



The Desert of California

*Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine of
North and South America and its Jurisdictions Inc.*

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To: Illustrious Potentate, Chief Rabban, Assistant Rabban,
Imperial Council Officers, Past Potentates, Divan and Nobles

Subject: Shrine Education

Aleikum Es Salaam,

I've received inquiries from various Nobles throughout the Desert requesting clarification on Masonic Meetings and how it relates to Shrinedom. It is important that the Nobility in the Desert of California fully understand the Sovereignty of the A.E.A.O.N.M.S., Inc. I'm accepting the challenge as the Imperial Deputy of the Desert to educate the Nobles in this Desert. The goal is to alleviate any doubt in regards to Shrinedom as to who we are and whom we as Shriners owe allegiance. Nobles are NOT subject to any other Grand body in relation to matters of the Mystic Shrine. It is the intent of the Imperial Council to ensure that every Noble of the Mystic Shrine will be able to exercise every right that he has.

It's no secret that the A.E.A.O.N.M.S., Inc. is comprised of men who at one time knelt at the sacred altar of Prince Hall Freemasonry and took the Master Mason's obligation. However, a separate organization was founded in 1893 and was incorporated in 1901 to participate in activities that differed from Prince Hall Grand Lodges. The Imperial Council is under separate governance as granted through its Articles of Incorporation and the Civil Authorities in this country's government having the power and authority to grant sovereignty. It is this separate organization, the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine of North and South America and Its Jurisdictions, Inc., that stands today, owing allegiance only to its members and the Imperial Council established by that membership. Every Noble should also be aware that he belongs to this organization which is sovereign and independent, and subject only to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Imperial Council.

The Shrine, by law, has the right to conduct its business at the national, state and local levels. The Imperial Council exercises exclusive jurisdiction over its Temples and Courts, as well as, its Sovereignty and Autonomy relating to **Admission**, Control and Discipline of its membership.



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There have been several inquiries in reference to a Grand Lodge "Severing Fraternal Relations with the Shrine". What is the existing "Fraternal Relations" between the Shrine and a Grand Lodge? "Fraternal Relations" are courtesies extended to various organizations, whether or not they are Masonic. It is customary that leaders and high rankings officials of major organizations be formerly recognized and given respect and honor. In many cases, invitations have been extended for visitations and collaboration in various activities. In no case has "Fraternal Relations" been anything but a mutual relationship between Sovereign Organizations, all having the right to partake or not.

In conclusion, per Protective Order Dispensations # 1 & 2 "No person shall be a member of the A.E.A.O.N.M.S., Inc. unless he is or was a Master Mason of a Lodge under obedience to Symbolic Prince Hall Grand Lodges of Freemasons, which traces their lineage to African Lodge No. 459 of Boston, Massachusetts". This means, Nobles that are currently Suspended or Expelled from the Masonic order meet the definition of "was a Mason". Unless suspended or expelled by his Temple, these Nobles still have the right to attend all Shrine related functions (meetings, balls, parades, town hall forum's etc.). Let it be known, Shrinedom is not Masonic! It's an allied body that does not have degrees as far as Shrinedom is concerned. Anything that references Masonic meetings, functions, private and public events, etc. does not apply to the A.E.A.O.N.M.S., Inc.

Illustrious Potentates, please ensure that all Nobles in your perspective Temple receive a personal copy of this communication! Take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

Fraternally,

Terrell A. Gray, Sr.
Imperial Deputy of the Desert

CC: All Deputies of the Oases