

## OUR OBLIGATION

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Martha #135

Our Obligation is a solemn promise made before our sacred Altar when we were admitted to the Order of the Eastern Star.

In a legal sense, obligation is synonymous with duty.

The Obligation is That which binds us to do some act, the doing of which thus becomes a duty.

By our Obligation a member of the Order of the Eastern Star is bound or tied to the Order. It is said that our Obligation is that which makes us an Eastern Star.

Before the ceremony there is no tie that binds the candidate to the Order so as to make him or her a part of it. After the ceremony the tie has been completed and the candidate becomes at once a member of the Eastern Star.

Our Obligation is a moral one which is binding on the party who makes it, in conscience and according to moral justice. Its different clauses, in which different duties are prescribed or promised are called its points, which are either affirmative or negative. The whole of them is preceded by a general point of secrecy, common to all, and this point is called the tie.

In assuming our Obligation we have each one given our word of honor to fulfill seven "I wills". Each "I will" being a sacred promise to our Order as a whole, and to each individual member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

When thoughtlessly we mention, to those outside our numbers the transactions of our Chapter, are we keeping our second "I will"?

When we are indifferent to the calls for sympathy or help do we stop to recall the promise we made in our fourth "I will"?

When we speak lightly of a sister or brother, or in any way harm them - do we realize the meaning of our fifth "I will"?

Do we defend our sisters and brothers, from an unfair remark or slighting insinuation- when we fail that Honor and Justice should be given them. We said "I will" to just such a clause.

Too often I fear, we fail to get the binding force of our vow. We often do not Knew the Obligation we have taken, so how can we truly live it?

Our sixth landmark tells us "That the Obligation of our Order, voluntarily assumed, is perpetual, from the force of which there is no release".

So never, after assuming our Eastern Star Obligation, are we privileged to forget the "I wills" we promised when we became members of the Order.

We may demit from our Order, we may be suspended, but never may we rightfully recall our "I wills", for our Obligation is perpetual.

Faithfully observed, our Obligation will make us better men and women, more charitable toward our fellow men and more like Him whose Star we follow.