

THE SIXTH DEGREE of the O. E. S.

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Address by the Worthy Matron:

Dear Sisters and Brothers, these temples of ours are sacred to the principles of Masonry and the Order of the Eastern Star. Many, many times do we meet in our Chapter rooms and confer the degrees of the five star points upon those seeking its privileges as well as the responsibilities of our Order. Our members come again and again, night after night, drawn here by an irresistible something, to hear again and again the lessons so often repeated. Invariably we retire to the dining room for an hour of fellowship, social enjoyment, and wholesome fun. This is as it should be.

The more we mingle with our fellowmen, the better we know them; the better we know them, the more we understand them. When we have acquired a discerning attitude each toward the other, misunderstandings fade away, and the road to lasting friendship has been paved.

This ceremony known as the Sixth Degree is in no way a part of our beautiful impressive initiatory work. It better serves as a pleasant interval for gaiety.

So let us co-operate tonight in causing the beams of happiness to shine down upon us, or, perchance to beam forth from us.

Let us lay aside the cares of the day and enter wholeheartedly into the lighter vein of life - the Sixth Degree of the Order of the Eastern Star.

(At this point introduce the officers if you wish.)

WORTHY MATRON continues:

Sisters Conductress, Associate Conductress, and Chaplain you will prepare the table.

The three officers rise; Conductress carries a colored or an attractive tablecloth; the Chaplain a cook book. Conductresses approach altar from north and south; Chaplain in the usual manner; they spread the cover on the altar, and the Chaplain places cook book reverently upon it. All bow and resume stations.

WORTHY MATRON speaks:

Sister Associate Conductress, you will retire and ascertain if there are candidates in waiting to receive the Sixth Degree.

Associate Conductress, carrying staff, retires in the usual way, gives six loud raps at the door; is gone long enough to line up the candidates, then raps loudly six times on door of the preparation room.

WORTHY MATRON speaks:

Sister Conductress, you will go to the assistance of
our Associate Conductress.

Conductress carrying her staff goes to door of preparation
room, answers with six loud raps and admits candidates in
line for initiation, saying, "Enter, Associate Conductress
and together we shall proceed with the Sixth Degree."
(Instructions at end for selecting candidates.)

After candidates are in position, the Conductress steps be-
fore them and speaks:

Consider well the steps you take into this new
degree;
You came here of your own free choice; now listen,
please, to me.
To make impressions permanent, our advice we
gladly share;
Woe unto those who undertake much more than
they can bear.

In case dyspepsia should follow your steps tonight
Inform the Committee on Relief upon your wretched
plight.
Don't tire of doing good - though the way seems
hard and long;
Best things come to the brave as well as to the
strong.

ASSOCIATE CONDUCTRESS then steps before the group of
candidates and speaks:

To prepare for active duties as you take this
Sixth Degree,
Is the very pleasant duty which has been assigned
to me.
(Gives each a folded napkin. Stops off at her station as the
march passes it.)

March around room taking position before the Associate
Matron. Associate Matron and Associate Patron both rise.

CONDUCTRESS speaks:

This is our Associate Matron. This our Associate
Patron. Associate Matron and Associate Patron,
these are our candidates.

ASSOCIATE MATRON speaks:

To assist our Worthy Matron in whatever she may
ask,
I strive with "Wim and Wigor", and this is now
my task.
I know what lies before you, what you'll need along
the way,
So it is now my pleasure to hand to you this tray.
(Gives each a tray.)

ASSOCIATE PATRON speaks:

Man liveth not by bread alone;
But long since Time began,
The Masons and the Stars have found
Some good for the inner man.
(Both sit.)

March up to the Treasurer.

CONDUCTRESS continues:

Sister Treasurer, speech is silver; silence golden.
It is speech we would have from you tonight.

TREASURER arises and replies:

The Treasurer handles silver;
That is his duty quite.
So to fulfill my mission,
I give this silver bright.
(Gives each a fork and spoon. Sits.)

March around room to Secretary.

CONDUCTRESS speaks:

Sister Secretary, what of your pen
And the records kept of your fellowmen?

SECRETARY rises and speaks:

That the deeds of my companions
May not go unrecorded
Is why this printed menu
To you, is now awarded.
(Gives menu and sits.)

Conductress leads the candidates in winding the labyrinth,
stopping at Adah. Conductress speaks:

Sister Adah, here are some wayfarers who do not
seek work, but they would like a hand out.

ADAH rises and says:

I am known by the name of Adah;
My color is deep blue.
May I offer a bit of sandwich
To the lovely likes of you?
(Gives sandwich wrapped in blue paper. Sits.)

March around labyrinth to Ruth. CONDUCTRESS speaks:

Sister Ruth, hoard not your ware,
For you have gold and plenty to spare.

RUTH rises and speaks:

My badge is the emblem of plenty;
My color, the golden hue;
The fruit of my patient industry,
I gladly offer you.
(Gives each a small dish of potato salad. Sits.)

March to Esther. CONDUCTRESS addresses her:

Esther, give us food to eat;
Something dainty, something sweet.

ESTHER also arises and speaks:

You have advanced as proudly as Esther did of old.
And of this dainty, fluffy cake, I bid you now take
hold.
(Gives each a piece of white cake. Sits.)

March then to Martha's station. CONDUCTRESS speaks:

Sister Martha, a bit of spice
Would make our trays look very nice.

MARTHA rises and speaks:

The color of this degree is green,
An emblem of life and beauty.
In offering you these pickles, crisp,
I wish to perform my duty.

(Presents pickles, etc. Sits.)

March to Electa CONDUCTRESS continues:

Roses are red, Violets are blue.
What is the gift we'll get from you?

ELECTA rises and speaks:

The cup is an emblem of charity. (Gives each cup)
The color, you see, is red.
Please go to the Matron, who's waiting now,
And heed the words to be said.

(Gives each a dish of jello. Sits.)

March around and take position before Worthy Matron,
facing her.

CONDUCTRESS speaks: (Worthy Matron and Worthy
Patron both rise.)

Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron.
At every station there was fear,
That a goat was lurking near;
None we met, so here we stand,
And seek a gift from your kind hand.

WORTHY MATRON:

At last you stand before me, and as you patiently
wait,

Me-thinks that each one of you, is a willing
candidate.

So take this little token and my simple little rhyme
With the very best of wishes for a happy, happy
time.

(Gives each a basket of candy and nuts.)

WORTHY PATRON now speaks:

Like the blessings of Life that you find every day,
Are the offerings these sisters have heaped on your
tray;

May each morsel, each crumb, bring you infinite
pleasure,

And this evening prove one that you always will
treasure.

(Turn candidate to face West.)

WARDER advances to them and speaks:

They haven't asked a gift from me;
It fairly makes me sick!
For how could a dinner be complete
Without a wee toothpick?

(Gives each a toothpick.)

CHAPLAIN steps before group and says: (Head bowed and hands clasped.)

Our Father, we thank Thee for this food and for
these friends;
May we cherish and love them 'til Eternity ends.

MARSHAL advances before them, bows, rings bell and says:

Hear ye! Hear ye! the old dinner bell!
Follow me! Follow me! We'll treat you all as well!
(Leads way to dining room as she rings bell.)

NOTES on preparing for giving the Sixth Degree.

Properties needed. (1) Red plaid or fancy tablecloth. (2) Cook book, a large one. (3) Four menu cards made according to your fancy. (4) Pedestal covers, head bands, serving aprons, all made of crepe paper in emblematic colors. (5) Four decorated nut cups, with handles are best. (6) Candy and nuts. (7) Toothpicks. (8) A call bell or hand bell. (9) Two staffs, each with a large meat fork fastened to the end; on one, stick a large potato, on the other, a wiener or two. (10) Four each of folded napkins, trays, forks, spoons, sandwiches, small dishes of potato salad, pieces of white cake, green cucumber pickles or olives, empty coffee cups, small dishes red jello. (11) Five napkins to cover food as it stands on pedestals.

MUSIC: The selection of the song and where you wish to use it is left up to you. We used "She'll Be Comin' 'Round the Mountain" adding verses as nonsensical as possible, all in rapid tempo: something about food or eating. "That's What I Like About the South" and "Ham and Eggs" to tune of "Tamany" are two that will fit in well.

Select for your candidates four (more or less) members who are not in on the joke, but who enjoy having pranks played on them. (Men if you can get them.)

The menu in the dining room may or may not be that used in the Chapter room.

The End

SUPPLEMENT:

The following may be given by the Worthy Matron, if desired, when the candidates face West, after the Warder has spoken.

Dear Sisters and Brothers, each one of us here
Once entered a Temple with trembling and fear.

The dim-lighted Chapter, the grim, silent folk
Made each moment an hour until someone spoke.

And then we were solemnly led 'round and 'round,
Each step a mystery, with nary a sound.

We were led to the altar, knelt reverently there,
And repeated the promise new duties to bear.

We were lectured by this one, instructed by that,
And marched 'til our arches were broken down flat.

By the time they had finished, - well, we felt that
way, too,
And all questionable actions we ne'er more could
do.

We vowed we'd be faithful to kindred and friends,
And constant and true 'til eternity ends.

If our footsteps should falter, if our faith should
grow dim,
Suspension, expulsion, were the penalties grim.

If brother met sister, or sister met brother,
The law was specific, - that we love one another.

The laws of this country we swore we'd obey
And prove model citizens day after day.

OPTIONAL:

(We'd been rationed on sugar, and coffee, and
fat,
('Til our brains were bumfuzzled to know where
we're at.

(Save oil, gas, and paper, and rubber, and rope,
(And tin cans, and jar lids, and spices, and soap.

(We've all got to bide by these pledges, you see;
(You look after you, and I'll look after me.

(Above all, save foodstuffs; and brethren, I pray,
(Would you think they were rationed when you look
at each tray?

But we love them, forgive them, for 'twas done just
in play.
May God bless and keep them. And now, let us
pray.

Calls up chapter; Chaplain steps down before candidates
and prays.