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HONORING PAST ELECTAS

Worthy Matron: Each time I see our beautiful work exemplified I watch it with ever-increasing interest until the candidate approaches the fifth point, and then the thought comes to me, "Here is the greatest point of all", for here is summed up the whole teaching of the Order of the Eastern Star. If we could all be impressed by the lesson taught how many petty wranglings and disagreements in our lives would be avoided? How many of the rough places and worries of our daily lives would be smoothed away?

To my mind, the greatest teaching given to us by that greatest of all Teachers was the answer to the question of the apostle, when he asked, "What is the first great commandment?"

Listen to the answer: "The first great commandment is: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and the second is like unto it: Love thy neighbor as thyself."

As these two commandments fulfill all the law and the prophets, so does the lesson taught by Electa cover all the teachings of our Order. "Love one another" is the great lesson that we must all learn.

Was it not love that prompted Adah to offer up her life to preserve her father's honor?

Who will say it was not love that caused Ruth to follow Naomi into a land of strangers and there support her by menial labor in the fields of Boaz?

What but love could have induced Queen Esther to brave the King's anger, risking the loss of her high position, and even life itself, to save her people from destruction?

Only love caused Martha to cry out in the anguish of her heart, "Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died."

And now we reach the Fifth Point, and find Electa buoyed by a great love for her crucified and risen Lord, looking up with a sublime faith and crushing with ardor to her bosom the cross of Christ, in the face of terrible persecution.

My sisters and brothers, what a great privilege to belong to this wonderful Order whose greatest teaching is "Love one another."  

---Exchange.

Worthy Matron: Electa teaches us of truth and love; Truly a blessing inspired from above; In your years of service there came to you, True love and friendship That will last your life through. Our cup of hospitality is full to overflowing, And the red rose of loyalty within our chapter is growing; A hearty welcome we extend, dear Sisters, to you, With a prayer in our hearts that to ideals we'll be true.

Speaker: - The "E'lect Lady," with whom we are familiar as the Fifth Point of our Star, lived in Asia Minor, near Ephesus. She and her three sons were members of one of the churches served by John the Evangelist. They were very wealthy, but also generous, and shared their wealth with those less fortunate than themselves, relieving much human distress. For this reason, Electa, as she is known to us, became a living example of the Spirit of the Master. She was distinguished for her generous hospitality and loving kindness to the poor and suffering. We are impressed, not alone by her generosity, but also by the motive which prompted it. She was indeed putting into practice that great law laid down by Christ---"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

(Lights are lowered, music for marching, "Onward Christian Soldiers," and eleven sisters each carrying a lighted red taper, march to a position which forms a "cup" - the emblem of Electa's station.)

Speaker: - The cup is an emblem of generous hospitality. Let us all be more zealous in emulating the precious and loving hospitality of Electa.
Electa’s hospitality
Was known both far and wide.
She loved her God and fellow men,
She had Christ for her guide.
O Charity, Sweet Charity,
May we to all be kind,
And bravely tread the paths of right
For there’s where truth we’ll find.

(Sisters march to position, forming a cross.)

Speaker: - The religious leaders of the Jews had been responsible for the crucifixion of Christ. They then sought to bring the Christians into disrepute among the Romans by accusing them of sedition against the Roman government. These accusations came from every province where Christianity had been established. As a result, about thirty years after the death of Christ persecution broke out against the Christians. This persecution lasted nearly three hundred years. It was not confined to Rome, but spread throughout the Empires. Knowing that Christianity had adopted the cross as an emblem of their faith, Nero sent soldiers out with crosses to be trampled under foot. When they reached the home of Electa, a soldier handed her the cross upon which she was to trample. Electa, however, refused, as we know, to trample the emblem which she considered sacred.

(Solo: "Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone")

(Sisters march out of cross and return to their stations)

Speaker: - Sisters and Brothers, let us be loyal to our convictions of truth, and may we murmur not at another’s loyalty. Let truth be spoken and let it shine through our lives. If persecution comes, may we bear it with heroic endurance, and may we despair not at the final triumph of truth.

This ceremony was used in Ruth Chapter, Grundy Center, 1955