

BRIEF HISTORY OF PYTHAGORAS

Pythagoras was a Greek philosopher, or students of knowledge, who lived about 2,500 years ago. He worked in the fields of music and geometry. He formed a religious society and wrote a general account of the world.

Very little is known about the life of Pythagoras. He was born on the Island of Samos, near Greece. Later, he lived in Crotona, in the Southern part of Italy.

It was there that he formed a religious brotherhood and the members of this brotherhood lived according to rules that Pythagoras laid down - such as one that forbade the eating of beans. The group believed that after men died their souls went into other bodies, sometimes in the bodies of animals.

This idea, called transmigration of the soul, appeared in many early religions. It is still the belief of many of the Hindu sects of India. It is felt that Pythagoras may have obtained some of his ideas during his travels in the East.

The people were suspicious of the Pythagorean brotherhood because its members were aristocrats. Many of them were killed in a political uprising. Historians do not know whether Pythagoras left the city before the outbreak of violence and escaped death, or was killed in it. The brotherhood of aristocrats was finally destroyed in 400 B. C.

Pythagoras believed that the earth was spherical and the sun, moon, and planets have movements of their own. His successors developed the idea that the earth revolved about a central fire. This belief anticipated the Copernican Theory of the universe.

As a philosopher, Pythagoras taught that numbers were the essence of all things. Therefore, he associated numbers with various colors and ideas.

The Grand Masters of Prince Hall Masons, under the leadership of Grand Master Amos T. Hall, President, no doubt looked far ahead of time when they selected the name “Order of Pythagoras” instead of the “Chivalric Order of Knight Companions” during their Annual National Conference, May 8 - 10, 1951, in the City of Denver, Colorado.

Grand Master P. G. Porter of Kansas, was elected the Supreme Master Knight of the International Supreme Council of the Order of the Knights of Pythagoras, August 17, 1958, at the National Supreme Councils of the Knights, Chicago, Illinois. Grand Masters and representatives of twenty Prince Hall Masonic Jurisdictions worked untiringly in promoting this Order.

Operating under the name of Pythagoras, the name given and adopted by the Masonic and religious thinkers, offers a challenge to both the youth and the Masonic youth leaders who are striving for high attainment.

The following Sir Knights served the Supreme Council as SUPREME MASTER KNIGHT:

M.W. PAST GRAND MASTER Gilbert “Gil.” Tyler
SUPREME MASTER KNIGHT
(May 1995 to Present)

Grand Master P. G. Porter
Past Supreme Master Knight
(1951 - 1969) Jurisdiction of Kansas

M.W.P.G.M. James Luvelle Taylor
Supreme Master Knight, Emeritus
(1969 - 1978) Roanoke, Virginia

S.M.K. Archille W. Hebert
Supreme Master Knight, **Emeritus**
(1978 - 1980) Los Angeles, Calif.

M.W.P.G.M. Joseph N. Yearwood, Jr.
Supreme Master Knight, **Emeritus**
(1980 - 1995) Washington, D.C.