

Life's stories are like patchwork quilts which contain blocks of brilliance and joy. Other pieces are of somber hues which tell of moments of pain and sorrow.

The lessons you have taught at the several points of our star are like blocks of this quilt. Some of the stories bring tears to the eye, while others bring surging pride and happiness.

You have shared our teachings with initiates who seek to find a pathway through the labyrinth of life which will lead them to the highest of goals. Let us assume that this goal represents a beautiful quilt. The completion of this quilt should be a glorious moment of achievement.

The blue block of Adah is a strong, honorable color. It resembles the beauty of Jephthah's daughter, a child of love and hope. The brilliance of her short life shines as a symbol of fidelity to a spoken vow. We are to be faithful to ourselves, to our sisters and brothers, to our country, and to our God.

The constant devotion and gentle humility of Ruth is sewn into our quilt with a steady, golden glow of yellow. Her life teaches us that we must be steadfast, constant, and true, regardless of our place in life.

The shining white piece in our quilt is as beautiful and outstanding as Esther herself. Her splendid courage and loyalty sets an example which would be difficult to emulate. Our choices are not as extreme, but we too must be loyal to ourselves, to our friends, to our country, and to our God.

Green is a color which represents renewal and rebirth. A trustful faith is the answer to those questions which we ask ourselves about

the things we cannot understand. Martha's life shows us that faith is our key to rebirth and helps us through those hours of suffering and trial. Let us never omit the color green from our quilt nor let it grow dim and faded.

Blood red is the block of Electa. Her heart, from which this red flows, was dedicated to the service of her fellow man. Her generous hospitality and loving kindness are characteristics which we must attempt to emulate if our quilt is to show the red of this courageous lady.

Thank you for helping your fellow sisters and brothers to piece their quilts with the wonderful teachings of our order.

Each color is vital to the finished product just as each virtue must be exemplified in our lives. Look around you at your sisters and brothers and know that we all appreciate your years of service and see the beauty of your own stitching.