

Chickadee Chatter

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Grand Chapter of Maine, Order of the Eastern Star

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Landmarks of the Eastern Star

Tradition has us reading the landmarks once a year in our Subordinate Chapters...since most are not meeting, it's an opportunity to review them.

A landmark is a mark to designate the boundary of land; it is any conspicuous object on land that marks a locality, or it may be any event which marks a turning point. Any of these three definitions are suitable to our use in explaining the landmarks of the Eastern Star.

We have twelve of these markers, which if given proper place in our lives will bind us in such a way that all with whom we come in contact will know that we are followers of the Star in the East. Our landmarks should become conspicuous enough objects to mark the locality of our chapters and in accepting them upon our initiation we have an event which should surely be a real tuning point in our lives. Let us review briefly the twelve landmarks.

First and most important is a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being. Without this first marker we would have none of the others. It might be called a cornerstone. Next comes our degrees of which there are five. These represent all the phases of womanhood: the daughter, the widow, the wife, the sister, and the mother.

In the third we are impressed with the unchangeableness of our Order. Different jurisdictions sometimes differ in minor details of form but our name, the names of the degrees, and the modes of recognition are the same the world over. Truly this is a dependable landmark.

Our lessons are Scriptural, our teachings moral, and our purpose beneficent. What more could one desire in an organization? The Order makes no claim to be our substitute for the church. It is rather a supplement to it. In the church we emphasize spiritual matters first, in the Star our purpose is moral. However, the teachings of both are intertwined as both take the Scriptures as a basis for their beliefs, but one does not take the place of the other.

The fifth landmark deals with the obligations we assume. These are based upon the honor of those who obtain their secrets and are framed upon the principle that whatever benefits are due from Masons to a relative, reciprocal duties are due from them to Masons. The Obligation itself is voluntarily, is perpetual as there is no release. Too often, we fear, the Obligation becomes formal words rather than solemn oaths.

This sixth landmark is indeed important. It deals with moral problems and we may practice the lessons taught by our heroines.

Next comes the ballot box. The ballot must always be clear to secure an election; it must be absolutely without debate and always be kept inviolably secret. More unhappiness has come to chapters over disobedience to this precept, perhaps, than to any other in the Order.

The eighth mark tells us the degrees cannot be conferred unless a Brother in good standing shall preside - providing in case of extreme emergency the Most Worthy Grand Matron may grant permission in writing for a Sister to act in place of a Brother. This landmark brings to us the closeness of the relationship between the Masonic Lodge and the Order of the Eastern Star. As Eastern Stars we value and appreciate this relationship.

Every member is amenable to the laws of the Order, and may be tried for offenses by his/her own chapter or a chapter within whose jurisdiction the member resides who committed the offense. We are glad that we have rarely to invoke this discipline and that the majority of our members are fine upstanding people.

The tenth landmark gives the accused person an opportunity to appeal a decision by taking it from a Subordinate Chapter to the Grand Chapter or its executive board. Thus we have justice and tolerance exemplified.

Each Chapter governs itself. It alone decides who is eligible for membership among its candidates who are qualified through the eligibility for the degrees on page 161 of the Ritual.

The last marker tells the right of every member to visit any Chapter unless lawfully objection is made to such visitor. As Sisters and Brothers we should cherish the time we spend with others and remember this Landmark is just as sacred as the ballot as we acknowledge that none of us are perfect.

Thus we are bound. We are all proud of our markers - of their strength, their unchangeability, and their justice. In keeping them in mind at all times and making them our individual marks we shall truly become members who are worthy of saying, "I have seen His Star in the East and have come to worship Him."

It's Time For Us

The seasons swiftly come and go and with them comes the thought of all various changes that time in its flight has brought, but one thing never changes with time – and those are the lessons, emblems, and symbols, and precepts of our Order.

God has no earthy house in which to live across the street to be a kindly neighbor where we sometimes would like to meet; so in His wisdom and His kindness, often times sends His angels kind, to walk with us and guide us as our friends.

The Heroines of our Order have been the Angels that have walked with us as friends on our journey through the labyrinth of our star. If we have taken to heart the great lessons portrayed by the five star points of our emblematic star, our life will be more meaningful.

Adah is our blue ray. We recall from the lesson of Adah, the need of fidelity to that which is good. The emblem of her station is the sword and veil united; it teaches us to lift the veil of uncertainty and face life with a clear vision of our obligations and responsibilities.

Ruth is our yellow ray. From Ruth we learn that we should be steadfast, constant, and true to our faith. Her emblem is the sheaf of wheat. It represents the collective worth of small deeds of kindness which are done for the sake of others, and through patient industry, a substantial reward may be achieved.

Esther is our white ray. From Esther we recall her loyalty to justice and truth. The crown and scepter together is her emblem, symbolizing the force of power and authority used to achieve justice for all. The scepter has ever been a symbol of supreme power.

Martha is our green ray. The lesson of Martha should remind us though life is uncertain, faith is real, and most important. Martha has for her emblem the broken column. It teaches us that, as every spring proves the renewal of life, so God's promise of immortality renews our faith.

Electa is our red ray. Through Electa we learn that all things work together for them that love God. She reflects the warmth of loving acts and hospitality. Her emblem is the cup. It should remind us to be charitable, show mercy, and love deeply as we face the realities of daily living.

From the Bible in the Book of Ecclesiastics, it tells us that there is a time for every person under heaven, and it continues with a time for many things. We can relate this to the lessons just presented. There is a time to break down and a time to build up; a time to sow and a time to harvest; a time to speak and a time of peace; a time to mourn and a time to weep; and a time to embrace and a time to love. God has chosen you and me for this earth and has given us a time to live. Help us Lord, to know what time it is in our lives.

Valentine's Words

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

Admire	Dear	Love
Agape	February	Lovers
Arrow	Flirt	Party
Beau	Flowers	Passion
Bow	Gift	Red
Boyfriend	Girlfriend	Romance
Candy	Heart	Romeo
Card	Honey	Roses
Chocolates	Hug	Sweetheart
Cupid	Juliet	Woo
Date	Kisses	

Quickie Quiz (answers on page three)

1. In the farewell speech it is _____ journey.
a. our b. your c. the
2. The final speech that the Associate Matron gives in the closing starts or ends with *Worthy Matron*?
a. starts b. ends
3. What direction do the candidate Bibles face?
a. East b. West c. North d. South
4. In Maine when taking the Installation of Officers obligation, which way do the officers face?
a. towards the Altar
b. the East
c. the member in front of them
5. Who calls the roll of officers to be installed?
a. Installing Matron
b. Installing Patron
c. Installing Marshal

The Three W's

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

*Wash your hands and say your prayers
because Jesus and germs are everywhere.*

Valentine Trivia (answers bottom next column)

- In which country is it customary for women to give men chocolate on Valentine's Day?
a. Japan
b. Canada
c. Switzerland
d. Italy
- Which movie was not released on Valentine's Day?
a. Silence of the Lambs
b. A Good Day to Die Hard
c. Daredevil
d. Fifty Shades of Grey
- How much do people spend on Valentine's Day in America?
a. \$10.5 Million
b. \$8.3 Billion
c. \$19.7 Billion
d. \$40.2 Billion
- Which fast-food chain offers tableside service on Valentine's Day?
a. KFC
b. Burger King
c. Quizno's
d. White Castle
- In Roman mythology, who is Cupid's mom?
a. Psyche
b. Venus
c. Juno
d. Luna
- Which president lost his first wife on Valentine's Day?
a. John Tyler
b. Millard Fillmore
c. Theodore Roosevelt
d. Woodrow Wilson
- What was the name of the small heart-shaped sweets, manufactured by Swizzel, which had short romantic messages printed on them?
a. Parma
b. Chews me
c. Jelly Belly
d. Love Hearts
- Which one was considered Shakespeare's most romantic play?
a. Romeo and Juliet
b. Othello
c. The Tempest
d. Hamlet
- Today we associate love with the heart, but this wasn't always the case. In medieval times, which internal organ was believed to cause love?
a. The eyes
b. The liver
c. The kidneys
d. The lips
- Approximately what percentage of Valentine's Day cards are purchased by women?
a. 15%
b. 85%
c. 65%
d. 35%
- What is the approximate date of the first Valentine ever sent?
a. 1415
b. 1316
c. 1217
d. 1615

12. A Roman myth says that roses grew when Cupid was carrying a certain liquid to the gods on Mt. Olympus. Cupid spilled the liquid and from that spot roses grew.
a. Ambrosia
b. Nectar
c. Olive oil
d. Wine

Valentine Laughter

It's almost Valentine's Day, and everyone could use a laugh to lighten the mood. Whether your love life is a joke or you just need a reason to smile -- read on.

Knock, knock.
(Who's there?)
Atlas.
(Atlas who?)
Atlas, it's Valentine's Day.

Q: What did the valentine say to the stamp?
A: Stick with me, and we'll go places.

Q: What did the pickle say to his girlfriend on Valentine's Day?
A: "You mean a great dill to me, sweetheart."

Knock, knock.
(Who's there?)
Oscar.
(Oscar who?)
Oscar if she likes me, please.

Q: What did one light bulb say to the other on Valentine's Day?
A: I love you watts.

Q: What does a vampire do on Valentine's Day?
A: Hangs out with his ghoulish friend.

Q: What gifts do squirrels exchange on Valentine's Day?
A: Forget-me-nuts.

Q: How do skunks celebrate Valentine's Day?
A: They get very scent-imental.

Q: What do farmers give their wives on Valentine's Day?
A: Hogs and kisses.

1. a. Japan, 2. d. 50 Shades of Grey, 3. \$19.7 Billion, 4. d. White Castle, 5. b. Venus, 6. c. Theodore Roosevelt, 7. d. Love Hearts, 8. a. Romeo and Juliet, 9. b. The liver, 10. b. 85%, 11. a. 1415 12. b. nectar