



Colloque CLIMAF

Berlin 26 – 27 January 2019

Round Table 4 B : Is there a link between us? Action on the "between"

28 Sisters from France, Germany, Spain, Russia, Turkey and Belgium were participating at our Round Table.

The interventions were translated into English, German and French and thus overcoming our multicultural differences through our common ideal: respect, tolerance and brotherly love. Initiation gave us these values which allow us to improve ourselves and the world.

We all share the same tools and symbols that allow us to reunite the outside world in a circle.

The question of how to fill in the space between different identities can only be addressed by self-knowledge: working on our dark sides and improving ourselves. We cannot change the other, only ourselves. An interesting proverb from Turkey says: "Before you prick someone with a needle, prick yourself with an even larger needle"; it teaches us that we must remain self-critical and that distance (the step backwards) helps us to find another view. Sometimes a change of perspective is necessary to come closer to someone, to recognize, listen and understand the other. Ethical, cultural and linguistic differences are enriching: We must build bridges rather than walls.

Our mosaic pavement points to our duality and teaches us that nothing is purely black or white: The in-between space is important to explore that relationship. As such, we can learn from each other and grow.

The other expects to be treated as you would like to be treated yourself. If the distance to the other increases we should ask ourselves why. We are all different, but through common actions we can get closer. We must open up, tolerate differences and create a common space.

Masonic principles should not remain idle.

We must live our masonic values in the outside world, making our differences a common ground of mutual tolerance.