

## SYMBOLISM OF THE ORDER OF EASTERN STAR

THE MYSTERIES AND HIDDEN MEANINGS THAT LIE BEHIND THE RITUALISTIC WORK OF OUR ORDER SOMETIMES SEEM ILLUSIVE AND DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN. THERE ARE MANY AND CONSTANT REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE SYMBOLS OF THE ORDER. THIS INFORMATION NEEDS TO BE PRESENTED IN A SIMPLE, DIRECT, AND ACCURATE PROGRAM.

A SYMBOL IS SOMETHING THAT REPRESENTS SOMETHING ELSE.

### THE HOLY BIBLE -

THE TEACHINGS OF OUR ORDER ARE TAKEN FROM THE BIBLE - THE EXACT WORDING IS NOT ALWAYS USED - NOR IS A COMPLETE ACCOUNT OF EACH REFERENCE USED. THE LESSON OF EACH SELECTION IS DEVELOPED IN AN APPROPRIATE STORY TO BEST INSTRUCT THE CANDIDATE. THE BIBLE USED BY THE ORDER OF EASTERN STAR IS THE KING JAMES VERSION OF 1611.

THE INNER PART OF THE PAPYRUS (PA - PIE - RUS) PLANT WAS CALLED THE "BIBLIOS" (BIB - LI - OS). CONSEQUENTLY, WHEN THIS PAPYRUS MATERIAL WAS ROLLED UP INTO A SCROLL-LIKE STRIP, THE TERM "BIBLION" WAS USED. WHEN THE PAPYRUS SCROLL WAS INSCRIBED WITH THE ANCIENT HEBREW WRITINGS, QUITE NATURALLY, THE TERM "BIBLE" EVOLVED.

THE HOLY BIBLE OCCUPIES A MOST PROMINENT POSITION IN THE WORK OF OUR ORDER. IT ALSO HAS THE MOST PROMINENT PLACE ON THE CHAPTER ROOM FLOOR. WHEN THE BIBLE IS OPEN ON THE ALTAR, IT SYMBOLIZES THE SPIRIT OF GOD IN THE HUMAN HEART.

AN ALTAR, ORIGINALLY, WAS AN ELEVATED STONE OR TABLE ON WHICH SACRIFICES WERE OFFERED. TO THE MEMBERS OF THE EASTERN STAR, THE ALTAR IS THE SYMBOLIC HEART. THUS, THE SYMBOLIC ALTAR IS THE ONE WHICH IS SHAPED IN THE FORM OF A TRIANGLE. TRADITIONALLY, THE ANGLE IS DIRECTED SO THAT IT POINTS TOWARD THE EAST.

THE PREPARED ALTAR SYMBOLIZES THE SPIRIT OF GOD IN THE HUMAN HEART. IT IS PLACED BETWEEN THE TWO STAR POINTS FOR PROTECTION. WHEN THE BIBLE IS OPEN ON THE ALTAR, IT CREATES A HOLY AREA BETWEEN THE PREPARED ALTAR AND THE EAST, AND NO ONE IS PERMITTED TO PASS BETWEEN THE PREPARED ALTAR AND THE EAST, AND NO ONE IS PERMITTED TO PASS BETWEEN THESE TWO PLACES.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ALTAR IN THE CHAPTER ROOM IS PARALLEL TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ALTAR IN BIBLE TIMES. THE PEOPLE OF THOSE EARLY TIMES WERE TREMENDOUSLY CONCERNED WITH BUILDING AN ALTAR TO GOD. IT WAS THE OUTWARD SIGN OF THEIR INNER RECOGNITION OF THE HOMAGE DUE

THEIR GREAT AND POWERFUL GOD. THEY WERE ANXIOUS TO BUILD THEIR ALTAR IN UNDEFILED PLACES. THEY SOUGHT THE MOST DURABLE AND INDESTRUCTIBLE OF MATERIALS WITH WHICH TO BUILD THEIR ALTARS. THESE ANCIENT PEOPLE MADE EVERY EFFORT TO PRESERVE THE ALTAR AREA FROM DEFILEMENT.

IN THE CHAPTER ROOM, THE ALTAR IS GIVEN THE POSITION OF HONOR AND REVERENCE, AND IT IS KEPT PURE AND UNDEFILED. THE CHAPTER MEMBERS, REALIZING THAT THE ALTAR SYMBOLIZES THE HUMAN HEART. SHOULD TAKE EQUAL CARE THAT THEIR OWN SPIRITUAL ALTARS ARE BUILT OF THE ENDURING MATERIALS OF FAITH, LOVE, AND TRUTH AND THAT IT IS PLACED IN A HEART THAT IS INNOCENT AND PURE.

THE BIBLE IS OPENED ON THE PREPARED ALTAR AND REPRESENTS THE SACRIFICE MADE FOR ALL HUMAN KIND AND SYMBOLIZES THE SPIRIT OF GOD IN THE HUMAN HEART.

#### THE EMBLEMS -

SOME CONFUSION HAS ARISEN FROM THE PRACTICE OF REFERRING TO OFFICERS' EMBLEMS AS OFFICERS' JEWELS. IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT THE JEWEL OF THE OFFICE REPRESENTS THE OFFICE ITSELF - AND THAT THE EMBLEM REPRESENTS THE OFFICER.

THE EMBLEMS OF THE STAR POINTS ARE GOOD EXAMPLES. THE EMBLEM OF ADAH IS THE SWORD AND VEIL WHICH REPRESENT RIGHT AND THE REVELATION. RIGHT COURSES OF ACTION MAY BE FOLLOWED WHEN THE WORD OF GOD IS REVEALED OR MADE KNOWN TO THE INDIVIDUAL AND IS ACCEPTED BY THE INDIVIDUAL.

THE EMBLEM OF RUTH IS THE SHEAF. IT REPRESENTS THE COLLECTIVE WORTH OF MANY SMALL DEEDS OF KINDNESS WHICH ARE DONE FOR THE SAKE OF ANOTHER. IT ALSO REPRESENTS THE FACT THAT THROUGH PATIENT INDUSTRY A SUBSTANTIAL REWARD MAY BE ACHIEVED.

THE EMBLEM OF ESTHER IS THE CROWN AND SCEPTRE USED TOGETHER. THIS EMBLEM SYMBOLIZES THE FORCE OF POWER AND AUTHORITY USED TO ACHIEVE JUSTICE FOR ALL.

THE EMBLEM OF MARTHA IS THE BROKEN COLUMN. MARTHA'S FAITH IN GOD'S PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST REMAINED CONSTANT EVEN WHEN HER BROTHER'S LIFE, LIKE A BROKEN COLUMN, WAS BROKEN OFF BY MORTAL DEATH. THEREFORE, THE BROKEN COLUMN IS THE EMBLEM OF THE SUSTAINING POWER OF FAITH IN ETERNAL LIFE.

THE EMBLEM OF ELECTA IS THE CUP. IT REPRESENTS ONE'S ALLOTTED PORTION OF LIFE'S JOYS AND SORROWS. ELECTA FOUND THAT, ALTHOUGH THE BITTERNESS OF HER LIFE SITUATION MIGHT APPEAR TO BE A CUP OF SORROW. THROUGH LOVE AND FAITH SHE COULD ACCEPT HER TRIBULATIONS

AS A CUP OF JOY ACHIEVED THROUGH UNWAVERING TESTIMONY TO HER LOVE OF CHRIST.

### THE SYMBOLS -

THE OPEN BIBLE IS SYMBOLIC OF THE DEEPER MEANING WHICH IS TO BE UNDERSTOOD BY THE MEMBERS FROM THE STORY OF ADAH. AS EACH OF THE HEROINES OF THE ORDER WERE SELECTED BECAUSE CERTAIN PHASES OF THEIR LIVES BORE A SIMILARITY TO CERTAIN PHASES IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST. THE REASON FOR THE SELECTION OF ADAH BECOMES OBVIOUS. AS CHRIST WAS SACRIFICED IN ORDER THAT GOD, THE FATHER, MIGHT FULFILL HIS DESIRE TO SAVE HIS CHILDREN, SO ADAH WAS TO BE SACRIFICED TO FULFILL HER FATHER'S VOW. THE OPEN BIBLE IS THEN THE SYMBOL OF THE LARGER UNDERSTANDING OF ADAH, WHICH IS THAT ONLY THE WORD OF GOD MAY DIRECT THE INDIVIDUAL IN THE RIGHT WAY IN WHICH TO LIVE.

THE LILY OF THE VALLEY IS THE SYMBOL OF THE LARGER UNDERSTANDING OF THE STORY OF RUTH. AS CHRIST, THE LILY OF THE VALLEY, LEFT HIS HEAVENLY HOME AND HIS FATHER TO SERVE HUMANKIND ON EARTH, SO RUTH LEFT HER HOME AND PEOPLE TO SERVE HER FELLOW MAN, NAOMI, IN A STRANGE AND UNFAMILIAR COUNTRY. THE STORY OF RUTH CHALLENGES US TO SERVE OUR FELLOW MAN AND TO EXTEND THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP TO ALL WHO MAY HAVE A NEED.

THE SUN IS SYMBOLIC OF THE DEEPER MEANING OF THE STORY OF ESTHER. EACH OF THE HEROINES WAS SELECTED BECAUSE A CERTAIN PHASE IN EACH OF THEIR LIVES PARALLELED A CERTAIN PHASE IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST. THE SUN, THE SOURCE OF LIGHT, POWER, AND STRENGTH, SYMBOLIZES THE ENLIGHTENED LEADERSHIP OF ESTHER WHICH MADE HER THE STRENGTH AND POWER OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE. CHRIST, THE SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, WAS AND IS THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF THE WORLD AND WAS AND IS A SOURCE OF POWER AND STRENGTH FOR ALL MEN.

THE LAMB IS THE SYMBOL OF THE DEEPER MEANING OF THE STORY OF MARTHA. CHRIST, THE LAMB SLAIN FOR THE SINS OF THE WORLD, RAISED MARTHA'S BROTHER FROM THE DEAD AS PROOF POSITIVE OF THE POWER OF GOD TO BESTOW ETERNAL LIFE ON ALL WHO WOULD BELIEVE THE WORD OF CHRIST THE SON. THE SPIRIT OF GOD IN CHRIST THE SON SERVED ALL OF HUMANKIND IN THE HUMBLE PERSON OF JESUS OF NAZARETH IN ORDER TO FULFILL DIVINE PURPOSE.

THE LION IS SYMBOLIC OF THE DEEPER MEANING WHICH MAY BE UNDERSTOOD FROM THE STUDY OF THE LIFE OF ELECTA. THE LION WHICH IS A SYMBOL OF POWER AND STRENGTH, IS DEDICATED TO ELECTA BECAUSE HER DEVOTION TO CHRIST. THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH, GAVE ELECTA THE STRENGTH TO BEAR HER TRIALS FOR HIS SAKE. CHRIST'S LOVE OF GOD THE

FATHER GAVE CHRIST THE STRENGTH TO ENDURE HIS EARTHLY TRIALS THAT ALL MEN MIGHT HAVE THE POWER TO LIVE ETERNALLY THROUGH BELIEF IN HIM.

OUR CHAPTER OFFICERS ARE CONSTANTLY ADDING TO THE UNDERSTANDING AND IMPORTANCE OF THE TEACHINGS OF THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR. EACH MEMBER WILL RECEIVE MUCH ADDED MEANING AND VALUE IF ATTENTION IS GIVEN TO THE LESSONS HEARD IN THE CHAPTER MEETINGS. CONSTANT AND REGULAR ATTENDANCE TO THE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES - AND ESPECIALLY THE REGULAR MEETINGS - IS NECESSARY TO FULLY APPRECIATE THE PRINCIPLES OF OUR ORDER. THESE GIVE ENRICHMENT AND FULFILLMENT TO OUR PERSONAL LIVES.