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NOTICE

ADDENDA FOR "ESTHER NIGHT"

By Lola Lamoreux

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Five Sisters, the first representing Queen Esther, enter the Chapter room and march to a position in front of the Associate Matron's station, facing East.

Queen Esther carries a large white lighted candle. The other four sisters carry blue, yellow, green and red candles, respectively. The lights in the Chapter room are lowered. As "Star of the East" is sung or played. Esther bows to the four sisters and wends her way slowly to the East, on the South side of the Chapter room then goes thru labyrinth and takes her station at Esther's chair, placing the lighted candle on her pedestal. When she has reached this position the other sisters walk slowly East, two on the North and two on the South side of the Chapter room, going thru labyrinth. They form a semi circle before Esther --

First sister speaks:

Noble Queen we traveled far in the darkness, seeking a light, when lo! we beheld your candle gleaming forth--a pure shining ray, beckoning us to you. Tell us what causes it to shed its light so far?
Esther--(raising candle)

My sisters, this is the ray of light, purity and joy and represents the courage of the noble Queen Esther.

Second sister:

Noble Queen, may we light our candles from your glowing ray that we have light to guide us as we go on our way?
Esther (lighting the smaller candles)

I give you the white light of purity, truth and right.
Symbol of God given knowledge to lead you thru the night.
May you truly be guided, dear sisters
And find the path that is bright
And this the reason I give it--
'Tis the message of the white.

Third sister:

Noble Queen, how best may we use this light of unselfishness and courage, now that we have received it?

Esther:

My sisters, you can use your lights with great benefit by letting them symbolize the renewal of your pledges to the Great Star which shines so brightly in the East, leaving all other lights seem but dim reflections.

Fourth sister:

Noble Queen, we thank you for the beautiful light of purity and joy which you have shared with us--and for your kind words, farewell.

Esther (bowing)

Farewell.

The four sisters march West beyond Esther's station, the blue and yellow going South and East outside the labyrinth and taking Adah's and Ruth's stations while the red and green go North and East and assume Electa's and Martha's stations. As they are marching to their places the following song is sung.

Tune--America the Beautiful.

A queen in robes of royalty
Esther approached the king

She risked her life to save her kin

It was a noble thing.

O Purity, O Purity, the emblem of all good,

Courageous may we ever be

In love and brotherhood.

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At the close of the song Adah steps to the altar and places candle on corner nearest her station. She turns to Esther and says:

Queen Esther, with this light from my blue candle I pledge the undying devotion of the daughters of this Chapter.
(After she has spoken she resumes her station)

Electa then places her red candle on the corner of Altar nearest her station, and turning toward Esther says:

Queen Esther, with this light from my red candle I pledge the Mothers of this Chapter to an observance of that last commandment, "that ye love one another, even as I have loved you."

Ruth (placing candle on altar on corner nearest her station)

Queen Esther, with this light from my yellow candle I pledge the widows of this Chapter to constancy to the principles of this Order.

Martha (placing green candle on corner of altar nearest her station)

Queen Esther, with this light from my green candle I pledge the sisters of this Chapter to an eternal faith and hope of everlasting life.
Esther (leaving her candle at her station holds it as she says)

With this white light I pledge the wives of this Chapter to that purity of mind and action which is acceptable to God.

When Esther has finished speaking the Worthy Matron and Associate Matron each carrying white flowers which are to be given honor guests approach the altar, the Matron between Martha and Esther's station and the Associate Matron, between Ruth and Esther's station.

Esther advances and stands between them, she speaks first saying:

Who wears the white, the spotless white

The crown the scepter be in sight,

Will answer duty's call,

For in it as a wife she'll see

An emblem of that purity

That God demands of all.

And she shall gain eternal bliss

In this design...and this...and this... (Gives sign of Esther)

Associate Matron places flowers on altar and says:

I place on the altar these blossoms white, so regal and grand

So spotless and pure we can all understand,

Why Queen Esther in white is a symbol of light,

And stands for all that is pure and bright.

Worthy Matron (placing flowers on altar)

Sisters and brothers,

Pure as a lily kissed by the dew,

Is the kind of welcome we extend to you,

"What wilt thou?" matters not the task,

If you are pleased 'tis all we ask.

The Matron, Associate and Esther resume their stations. The Matron then asks the Marshall to remove the flowers from the altar and present them to the honor guests.