

## SYMBOLIC CEREMONY

All officers taking part. Any kind of an opening march may be used.

After all have entered room and are in different stations, five hostesses enter-- One with blue ribbon--another yellow--etc. Each hand ribbons to those specified on diagram. This was easily done.

At stations of Conductress , Associate Conductress, Marshal, Warder, Soloist placed baskets of flowers. Each of these officers carried baskets when they came into the room.

After all were in their different stations, a hostess with candidate entered and stopped at Sentinel's station. From here on proceed as per diagram and script.

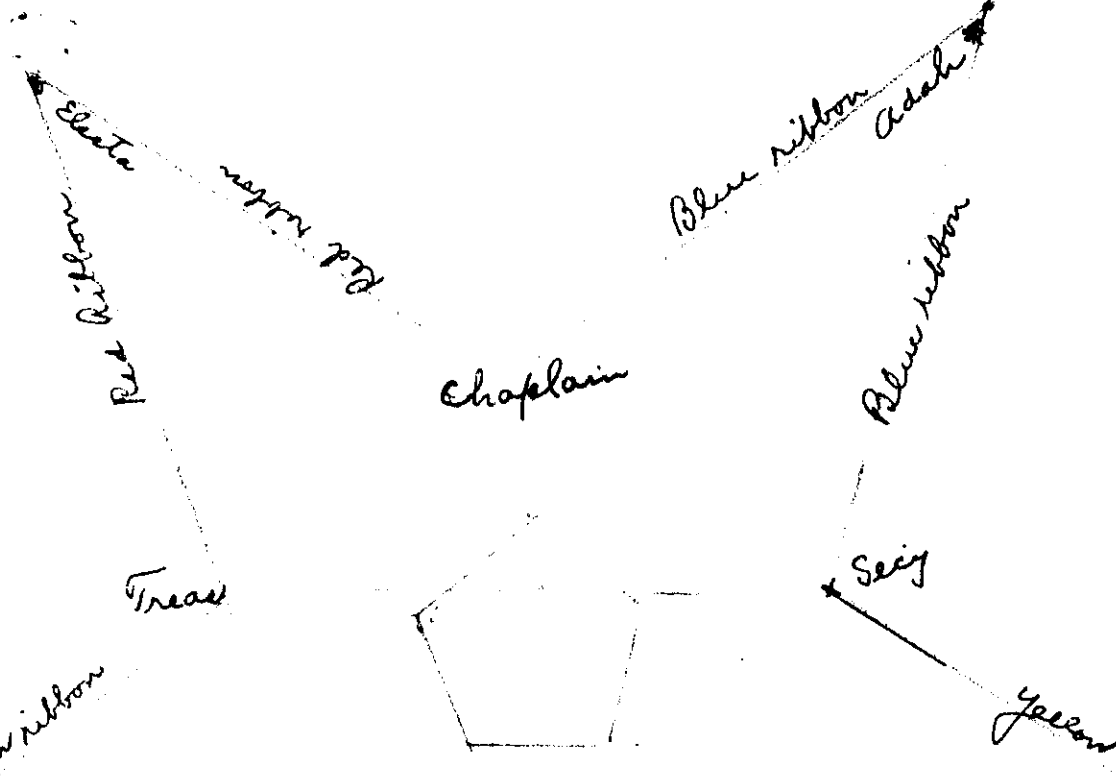
At the last--another march. The hostess and candidate being in out-going march. You can have your own member for this ceremony.

EAST

M. D. H.M.

Assn M. Assn Patron

Soloist  
\*



Warder  
\*

Marshall  
\*

Martha  
Green ribbon

Electrician  
\*

Organist  
Yellow ribbon Rich

Assn. Cond.  
\*

Conductress  
\*

to  
Eicher

CEREMONY.

SYMBOLIC TEACHINGS OF THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR.

Hostess at  
Entrance.

It is understood, ... ( name of candidate ), by the officers of ..... Chapter, No. .... Order of the Eastern Star, that you are a woman who is eligible for membership in the Eastern Star, that is that you are the wife, mother, sister, daughter or widow of a Master Mason. You are considering making application for membership, and are desirous of knowing something of the symbolic principles for which the Order stands. This is a very natural wish and should be gratified. As one of the hostesses it is my very great honor to present you to the officers of ..... Chapter on this special occasion, and ask them to tell you of the principles on which this great Order is founded.

Approaching  
the Star.

( Hostess continues ) This is our Chapter room, but it is not arranged in any sense of the word as it would be for a regular meeting. The officers have gathered from their various stations and points, into a pattern on the floor, symbolic of the Eastern Star; only the altar and Holy Bible are here; the altar where we take our sacred obligation, and the Holy Bible upon which we draw for much of our ritualistic work; and the principles such as Charity, Truth and Loving Kindness.

What the officers tell you to-night is no part of our ritualistic work. The ritual of the Order will be revealed to you after you assume the Obligation.

To Sentinel.

Brother Sentinel, I present to you and to the officers of ..... Chapter, ( name ..... ), who is eligible for membership in the Eastern Star and wishes to know more about our Order. I would like to have her know the significance of the Sentinel's badge.

Sentinel.

The Sentinel being the first, and guarding the outer gate to our Chapter room symbolizes the thought that we must guard our minds and the thoughts that they may be pure. I wear the crossed swords, one sword represents human justice and demands an " eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth " that which often judges without sufficient proof or knowledge of the facts or motives prompting the deed. But the other sword is thrust forward at the gate to keep out that which is unclean. From this we learn that petty spites, hatred and all manner of grievances should be left outside when we enter the Chapter room. If we do this we will probably forget them and be less likely to resume them when we leave, because our minds have been filled with the better things of life when we listen to the beautiful teachings we hear within the Chapter Room.

Hostess to  
Sentinel.

Will you open this Star and let us enter, that we may talk with the other officers.

Hostess.

Among the officers we will find the five heroines of the Order of the Eastern Star. Three of these you will recognize by their familiar Bible names. One is the noble Queen Esther.

Ether.

Ether teaches fidelity to principle, choosing the right, forgetting self in love for others. This heroine is typified in the modern woman who is called upon to defy convention and stand for the principle and right. The world needs many Ethers in trying times like these-- women who are not afraid to risk all to save the best for humanity.

Hostess.

The Conductress wears a Scroll and Baton on her badge. What are the meanings of these symbols, Sister Conductress ?

Conductress.

The Conductress teaches us that constant and steady endeavor alone establishes perfection. The Scroll teaches us that our plans should be carefully and wisely made, so that there shall be the greatest good to the largest number and the Baton teaches that these plans should be carried out harmoniously.

Hostess.

The Christian religion is one of music. Our mighty organ peals forth music which stirs the heart. Brother Organist, what are your thoughts while you play upon your instrument ?

Organist.

The Organist teaches that the harmony in our lives reacts upon those around us. Music upon the heart strings brings best service, while discord brings only sorrow and trouble.

Hostess

You remember Ruth from your childhood days; I am sure. We have all loved the story of Ruth and Orpha. Sister Ruth, what is your teaching ?

Ruth.

Ruth teaches unselfish love. Choose the right path though it may lead to deprivations and poverty; rather than the path of least resistance, as did Orpha, who turned back when her companionship and love were most sorely needed.

Hostess.

As you might suppose, the Secretary of this organization has a very important office. Sister Secretary, why do you wear the crossed pens as your badge ?

Secretary.

I write our book of record, which corresponds to Mary's book of Life. I wear the "crossed pens." One pen with the broad point that we use to erase the shortcomings of our companions; the other pen is the pen with the diamond point with which we engrave on our hearts the good deeds of our Sisters and Brothers. This teaches us to record only the good and true, that we may not be burdened with prejudices, falsity and error.

Hostess.

You would expect us to have a Marshal. Here is a duty of precision. Sister Marshal, why is order so necessary ?

Marshal.

The Marshal teaches us that order is necessary for the fulfillment of any good purpose. The Field Marshal's baton of direction, united with harmony teaches us that labor lovingly given is best bestowed. " He who loves best, serves best."

Hostess.

I am sure you do not remember the name "Adah" in the Bible. That was the name given Jephtha's daughter, by our founder, for the Bible does not give her name. You may read of her supreme sacrifice in the "eleventh Chapter of Judges. Sister Adah, what lesson would you have us learn ?

Adah.

Adah teaches the obligation to fulfill our vows. The sword represents the human tongue which sometimes, yes often, cuts like a two-edged sword, injuring perhaps unintentionally, those nearest and dearest to us. The veil is the cloak of charity and from it we learn to guard well our tongues, conceal all selfish and impure thoughts and let love and charity rule our hearts and lives.

Hostess.

Just as our lives would be barren without prayer, so the Chapter relies on prayer to the Father of us all. Sister Chaplain, what is your lesson of the will of God ?

Chaplain.

The Chaplain teaches that to know the will of God we must study His word. In order to set the right example our Star represents, and to have ears to hear, we must know that man does not live by bread alone but by the will of God, as revealed in His Holy Book.

Hostess  
to Soloist

Much of the spiritual values of the Chapter meetings is brought by the Soloist. I am asking Sister ..... to sing for you "The Lord's Prayer". This is the perfect prayer taught us by the One whose birth was heralded by the Star in the East. Sister Soloist, will you bring your message in song ? (Soloist sings)

Hostess.

Electa is another name we do not find in the Bible, but she is spoken as "The Elect Lady", our founder named her "Electa". You may read about her in the Second Epistle of St. John. Sister Electa, what do you represent ?

Electa.

Electa represents the Christian Church, without which the entire world structure would end in utter destruction and chaos by the influence of which it is hoped all differences will be adjusted and the promised millennium eventually arrive. As Electa stood firm through suffering and stress, so we see through the darkness a certainty for a triumphant living in a victory of righteousness.

Hostess.

The Warder wears a dove of peace. Sister Warder what is the teaching the Dove of Peace ?

Warder.

This station, with its emblem, the Dove of Peace, teaches us to bring all new thoughts into harmony with our ideas of justice. We must not be narrow, biased or prejudiced in our opinions, and love teaches us to receive criticism with love, even though it is often unwarranted, and to forgive in even before pardon is asked, and if not asked, to be able to have the grace to say, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do".

- Hostess. Upon the Treasurer rests a great responsibility. She has a badge with a curious meaning. Many members have not heard it explained. Sister Treas. what is the interesting meaning of your badge ?
- Treasurer. My duty is to conserve and distribute the funds symbolically representing the outpouring of goodness. I wear the "crossed keys". One key is of brass with which to lock up the dragon of selfishness, and the other is the key to the storehouse of love, teaching that we should ~~not~~ pour on others the good we have in store, realizing always that ceasing to give, we cease to have and enjoy our blessings.
- Hostess. We all know the two sisters, Mary and Martha. Martha is one of the heroines Sister Martha, what do you symbolize ?
- Martha. Martha symbolizes faith in a living God and his promise to man. In this world of seeming chaos may we strive valiantly to carry the trustful faith of our heroine, Martha, until greater revelations of God's wisdom and power open our eyes.
- Hostess. Another means of bringing beauty and dignity into our Chapter room is the play on light. There is a message in light as well as music. Brother electrician, what is the symbolism of light ?
- Electrician. The Electrician realizes the important part light plays in life. Light has always symbolized truth and justice. You will see that a pure light shines upon the Bible. That light reflects upon the life of every member of the Order of the Eastern Star.
- Hostess. The Associate Conductress' badge shows a Baton. Sister <sup>U</sup>Associate Cond. what is the meaning of the Baton ?
- Asso. Conductress. The Associate Conductress teaches us much needed discipline. We must discipline our own personal desires so that we may be in harmony with our companions in the great work which we are striving to accomplish. The Baton symbolizes the control of a great choir leader who teaches us to raise our varied voices in the great chorus of love, by praising God with united, yet with greatly diversified service.
- Hostess. We now come to our four principal officers. The Associate Matron and Patron whose seats are in the West, and the Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron who sit in the East.
- West of the Altar. The Associate Matron has served the Chapter a year as Conductress and a year as Associate Conductress. The Associate Patron shares the duties of the West and together they prepare for their important duties in the year to come. They face the East, they face the Star in the East. Their lives are radiant with the reflected light of the Eastern Star.
- Sister Associate Matron, what do these colors signify ?
- Associate Matron. The Associate Matron strives to maintain unbroken the tie which unites our Order. These ribbons of color are symbols to you of the uniting force of the principles of the Order of the Eastern Star. As we opened the Star tonight to admit you within, so the Order will open to admit those who wish to make these virtues a ruling force in their lives. The sacred ties of the Star will hold us all in mutual love.

Hostess. Brother Associate Patron, what is the message of the double star on your badge?

Asso. Patron An Associate Patron wears an emblem of a Star within a Star. We have built here upon the floor of our Chapter room this Star within a Star, combining all our aims as members of this Order. We daily strive toward their ~~aim~~ fuller accomplishment.

Hostess. The Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron hold the highest offices and honor it is in the power of the Chapter to bestow. They sit in the East. They live in the Light of the Star which heralded Christ's birth. As we look to the Star for light of the Chapter, so we look to these officers for guidance and direction. Worthy Patron, is her Masonic relationship important to ( name of candidate ) ?

Worthy Patron. The Worthy Patron's badge reminds us of the relation of the Eastern Star to the Masonic Fraternity. As the Order of the Eastern Star is dependent on the Masonic Order, so are you, as one who seeks membership, dependent on your relationship to the Masonic Fraternity of your family.

Hostess. Worthy Matron, to us you are the embodiment of the Light in the East. What should be the attitude of one who hopes to become a member of the Order of the Eastern Star ?

Worthy Matron. As Worthy Matron it is my sacred duty to conduct the meetings according to certain prescribed rules. It is also my sacred privilege to so govern all affairs that we shall at all times be aware of the beauty and dignity of the ritual of Our Order. It is our own attitude which determines the effect of a ritual. It may be a mere repetition of words or it may present an ever widening insight into the significance of the principles involved, as we make the forms a part of our living, and incorporate them into our pattern of manly. We may dismiss the ideals as the words fade from our hearing, or we may keep the words echoing in our lives and exemplify the ideals in our relations with our fellowman.

Hostess still West of Altar. ( name ), the richness of the interpretation of the symbolism of our Order may be yours. The wealth of the ritual in the beauty of its unfolding may be your treasure. The dignity of the teachings of the heroines of the Order may become a part of your life. World fellowship with all members of the Order of the Eastern Star will be your privilege. We trust pleasure and profit will be mutual when you become a member of ..... Chapter No. , Order of the Eastern Star.