

THE ORIGIN OF OUR ORDER

PROLOGUE

This playlet was written not only for the purpose of doing honor to the founder of our Order, but also to emphasize and bring out the teachings and lessons of our Star Point lectures and the meaning and significance of the emblems and symbols.

Please do not confuse the ideas conveyed here with historical fact. We know that Robert Morris wrote our ritual, and that he was later assisted in perfecting this work by Robert Macoy. On down through the years changes in the ritual have been made to conform to the needs of the times, until today we have a ritual rich in light, knowledge and beauty.

If you have never thought of the deep significance in the lessons taught, perhaps this will help you to become more deeply interested in our Chapter and so search out its many other truths for yourself.

(Enter Robert Morris and Macoy talking as they walk to chairs.)

MORRIS: I am glad you came over, Robert, I want to talk over some plans I have concerning a lodge on the order of the Masonic Lodge, to which women will be eligible for membership.

By this I mean women who are wives, daughters, mothers, sisters or widows of Masons. I want the Masonic brotherhood to be co-workers with the sisters in this great work.

MACOY; What! Why, man, you can't do that! There is no place in Masonry for women. Besides woman's place is in the home. Think of women taking part in anything remotely resembling Masonry! It's preposterous.

MORRIS; Well, perhaps so. But I had a woman ask me a question that set me thinking.

We were talking of Masonry and I remarked that she was fortunate to be entitled to the respect and protection of all good Masons.

She replied, "True, but if I am among strangers, how may I let all good Masons know I am entitled to their respect and protection?"

So I have been praying, working and trusting that I may perfect a plan whereby a woman, being among strangers, may be given a sign that is understood by Masons, and thus make herself known as being entitled to their protection and aid.

If you will listen, I would like to tell you what I have done and perhaps you will see some virtue in my dreams.

MACOY; Well that sounds good, and I admit the need. I must still be convinced that women can do work of that sort, so go ahead and I'll be glad to listen.

MORRIS; My first step, of course was to recognize the fact that the Holy Bible is the rule by which we should measure our lives, and all lessons will be taken from its sacred pages.

THE SQUARE

In Revelations John tells us of seeing "The city that lieth four-square." Even so shall be the Chapter room of this new order as is also our Masonic Lodge room four square.

The square which is used in Masonic figures and which is a symbol of integrity and fair dealing shall be carried out in all the ritualistic work. Turning of square corners in marching shall be the rule.

So, as a center from all paths must radiate, I took the Master's carpet, the Pentagon, placed therein the altar and the Bible as a symbol of God's presence.

Now my interpretation of the Pentagon is the base of a five-pointed star, and when I had that studied out, lo! I had the name of the Order in Bethlehem's Star that rose in the Eastern sky. So I am calling it "The Order of the Eastern Star."

THE MYSTIC NUMBERS

I wish to use the numbers 3, 5, 7 and 12 in all the work and the geometric figures the triangle, the square and the circle.

MACOY; Just a minute. May I ask why you wish to stress those numbers and figures?

MORRIS; Certainly! For herein lies much of the beauty of the work to know there is some reason for the things we do.

First the numbers. In studying the Bible we find many places where these numbers are mentioned.

In fact they are called the "Sacred Numbers." I shall give you a few.

THE NUMBERS THREE

Consider the number three.

First we have the Trinity of the Godhead and the three spaces or epochs of time as: Past, present and future - Yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Three divisions of earth were created: Air, land and water.

The third day Christ rose from the dead.

There were three Wise-men who followed the Star.

The last words spoken from Calvary's cross were three in number.

In conformity with this number I plan to use three officers who will be at the head of the government of the chapter.

Their titles shall be Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron, who will be stationed in the East; and Associate Matron, whose station is in the West.

This forms our basic Triangle.

FIVE

The number five has several physical classifications symbolically each human being having one head, two hands and two feet---five in all.

Upon each hand five fingers, upon each foot five toes.

This number five again suggest to my mind the pentagon.

Having the Pentagon for our central figure leads to the suggestion of adding five smaller triangles, or points, and behold we have our five-pointed Star.

SEVEN

Another symbolical number is seven.

There are seven planets encircling our earth. Seven days in the week.

I have already specified three governing officers, and by adding four this list we conform to the number seven.

The titles of these four additional officers shall be Secretary and Marshal who will be stationed in the Southeast and Treasurer and Chaplain stationed in the Northeast.

TWELVE

Our year is divided into twelve months.

There were twelve tribes of Israel.

In Revelations we are told there are twelve gates to the City of the New Jerusalem and twelve foundation stones.

So I have written twelve landmarks or foundation stones for the Order.

The Triangle is a symbol, as I have said of the Trinity, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In ancient times when Christians were persecuted they made the of the Triangle for secret prayer.

The Circle is without beginning and without end, symbolizing Immortality, the foundation of our religion. For without that hope, of a life beyond the grave, we of all men would be most miserable. In this connection I am planning the formation of an Altar Circle in carrying out the ritualistic work.

The Square signifies that we should square our lives and actions be square with our fellowmen and be square with God.

Then the setting. The room must, as in Masonry, face East and West.

As the sun, our greatest source of light, rises in the East so shall my presiding officer, as a dispenser of light, be stationed in the East.

At her left shall be a Brother, to signify the relationship existing between the Masonic brotherhood and the Order of the Eastern Star.

The other officers I have not entirely placed as yet; but the thing that is troubling me most is, how shall I teach the lessons of the five points of the central Star. I can't decide.

Oh! I wish that I might have a vision, or something to show

me how we would best teach Fidelity, Constancy, Purity, Immortality and Love.

BLUE; I am the spirit of Adah, Jephthah's daughter, who demanded that her father be true to his vow and offer her as a sacrifice.

Where can you find a more fitting lesson to teach Fidelity than in my story?

The number three may be used in my lesson, for I removed the veial from my face three times and thus may the sign be given in three motions,

(Illustrates).

Let my color be Blue, symbol of Fidelity, teaching faithfulness to all moral obligations.

Let my emblem be the Sword with which I was slain, and the veil which I refused to have cover my face, for I was not afraid to die.

YELLOW: I am the Spirit of Ruth, the Moabitess, and I offer my story to teach the impressive lesson of Constancy.

I gave up my country, my friends and my people to follow and care for my husband's mother, beasue of my Constancy to my Christian Faith.

Three may be used in my sign, for I raised my hands to show that in gleaning I had not taken from the sheaves. I drew them to my breast as a sign of submission, raising my eyes to God from whom cometh help.

Thus may be the sign be given in three motions.

(Illustrates).

Let my color be that of the ripening grain I garnered, a symbol of Constrancy, and my emblem the Sheaf, for it takes patient industry to gather a sheaf and to prepare for the infirmities of age.

WHITE: I am the Spirit of Queen Esther, who risked the favor of her King and risked even her life to save her people from death.

Where can you find a more impressive lesson to teach Purity of thought and deed than in my story?

The number three may be used in this lesson for when I approached the King I touched the crown and robe which he desired me to wear when appearing before him.

I touched the seceptre which he extended to me as a symbol of pardon and thus may the sign be given in three motions.

(Illustrates).

Let my emblem be the Crown and Secptre united, emblem of Royalty and Power, and my color be White, symbol of Light, Purity and Joy.

GREEN: I am the Spirit of Martha, whose brother was brought forth from the tomb because of her faith in the Master.

Where can you find a more impressive lesson of Faith and Hope of Immortality than in my story?

Three may be used in this lesson for when I met Jesus, I raised my hands in supplication, looking upward, and thus may the sign be given in three motions.

(Illustrates)

Let my emblem be the Broken Column, signifying the death of a person cut off in the vigor of Life, and my color be Green, symbol of hope that beyond the grave loved ones await us and there will be no death.

RED: I am the Spirit of Electa.

Where can you find a more impressive lesson of Love and Service, than in the traditional story of my death in defense of the Cross?

Three may also be used in my lesson, for I received the Cross, pressed it to my bosom, and looked to my Master for strength. Thus may be sign be given in three motions.

(Illustrates)

Let my emblem be the Cup of Hospitality, for I took the poor into my home and ministered unto them. Let my color be Red, symbol of fervent Love.

(As the vision fades, Morris and Macoy arouse and Morris speaks)

MORRIS: At last I have found the perfect lessons and my Points shall be Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha and Electa.

MACOY: Fine. You couldn't find better and I am sure that when you get this finished and working, the Order will grow and prosper until those who receive the degrees shall be as the Heroines of our Order. (No. 17 of Secret Work).

MORRIS: There you have given me my Cabalistic Motto, and the first letter of each word shall form the Cabalistic word. I am so happy, I feel that God is using me to carry light to many and my prayer is that those who shall receive the degrees will be persuaded to live four-square lives toward God and man.

(While Morris is speaking he rises. Macoy follows suit. They shake hands and in a casual way saunter from the Chapter room, Morris speaks as they leave).

MORRIS: I'm glad you came over, Robert. You have helped ease my mind and helped resolve a real problem that was bothering me.