

adab

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EVENINGS WITH OUR HEROINES

ADAH

(The program for each heroine is to be taken by those who have in the past served as that point. The program can be elaborated or cut down. Dances and/or songs used where appropriate.)

Procession of Adahs enters, in costume if possible, strumming their timbrels and singing some simple melody. After circling the hall, they group in the west, and one addresses the Worthy Matron as follows:

Worthy Matron, we who have served as the first point of the star of ____ Chapter have been signally honored by you and your predecessors, and we now come with a desire to express in some appropriate way our appreciation of the honors we have enjoyed at your hands. In the spirit of filial love we wish to carry out what seems to us a very pleasant duty. We have provided a simple program for the entertainment of our members and guests, and we trust our efforts may be acceptable to you.

W.M.: My sisters, in behalf of ____ Chapter, I extend to you a most hearty welcome. It is gratifying to me and to my predecessors also, that you are among the Music Makers of life, and like the heroine whose name you bear, no destiny can defeat.

"So shall this evening with our heroines fair,
Be like assembles where the Angels are,
So shall fidelity fill our hearts,
While unkind thoughts shall fade away,
And naught remain but one perpetual day."

Sister Marshal, you will escort our sisters to the East.

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First Adah: Strange to say that in the Bible history there is no personal allusion to the heroine of so much tragical romance as Adah. Throughout this narrative she is simply called "Jepthah's daughter". We know not when nor where modern associations have attached the name of Adah to this historical heroine, but may we not assume that Brother Morris and his collaborators in recasting this lecture might have selected this name for its poetical significance. For the definition of Adah is: "Powerful perfumes, strength and sweetness."

The more we study this symbolic character, the more we are convinced that vigorous gladness was so natural to her that her girl friends were constantly about her; and her festivals were marked by rare displays of music, poetry and dancing. On these joyous occasions Adah would sing and tenderly touch her timbrel.

(At this time a dance of Oriental character may be introduced. If not available, the following song may be used, to the tune "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory".)

The Star that shines so brightly, lighting up the dreary way,
The Eastern Star of Promise we are following today
Has turned the path rose-tinted that was once an ashen gray,
And this wondrous Star shines on.

Fidelity is written on the faces that we greet;
And constancy is proven when our hands in friendship meet;
Love and light and joy commingled, make our happiness complete,
While our wondrous Star shines on.

In nature's life and beauty and Divinity believe,
To him that giveth freely, he it is who shall receive,
And fervent love and lasting, all life's weary ills relieve,
For our wondrous Star shines on.

To one whose thoughts and actions with these attributes are fraught,
Our loyal, loving leader, whose wise counsel long we've sought,
We give fraternal greeting, with a true affection wrought,
As our wondrous Star shines on.
(Repeat) As our wondrous Star shines on.

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Second Adah: In all states of perfection to which women may aspire, none is more divine than that of filial devotion. In the truly amiable daughter may be found the germs of all other fitness; a sister, wife or mother was born out of a good daughter.

Before the time Adah became old enough to realize the need of a mother's tender training, she was deprived of that mother, and afterwards was grieved sorely and painfully at the oft repeated absence of her father from home. Many and painful were the periods of separation from her sole guardian, for his habits as hunter, and afterwards as general of a great army, subjected him to many perils.

Often he would call for his black steed, which, like its master, scented the battle afar, and was anxious to be gone. Adah would, on these occasions, fasten his war harness around him; her delicate hands buckled the armor, while her white teeth gleamed from between lips which parted in smiles, yet which only smiled to hide the tears that were crowding her eyes; yet these, as a soldier's daughter, she heroically commanded to stay.

In her childhood, her father's retainers were wont to show her the most chivalrous attention, which early gave an individual strength to her manner, and created a self-reliance which served a good purpose in her life of double duty. Her coterie of young friends cheered her in her father's absence, and many a sweet story of love and valor and knightly escort would one relate to the others, each taking his turn to recite.

((Here have recitation of chivalry, love and valor - Tennyson's Sir Galahad is a good example.))

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Third Adah: When Jephthah ruled as judge over the children of Israel, they were engaged in a bitter war with one of their most powerful enemies, the children of Ammon. He sought the help of Jehovah, and vowed a vow: That, if God would deliver the children of Ammon into the hands of the Israelites, he would offer him as a burnt offering whatsoever first came from the door of his house to meet him.

After the Israelites conquered the children of Ammon, Jephthah returned to his home in Mizpah. The first to meet him was his daughter Adah, singing and dancing in her joy for Israel's victory and her father's return. She was his only child, young and beautiful, and as her father beheld her, the joy over his people's victory and his home-coming was turned into sorrow and bitter regret over his foolish and thoughtless vow.

Alas! It was now too late to repent over his heedless words, for he had vowed a vow which he could not retract. According to the times in which he lived, it could not be broken although it cost him the loss of his dearest possession on the earth, the beloved of his heart, his only child. Thoughts of his home-coming and of meeting with her whom he so tenderly loved and cherished, must have cheered and encouraged him in many a battle. This was now turned into a most sorrowful occasion. The once happy home was to be darkened forever with the deepest gloom on account of the loss of her who brightened it with a daughter's tender love and the gladness of youth.

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Fourth Adah: Adah, a true daughter of Israel, considering it a sin for her father to take back the vow he made unto God, became a willing sacrifice. She only asked him to allow her to go with her companions for 2 months to the mountains, to weep and pray. At the end of that time she returned and gave up her young life, calmly and heroically, as an offering to God, according to her father's vow.

There is such intense pathos in this incident of Jephthah's life, whether reading it in the Bible or seeing it exemplified in our Order, we cannot help being impressed by it. The terrible consequences of his vow, the heroic conduct of its victim,

teaches lessons which we should take to heart.

In our enlightened times, we are aware that our Heavenly Father, who rules over all mankind with justice, love and mercy, would rather have us break our vow than make such a sacrifice as was the result of Jephthah's heedless words. Yet through our conscience, the still, small voice, so rightly called "The Voice of God" we are held responsible for the solemn obligation we take in His name. Having wisely considered the step we have taken, we must by word and deed be ever faithful to that solemn promise, so as to promote the welfare and happiness of all who come under its influence.