



What is a Shrine Potentate and What Does He Do?

The office of Potentate within the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, commonly known as Shriners, is a high-ranking leadership position in a local Shrine temple (or chapter). The Potentate serves as the chief executive officer of the Shrine temple, overseeing its operations, activities, and programs. This role is comparable to a president or head of an organization, tasked with guiding and representing the members and ensuring the smooth functioning of the temple.

Here are some key responsibilities of the Potentate:

1. **Leadership and Governance:** The Potentate is responsible for leading the temple's board of officers, setting the agenda for meetings, and guiding the decisions that shape the temple's activities. This includes upholding the principles and goals of the Shriners, which often emphasize fellowship, charity, and fun.
2. **Oversight of Charitable Activities:** Shriners are known for their philanthropy, particularly the support of Shriners Hospitals for Children. The Potentate plays a key role in promoting these charitable efforts and overseeing events and initiatives that raise funds or provide support for this cause.
3. **Representation and Public Relations:** The Potentate represents the temple at events, parades, and ceremonies, both within the Shriners organization and in the broader community. This includes outreach and interaction with other Masonic bodies, as Shriners is affiliated with Freemasonry.
4. **Mentorship and Succession Planning:** The Potentate works closely with other officers, such as the Chief Rabban (the officer typically in line to become the next Potentate), to provide guidance and prepare them for future leadership roles within the temple.
5. **Promoting Membership and Fellowship:** Shriners emphasizes camaraderie among its members, so the Potentate is often involved in activities that foster fellowship, encouraging active participation and engagement from members and attracting new Nobles to the temple.

Potentates are elected for a term, often one year, and their role is both ceremonial and administrative, carrying the responsibility of honoring the traditions of Shriners while ensuring the temple's active involvement in community and charitable work.