

Chickadee Chatter

Volume 19 – No. 14

August 1, 2020

Grand Chapter of Maine, Order of the Eastern Star

Brenda L. Hall, Worthy Grand Matron

David M. Cole, Worthy Grand Patron

Esther's Story

About 500 years before Christ was born, the Hebrew people were captured by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. Mordecai of the tribe of Benjamin who had seen kindred and friends slain in the capture of Jerusalem was taken to Persia. Among the captives carried from Palestine was a little orphan girl named Hadessah, a cousin of Mordecia whom he adopted and raised as his own daughter, carefully teaching her all the Jewish doctrines and heritage. Mordecai, a learned man was soon appointed to serve as the Hebrew Minister to the court of Persia. Thus, though a captive, Hadassah (now called Esther) lived amid the luxurious surroundings off the palace, naturally absorbing much of the stateliness and dignity necessary for a great woman. She grew up to be a lovely and beautiful young lady, well prepared for the role she was to play in the unfolding drama.

In the third year of the rein of King Ahasuerus a lavish party lasting many days was held. After seven days of celebrating the King commanded his beautiful Queen Vashti to appear unveiled before all the Princes and Potentates in the Council Chambers. Queen Vashti refused to obey the summons and aroused the anger of the King. On the advice of his Princes, who feared that all wives would follow her example and refuse to obey them, they advised the King to divorce her and banish her from his sight forever, which he promptly did...he then instructed his aides to search throughout the empire for the most beautiful girls and the one who pleased him most should become the new Queen of Persia.

Mordecai immediately brought his ward Esther to the place as a candidate carefully instructing her not to reveal her Jewish heritage. For six months, the girls were given beauty treatments and taught the customs of court living and how to please the King. The great day arrived and the candidates came before the king. When it was lovely Esther's turn to appear before the King, he was delighted with her beauty, poise, charm, and grace and immediately proclaimed her as the new Queen of Persia.

About five years later, Haman, Prime Minister of Persia persuaded the King that the Jewish people were his enemies whereupon an edit was issued that on a

certain day, the entire Hebrew race should be destroyed. Mordecai sought out Esther and informed her of the cruel edict and implored her to go before the King to save her people. Esther was afraid to go before the King because it was the law of the land that any man or woman who appeared unsummoned could be put to death unless pardoned by the King by extending the golden scepter. Mordecai insisted she should help her people, suggesting this may be the reason God brought her to this Kingdom. She then said she would go to the King and "if I perish, I perish."

Esther and her handmaidens then fasted for three days. Dressed in her queenly apparel she slowly and fearfully made her way to the council chamber of the King. The host of officials and Princes gathered there were hushed as she approached the throne. The King's countenance darkened in anger. She spoke not, but humbly touched her crown and robe, reminding him of a promise made long ago. The King's face softened as he looked upon his sweet and beautiful Queen. He extended to her the Golden Scepter of pardon saying, "What wilt thou, Queen Esther? What is thy request? It shall be yours up to half the Kingdom." She placed her hand upon the Golden Scepter and knew that her people would be saved.

This story reminds us that no one knows what role we may be called upon to perform in order to preserve the land of the free, the home of the brave. Let us be loyal to kind and friends, to our Country and to our God.

Quickie Questions on Esther

(Answers on page two)

1. Who reared Esther?
2. In what country did the story of Esther take place?
3. How long did Esther fast before going before the king?
4. The color of this degree is symbolic of what?
5. What is the Star Point emblem of this degree?

The Three W's

1. Wash your hands
2. Wear a mask
3. Watch your distance

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We're Taught By Heroines

In our world today, while changes are taking place all around us, we like to believe that there are some values that never change. As we turn to the teachings of our beautiful Order, we discover that they are based on the principles that endure, the truths that are eternal. They give us a foundation upon which we can safely build our lives because they come from the Holy Scriptures.

Eastern Star, celestial gem of Eastern Star life,
Teaches our Sisters and Brothers to live aright.
The lessons we hear from the Star on meeting
day
Tell us the truths we need to live the right way.

Adah courageously uncovered her face from the veil and saw the light, and soon the mystic clouds of fear vanished before their benign sight. May we be faithful to our convictions of right and duty.

Ruth sowed the seeds of divine virtues among her people, strewing deeds of kindness and love. Thus she received her divine blessings from her Heavenly Father above. May we be faithful to the demands of honor and justice in all stations of life.

Esther, a queen to save her people, was loyal and true. Let us, Sisters and Brothers, be ever loyal to each other in all that we do. May we be faithful to our kindred and friends in all circumstances.

Martha trusted in faith, her Lord, showed her the way. Dear Sisters and Brothers, let us follow her example. Have mercy, be humble and pray. May we always display a trustful faith and hope of immortal life.

Electa obeyed the Golden Rule, *Love One Another*. Let all unkindness from our lips depart. May we always be exemplary in charity and hospitality, and may we be faithful in endurance of the wrongs of persecution.

Sisters and Brothers, let charity and the truth of God's love radiate in your heart, the wisdom of the ages always to impart. Holy Bible, Book Divine, may our lives with the Eastern Star continue forever in love and service sublime. May we follow the examples of daily blessedness taught by the heroines of this beautiful Order.

Sister Esther

U E B O R C O U N C I L A T E
W N A I S R E P L E D G E S R
E O B B C O T A O D E R T O I
R R F I R W C R G W R H Y S P
B H E E D N I D H O E A D U M
E T G Q T D D O R R L R R K E
H N S H U E E N I T A I J I K
A J G C A E L N Y U T V N N M
N I O T E O S P G Y Q O E G E
L R H Y S P T T L U V R V T V
Q U E E N I T H S A V Y I W A
G O I D A M S E L Y W H G A S
J E W I S H B C R E W H A L F

Anger	Hebrew	Queen
Council	Ivory	Request
Crown	Jewish	Robe
Damsel	Joy	Royalty
Death	King	Save
Edict	Law	Scepter
Empire	Light	Terror
Esther	Pardon	Throne
Given	Persian	Unbidden
Gold	Pledges	Vashti
Guards	Power	White
Half	Purity	

Quickie Answers

1. Mordecai.
2. In Persia.
3. Three days.
4. Innocence and purity.
5. The crown and scepter.

Web Site

The Maine Order of the Eastern Star's web site is: <http://www.maineoes.org> – this is the place to go to when you want information about our Order in Maine. Current Grand Officers, Chapters and addresses for them, various forms, and a listing of the meetings in Maine etc. Sister Kathy Williamson is the Web Administrator and her email is kackyw@gmail.com.

Chickadee Chatter

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Star News

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