

Renew Obligation



WILLOUGHBY, OHIO

A RE-OBLIGATION

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8 -- 51

Under the Good of the Order the Worthy Matron rises and reads scripture.

WORTHY MATRON:

Micah - Chapter 7, First verse.

"Woe is me! for I am as when they have gathered the summer fruits, as the grape gleanings of the vintage: there is no cluster to eat: my soul desired the firstripe fruit."

Micah was one of the lesser known prophets. He prophesied as did the others and preached of doom to a sinful world. He, like the rest of the prophets, was depressive, and told his lessons by telling stories. This verse tells a story.

It is said that he watched the people come and go in a vineyard. In those days, the grapes grew, ripened, and were picked; the grade one grapes were marketed. After the grapes were gone, the gleaners came into the field and gleaned the leavings or nubbins -- the same as they gleaned in the grain fields. There were no grapes fit to eat. The grapes left were the undeveloped or blighted fruit, and were gleaned to

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use in vinegars or wines of lessor quality.

Here we gather from the literal story that the gleaners worked, where there was no fruit to eat, yet their soul desired the first ripe fruit.

Applied to religion this story shows that the individual going through life feels the need of re-consecration and renewal of his first awareness of God. This can be applied to other phases of life. It is applicable to all organizations where interest is great one meeting and low the next. So let us have an obligation evening, and let us apply the desire for the first-ripe fruit to our organization.

You remember the part of the Worthy Matron's lecture when she welcomes the new member, "Here we may aid, comfort, and protect each other, etc."

Let us not deprive each other of aid, comfort, and protection by losing the first enthusiasm; renew here and now. It is well that we re-take the obligation for remembrance of our vows to each other and to the order.

At initiation time, most of us are excited, and we repeat the obligation parrot-wise. Now after our membership is a matter of time, let us re-take the obligation slowly and thoughtfully, and let us listen to the words and understand them. This is an obligation to each other, to ourselves, and to the Order of the Eastern Star. Let us re-obligate ourselves and receive unto ourselves the "first-ripe fruit."

To the Past Matron and Patron chosen.

Dear Sister ---- -, at this time I will ask you to take up this gavel and with the help of Brother ---- - preside until the completion of this service.

PRESIDING PAST MATRON:

In any program of re-obligation it is essential that one's heart be open in order that it may be filled with the renewal of vows. Sister Chaplain, let us unite in prayer. (Three raps of the gavel.)

CHAPLAIN rises and goes to altar:

Dear Lord, we pray that each of us who will be joined together with the Holy Bible, that perfect symbol of purity and light, shall re-take this obligation with thoughtfulness of mind, sincerity of heart and singleness of purpose. Let us re-obligate ourselves for the good and welfare of our beloved order. Woe to those who assume burdens they cannot bear. Woe to the thoughtless and insincere who assume an obligation lightly and forthwith forget it. Grant, Oh Lord, that we here and now retake this solemn obligation for the welfare of our order and the glorification of Thee, Our God. We ask Thy blessing on this group gathered in fraternal fellowship. Amen.

Response:

So may it ever be.

Chaplain returns to station - one rap of gavel seats chapter.

PRESIDING PAST MATRON:

Sisters Conductress and Associate Conductress, will you proceed to

escort the officers inside the labyrinth where you will arrange them in position for re-obligation service.

Conductress and Associate Conductress come to the East and bow as in proving chapter, Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron get into line behind them, other officers fall into line from both sides of room as they pass. They go down both sides of room and meet in front of Associate Matron and Associate Patron in the west. Lines enter the labyrinth between Ruth and Esther, and between Esther and Martha. The Worthy Matron, the Worthy Patron, Associate Matron, and Associate Patron are instructed to kneel - others are in two lines behind the Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron. The ones kneeling are given little Bibles with instructions for holding it properly (same as during initiation). Officers then place right hand on left shoulder of one in front of them connecting them to Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron - these others remain standing. (See diagram at end of ceremony.)

PRESIDING PAST MATRON:

Sisters Conductress and Associate Conductress, you will now conduct the members on the north and the south and arrange them for re-obligation service. Sisters and Brothers, who are members of this chapter please rise.

Conductress and Associate Conductress start and pick up the ones nearest the East and proceed to the west where they meet. They then escort their lines outside the labyrinth and join the first ones in the line to the Associate Matron and Associate Patron. The whole line places right hand on left shoulder of one in front of them. (See diagram.)

PRESIDING PAST MATRON:

Sisters Conductress and Associate Conductress, you will now conduct the members present who are members of other chapters and prepare them for the obligation.

Conductress and Associate Conductress pick up the ones nearest the East and proceed to the west. They meet again in the west and form another line outside the line of Hostess Chapter Members. The Conductress and Associate Conductress pick up small Bibles and they kneel and this line is attached to them by placing their right hand on left shoulder of the one in front of them. (See diagram.)

PRESIDING PAST MATRON:

Sisters and Brothers, the visiting members are joined with the kneeling Conductress and Associate Conductress at the altar. The (home) chapter members are joined with the kneeling Associate Matron and Associate Patron, and the officers of this chapter are joined with the kneeling Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron; you are all joined in one unit with the Holy Book and with each other.

Brother Past Patron, all assembled here tonight, with the exception of those who are performing some duty, are ready at the altar.

Past Patron at this time comes forward and gives the obligation - SLOWLY.

PRESIDING PAST MATRON:

Sisters Conductress and Associate Conductress, you will please conduct the visiting members in the outer circle to their seats. (They do so.)

Sisters Conductress and Associate Conductress, you will conduct the members of this chapter to their seats. (They do so.)

Sisters Conductress and Associate Conductress, you will conduct the Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, and other officers to their stations. (They do so.)

The presiding officer now seats the chapter.

Vocal solo "Star of the East" or some other selection of your choosing is most appropriate while all are being conducted to their seats.

OPTIONAL:

Three Brothers discuss obligation briefly.

First one discusses obligation in relation to the order. Second one discusses obligation in relation to each other. Third Brother discusses obligation in relation to ourselves.

WORTHY PATRON rises and says:

There is a Star Point Obligation written and published by Lowmans, Inc. that I like. It says:

May you have the courage of Adah
To follow God's word and obey;
To honor and justice may you be
true

Like Ruth, along life's way;
Like Queenly Esther always
be loyal

To kindred and every friend;
Have the trustful faith of Martha
To guide you to the end;

And as Electa, to all mankind
Let your heart be filled with love;
Then you will receive rich blessings
From the Heavenly Father above.

The presiding Past Matron returns gavel and she retires.

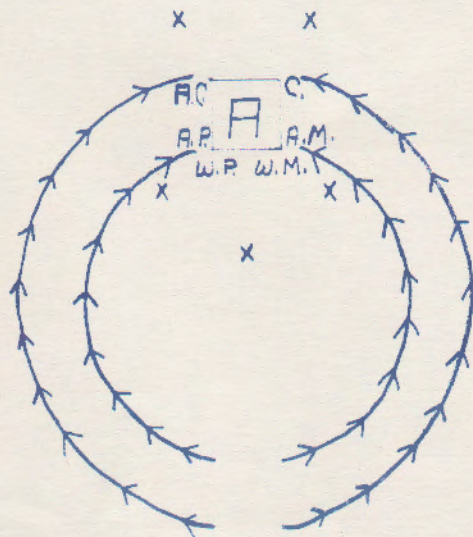
DIAGRAM

8--51

OFFICERS LINE UP

Worthy Matron	Worthy Patron
Treasurer	Secretary
Chaplain	Marshal
Organist	Adah
Electa	Ruth
Martha	Warder
Esther	Sentinel

EAST



THE END