A BUBBLE PARTY

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One of the most important dates on the calendar of every Eastern Star chapter is the time set aside for the visitation of the Worthy Grand Matron and other Grand officers.

Usually there is much time and thought given to preparing for her visit and many impressive floral and other ceremonies have been given in her honor. Sometimes it is difficult to find something new, but it so happens that Bro. John J. Robinson, Worthy Patron of McKinley Chapter, in western Maryland, is very talented along those lines—just full of original ideas—so he composed and arranged a very beautiful and novel ceremony called "Bubbles" for their Grand visitation in October. I am passing it along to you:

(The chapter room was profusely decorated in autumn leaves. At the station of each Star Point there stood a mysterious looking boxlike receptacle about three feet high and eighteen inches square, covered with crepe paper the emblematic color of the Point where it had been placed. Inside each box, fastened to the bottom, were three gas-filled balloons the color of the Point. When each officer was through speaking she lifted the lid of the box, which released the pressure of the balloons, and they went sailing up into the air, floating around above her head, and making a strikingly beautiful effect.)

Theme Song—"I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles."

Bubble Queen steps forward near the East and recites:

"Every one has had great joy
With bubbles when a girl or boy:
Spending hours with pipe and soap;
For every bubble—a greater hope.

"First they were small and crystal clear,
Then larger and larger—it did seem queer
How they changed to colors—a glorious sight
When tossed in the air to begin their flight.

"Time and again we would try and try
To make bigger and prettier bubbles to fly,
We'd blow them so gently, with greatest of care.
Then waft them so gracefully into the air.

"How happy we were as we'd gaze at our best,
They'd fly to clouds, it seemed, to rest;
But, then, disappointments brought tears and a sigh,
Our bubbles would burst when our hopes were so high.

"And now grownups blow bubbles in just a different way;
Sometimes we're disappointed, sometimes they make us gay.
So I'll have a Bubble Party, and invite you all to stay;
Just watch and listen carefully to what we have to say."

BUBBLE QUEEN (addressing Adah):
"Sister Adah, I have a request to make of you. Will you join this party and furnish us the Blue?"

ADAH:
"Bubbles of blue, blown from the first Point of our Star, remind us of the importance of fidelity to a spoken vow, and teaches us to keep sacred and inviolate the vows we have taken at our altar." (Releases blue balloons.)

BUBBLE QUEEN (to Ruth)
"And, Sister Ruth, will you come, too? We'd like to have you tell us what Yellow means to you."

RUTH:
"Yellow bubbles blown from the second Point of our Star bring to our minds that beautiful lesson of constant devotion, and teaches us that, whether we be exalted or humble, we have need to be steadfast, constant and true." (releases yellow balloons.)

BUBBLE QUEEN (to Esther)
"Sister Esther gives joy and light. I'm sure she'll gladly give us White."

ESTHER:
"My bubbles are white, and released from the third Point of our Star, should refresh our memories of a noble Queen, who placed Loyalty far above Selfishness, and teaches us to be loyal to ourselves and to our friends; also loyal to our country and to our God." (releases white balloons.)

BUBBLE QUEEN (to Martha)
"Sister Martha, what will you say of Faith and Hope from the Green today?"

MARTHA:
"As these green bubbles rise from the fourth Point of our Star, may we be reminded to hold fast to that Faith which lightens our burdens and trials and eases our suffering. That Faith without which life would be unbearable. Let us remember that we walk by faith, not sight." (Releases green balloons.)

BUBBLE QUEEN (to Electa)
"Sister Electa, naught has been said of Love and Charity, so bring us your Red."

ELECTA:
"Red bubbles from the fifth Point of our Star tell us a story of Loving Kindness and generous Hospitality, and teach us to obey that second great law. 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.' Love is one of the most powerful influences within us." (Releases red balloons.)

(In passing from one station to the next the Bubble Queen followed the path that is trod by the Conductress as she wends her way through the labyrinth, and later returned to the East, where she addressed the chapter.)

BUBBLE QUEEN:
"And now let us merge all these beautiful bubbles into bubbles of Truth, which is eternal and unchanging. Fidelity may waver, Constancy may fail, Loyalty may falter, Faith may grow dim, and Love may diminish, but Truth never changes. May your bubbles be firm and unbroken and bring you all unbounded happiness." (Releases balloons of the five colors.)
Music—"I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles."

(Lights were lowered and, at a given signal, the doors to the anteroom were thrown open and admitted a small boy, dressed in a black velvet suit, pulling a child's express wagon which had been shaped with hoops and covered and draped with white cellophane to resemble a large white bubble. Sitting inside the bubble was a dear little maiden dressed in white. They followed the trail to the East, where they stopped for a few minutes. When the boy opened a door in the bubble, out stepped the dainty little maid and presented a gift to the Worthy Grand Matron. Then the small boy presented a gift to the Worthy Grand Patron. Helping his little friend to re-enter the bubble, they slowly wended their way out of the room, amid the applause of the chapter members,)