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THE WHEEL OF FRIENDSHIP
(A Gift Presentation)

by

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ed. to

The Wheel of Friendship

Characters-

Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, Inspecting Officer, Associate Matron, Secretary, Treasurer, Conductress, Associate Conductress, Marshal, Chaplain, Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha, Electa, Warder.

Synopsis-

All officers, except Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron, led by the Marshal, enter from the ante-room. Various march movements are executed to enable each of the Star Points to fasten the various colored ribbon streamers attached to the altar to their respective chairs. After this action, the Marshal will lead the line around dropping each of the officers at their respective stations.

After the lecture work and the welcome by the Star Points, the Marshal conducts the Star Points and the Associate Matron to the East, where flowers and a gift are presented, following which, with a short march movement, all resume their stations.

Time-

Twenty minutes.

Costumes-

White, or as otherwise desired.

Properties-

Altar with bible. Five narrow paper streamers attached to altar opposite each chair- each streamer to match the color of the point chair to which it is to be attached. Five other narrow ribbon streamers attached to each of the point chairs- same to match the color of the point chair to which it is attached. Flowers in baskets for each Star Point.

Scene-

Chapter Room or Hall- Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, Grand Matron or Inspecting Officer seated in the East. All other officers in the ante-room. Altar with kneeling cushions on floor rug surrounded by Star Point chairs in the usual manner. Attached to altar are five narrow colored paper streamers, one each of blue, yellow, white, green and red. Attached to each Star Point chair is a narrow colored paper streamer of blue, yellow, white, green and red, all in the order as named. These streamers should be of sufficient length to reach from the altar to each of the Star Point chairs and those on each chair long enough to reach to the next chair.

Officers enter from ante-room under low lights which gradually come up as they get into the room.

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The officers enter the Chapter Room from the ante-room lined up as follows with the Marshal leading:-

Marshal
Secretary
Conductress
Warder
Associate Matron
Associate Conductress
Chaplain
Treasurer
Esther
Ruth
Martha
Electa
Adah

They march across west to south side of Esther's chair, turn, march toward the east, entering Star between Ruth's and Esther's chairs; march to the altar, turn left and march across Star to north side of hall with the exception of Adah and Electa who march to the altar, pick up their respective streamers and then march out to their chairs fastening same to the chairs and remain standing at their stations. The others leave Star between Martha's and Electa's chairs, turn and march down north side of hall to the west, across west to north side of Esther's chair, turn and enter Star between Esther's and Martha's chairs. All as per diagram No. 1. *On back of page*

The Marshal followed by the others marches to the altar, turns right, marches across Star to south side of hall, with the exception of Martha and Ruth who march to the altar, pick up their respective streamers and then march out to their chairs, fastening same to the chairs and remain standing at their stations. The others march down south side of hall to the west, across west. All as per diagram No. 2. *On back sheet*

As the line passes across west, Esther enters Star between Ruth's and Esther's chairs, marches to the altar, picks up her streamer and marches back to her chair, fastening same to the chair and remains standing at her station. All as per diagram No. 3.

The Marshal and line continues marching across west to the north side of hall, up north side of hall to the east, across east to Electa's chair, turns, marches around outside of chairs in a curve to Adah's chair. All as per diagram No. 3. *Back sheet*

W. of F. -3.

The officers take positions between the Star Points as per diagram (No. 4) and face the altar.

W.M.-

on back sheets -
Sister Associate Matron, what is the meaning of this work in our midst?

A.M.-

It is all performed as an expression of friendship for our honored guest.

W.M.-

Sister Associate Matron, please explain.

A.M.-

The work you have already witnessed is preliminary labor on the construction of a symbolical wheel of friendship. The altar represents the heart of friendship and is the hub of our wheel. From it radiate five colored spokes, even as the rays of friendship emanate from all Eastern Star altars.

The five spokes are the five supports upon which friendship revolves, and the five sisters are the five handmaidens whose duty it is to see that friendship's wheel is ever kept in motion.

This wheel, however, is not yet complete and I trust that with this explanation of our intentions we may be allowed to proceed with our work.

W.M.-

You may proceed.

The Marshal turns and marches toward the east, turns right, marches across east a short distance and then around outside of Star Points in a large curve to the northeast, picking up all officers forming the circle with the exception of the Star Points in the following order:- Secretary, Conductress, Warder, Associate Matron, Associate Conductress, Chaplain, Treasurer. They march across east to north side of hall, down north side of hall to the west, across west to south side of hall, up south side of hall to the east. The officers drop off as the line of march passes their stations in the following order:- Treasurer, Chaplain, Associate Conductress, Associate Matron, Warder, Conductress, Secretary and Marshal. All as per diagram No. 5. *on back sheets*

A.M.-

Sister of the Blue Spoke, you will proceed to complete your work.

Adah (Blue Spoke)-

The Spoke of Blue is the Spoke of Purpose. This is what gives life and friendship a meaning. It directs and makes energy. As a child we may do without a purpose, but there inevitably comes a time when such is absolutely necessary in order that we may live for a definite end.

No action is so slight, but it may be done to a great purpose and is therefore ennobled, nor is any purpose so great but that slight actions may help it.

Thus does Purpose furnish the first link in the wheel of friendship, and that our wheel may be complete, I now link Purpose to the Spoke of Yellow.

(Adah advances to Ruth's chair and ties on the blue streamer)

Ruth (Yellow Spoke)-

The Spoke of Yellow is the Spoke of Service. Next to the veneration of the Supreme Being, the love of humankind seems to be the most promising source of gratification. Nor can there be more glorious objects in creation, than to see men and women replete with benevolence, meditating in what manner they may render themselves most acceptable to their Creator, by doing most good to his creatures. To feel for others, is a quality generally claimed by all, and which certainly, in some degree, seems to be implanted in our nature.

Thus does Service furnish the second link in the wheel of friendship and thus do I link Service to the Spoke of White.

(Ruth advances to Esther's chair and ties on the yellow streamer)

Esther (White Spoke)-

The Spoke of White is the Spoke of Character. Experience teaches us that a strong character with a generous openness of heart, and a calm deliberate courage, are essential to the support of all the virtues, and absolutely necessary to be acquired by everyone who wishes to discharge, with fidelity, the duties of his station. It is the armor of the mind, by which we are enabled to surmount the dangers that occur in the course of our lives. Feeble and timorous spirits live under perpetual alarms, and create imaginary dangers; while firmness, the parent of tranquility, with the assistance of divine grace, secures to us a perseverance in one uniform course of resolution, which surmounts all difficulties.

Thus does Character furnish the third link in the wheel of friendship, and thus do I link Character to the Spoke of Green.

(Esther advances to Martha's chair and ties on the white streamer)

Martha (Green Spoke)-

The Spoke of Green is the Spoke of Faith. Faith is the inspiration of nobleness, it is the strength of integrity; it is the life of love, and is everlasting growth for it; it is courage of soul, and bridges over for our crossing the gulf between worldliness and heavenly-mindedness; and it is the sense of the unseen, without which we could not feel God nor hope for heaven.

Thus does Faith furnish the fourth link in the wheel of friendship, and thus do I link Faith to the Spoke of red.

(Martha advances to Electa's chair and ties on the green streamer)

Electa (Red Spoke)-

The Spoke of Red is the Spoke of that Love which exists between friends.

Life has no pleasure more exalted than that of friendship; it is a sweet attraction of the mind towards the merit we esteem, or the amiable perfections we admire, producing a mutual inclination between two persons, to promote each others interest, knowledge, virtue and happiness. It has accordingly been considered in all ages, as one of the first blessings of life. True friends are the greatest of all benefactors; for they give what wealth cannot purchase, and what time cannot destroy.

Thus does Love furnish the fifth and final link in the wheel of friendship, and thus do I link Love to the Spoke of blue.

(Electa advances to Adah's chair and ties on the red streamer)

Adah- Welcome

Ruth- Among

Esther- Us

Martha- Sister

Electa- ----- , Grand Matron, etc.

The Marshal starts from her station, marches down south side of hall to the west, near the chairs, across west to the north side of hall, up north side of hall to the East. Picks up Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha and Electa. Turns left, marches across east, to north side of hall, down north side of hall to the west, across west to south side of hall. The Associate Matron stepping into line as the line of march passes her station. They continue up the south side of hall to the east, across east far enough to bring the line of officers in front of the Worthy Matron's station. Counter-march across east. All as per diagram No. 6.

Marshal-

Martha Grand Matron, permit me to introduce the five hand-
maidens of our wheel of friendship, and our Associate Matron.

(All bow)

The Marshal turns and marches to the south side of hall,
down south side of hall, taking her position in front of the
Conductress' station, facing altar, as per diagram No. 6.

Adah- Adavances and presents her flowers.

Ruth- " " " " "

Esther- " " " " "

Martha- " " " " "

Electa- " " " " "

After each Star Point has presented her flowers she will
march across east and down the south side of hall, taking a
position beside the Marshal as per diagram No.6. *On back, sheet*

A.M.- Then makes the presentation as follows:-

Grand Matron, Sister ----- :-

To ----- Chapter, your presence this evening is
indeed an honor, and I find it difficult to adequately express
my feelings.

As I watched the progress of our Marshal through
our wheel it seemed to me that her path symbolized the course of
that river of friendship upon whose waters all those who come
among us are invited to sail.

I visioned the blue hills of Adah from which flowed
ed a tinkling rill, which bubbled forth in the first small foun-
tain for Ruth's refreshment. Still vinding its way onward and
momentarily growing broader, it flowed through rocky gorges with
many a leap and roar to the meadow of Esther, thence through the
pleasant green fields of Martha, ever deepening as it went, until
the unfathomable ocean of Electa's love was reached, into which
it swept with the full majesty of a mighty river.

Here I saw floating those thousands of ships of
fraternal love; some just setting sail for distant countries
with their cargoes, others unloading their precious freight in
their home port.

And as I stood thus, lost in thought, marveling at the great number of ships and their burdens, one whom I knew not came and spoke unto me and gave into my hand a mysterious package. And lo! upon this package was a name, beloved by all, and a message. And the name was thy own, and the message was "From the Fraternal Ship ----- (name of Chapter), with love". And I brought the mysterious package hence and now give it into your keeping, as a token of what we hope will be for you a pleasant evening spent on the banks of ----- (name of Chapter) fraternal river.

(Response by Grand Matron)

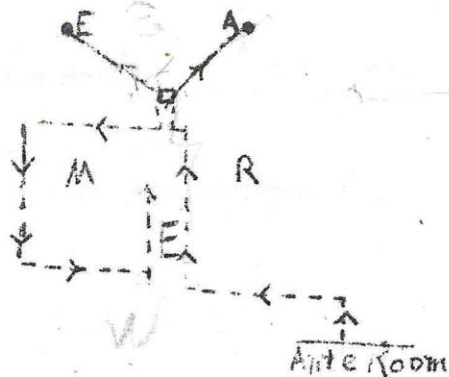
A.M. +

Then marches across east and down the south side of hall, taking a position in the line with Marshal and Star Points as per diagram No. 6. *On back sheet*

The Marshal followed by the Star Points and Associate Matron, turns and marches down the south side of hall to the west, across west to the north side of hall, up north side of hall to the east, across east to Electa's chair, turns and marches to the west, across west to south side of hall, up south side of hall to the east and to her station. All as per diagram No. 7. The officers dropping off as the line of march passes their stations in the following order:- Associate Matron, Electa, Martha, Esther, Ruth and Adah.

Diagrams for marches used during the Ceremony

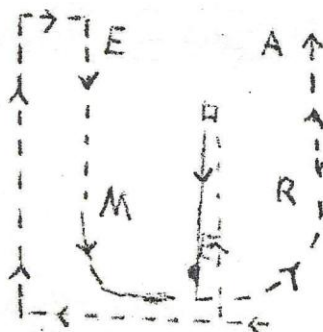
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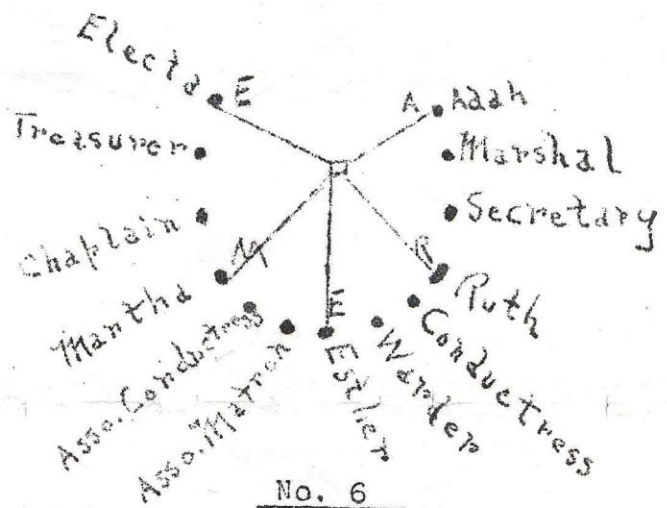
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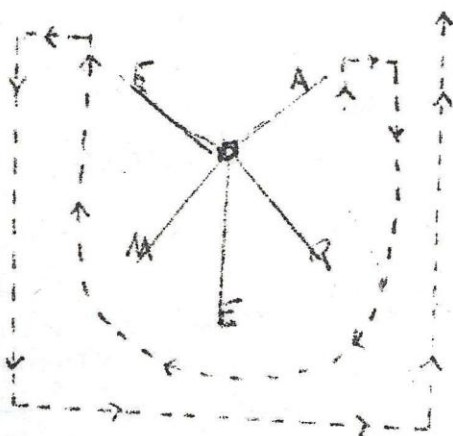
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No. 4



No. 5



No. 6

