

**O. E. S. GRAND  
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**BON VOYAGE**

(On The Great River)

(For Honoring the Retiring Matron and Patron)

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Published by  
Lowmans, Inc.

3-16

Soft Music: 'Drifting and Dreaming' or 'Sailing, Sailing'. Lights are dimmed very low; light in East alone if possible.

Reader reads:

A fraternal organization might be likened to a mighty river such as the Mississippi, the Yangtze in China, or the Volga in Russia. The river serves the populace settled along the banks; it makes fertile the land and encourages growth and life. Its greatest function is navigation.

Although the river flows serenely and full in most places, still there are rapids and shallow waters to be navigated. Often it is necessary to drag the boat by sheer human strength. Ropes from the craft are passed to strong, willing hands on the banks. Backs bend, muscles strain, hearts beat fast, until the ship is finally over the rocks and mud banks. Once again it slips into deep buoyant waters. With engine pumping or sails set, it triumphantly glides away.

Tonight on the great Eastern Star river, the good ship (name of Matron and Patron) built in 19\_\_, is navigating the last narrow passage before the craft takes off to explore new ports. Along the banks of the river the populace watches. Faithful harbor attendants take their places along the shore.

Hostesses or minor officers, with flashlights covered with red tissue paper or cellophane, take their places near the East on South and North sides respectively. When in position, they blink their flashlights on and off. OPTIONAL: They can hum or sing 'Volga Boatman' very softly and faintly as though boat were still in distance.

They are careful to see that proper lights are placed so as to guide the vessel safely to the landing.

In the distance, the weary toilers who drag the ship are gladdened by the welcome beams. The distant flickering lights bid them welcome. They bend to the task with renewed vigor. Those who watch from the shore are well acquainted with the boatmen who pull on the ropes. The two leaders have been long in service on the river and are known by the name of (name of Associate Matron and Associate Patron). The others who have dragged many a shallow mile (name of Conductress and Associate Conductress). They are followed by a full crew of hand picked faithfuls.

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Ship enters from West door pulled by officers with Associate Matron, Associate Patron, Conductress, and Associate Conductress in front. Garlands of flowers or gilded ropes run from the ship to the officers and afford a means of propelling the boat.

Make the framework in shape similar to small boat, cover with cardboard or heavy paper, on which is pasted luminous material such as shining paper or Christmas paper. The bottom is not in the boat and the Matron and Patron walk here as the boat moves forward. If colored lights are available, they may be played on the ship.

The 'Volga Boatman' or similar music should swell in strain as the boat enters and approaches the East. Officers or choir or soloist may sing if desired.

Reader continues:

Now the ship approaches the East Harbor. At last it is safely anchored in the East Port.

The boat is pulled in front of the dais in the East where it stops. The outgoing Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron now step down into the boat and stand. (Gift presentation may be made at this time if desired.)

Reader:

Tonight they are to take on board two honored personages, Worthy Matron \_\_\_\_\_ and Worthy Patron \_\_\_\_\_. These loyal and lovable officers have risen to the highest rank that can be bestowed on officers of the good ship \_\_\_\_\_ (name of chapter). They have been longer in service than any of the boatmen; however, they started their service on the river by pulling their share along the banks. They have learned not only the secrets of the river, the rapids, the high water, and low waters, but they have studied the stars and the harbor lights. They have learned about the people on the river banks. Their friends are numerous, their influence for good has been felt by all with whom they have come in contact. These friends are watching their departure tonight and are waiting to bid them "bon voyage".

Now they set their compass and make ready to leave the harbor. Soon they will be in free, deep water. No more do they have to make routine runs up and down the river; they are free to sail to new ports, to unchartered seas if they wish. But one thing is sure, something in their hearts will cause them to wish always to traverse the great River Eastern Star. Service has given them a love for the river that they will never lose.

Now gallant boatmen, pull, pull with all your might. Out, out into the deep river. We wish these faithful officers well; we wish them happiness; we wish them success wherever they may sail.

The officers start pulling the ship westward and out. The harbor crew, the hostesses or minor officers, may start cheering as the ship goes West. Music might add to the effect of the 'Goodbye'. Perhaps 'Aloha Oe', or 'My Bonnie lies Over the Ocean', or any song you choose.

The Officers may take up the cheers as they pull on the ropes and the side lines will probably join in the goodbyes.



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PRESENTATION OF GIFT OR FLOWERS TO OUTGOING MATRON

If you desire, this may be used when the Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron are still in the East and have stepped down into the boat. After the words "Bid them, bon voyage", the gifts could be presented.

Reader:

Tonight you have come to the end of your voyage (cruise). Perhaps the course has seemed rough and trying at times; however, nothing worth while is ever easy, but now you have come to the end of your run and a great panoramic view is spread out before you.

Some of the things you see are the love and high esteem with which we hold you, also our pride in you that you have served us so well.

You have had a lovely year and it gives me great pleasure to present this --- --- --- in behalf of --- --- --- Chapter. Although it is small and its intrinsic value is little, we present it to you with our best wishes and love.

PRESENTATION OF GIFT TO WORTHY PATRON

When one saves pennies, nickles, and dollars to take a much desired voyage, there is a great satisfaction finally in stepping upon the ship, and a great expectation about the trip ahead. To be given a farewell send-off and a gift, add a great deal of joy to the journey.

According to the service that you have rendered on the voyage thus far, we know that you will have a cargo of pleasant memories to carry on board into the future.

In behalf of --- --- ---, we'd like to add another little remembrance in appreciation and thanks for your service this past year.

The End