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ESTARL  
"ESTRAL"

#2

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Introduction: The project the Worthy Matron has asked me to speak to you about this evening is one that should be of great concern to each of us, none other than - ~~ESTRAL~~ - awards. ESTARL

We, as members of the Eastern Star, are privileged to belong to the largest organization in the world to which both men and women may belong, it having nearly three million members.

Various localities may have their own local customs yet the obligation is the same the world over and we find prevailing over all; a firm belief in the existence of a Supreme Being who rules the universe for good. The open Holy Bible is on the Altar of every Chapter room in the world. It is the great light we turn to for guidance, wisdom and understanding.

It has been said that "The things we give are the things we keep", for in truth after all the pomp and ceremonies have been performed, after the loudest anthems have been sung and the beautiful marches and formations have been executed and completed, the greatest service we have rendered, the undying things that we have done will only be the plain everyday acts of charity and unselfishness which you and I and each of us perform each day and make it possible for the youth of today to grow and develop into full grown, healthy, educated men and women, prepared to give the world of tomorrow their rightful share of service and happiness.

If truth, charity, and loving kindness are the constant practice of each of us, then every member from the newest initiate to the highest officer can rightfully claim that they are fitting their selves as living stones for that house not made with hands eternal in the heavens.

~~Wm. Benton, publisher of Encyclopedia Britannica and former Asst. Sec. of State, recently reported on his tour of Europe including part of Soviet Russia. In part he reported on his observations of the Soviet system of education in technology and many specialties that milks the best out of all available brains and forces its smartest boys and girls to get all the education they can absorb and then channels them into usages of the state. As they expand in numbers they will be centered on competition with the free world in Asia, Africa and the Latin American countries.~~

The people in these countries have a tremendous range of practical problems to which this trained personnel can produce practical answers, such as, problems of agriculture, communications, health and industrial production, however the field of Religion is being neglected.

This is the language these countries want to talk and no one can do it any better than ourselves if we will be so prepared.

In American we have the opportunity to give the youth of today an education second to none.

When the Pilgrim Fathers came to America in 1620 on the Mayflower they had left England because of religious differences. They wanted to establish a country where they might have freedom of religion and speech. Before they set sail from England, Cotton Mather read to them from Samuel 2: 7-10, "Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as before-time." After reading this passage he then said, "We are going to that land."

After establishing the new country in America and having gained their independence, it seemed necessary that they should have a symbol or emblem to distinguish them, as had been the custom of nations from the very earliest times. The twelve tribes of Israel were each identified by separate emblems. The lion symbolized the tribe of Judah; the serpent - Dan, and so on.

In selecting the emblem or seal of the United States, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams first prepared and submitted designs before they adapted the one we now have. It is on the back of every dollar bill and every American soldier has the great seal on the buttons of his uniform.



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If we will look on the obverse side right above the eagle we find the six pointed star of David.

Within this figure are thirteen stars and all encased in a cloud that could represent the Biblical cloud appearing above the Tabernacle of the congregation of the children of Israel. The number thirteen is usually deemed unlucky, yet it seems to play an important part on both sides of the seal. On the banner in the mouth of the eagle will be found the words "E Pluribus Unum" thirteen letters and meaning "One out of many". The eagle a Biblical symbol holds in one of its talons an olive branch with thirteen leaves and in the other thirteen arrows. Our flag covering the eagle's body has thirteen bars, seven standing out as in the seven branched candlestick.

On the other side of the seal we see a pyramid standing in a wilderness and built in thirteen layers. Also above it the words "Annuit Coeptis", meaning "He hath prospered our beginning", and again thirteen letters. Below it we find "Novus Ordo Seclorum", meaning "an old order of the ages is born anew."

It is possible that the seven prominent stripes or bars on the body of the eagle are emblematical of the Prophet Elijah on Mount Carmel when he commanded his servant to go to the summit of the mountain and look toward the sea for signs of rain to relieve the long drought, but he returned and reported that he could see nothing. Elijah again commanded him to go seven times and on his last return he said "Behold there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea no larger than a man's hand." In time the cloud grew and became more black and furbus and the rains came and ended the drought.

It is very likely that the men who were responsible for the design of our seal were conscious of a Divine Power for above the thirteen layers of the pyramid in the vertex is depicted the all-seeing eye of our Creator. (When Mr. Laing spoke about the "dollar bill" he reached in his pocket and held it in his hand as he talked about it which made it quite impressive.)

In recognizing the importance of the youth of our nation many Grand jurisdictions are sponsoring youth organizations such as "The Order of Rainbow for Girls" and "Job's Daughters" and also add support to "The DeMolay for Boys". The total membership of these youth organizations have the potential strength to produce a large part of the required leaders of our nation in the future.

I would like to call your attention to one of the General Grand Chapter projects which our own Grand Chapter is supporting, the "ESTARL", which in itself is self explanatory. It has been said "What one gives away to youth he always has."

We know that the hope and prayers of each generation lies in a great part in the success of their youth, who will be the leaders of tomorrow, and so this evening we have an opportunity to help educate the young men and women who have the love of God in their hearts and who are preparing to enter some kind of religious service, such as, the ministry, the missionary field, a director of religious education, a director of religious music or any other field of religion.

So at this time may we accept the challenge which is presented to us to prove to the world that we are a Christian organization and help to provide religious leadership for the world of tomorrow.