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Jacques de Molay (c. 1800s) by Unknown from the *Bibliothèque Nationale de France*.

Why We Feast: The Feast of Kadosh

By **ADAM B. OLIVIER 32°**
Editor-in-Chief

The Feast of Kadosh is a way to remember the Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon – more commonly known as the Knights Templar. While there are Masonic degrees and references to them today, the actual order of knights went from protecting religious pilgrims, to fighting in the crusades, to becoming one of the most powerful non-governmental forces in Europe, and finally to meeting a cruel end.

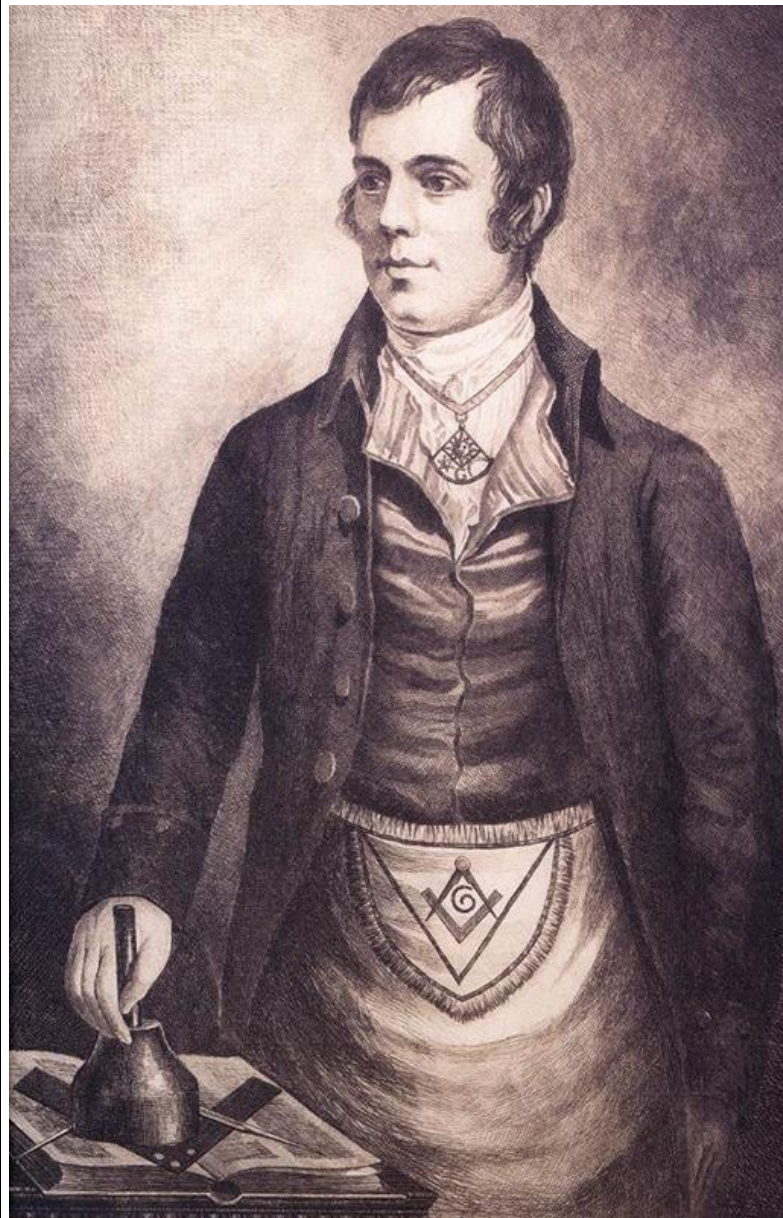
The Knights Templar were founded in 1119 A.D. and were given a headquarters at the Temple Mount, inside of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, in Jerusalem. It was believed that the mosque was built on the ruins of King Solomon's Temple, which is how the Templars came up with their name.

Initially, the Templars were established to protect pilgrims journeying to the Holy Lands from Europe. Jerusalem and much of the surrounding area had been under the control of Christian crusaders since it had been captured in 1099 A.D. during the First

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The Celebration of Brother Robert Burns

By **ADAM B. OLIVIER 32°**
Editor-in-Chief



Engraving by Charles Ewart (1878), inspired by *The Inauguration of Robert Burns as Poet Laureate in Lodge Canongate Edinburgh 1st March 1787*.

Every year on his birthday, January 25, the life of Robert Burns is remembered and celebrated in his homeland of Scotland and around the world. Burns is best known for being a poet who wrote numerous famous works including "Auld Lang Syne". Burns is one of the most revered historical figures in Scotland, often as popular as William Wallace. Today his legacy is celebrated annually with "Burns suppers" on his birthday and other times of the year.

Burns was born on January 25, 1759 in Alloway, Ayrshire, Scotland to William Burness and Agnes Broun. He grew up with six other siblings and his father, William, was a farmer.

Brother Burns was initiated into Freemasonry on July 4, 1781 in St. David's Lodge, No. 174, Tarbolton. He was later passed and raised in October of that same year, and in 1787 he received the Royal Arch degree from St. Abb's Lodge No. 70. In a time of strong religious puritanism and nationalism, Burns was outspoken for espousing Enlightenment era ideas and supporting both the American and

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Crusade. In this early time of their existence, the Templars were truly poor and without much financial support. Their numbers originally were in the single digits, but this would soon change.



Taking of Jerusalem by the Crusaders, 15th July 1099, (1847) by Émile Signol on oil canvas.

Thanks to the efforts of Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, the Templars soon became a known charitable organization. By the 1130s, Pope Innocent II had heard of the knights, and in 1139 the Pope issued a papal bull that officially recognized the order and exempted it from paying taxes or having allegiance to anyone but the Church itself.

The Templars eventually became involved in banking when they started holding valuables for pilgrims and offering them a line of credit in return. As the knights received more donations and continued to offer these lines of credit, they became more wealthy and powerful and acquired additional lands and fortifications around Europe. This powerful network and wealth would ultimately lead to their downfall.

It is believed that King Phillip IV of France targeted the knights and capitalized on untrue rumors that they were heretics in order to avoid paying back large debts that France had to the Templars. King Phillip was easily able to strongarm Pope Clement V, who was in Avignon and not Rome, into dissolving the Knights Templar. On October, Friday the 13 of 1307, King Phillip ordered the arrest of de Molay and the Templars. In 1314, Grand Master Jacques de Molay was executed in Paris. The Templars would splinter and join other orders, such as the Knights of Malta, or go into hiding.

As Knights of Kadosh, we are called to remember the mission of the Templars and the sense of sacred duty and sacrifice which they stood for.

Announcements

2022-2023 Capital Campaign

Join us in building the Next Chapter of the Houston Scottish Rite's Library Story by contributing to the expansion of the main library shelves. Donations of all sizes welcome!

With a minimum donation of **\$500**: You will have a bookshelf dedicated to you or someone you admire. A nameplate will be engraved and placed on a bookshelf in the Main Library.

Minimum donation of **\$100**: You will receive an Architect's Circle kit (limited supply!) including: Architect's Circle Commemorative Book Bag, Architect's Circle pen, Architect's Circle Certificate, and a book from the Premium book list.

Minimum donation of **\$50**: You will receive an Architect's Circle pen, and a Book from the Premium book list.

Minimum donation of **\$25**: You will receive a book from the Premium book list.

For more info visit www.HoustonScottishRite.org and click "Education Foundation" under the "Philanthropy" tab.

Per Capita Program

The endowed, life members, and dues exempt members are encouraged to donate \$30 or more per year to offset their per capita membership assessment. Donations can be made through the Valley's website at: www.HoustonScottishRite.org.

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French revolutions which resulted in the creation of secular, republican governments. There is no doubt that his affiliation with Freemasonry at just 23 years old led to Brother Burns embracing The Enlightenment.

Burns was not a "casual" Mason. He visited numerous lodges and became a kind of celebrity as his poetic works spread like wildfire throughout Scotland and the rest of Great Britain. He went on to write several Masonic poems. While he only lived to the age of 37, he became an internationally revered poet, a cherished historical figure of Scotland, a father of 12 children, and a Freemason.

As Masons and other people around the world hold traditional Burns suppers, or simply toast a glass of scotch in his honor, take a moment to reflect on one of his Masonic poems:

The Master's Apron

By Brother Robert Burns

There's many a badge that's very grand
With ribbon, lace and tape on
Let kings and princes wear them all,
Give me the Master's apron!

The honest craftsman's apron,
The jolly Freemason's apron,
Before his touch fall bolt and bar,
The gates of fortune fly ajar,
When he but wears the apron!

For wealth and honor, pride and power
are crumbling stones to base on
Eternity should rule the hour,
And every worth Mason!
Each Free Accepted Mason,
Each Ancient Crafted Mason.

The Brethren, let a wholesome song
Arouse your friendly ranks along.
Good wives and children blithely sing
To the ancient badge with the apron string
That is worn by the Master Masons!

Photo From December Meeting



A Note From The Editor

The Houston Valley Herald has now entered its second volume of publication. This would not be possible without the support of the Houston Valley's leadership as well as members of the Scottish Rite who have submitted articles, pictures, and ideas for *The Herald*. To view all previous issues, visit the Houston Valley's website and click on the "Newsletter" tab on the right.

If you are interested in writing an article or submitting a picture, contact Brother Adam B. Olivier 32° at: HoustonValleyHerald@gmail.com