

During the time of Judges--the Promised Land--Canaan was surrounded on all sides by tribes whose chief pleasure was warfare. The lesson of Adah as given in the ritual illustrates Jephthah's determination to keep the vow he had made before assuming leadership of the army of the Lord. It leaves the impression that the daughter was slain according to the Levitical law. In the story of the ritual we find that it carries out the blood sacrifice, and this lesson is given to teach us the binding force of a vow... the obligation we took at the altar, and in maintenance of our Fidelity.

I would like to spend a little time explaining some of the symbolism as illustrated in the story of our heroic heroine--Adah.

The prevailing style of women of that period was a loose flowing robe with head dress resembling a scarf or shawl, which covered the head, and when necessary to draw down over the face to protect the eyes from the blinding desert sun. Virgins never lifted the veil when in the presence of men. Jephthah would gladly have relented from his vow, faithful to God's will, although heart broken, he performed a deed that made him famous through the annals of history. Adah obedient to her father, in her bravery, her willingness and her calm demeanor proves that it is not all of death to die, when that death is in the right.

ADAH'S SIGN: In the raising of her veil, which was a mark of her virginity, she proved not only her loyalty to her father, but the unmistakable right to die in full light of God's favor. Murderers and mischief makers were led to the block blindfolded---she was innocent and needed no such mask. Innocence marked her life and stood by her in death. Obedience led her to the Father's love and to her heavenly home.

The sword is typical of the right dividing God's laws, and the principles of man. We are prepared to fight life's battles only when we have our eyes unveiled to the face of God's light.

The veil is the covering, the earthly temple, the prison house of the soul, which keeps us from attaining grander heights. In life the faithful seed must put off the veil of matter that it may behold the beauty and wisdom of its Creator, and thus Adah signifies spiritual illumination.

As a veil separated the Holy from the Most Holy place in the temple of Solomon, it is necessary after the sacred obligation to have the veil lifted before the most holy virtues be revealed by the Star Points. Hence Adah's veil becomes the symbols of Revelation.

COLOR: The color symbolic of the Degree is typical of the blue skies that overshadowed the Judean Hills, the crystalline sea of the waters of eternity wherein all things exist.

The lesson to be learned is that our word should be our bond, our promises kept, our vows paid. Above all we should maintain our innocence through all trials of life. So that we may be prepared to clothe ourselves in immortality and go without fear into a willing death having our eyes unveiled, and fixed upon God and His throne.

The Gem attributed to this station is the Turquoise.

The flower dedicated to Adah is the Violet, a symbol of Modesty. It is the meekest flower that grows. It is one of the earliest spring flowers and is found almost every place where perennials grow.

Modest, unassuming, asking only for space to bud and bloom, it thus fulfills its mission. It is the color of the starry decked heavens. It is obedient to the call of nature, forgetful of snow or sleet, or cold, it comes forth and performs its mission according to God's plan. It is easy to see why this flower was chosen as a symbol of filial obedience, and it should always remind us that these virtues which were exemplified by Adah, should find a dwelling place in the heart of every member of the order.

The name "Adah" is not applied to Jephthah's daughter in the Bible story, but was chosen for its meaning "Ornament" which means integrity, (Spring of Life). Jephthah's daughter was indeed an ornament to her race.