

Chickadee Chatter

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Grand Chapter of Maine, Order of the Eastern Star

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Adah's Story from the Mason's Lady

The story of Adah is a little bit like that of Electa; there was an unnamed woman in the Bible, whom Rob Morris, the creator of the Order of the Eastern Star, simply gave a name to, and made a star point. Adah has a bit more story behind her than that of Electa however. Adah is the name given to the daughter of a man called Jephthah, who is talked about in the Old Testament book of Judges, Chapters 11 and 12.

Jephthah had a bit of a shaded past, his mother was a prostitute, and his father could have been any number of men. Because of this, he was driven out of his hometown, and basically became an outlaw, all because of his heritage.

He became known as a bit of a fighter in the area. There were a number of skirmishes and wars going about at this time, and soon enough, Jephthah and his people found themselves being attacked by a people known as the Ammonites. Everyone in the area asked Jephthah to lead them into battle, and he agreed. He also agreed, that if he was victorious in this fight, he was willing to lead the people from there on out. Just before battle Jephthah made a bit of a boo-boo. He made a bargain with God that if he was victorious in the battle, he would sacrifice whatever was the first thing to come out of his house when he returned.

Jephthah is victorious, and everyone is quite happy with the result. The celebration is short lived however, because the first thing that comes out of his house upon his return, is his daughter. Jephthah really doesn't want to go through with this sacrifice anymore, but after explaining the situation to his daughter, she agrees that the vow must not be broken. It is said that she asked for it to be delayed by two months, so that she could spend some time with the other women of the village, and "mourn her virginity". After that time, Jephthah did as he vowed.

As far as the story given during an initiation, Adah teaches us fidelity, loyalty, and intelligence. Another big thing Adah focuses on is innocence. Adah was a virgin, yes, but she was also probably a fairly young girl as well, since she was not yet wed. Both Adah and Jephthah were willing to fulfill their obligations, even if doing so meant death for one, and a great loss for the other.

From 1920-1921

The Jurisprudence Committee was asked for a ruling on a member who had been initiated. At that time the rule was: *Whether deafness is a disability depends upon the extent of it.* This had been established as early as 1876. The candidate was proposed in the usual manner, the committee reported, he was accepted, and received the degrees of the Order.

The Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron discovered after the degrees had been conferred that the candidate was totally deaf. At the time of his becoming a Mason some 16 years ago his hearing was all right. He became deaf about 12 years ago, the result of a shock received while telephoning.

The Worthy Patron said that he did not discover when obligating the candidate, but that he repeated the obligation perfectly with the other candidates.

At the request of the Grand Patron, the Worthy Patron had an interview with the Brother and he found that he was able to repeat the obligation and gave the signs and passes in a very creditable manner, and that in conversation with him, ranging all the way from strawberry plants to Masonry, that he did not have to repeat his questions except in a few instances.

The explanation is that the brother is an expert lip reader and is able to carry on a conversation so that few would ever suspect his disability. Therefore the Jurisprudence Committee ruled the chapter was in its rights to confer the degrees upon him.

Quickie Questions on Adah

(Answers on page two)

1. What instrument was used in the sacrifice of Adah?
2. Did Adah go to the mountains alone?
3. Why did Adah lift her veil?
4. Was Adah an only child?
5. What does the story of Adah teach us?

Star In the East

God took the rainbow, when the sun's rays fell on falling rain, and consecrated it as a sign of His love and witness of His promise. He gave us the Star in the East as our inspiration to be led by the light of the Star. God made two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and lesser light to rule the night. *We have seen His Star in the East and have come to worship Him.*

The emblems of our Order are visible objects to impress upon our minds all that is good and noble. Each lesson shows plainly that the Master is ever waiting in silent places to direct us through life.

Blue, ever the symbol of fidelity, loyalty, and intelligence, and the color of the cloudless skies, is dedicated to Adah, along with ideals of self sacrifice, integrity, and obedience. The sword and veil speak to us of a daughter's love and her devotion and her determination to die in the light.

Yellow represents constancy, exaltation, and richness as seen in the radiance of the sun. It is dedicated to Ruth and her ideals of loyalty and friendship. Ruth's golden hue is seen in the sun, in the moon, and every star. The sheaf reminds us of the love Ruth had for her aged mother-in-law, of duty and constancy.

White, as the white of billowy clouds and drifting snow, pertains to Esther and her ideals of purity and self sacrifice. She was our noble queen and the crown and scepter reminds us of loyalty, purity, joy and the light she brought to her people.

Martha's green is seen in every blade of grass, living plant, and tree. It is the symbol of hope and immortality. Green, an emblem of nature's life and beauty and the symbol of removed life and growth is dedicated to Martha whose ideal is faith in the immortality of the soul. The broken column reminds us of the supreme sacrifice made that we might have life everlasting.

Electa, the hospitable, generous, and courageous Mother withstood the anger and authority of military might rather than desecrate the Cross, symbol of her Christian Faith and love for Christ. Red is symbolic of fervency, charity, and love. Love being the greatest of all virtues, encircles our Star, binding it into one magnificent expression of the soul of man. The cup reminds us that the cup-of-life overflows with blessings and most bountiful if we are serving with love.

Sister Adah

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

Adah	Gilead	Only
Ammonites	Innocence	Ornament
Bade	Israel	Pentagon
Battle	Jephthah	Spring
Bible	Judges	Sword
Blue	Kiss	Timbrels
Dancing	Lifting	Two
Degree	Mizpeh	Veil
Faith	Mountains	Vow
Fidelity	Obedience	

Quickie Answers

1. The sword.
2. No, her companions went with her.
3. To show her innocence.
4. The Bible says *beside her, he had neither son or daughter.*
5. It teaches us to be steadfast in our vows.

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

Chickadee Chatter is the newsletter that will be published during the 2020-2021 year and distributed currently through *Star News*. If you'd like items printed in it, email it to corleybyras@gmail.com or send it by snail mail to Sister Corley Anne Byras, 72 Smith Street, Unit 4, Augusta, ME 04330.

Star News

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