

*The Scottish Rite Clarion*

# CLARION

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## *The Eagle*

### MAJESTY & MASTERY

*The eagle, the quintessential predator and epitome of masculinity, soars the skies with majesty surveying the lands that he has mastered.*



# The Eagle

The standards of the legions of Ancient Rome historically bore multiple animals like eagles, boars and wolves to represent specific legions. The standards were attached to a pole and carried by the legions in battle. It represented the soul of the legion and the legion would do anything to protect it.

Over the years, the animals on the standards shifted to the eagle and it became the earmark representation for Rome by the Consul term of Gaius Marius in 107BC.

Under his leadership, the eagle (or Aquila in Latin) was selected to represent Roman legions. To this day, the eagle with the



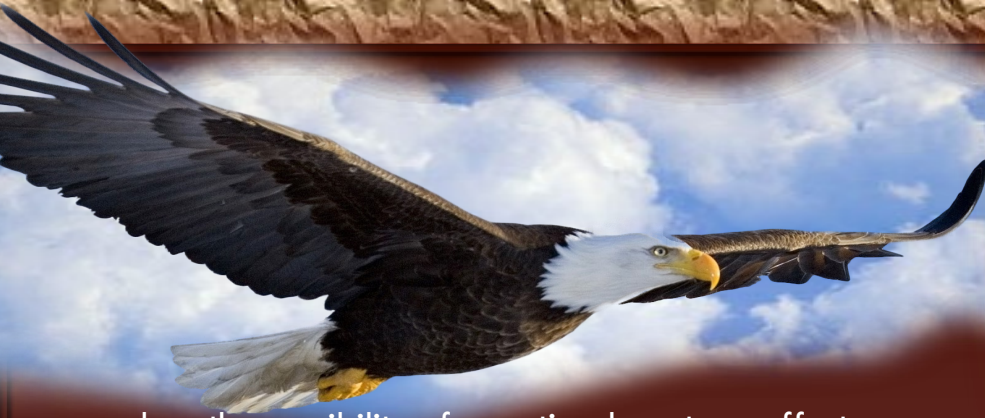
emblazoned letters SPQR meaning 'the senate and the people of Rome' (Senatus Populus Que Romanus in Latin) above embodies the once great Roman empire.

The eagle itself has grand qualities that could be emulated by every soldier and leader. Specific attributes are highlighted with specific parts of the eagle's body. Each quality represented by the body part relates to specific portions of leadership and service.

The eye of the eagle represents focus in leadership and service. A good leader is a good servant as he must focus on utilizing the skills of those for whom he is accountable to benefit the whole. A good servant is a good leader as he must focus on the task at hand. Like the construction of buildings, if the cornerstone is not laid on level ground, the structure will not be erected in a plumb fashion. As such, great focus must be taken early on to







reduce the possibility of negative, long-term effects.

An eagle's eyes are also enhanced by sets of lenses. When an eagle is flying towards the sun, a lens protracts to protect the eyes. When an eagle seeks prey, a lens retracts to allow for sharper vision. The conical shape of the pair of eyes allows for an increased field of vision and the ability to see even the smallest prey. This superior vision allows the eagle to take deeper looks at situations and see past the apparent as with all great leaders in the history of mankind.



An eagle's wings stretch far and wide and, when flexed by the strength of its faithful breasts, it has the strength to carry objects that weigh significantly greater. Its claws hold the power to grasp and to prick prey. A full sized eagle can easily carry away a lamb. Once captured, the eagle's beak is hard enough to penetrate its prey. It is by its mouth and its claws that life and death on its prey are dispersed. With all great leaders, the life and death of their organizations are typically measured from the tongue.

The eagle is also unique as it can fly higher than any other bird. It can do so because of all of the aforementioned attributes. Anciently, it was considered a messenger of the gods because its abilities far outweighed its counterparts. It can also swoop faster than any other bird and defeat any bird which comes in its path. The eagle is the clearly the king of the skies because it has mastered the skies. As such, it flies over terrain majestically with no fear as a representation of its courage and strength. A clear representation of "infinite power", its majesty and mastery have been equated to symbolize immortality.

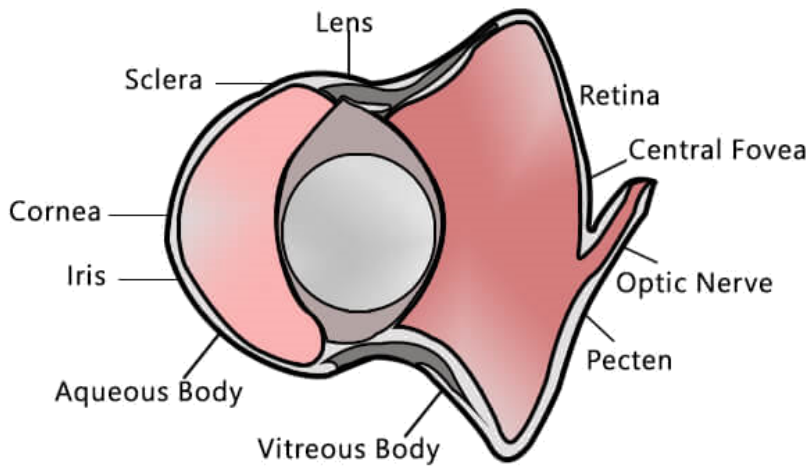
Historically, great leaders have shown great balance when wielding power. Several have moved majestically while exhibiting mastery in service. It was their "eagle" vision that allowed them to focus on specific aspects which gained their successes. It was their strength that allowed them to carry heavy burdens which may have seemed impossible to the average man. It was their patience that prevented wasted motion. It was their fore-sight that prompted them to hold off on force.

Many see Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Honorable Barak H. Obama as eagle-like men. Both mastered the terrain of their respective days and ages to secure those whom they protected and served. Despite the challenges, they still flew majestically over troubled terrain and achieved victories. These qualities are just as important..... (next page)



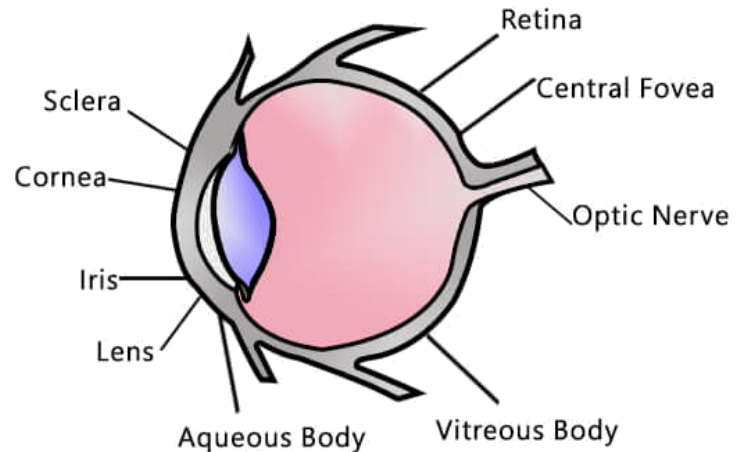
# EAGLE EYE —vs.— HUMAN EYE

## Eagle Eye



## 20/5 Vision

## Human Eye



## 20/20 Vision

**THE EAGLE CONTINUED:** ...in leaders as they are in followers. None of the movements of the Civil Rights Era would have succeeded without eagle men and women to stay focused on specific missions. Without accomplishment of the missions, the vision could not have become a reality. As such, despite the role, leader or follower, eagle qualities are critical to success. Here are seven habits of eagles that are typically associated with organizational leadership:

1. **Eagles flock together:** Eagles enjoy living at high altitudes and do not mix with other birds because they cannot fly at the same altitude. Any mixture with other birds is used as an opportunity to find something to eat or to take something away from them. Only eagles can match other eagles.
2. **Eagles see their prey or enemies a long distance away:** Eagles place themselves in positions where they can see prey and where they can easily see danger coming their way. Their nests are typically high enough so that predators cannot reach but close enough where its superior vision can spot prey.
3. **Eagles do not eat dead things:** Eagles take up challenges and do not waste time on things with no movement. They do not associate with scavengers who feed off of the dead.
4. **Eagles love the storm:** Eagles are able to fly into storms because they are uniquely crafted to do so. They typically USE the storm to gain higher heights in flight. The pressure of the storm lifts them up while flying through allowing the eagle to fly higher with less energy. Like all good leaders, taking on the challenge of the storm allows that eagle to fly to greater heights.
5. **Eagles test before they trust:** After a female eagle and male eagle have mated, they stay mated for life because trust has been earned. The female eagle will run the male eagle through a series of tests before choosing him as her mate. Once faithfulness has been proven, trust has then been earned.



Eagles are majestic birds that are considered to have the best vision of all beings on the planet earth. The construction of its eyes is the source of this great vision. Compared to the human eye, the eagle eye is far superior. Visual acuity is the eye's ability to separate details of an object without any blur. The normal or a 'good' vision for a human is 20/20. Eagles, however, have retinas with cones and have a much deeper fovea—a cone-rich structure in the back of the eye. These give them a visual acuity of an impressive 20/5, or 20/4 which allows them to hunt even the tiny prey from hundreds of feet up in the air.

There is a scientific set-up to determine the strength of eagle's vision. The birds are trained to fly down a long tunnel where two TV screens are kept at the end. One screen has a display of striped pattern to attract the eagle towards it and when they land on that screen, they are given a treat. The birds' acuity is tested by changing the width of the stripes and determining from what distance the eagles begin to turn in the correct direction.

Eagles have the ability to see colors more vividly than humans can. They can even see ultraviolet light and pick out more shades of one color. Their ability to even see the UV light allows them to see the bodily traces left by their prey. Mice's and other small prey's urine is visible to the eagles in the ultraviolet range, making them easy targets even a few hundred feet above the ground.

Human eyes are positioned at the front of the heads, giving us a binocular vision and a peripheral vision of just 180 degrees. We can only see complete images when we use both eyes, as closing one will block a portion of vision that was visible with that eye. The use of both eyes gives us that ability to determine the depth of field and help us realize the speed of any moving object. Unfortunately, our peripheral vision is quite poor. On the other hand, an eagle's eyes are rotated towards the front of the head and are angled 30 degrees from the midline of the face. This allows them to have a 340 degree field of vision. Their peripheral vision is quite impressive, which greatly assists these predatory birds.

The ability to switch between seeing things that are near and far clearly require quick changes in the lens of the eyes, which is known as accommodation. As humans age, the muscles required to change the shape of the lens get stiff and become less effective, requiring us to wear glasses to see distant and nearby things equally clear. However, the eagles not only have a lens that changes the shape to accommodate the changing distance but even their cornea has the ability to change shape to better focus on near and far objects.

Considering these factors, the eyes of an eagle are superior to the eyes of a human. It is highly unlikely that the human eye will ever excel to the point of an eagle's eye due to its position and construction. While poor vision can be enhanced with visual aids and corrected via surgery, the human eye, constructed as is, can never be as efficient as an eagle's.

Source: InSight Vision Center, <https://www.insightvisioncenter.com/human-vision-vs-eagle-vision/>, retrieved, 7/1/2019

**6. Eagles train their children to maturity:** Mature eagles ensure that their offspring are protected until they are ready to move forward on their own. Under the cover of protection, the children are in the venue of preparation. Like internships in corporations, neophytes are trained under the corporate umbrella with some restrictions. As such, when college studies have concluded and the restrictions are removed, they are more likely to move forward successfully in the corporate world.

**7. Eagles retire until new feathers grow:** Older eagles with worn feathers retire to high places to replenish. A sabbatical is a common practice with faith leaders and professors that provide an opportunity for them to replenish physically, mentally and emotionally. New learnings are typically achieved and allow them to return armed with new information and refreshed.

When considering all of the qualities of the eagle, it is understandable why the Roman leaders flocked to this animal to represent its legions. The Scottish Rite Eagle represents the same code from Scottish Rite Masons as it did for the Romans. It remains the rallying symbol for the Rite because the qualities represented by the eagle have transcended the ages and are still relevant today. Hence, the eagle remains as the quintessential representation of power and leadership.

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