

Rite of Memphis-Misraim

The Rite of **Memphis-Misraim** is a Masonic rite which was formed by the merging of the two rites of *Memphis* and *Misraïm* under the influence of General Garibaldi in 1881.

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History

The Rite of Misraïm

From as early as 1738, one can find traces of this Rite filled with alchemical, occult and Egyptian references, with a structure of 90 degrees. Joseph Balsamo, called Cagliostro, a key character of his time, gave the Rite the impulse necessary for its development. Very close to the Grand Master of the Order of the Knights of Malta, Manuel Pinto de Fonseca, Cagliostro founded the Rite of High Egyptian Masonry in 1784. Between 1767 and 1775 he received the Arcana Arcanorum, which is three very high hermetic degrees, from Sir Knight Luigi d'Aquino, the brother of the national Grand Master of Neapolitan Masonry. In 1788, he introduced them into the Rite of Misraïm and gave a patent to this Rite. It developed quickly in Milan, Genoa and Naples. In 1803, it was introduced by Joseph, Michel and Marc Bedaridde. It was forbidden in 1817, following the incident of the Four Sergeants of La Rochelle and the uneasiness caused by the Carbonari.

The Rite of Memphis

The Rite of Memphis was constituted by Jacques Etienne Marconis de Nègre in 1838, as a variant of the Rite of Misraïm, combining elements from Templarism and chivalry with Egyptian and alchemical mythology. It had at least two lodges ("Osiris" and "Des Philadelphes") at Paris, two more ("La Bienveillance" and "De Heliopolis") in Brussels, and a number of English supporters. The Rite gained a certain success among military Lodges. It took on a political dimension and in 1841 it became dormant, probably because of the repression following the armed uprising of Louis Blanqui's Société des Saisons in 1839. With the overthrow of Louis-Philippe in 1848, the Order was revived on March 5, with its most prominent member being Louis Blanc, a socialist member of the provisional government with responsibility for the National Workshops.

In 1850 *Les Sectateurs de Ménès* was founded in London which proved popular with refugees fleeing France for London at that time. About ten lodges were set up by French refugees, the most important being *La Grande Loge des Philadelphes* chartered in London on January 31, 1851, which continued to exist until the late 1870s. During this time it had about 100 members, often called Philadelphes. Between 1853 and 1856 other lodges of the Rite of Memphis were established. In 1856, Benoît Desquesnes, the exiled

secretary of the *Société des Ouvriers Typographes de Nord* proposed that the higher degrees of the Rite of Memphis were not only superfluous, but undemocratic and inconsistent with the Masonic ideals of equality. Despite the attempts of Jean Philibert Berjeau to dissolve the *Philadelphes*, they implemented this proposal and elected Edouard Benoît as master. This group became renowned for their involvement in revolutionary politics. However the *Gymnosophists* and the *L'Avenir* lodges remained with Berjeau. In 1860 the number of degrees was reduced to 33, and by 1866 Berjeau dissolved them, most of the *Gymnosophists* joining the *Philadelphes*.

The Rite of Memphis-Misraïm

In 1881, General Giuseppe Garibaldi prepared to fuse the two Rites, which would be effective as of 1889. Its popularization was greatly increased owing to the works of English Masonic scholar Theodore Reuss, the agent of John Yarker, who became Deputy Grand Master in 1902 and Grand Master in 1905. He was succeeded in this office by noted occultist Theodor Reuss in 1913. Currently the Rite of Memphis-Misraïm operates in Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Spain, France, Israel, Romania, Martinique, UK, USA, Mauritius, New Caledonia, Portugal, Scandinavia, Switzerland, Russia, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Degrees of the Rite of Memphis-Misraïm

<i>Degree</i>	<i>Name</i>
99°	Grand Hierophant
98°	International Grand Master
97°	Deputy International Grand Master
96°	Grand and Puissant Sovereign of the Order
95°	Grand Conservator
94°	Prince of Memphis <i>or</i> Grand Administrator
93°	Regulator General
92°	Grand Catechist
91°	Grand Defender
90°	Sublime Master of the Great Work
89°	Patriarch of the Mystic City
88°	Grand Elect of the Sacred Curtain
87°	Sublime Prince of Masonry
86°	Sublime Philosopher of the Valley of Kab
85°	Sublime Sage <i>or</i> Knight of Kneph
84°	Patriarch <i>or</i> Doctor of the Izedes
83°	Sublime Elect of the Valley of Oddy
82°	Grand Elect of the Temple of Midgard
81°	Intendent Regulator <i>or</i> Patriarch of Memphis
80°	Sublime Elect of the Sanctuary of Mazias
79°	Knight <i>or</i> Sage of the Redoubtable Sada
78°	Grand Pontiff of the Thebiad

77°	Sublime Knight or Sage Theosopher
76°	Interpreter of Hieroglyphics <i>or</i> Patriarch of Isis
75°	Knight Commander of the Lybic Chain
74°	Sublime Master of the Stoka
73°	Patriarch <i>or</i> Doctor of the Sacred Fire
72°	Sublime Master of Wisdom
71°	Patriarch of the Sacred Vedas
70°	Prince of Light <i>or</i> Patriarch of the Planispheres
69°	Knight <i>or</i> Sage of the Golden Branch of Eleusis
68°	Patriarch of Truth
67°	Guardian of the Incommunicable Name - Grand Eulogist
66°	Grand Architect of the Mysterious City - Grand Consecrator
65°	Guardian of Sanctuary - Grand Installator
64°	Sage of Mythras
63°	Sublime Kawi
62°	Sublime Sage of Eulisis
61°	Sublime Unknown Philosopher
60°	Sublime Guardian of the Three Fires
59°	Sublime Sage <i>or</i> Grand Pontiff of Ogygia
58°	Sage <i>or</i> Prince Brahmine
57°	Sublime Magus
56°	Pontiff <i>or</i> Sage of Cadmia
55°	Sublime Orphic Doctor
54°	Sublime Scalde
53°	Knight <i>or</i> Sage of the Phoenix
52°	Sage of the Labyrinth
51°	Sublime Titan of the Caucasus
50°	Sublime Philosopher of Samothrace
49°	Sublime Sage of the Pyramids
48°	Sublime Guardian of the Sacred Mount
47°	Knight of the Seven Stars
46°	Sublime Pastor of the Huts
45°	Sublime Sage of the Mysteries
44°	Prince of the Zodiac
43°	Sublime Hermetic Sage (Hermetic Philosopher)
42°	Prince of Light
41°	Knight of the Arch of Seven Colors
40°	Sage Savaiste (Perfect Sage)
39°	Grand Elect of the Aeons
38°	Sublime Elect of Truth (The Red Eagle)
37°	Knight of Shota (Sage of Truth)
36°	Sublime Negotiant
35°	Knight of the Temple
34°	Knight of Scandinavia
33°	Sovereign Grand Inspector General
32°	Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret
31°	Grand Inspector Inquisitor Commander

30°	Grand Elected Knight of Kadosh
29°	Knight of St. Andrew
28°	Knight of the Sun <i>or</i> Prince Adept
27°	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°	Knight of the Royal Axe
21°	Patriarch Noachite
20°	Knight of the Temple
19°	Grand Pontiff
18°	Knight of the Rose Cross
17°	Knight of the East and the West
16°	Prince of Jerusalem
15°	Knight of the East or the Sword
14°	Grand Elect Perfect and Sublime Master
13°	Royal Arch
12°	Grand Master Architect
11°	Sublime Prince Elect
10°	Illustrious Elect of Fifteen
9°	Master Elect of Nine
8°	Intendent of the Buildings
7°	Provost and Judge
6°	Intimate Secretary
5°	Perfect Master
4°	Secret Master
3°	Master
2°	Companion
1°	Apprentice

