

T H E S T A R T R I U M P H A N T .

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E A S T E R N S T A R C H R I S T M A S P A G E A N T .

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This Christmas Pageant may supply entertainment at an annual Christmas Party of the chapter, usually a family affair, or it may if desired, be given at the close of a regular chapter meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENT

If given at a regular chapter meeting, announce before opening of chapter that the Christmas Program will follow immediately the closing of chapter, (and make it immediate.) The gift feature which has been added to the pageant proper may, in this case if the late hour is a matter of consideration, be omitted, but it adds much to the enjoyment.

PRELIMINARY

In the east previous to the meeting a shapely, electrically lighted, Christmas tree is placed.

On the front of the tree, fronting west, outline with tinsel roping a large five pointed star.

In each point of the star suspend by threads large black balls lettered conspicuously as follows:-

In the first (Adah's) Point-----COWARDICE.

In the second (Ruth's) Point-----ENVY.

In the third (Esther's) Point-----DISCORD.

In the fourth (Martha's) Point-----FEAR.

In the fifth (Electa's) Point-----HATRED.

The balls may be made of, or covered with, black cloth or crepe paper and the letters cut from either white or silver paper, as best for making the words distinct.

CHARACTERS AND COSTUMING.

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS: Flowing white robe, crown of holly and any additional touches of holly which taste may dictate.

STAR POINTS: Regular regalia, or white dresses with emblematic shoulder ribbons.

GROUP OF SHEPHERDS: White or colored robes. Beach or bath robes are usually available and may be made to serve.

WHITE TURBANS: These may be formed of white cloth or crepe paper wound around the head to simulate Oriental turbans, pictures of which may be found in any child's bible history.

SHEPHERDS' CROOKS: White or wound with white.

TABLEAU OF SHEPHERDS.

The shepherds are shown in the west sitting around an improvised camp-fire constructed of electric lights under red paper or celophane. They are bending over the camp-fire, crooks leaning against shoulders.

If electric wall or floor plugs are not conveniently near, substitute flash lights.

The campfire lights are not turned on until time appointed in the final scene just before the spotlight is turned on the tableau.

PROPERTIES.

Provide each Star Point with a wired celophane or crepe paper star corresponding with the color of her Point, with which to replace the obnoxious black balls. Covered cardboard may serve in case wiring is not found practicable. Suit these in size to proportion of the tree and to the dimensions of the tinsel outline of the star on the tree.

A Basket or other receptacle to receive the rejected alien fruit.

GIFT FEATURE.

To make this a real Christmas festival, announce it at a previous meeting and each member be requested to bring a small gift.

The gifts to be collected and placed around the foot of the tree.

If the committee so chooses, each person may draw a name which will be attached to his or her gift.

As this drawing is blind, much merriment may be the result as perhaps some brother draws a feminine gift and some sister visa versa draws a masculine one. These specifications are of course optional.

Appoint some person to operate lights.

FOR LIGHTING ROUTINE SEE PAGE 6.

PROCEDURE.

While the lights are turned off, as directed, the Shepherds quietly and quickly arrange themselves in the west as described in TABLEAU OF SHEPHERDS, under Characters and Costuming.

The choir then sings "Silent Night".

Immediately following this song the lights are turned on in full.

The Spirit of Christmas enters via north aisle. When she reaches a point approximately opposite the altar, suddenly the tree lights are extinguished. Approaching the tree the Spirit exclaims:--

Oh, what has befallen our Christmas tree----!
And whence comes this alien fruit----?
Spirits of evil abroad I see----
Some deviltry is afoot.

(Taking hold of the "Apple of DISCORD" she turns it around in her hand calling attention to the lettered word.----To give effect to this allegorical presentment the reader upon each separate occasion should try to let the audience in on the plot by displaying the lettered black fruit---).

Just look at this APPLE OF DISCORD----
This is certainly out of place,
This wrecker of Harmony we can't afford----
What a slander and disgrace.

(She takes this off the tree and deposits it in a basket or other receptacle provided for the purpose.)

And COWARDICE---insulting Adah, the brave,
Who courageously facing the light,
So freely gave up her young life to save
Her father's honor from blight.

(Takes this off the tree, deposits it beside the other and goes on.)

Now here is that DEMON called ENVY, oh dear----
That acid would gnaw at our heart,
And each generous impulse would quick disappear,
This rascal must surely depart.

(Plucks this one, deposits with the others and goes on.)

FEAR, well of all things we can't have that----
A weakling we could not endure----
This goes in the discard and that is flat
No room for this fellow I'm sure.

(Contemptuously throws this in with the rest and goes on.)

HATRED---don't fit in our creed of LOVE----
This too we must surely disown,
As we hope for the blessing that flows from above
And draws us nearer the throne.

(Removing this last black ball and placing it beside the others she now takes the basket over to the Secretary's desk.)

(Addressing Secretary:-)

Sister Secretary:-

Please take these fruits which we fear will infect
The pure wholesome precepts we teach,
And just drop them into your waste basket, dear,
Where they will be out of reach.

(Tree lights up.)

(Addressing Star Points:-)

The spirits of darkness have now been expelled,
And the light from our bright gleaming star
(Turn on Illuminated Star.)
All the gloom and foreboding has quickly dispelled
And its brilliancy shineth afar.

It remains for you, sisters, this tree to adorn
And a festival glow to impart,
Let the true Christmas spirit again be reborn
And revived in each fraternal heart.

ADAH:- (Advancing to the tree and placing Blue star at first point.)

The spirit of COWARDICE I must dispute
And place this bright star in its stead,
The Blue Ray must ever that slander refute—
The True Blue of the sky overhead.

RUTH:- (Placing Yellow star at second point.)

No ENVY shall dim the soft Yellow gleam
That shines from our Star's second ray,
And this gleaming star shall with Constancy beam
And scatter all ENVY away.

ESTHER:- (Placing White star at third point.)

This star says that DISCORD shall never find rest
Where Justice and Loyalty reign,
With Unity ever our star shall be blest
And Purity ever remain.

MARTHA:- (Placing Green star at fourth point.)

FEAR cannot dwell where FAITH sits enthroned
For simple faith "casteth out fear",
And this star from the Green Ray declares FEAR disowned
And FAITH shines triumphant and clear.

ELECTA:-

And how shall HATRED e'er find room
Within the Ray of Red?
For wheresoe'er red roses bloom
HATE cannot raise its head.

(Electa places Red star as she begins this second couplet.)

This star which symbols TRUTH and LOVE
Undimmed must ever shine
With light unfailing from above
Beneficent, divine.

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT:-

It is well. Evil spirits are banished 'tis clear
And now it is time to recall
What brought us together, and why we are here
And the purpose of it over all.

(Illuminated Star off.)

STORY

There's a story you've heard of a peaceful scene---
('Tis nearly two thousand years old)
When the stars looked down with a silvery sheen
Upon shepherds tending their fold.

The wee little lambs, so fleecy and white,
By the side of their mothers slept,
While there on the hillside that starry night
The shepherds their vigil kept.

(Lights off and Spot light on Shepherds.)

When suddenly 'round about them played
A glory as bright as day,
And the shepherds were startled and sore afraid
Their hearts filled with wild dismay.

In the eastern sky rose a star that night
(Illuminated Star on.)

Whose light was to shine through the years,
And lead all the faithful who see its light
From the valley of human tears.

And this is the Star we follow today
Which led to the manger birth,
And the life of him who showed the way
To "Peace and good will on earth."

CHOIR SINGS:-

"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night".

FINIS

DISTRIBUTION OF GIFTS.

OPERATION OF LIGHTS.

ROUTINE

1

In the beginning, at a given signal, all lights except the one at the piano and those on the tree are extinguished and remain off while the shepherds quietly and quickly arrange themselves in the west as per TABLEAU page 2, and during the song "Silent Night" which follows.

In case this pageant follows the chapter meeting, the closing of chapter is the moment for giving this signal.

2

The close of the song "Silent Night" is the signal for turning lights on in full.

3

As the Spirit of Christmas entering via north aisle arrives at a point approximately opposite the altar, the lights on the tree are suddenly turned off.

4

As the last black ball is removed from the tree, and with the words:-

"The spirits of darkness have now been expelled
And the light from our bright gleaming star"

the tree lights as suddenly reappear and the illuminated star also is turned on.

5

Just as the Spirit of Christmas begins the final STORY turn off the Illuminated Star. This is done so that it may for effect be turned on later as per final instruction (Number 7) .

6

When in telling the final STORY the line occurs:-

"When suddenly around them shone
A glory as bright as day"

all except tree lights are turned off and a spot-light is thrown on the tableau of the shepherds in the west. Hold this spot-light until the finish.

7

Again turn on the Illuminated Star when in the next verse the line reads:-

"In the eastern sky rose a star that night.
