

## “Unveiling the Masonic Symbolism of Washington, DC”

by Akram R. Elias, PGM

Washington, D.C. is the first national capital to be designed as a seat of government, and the only capital to symbolically reflect and foster guiding values and principles. The Founding Fathers, especially the Masons among them, envisioned a city so beautiful and balanced that it would inspire enlightenment in those who lived and worked there. The city is in a way a living testament to the great ideals and principles espoused by Freemasonry...



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Akram R. Elias' has been a Mason since 1996, when he was initiated into Freemasonry at Potomac Lodge No. 5, F.A.A.M. in Washington, DC. Elias has been the head of several Masonic lodges in Washington, DC, and was installed as Grand Master of Masons of the District of Columbia on December 8, 2007 and ended his term in office on December 13, 2008. The Grand Master oversees all Masonic lodges within a Masonic jurisdiction. While Grand Master in 2008, the District of Columbia hosted the largest gathering of Masonic leaders in history – 121 Grand Lodges – with the 9<sup>th</sup> World Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges.

Elias, who is finishing co-authoring a book entitled “*America: A Masonic Project*” is a noted expert on the subject of Freemasonry and is known world-wide for his presentations on the Masonic history and symbolism of Washington, DC. He has appeared in many documentaries on Freemasonry to include:

- “*Mr. Dreyfuss Goes to Washington*” – wrote the original treatment and co-produced it with Academy Award Winner Richard Dreyfuss: The History Channel, 2001
- “*Modern Marvels: The Washington Monument*” – The History Channel, 2004
- “*Secrets of Angels and Demons & Masons*” – PBS, 2005
- “*Mysteries of the Freemasons*” – The History Channel, 2006
- “*The Freemasons*” – National Geographic, 2006
- “*Mystica*” – German Television, 2007
- “*Occult Architecture*” – Arcadia Entertainment, Canada, 2009

Elias is very active in the Appendant Bodies of Masonry. He is a member of the Royal Arch, Cryptic Council and Knights Templar, and is also a member of other York Rite bodies such as the College of Rites, the Royal Order of Scotland and the Red Cross of Constantine. He is a member of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, specifically in Almas Temple Shrine of Washington D.C. He is also active in the Scottish Rite Valley of Washington, Orient of the District of Columbia, where he is a Past Wise Master of the Chapter of Rose-Croix. MWB Elias received the 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree, Sovereign Grand Inspector General (Honorary), on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2001.

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