

**The Supreme Council of the
A.A.S.R. of Freemasonry for**

The State of Israel

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המועצה העליונה של דבוסה הסקוטי

הקדמון והמקובל במדינת ישראל

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ולנטין י. היינס 33°

מפקד גדול ריבוני

Jerusalem, 2 November 2017

Your Holiness, Father Francisco:

I offer you my respectful greetings.

I am the president of the Masonic Order entitled "Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the State of Israel". It is a continuation of basic Masonry of 3 degrees. The Supreme Council is the Order that governs the 4th through to the 33rd and last degree.

Freemasonry in Israel never contradicted any religion. On the contrary, its fundamental principles are respect, tolerance, fraternity and equality. There are Masonic Lodges in Israel whose brothers practice the Jewish, Christian and Muslim faiths. The candidates are never asked what their religion is; living together as peaceful and respectful human beings is the common denominator. The current Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Israel is a Muslim Arab and we have had two Christian Arab Grandmasters.

I was very sad to learn that the Vatican has rejected the assignment of a Lebanese ambassador to the Holy See, because of his affiliation with Freemasonry.

One of the basic principles of Masonry is the belief in the existence of God, termed as "the Great Architect of the Universe" - to accommodate justly members of all monotheistic religions.

In the opening ritual of a Masonic session the Speaker explains: "Freemasonry is an institution that seeks human happiness through tolerance and love, perfecting customs, glorifying justice, truth and equality, fighting tyranny, ignorance and prejudice. His workshops are scattered all over the face of the earth, wherever there are free men and goodwill."

Today's Freemasonry is no longer a secret Order, but discreet. In antiquity it was secret, for fear of the persecutions of which it was victim. Thousands of Masons were shot by the Franco regime and by Nazism. My hope is that you, Holy Father, as the maximum representative of the Roman Apostolic Christian faith, do not exclude the freemasons that belong to it, because faith and the Order are, in my opinion, perfectly compatible.

Some personal information: I was born in Buenos Aires, at the age of 19 I emigrated to Israel because of my belonging to the Jewish faith. I have a large family; I am a Public Accountant and Auditor in my private life. I joined the Freemasonry in 1983 and now I have the honor to head the Supreme Council.

I would love to have a personal conversation with you, Father Francisco, at the Vatican. In it we could clarify any doubts you may have about current Freemasonry in general, and Israeli Freemasonry in particular.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Valentin I. Heines, °33
Sovereign Grand Commander