

Ceremony for the degree of Knight or Sage of the Phoenix, 53°

In the pre-1800 degree the work was thus: In the centre of the Room a chafing dish, and a brazier full of fire. On the table, or floor, various symbols, and amongst them a Phoenix, surrounded by a serpent with its tail in its mouth.

There is an Obligation of Secrecy, and the Master says: This brazier is intended to teach you that fire (of course the Logoic fire, or Serpent fire) is the principle of all things, and the great agent of nature, and imparts action to all bodies. From this agent man receives life, with the power of thinking.

This Serpent, forming a circle, is an emblem of eternity, which is without either beginning or end. It has the property of renewing its skin, and thus figures the destruction and renewal of nature, which appears to weaken and even perish at certain epochs; but which only grows old to renew its youth, and prepare itself for new revolutions. The Phoenix is a still more natural exposition of the succession and the perpetuation of this principle in nature. Mythology has represented the bird as reviving from its own ashes, emblemising how all things earthly will continue to be reborn from itself.

To this may be added that it symbolised the cycle of the Star Sirius or Sothis of 1461 years. Marconis summarizes it: Conferences thus: study of Nature; properties of things; knowledge of created beings; science of Astronomy.

Sign: represent examination, as if through telescope.

Touch: join left hands, and point to Serius, or Sothis, with right index finger.

Password: as last.

Secret Word: Phoenix (symbol of Sothis)

*Battery: * ** ** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * **

Jewel and Symbol: a triangle on which is a Phoenix.