

③ Honoring Retiring Star Post, IV

There is a time for all things--a time to live, a time to love, a time to labor, and a time to serve. You have used this time well by serving so many years representing each of the beautiful points of our Star. It is now time for us to express our appreciation for your service.

The time you took to portray the gallant heroines of our order has brought pleasure to the lives of many. You have helped to teach the lessons of Fidelity, Constancy, Loyalty, Faith, and Love.

The rituals of our Order are based on five historic characters of the Bible, the Talmud and of Josephus. Each life exemplifies many highly regarded Masonic virtues.

Whether we study these heroines historically or traditionally, the stories are inspiring and beautiful.

Jepthah's daughter was not named in the Bible. Adah was the name given to her by our founder, Dr. Robert Morris. Her tragedy came to pass because her tribe had forgotten God. As a result of the sins of Israel, they were delivered into the hands of their enemies. Jepthah, to his great surprise, became the leader of his nation. He realized that he would need a great deal more than his own power and strength to defeat his enemies. And then came his memorable vow. When he returned victorious, he set an unforgettable example of fidelity to his word, for his daughter was his joy. Adah became a symbol of noble self-sacrifice and courageous resignation.

One of the most appealing scenes in all Biblical literature was enacted when Ruth said, "Entreat me not to leave thee, and to return from following after thee." She turned her back on a life of ease, and remained true to her newly found God, and to the mother-in-law she had come to love.

The story of Esther leaves a deep impression of the courage she

displayed when faced with the peril of losing not only her own life, but the lives of the entire Jewish race. The pure life of Esther and her devotion to her people has become an inspiration to us all.

The home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus became a place of quiet and rest for Jesus. And they, in turn, considered Him not as a guest but as a guide and counselor.

So, when Lazarus became ill and died, it was only natural that the sisters should long for the return of their friend. They knew that His power equaled their need.

On His return to Bethany, Martha rushed out to meet Him and expressed her absolute Faith by saying, "Lord, if Thou hast been here, my brother had not died." Life's greatest lessons have often been learned in the valley of sorrow. To Martha came the wonderful message that "He that liveth and believeth on me shall never die."

The name of Electa does not appear in the Bible. She was simply known as "the Elect Lady", and was persecuted for her Christian beliefs. Electa professed her faith to the whole world and was willing to undergo the loss of everything for the love of Christ and for the religion in which she had absolute faith.

There are times in our lives when we should, without question, commit our ways into the keeping of our all-wise Father. Perhaps you have aided someone to make this decision. Your time has been well spent.