

2 copies

THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR (Symbols)

Earthly brotherhoods are symbols of the higher initiation. "As below, so above." There are certain truths which cannot be well expressed in words but which may be, at least partially, expressed in symbols.

We know that Masons love and cherish their Order above all others because it is designed to, and does make them better, wiser and happier men. By the laws of Masonry, women are not eligible to its degrees, but out of this ancient institution has sprung a beautiful Order, bearing its likeness, teaching similar lessons, and bringing the opportunity of cooperation to the wives, daughters, mothers, widows and sisters of Master Masons.

Such is our beautiful Order of Eastern Star. It is a school of morals designed and qualified to educate every initiate in the rules and safe guides of life. If each will follow and live its precepts, there will be no desire to set aside any of its important lessons. We must not rest, satisfied with mere ceremonies, but study to comprehend their mystical signification.

No one can rightly understand the inner truths of the Order of Eastern Star unless he has experienced within himself the mystical meaning of its symbols.

Our Order is founded on Masonry and its teachings should bring to us the same inspiration to be better, wiser and happier followers of the Star: better, for it teaches morality, virtue, charity and justice to all; wiser, for it imparts knowledge that is weighty, solemn and uplifting; happier, for it inspires the spirit of fraternal love one for the other.

It makes us value the real in life. In the order of Nature we can seldom render benefits to those from whom we receive them; but the benefit we receive we can render again, line for line, deed for deed, cent for cent, to somebody.

Such is our beautiful Order of Eastern Star. It has signs, passes and means of recognition which have been tried and proven to be just what we need to make ourselves known to each other.

In the center of our Chapter room we find the Altar, and upon it one of the great lights of Masonry, the Bible, and a symbol of the Great Sacrifice. In ancient times an Altar was set up to solemnize any sacred covenant. Temples were built with Altar and fire in the center. Therefore, this location is one of worship, as we see our Altar. This vital spot has great spiritual importance and symbolizes the soul of the universe. "God is a consuming fire." "The sacrifice of a broken and contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise." Thus, all that is taught around this sacred spot must be pure, religious and sincere.

Our Order has five degrees. It gives the history of a heroic daughter doomed to die for her father's sake. It tells us of the widow who forsook home, friends and wealth that she might dwell among the people of God. It tells of a wife, a noble daughter of bondage, who so bravely resolved to relinquish her crown and give her life, if need be, to spare the people of Israel from death. It tells of a sister who amidst sickness, death and loneliness never for a moment doubted the Saviour's power to restore her brother. It tells of a mother who, above all women, suffered for her Master's sake the loss of home, family, wealth, and life itself.

Each of these heroines has been surrounded with emblems, legends and tokens of recognition, which if properly understood, will enable us to make ourselves known as members of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Our Order stands for all that is noblest and best in life. So let us not be weary in well-doing; let us emulate the virtues taught by our various lessons and be thankful that by loving service we may be of use to humanity round about us.

"As we are passing but once this way
Let this be our attitude every day:
Helping a little here and there
With a kindly deed or a word of prayer;
Inspire and encourage a Sister or Brother,
Thus helping them to help another."

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