

*7 Friendship (50 yrs
D.C.*

FIFTY YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP



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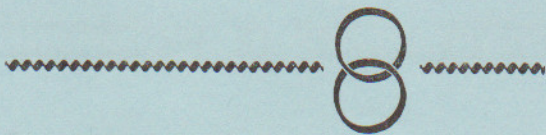
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USING PREPARED MATERIAL

Some Presiding Officers may have difficulty expressing themselves in appropriate words. While there are many very worthwhile addresses and ceremonies available, the Presiding Officer must be willing to select them with great care and she must be willing to spend some time adapting the presentation to her own particular way of speaking. Taking the time to make a presentation a part of one's self by digesting it carefully is invaluable. The Presiding Officer should substitute other words for any that are difficult to use. If a sentence does not exactly express the matter in the way that the Presiding Officer thinks it should be, she should adjust it to suit her own particular needs.

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Theme—Friendship

One or more people may participate in this ceremony simply by dividing the paragraphs or verses. In this manner the Presiding Officer or another selected person may present the complete ceremony, or two people may alternate the paragraphs, or as many people may take part as there are paragraphs or verses.

FIFTY YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP

Theme—Friendship



Tonight as we celebrate our fiftieth anniversary, we are indeed happy to have had a part, however small, in the history of an organization such as ours.

One of the most important parts of our work is the initiating of new friendships and the strengthening and perpetuation of old friendships. In our world today, we can make no more valuable contribution than to do our part in the extending of humanity's life-line, Friendship.

Sometimes, perhaps because we are so close to the situation, we are unable to see how important our efforts to extend the sphere of true friendship are. On the international level, there is no more effective way to cross the barriers of language and racial differences

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than with a genuine spirit of friendship. No solution to misunderstandings between nations has more positive results than that which stems from the grass roots of genuinely friendly feelings.

But true friendship among all people of the world cannot exist on this, its largest scale, unless it exists first of all within the hearts of individual men everywhere. For the past fifty years, because of the foresight of our Founding Fathers, we have been engaged in this most vital of all human endeavors. the fostering of true friendship.

More than this, the past fifty years have taught our membership an important thing. True friendship demands a mastery of certain skills and the mastery of these skills may be achieved only after much practice. In our work, we clarify the principles needed to become skillful participants in a world working towards an exemplification of friendship on every level of endeavor.

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For the past fifty years, our Lodge has been striving to make the membership aware of opportunities that exist for them to exercise the skill of practical friendship. No meeting has ever gone by without the membership's being advised of those members sick, shut-in, or bereaved who were in real need of the comfort of a friend. No year has ever passed when our members have not, through this organization, contributed in a very real way, to the fostering of friendship through their support of projects designed to relieve the distress of fellow human beings.

Although the individual seldom stops to consider the far-reaching effects of his friendly, kindly concern for his fellow man, the fact remains that through constant practice in such affairs on the individual and group basis, we are developing the skills necessary to deal competently with the world of friendship on a larger and grander scale.

Today, when all human beings of thought

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and moral conscience are concerned with directing human effort to constructive rather than destructive objectives, we desperately need individuals and groups who have mastered the skills necessary to the development of world friendship.

In the same way that a child does not learn to run until he has first learned how to maintain his balance while walking, the individual cannot cope with the problems of world friendship until he has learned to maintain his equilibrium on the individual and small group level.

The effort of our Lodge to promote just such growth and development within each individual and in the group collectively receives our heartiest endorsement. In the years that lie ahead we shall strive to make the vision and forecast of the Charter Members a reality in the lives of our members and in the world that is ours today.

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Friendship is humanity's life line
As the world tosses on a sea of greed.
There is no better answer to problems
Than the soft answer of friendly deed.

There is no better way to grow
Than through friendship man to man,
There is no greater opportunity
Than being a friend whenever you can.

What is more comforting than a friend
When times are troubled and sad?
What is more deeply rewarding than
A friend whom you have made glad?

Friendship is a difficult pathway
Demanding our skill and God's aid.
But the way is less lonely and hard
If you've some friend you have made.

The fifty years past have been golden,
And rich with friendship by the score.
It shall be our constant objective
To enrich our history with fifty more.