few years later, it was established at Naples and Milan. Between the years of 1810 E. V. and 1813 E.V. the Bédarride Brothers (Joseph, Marc and Michel) received their charter

and began to truly expand the Rite of Misraïm. It was officially chartered in Paris in 1814 E. V. The Rite of Misraïm was originally composed of 90 degrees (and has remained at 90 degrees), with the last four known as the “Arcana Arcanorum.” Today, the “Grande Loge Mondiale de Misraïm” is in charge of this Esoteric Masonic Rite.

Not long after this, the foundation for the Ancient and Primitive Rite of Memphis was developed and the rite was officially chartered in 1815 E. V. at Montauban at the lodge “Disciples de Memphis,” with Samuel Honis as its Grand Master (co-founded with Gabriel – Mathieu Marconis de Nègre). This became the foundational lodge of the Rite of Memphis. It was taken over by Gabriel – Mathieu Marconis de Nègre soon afterward. In 1838 E. V. the son of this last Brother, Jacques – Etienne Marconis de Nègre, officially constituted the Rite of Memphis in Paris. The Rite of Memphis (which would become known as The Ancient and Primitive Rite of Memphis) began with 90 degrees, expanded to 92 degrees and eventually 95 degrees by the end of the 19th century E. V. It would be expanded further to 97 degrees in 1910 by John Yarker (who was at that point the Grand Hierophant of both the Rites of Memphis and Misraïm) which it holds presently. For a time, it was reduced to a total of 33 degrees and was known as the Antient and Primitive Rite (notice the central “t” denotes this reduced version). This reduction took the degrees that it deemed “most important” from the 4th to 95th degrees and placed them from the 4th to 33rd positions and it threw out the majority of the degrees. This reduced version is preserved mainly by the Grand Ordre Egyptien du Grand Orient de France.

In 1881 E. V. the two rites were united into the Ancient and Primitive Rite of Memphis – Misraïm by Giuseppe Garibaldi. As a unified rite it was originally made up of 95 degrees, but it was expanded by John Yarker to 97 degrees along with the Rite of Memphis, and spread quickly throughout Europe and, later, the rest of the world. The unified rite came under the guidance of John Yarker, who became its International Grand Master in 1902 E. V. and named himself Grand Hierophant in 1910 E. V.

Due to a very negative allocution made by Albert Pike in 1865 E. V. toward the Ancient and Primitive Rite of Memphis, there was already a massive antagonism toward the High Degree systems of Egyptian Freemasonry in the United States of America. Pike’s motivation was obviously the fact that the Rite of Memphis contained the 33 degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite as the bottom rung of its total number of more than 90 degrees and it could quickly obscure his rite’s power. This negative propaganda begun by Pike would spread throughout the world of Anglo-American Conservative (i.e. “Regular”) Freemasonry and, largely because of this, the Ancient and Primitive Rite of Memphis – Misraïm (like the other Egyptian Rites) presently finds itself practiced among Masonic Obediences that are in communion with the Progressive stream of Freemasonry, such as the Grand Orient de France and many other Progressive Masonic Orders throughout the world.

From this point on, there are various lineages of the Ancient and Primitive Rite of Memphis – Misraïm. Our own lineage is as follows:

John Yarker gave Theodor Reuss (along with Franz Hartmann and Henry Klein) a charter on September 24, 1902 E. V. to run the lower 33 degrees according to the Scottish Rite of Cerneau (Ancient and Accepted Rite) and a Sovereign Sanctuary of the Rite of Memphis and Misraïm for the 34<sup>o</sup> to 95<sup>o</sup>. This explains why the early charters of Ordo Templi Orientis (which was originally a stripped – down APRMM Masonic Order) have the seal of the Ancient and Primitive Rite of Memphis – Misraïm superimposed over the seal of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.

On a side note, knowing that Theodor Reuss had revived the Bavarian Order of the Illuminati in 1880 E. V. and was its Sovereign Grand Master, Frater Superior and Rex Summus Sanctissimus, incorporating its

goals of Worldwide Illuminism into Ordo Templi Orientis, would help to explain the illuministic nature of our own order.

All of this knowledge was passed on to Gérard Anacleto Vincent Encausse (a. k. a. "Papus") on June 24, 1908 E. V. at a conference in Paris set up by Encausse with the knowledge of John Yarker. He was formally given the X<sup>o</sup> of Ordo Templi Orientis, at that time the highest grade in the Order. Encausse, in turn, consecrated Reuss as a Bishop and Prince in the Gnosis and passed on the teachings of Martinism to him. Papus had already been designated as the heir to Yarker a few years before the latter's death, and when John Yarker formally gave Papus the Grand Hierophancy in 1913 E. V. upon his death, Papus also held the claim to the Bavarian Order of the Illuminati, the Sovereign Sanctuary of the Gnosis, and various additional mystical and magickal lineages (such as the degrees of Martinism) which were integrated into his lineage of the APRMM.

Thus it was that in 1910 E. V. Papus passed all of these transmissions (i.e. including Gnostic Consecration with Apostolic lineage as a Bishop) within the Ancient and Primitive Rite of Memphis – Misraïm to Lucien – François Jean – Maine to expand the more esoteric, magickal APRMM lineage known as Ordo Templi Orientis (which has since become known as the Franco-Haitian O.T.O. or Ordo Templi Orientis Antiqua, to distinguish it from the O.T.O. as it evolved under the later leadership of Aleister Crowley) in the West, taking it to Haiti with him and merging these energies with the highest magickal initiations of Voudoun.

These lineages and teachings, in turn, were passed on to his son, Hector – François Jean – Maine, who passed them on to Michael Paul Bertiaux in 1970 E. V. Furthermore, between April 10th and April 17th of 1973 E. V., Bertiaux was present at a Synod of Gnostic Bishops also representing 15 other esoteric organizations (including the other Heads of the APRMM), at which the various Head Officers cross – initiated and consecrated each other fully at the highest levels. In 1975 Michael Paul Bertiaux was recognized as "Grand Hierophant Conservateur of the Rite of Memphis – Misraïm"

Michael Paul Bertiaux consecrated and re-consecrated Allen Henry Greenfield on September 21, 1986 E.V. and December 4, 1993 E.V. Tau Allen Henry Greenfield also received the full lineage of the degrees of the Ancient and Primitive Rite of Memphis and Misraïm (including the sacred inner egregore via the points chauds), with a formal charter given on October 15, 1992 E. V. for the APRMM lineage.

I was Entered, Passed and Raised into the Symbolic Degrees of Freemasonry according to the York Rite during the summer of 1993 E. V. at Alexandria – Washington Lodge No. 22 and I was initiated into the Philosophical Degrees, 4<sup>o</sup> to 32<sup>o</sup>, of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, at the Alexandria, Virginia "Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Temple" in the Spring of 1994 E. V. It should be noted that the York Rite is arguably the most watered – down, non – esoteric Masonic Rite in existence. Its only real worth is the "Royal Arch Degree," which is its seventh and last degree.

That being said, I had also studied Israel Regardie's published rituals of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn during my last two years of High School at Fork Union Military Academy thoroughly and, many years later, I was the Master of Ceremonies in a "Clandestine" Masonic Lodge in Los Angeles that used the Symbolic Degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite (which are almost identical – with a few minor adjustments – to the Symbolic Degrees of the Rite of Memphis). This lodge was originally named Lodge Horus No. 2. Its Worshipful Master was our Illustrious Brother David Muñoz, 33<sup>o</sup>, and it was at that time part of the Gran Logia Hispana de Norte America. The lodge went through some changes and was re-consecrated as Lodge Mario Moreno "Cantinflas" No. 7 in which I also served as

Master of Ceremonies as well as being one of the founding officers of the lodge. The Grand Lodge went through some changes as well and it now has the better name of Muy Respetable Gran Logia del Rito Escoces Antiguo y Aceptado de las Americas, having received its new charter from the prestigious Grande Loge de France. I am proud to have served as a founding member and officer of a lodge in this wonderful Obedience.

Having served as an officer in an esoteric symbolic lodge of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite and having received the Philosophical Degrees of the same rite, as well as having been a long – time practitioner of various magickal and mystical systems (I was initiated as an active, practicing member of O.T.O. when I was 21 and remained an active member for a few years. Later, finding myself in a trance and undergoing a conversion experience, I lived for fifteen years as a practicing Muslim and was initiated as a dervish in three different Sufi Orders – Nimatullahi, Shadhili and Qadiri – Rifa'i.), Tau Allen H. Greenfield consecrated me as a Bishop and Prince in the Gnosis on September 17, 2016 E. V. (<https://sites.google.com/site/gnostickos/bbishopsnunez>) and recognized me as a Grand Conservator of the Rite, 33° 66° – 90° 95°. I was given the full spectrum of the expanded 97 points chads energetic initiations of the Congregational Illuminism Movement (these have evolved from the original 16 points chads of Voudon Gnosis) and I was granted a charter as Founder and Head (XIII°) of Ordo Illuminati Universalis, which has since that time been incorporated as an inner order discussed only by Members of the I.: O.: K.: G.: I.:. On April 15, 2017 E. V., I was chartered as Sovereign Grand Master and Grand Hierophant of the International Order of Khemetic Gnosis and Illuminism, 33° 66° – 90° 95° 97°, with all of the appropriate esoteric transmissions.